

Saint Mary's College COURIER

Spring 2021





UPON REFLECTION

In the past few weeks, we have celebrated Holy Week and Easter and observed how the cycles of the Church calendar connect to the natural world to celebrate renewal and rebirth. And there are certainly signs of spring at Saint Mary's College! The willow trees have their early green edges; the bulbs are bursting forth in flower; the magnolias are at full bloom, and the ubiquitous forsythia add a golden glow all around the campus.

Today—just shy of 10 months into my presidency—I know Saint Mary's is a place ready for transformation. Its root system stands firm, but its branches continue to expand their reach. It can pass through a dormant winter and prosper again in spring. Its twigs can stretch and blossom and leaf anew.

There are so many lessons from my first year in office. Just over one year ago, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic. I was actually in South Bend that day, choosing finishes for the condo my husband and I would ultimately buy—and letting myself imagine what it would be like to join the Saint Mary's community just a few months later. Like everyone else, I simply had no idea what lay ahead. In fact, before I could get back to Boston that week, the whole world was shutting down, and I didn't even have a mask to wear on my flight back east. Fast forward and here we are, a full year later. It has been a painful and sobering year for our world; after all, the devastating impact of the coronavirus was unthinkable only a short time ago.

Every day, I am thankful that we kept the campus safe. In spite of the lonely and difficult demands of each moment, this has also been an extraordinary learning journey, not just for me but for all of us—full of problem-solving, experimentation, collaboration, risk management, and communication. I have grown in my own understanding and practice of leadership, and I am so grateful for the hard work and the community spirit of every single person on campus.

A famous poet (T. S. Eliot) once wrote: "April is the cruellest month." But lately, I've been reading the wonderful contemporary Irish poet Kerry Hardie, and she has a different message. I find this short spring poem really speaks to the richness of the month and the season we're in.

NEAR LOUGHREA

*The lone bull
red on an emerald ground.
The ruined church,
through the gap-toothed wall.*

*Fields
bright with new grass, new lambs.
Sky
gone suddenly spacious and blue.*

*And the whitethorn breaking.
And the blackthorn making stars.*

*And one chestnut, standing holy,
its birth-wet buds
held to the high, wide sky.*

This is a poem of regeneration! It opens with a lone bull and a church ruin and closes with the "birth-wet buds" on one chestnut tree sanctified in its very being. And the word that grounds the poem—solitary at the center of 13 lines—is "sky," described as "spacious and blue," and later as "high" and "wide."

That's the sky I see over Saint Mary's too. Having weathered "the winter of our discontent" (Shakespeare, of course), we have journeyed toward the renewal, the renaissance, the resurrection of spring. We remember the power of life in a quiescent bulb, in a bare branch, in a buried root. Our sap runs with new energy and force.

Katie Conboy

Katie Conboy, Ph.D.
President



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About Saint Mary's College

Celebrating over 175 years of empowering women to make a difference in the world, Saint Mary's College is recognized as both a visionary pioneer and an enduring innovator in the education of women. A Catholic, residential, women's liberal arts institution in Notre Dame, Indiana, Saint Mary's College offers more than 50 undergraduate academic programs for women as well as graduate degrees open to all.

These figurines by Lladró, on loan from Carolyn Woo, are two of the newest additions to the College's art collection. Read more on page 12.



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On the Cover: Spring's hope blooms all across campus.

ONLINE EXTRAS

Check out *Courier* online for sharable articles, additional photos, videos, and more.

Take a deeper dive into many of the stories and enjoy interactive content.

saintmarys.edu/Courier



“It is hard to imagine a more complex and challenging time to be accomplishing our mission at Saint Mary’s, but I am surrounded by a team that rises to the challenge every day.”

—President Katie Conboy, Ph.D.

A Roadmap for the Next Decade

By Lisa Knox

In this period of changing U.S. demographics and global connection, Saint Mary’s must renew its commitment to meeting the needs of the times—expanding the boundaries of who we are and imagining in fresh ways who we can be. By doing so, we will sustain and expand our mission, thus becoming more accessible, attractive, and hospitable to rapidly diversifying undergraduate and adult student populations.

—*Revere and Revise: Saint Mary’s College 2030*

In December, President Katie Conboy unveiled *Revere and Revise: Saint Mary’s College 2030*, a strategic plan, approved by the College’s Board of Trustees, to guide Saint Mary’s over the next decade. *Revere and Revise* provides an ambitious framework for the College to meet the needs of an evolving student population. Many will be the first in their families to attend college. More will depend upon substantial financial aid. It is possible, Conboy wrote, to understand the aspirations of these new audiences and “respond differently than peer institutions. Our core values, combined with our historical identity, are at the heart of how we will differentiate our approach.”

Conboy has assured the community that this strategic plan is no theoretical exercise. *Revere and Revise* is meant to be a true roadmap—a strategy that is both boldly futuristic and disarmingly feasible. It includes four principal commitments and 24 tactical recommendations that bring the commitments to life, as well as an implementation timeline.

Though she is a prolific writer, Conboy admits even she was humbled by how quickly the plan came together. “Of course, I also could not have foreseen almost anything about the circumstances of 2020,” she wrote in a letter to the College community.

Much of the credit for the accelerated planning effort, she says, is due to the planning work that happened under the leadership of previous presidents, including the published strategic priorities developed by Interim President Nancy Nekvasil. Many ideas from the College community were already captured and available, Conboy says. So, within a four-month span, she tested those ideas, asking the community what they revere about Saint Mary’s, and what should be revised. Two surveys yielded close to 1,000 responses. She held more than 40 meetings

with faculty, staff, students, alumnae, Sisters of the Holy Cross, donors. It was a breakneck endeavor that included masked walks on campus, Zoom meetings at dawn, evening conversations, numerous phone calls, and email exchanges.

The result of these sessions, however, is a strategic plan with both short-term and long-term goals that will make Saint Mary’s a more robust institution. Multiple committees made up of faculty and staff will provide oversight, implementation guidance, and regular review of the plan to monitor its progress.

In the following pages, two stories describe how *Revere and Revise* is already coming to life. *How Interprofessional Education Will Change Healthcare* illustrates how Saint Mary’s is preparing our health sciences students for today’s careers in healthcare—at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. *Improving a Sense of Belonging*, chronicles how the first of the plan’s commitments is already impacting students through the creation of the Office for Student Equity.

“It is hard to imagine a more complex and challenging time to be accomplishing our mission at Saint Mary’s, but I am surrounded by a team that rises to the challenge every day,” Conboy wrote last October in the midst of the planning. “Every day, I count my blessings, and high among them is that I am here—in the right place, trying to do the right things.”



To read the full strategic plan *Revere and Revise: Saint Mary’s College 2030*, visit saintmarys.edu/Courier

Improving a Sense of Belonging

By Haleigh Ehmsen '16

“Nadia” is a Saint Mary’s junior; a first-generation student from rural Texas. An academic standout in high school, she discovered Saint Mary’s and took the virtual tour offered by the College’s Admission Department. She remembers falling in love with the campus, and how her admission counselor helped her envision herself a part of the community. Money would be tight, but through a network of scholarships and financial aid, her tuition, room, and board was covered. Happily, she joined the Class of 2022.

Nadia is a pseudonym because she is hesitant to share her real name or appear to complain—because she loves her time on campus, and knows her degree is around the corner. Yet there are times when she feels a little left out. Like maybe there are things she is missing out on because she does not have the resources—money to replace her six-year-old laptop, for example. Or to buy ND football tickets, even with the student discount.

“So much of what happens on campus is outside the classroom,” she says. “I never understood that before I came here.”

Redgina Hill, PhD is the executive director of the Office of Inclusion and Equity. She says Nadia’s experience is not uncommon. Nearly one third of the students at Saint Mary’s are first generation, and 26% are Pell Grant recipients. For students like Nadia, scholarships and financial aid help to cover tuition and fees, but students still often miss out on the other aspects of the college experience, like field trips, academic conferences, technology, among others.

These social and financial pressures mount over four years, Hill said. Many students work several jobs to pay for their books, club fees or dues, class ring, and travel. For juniors, Junior Moms Weekend is a fun part of the Saint Mary’s experience, but there are fees to participate. Though the ongoing pandemic has led to the cancellation of this year’s event, even pre-Covid, Nadia wasn’t sure she would be able to attend because her mom would need to fly in from Texas and stay in a hotel. Hill says a new office will provide financial support and resources for students and should help reduce some of that pressure.


The Office for Student Equity was recently established to provide wraparound services for first-generation and under-resourced students like Nadia. Funded through a major gift from the Wilson Sheehan Foundation, the Office for Student Equity has already begun its work. Hill said funds have already been disbursed to provide dozens of students with their commencement regalia.

“By removing barriers and providing co-curricular opportunities, these services allow our students to focus on academics as well as to have access to the full college experience,” Hill said. “We also know when these barriers are removed, students will be more likely to complete their education.”

Lorraine Sheehan Wilson ’85 and Chris Wilson (ND ’85), founders of the Wilson Sheehan Foundation, know that barriers to college persistence are well understood and can be reduced with attentive management. It’s what led them to help establish the Office for Student Equity.

“We know that students will be impacted in ways large and small, from laptop computers to winter coats to travel home to football tickets,” Lorraine said. “What is impactful will vary student to student, and sometimes it is the small things which resonate the most.”

The College has had a Student Emergency Fund for many years, but the new gift helps to operationalize funds and resources for all students in need, rather than being limited to meeting emergency needs.

The work of this new office is directly in line with the core values of the College, especially justice, Hill said. “This is the true work of equity—the work of justice and compassion. If we’re doing this work right, we will increase the sense of belonging for our students.” 

“By removing barriers and providing co-curricular opportunities, these services allow our students to focus on academics as well as have access to the full college experience.”

—Redgina Hill, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Inclusion & Equity



All In: The Wilson Match

With the investment from the Wilson Sheehan Foundation, Saint Mary’s created the Office for Student Equity to enable a stellar educational experience for all students. Recognizing that \$7 million will endow the work of this office in perpetuity, the foundation made an outright gift of \$3 million. In addition, they issued a challenge: They will give up to \$2 million in additional support if Saint Mary’s raises a match of \$2 million by December 31, 2023. Funds raised by The Wilson Match will impact generations of young women by reducing barriers that often disadvantage first-generation and low-income college students.

To learn more, visit SaintMarys.edu/all-wilson-match

How Interprofessional Education Transforms Learning Experiences

By Melinda McNamara

How do you educate students today to lead in tomorrow's healthcare space? Lean into a team-based learning approach with multiple disciplines working together to develop problem-solving skills for real-world issues.

That's the vision for the new Center for Integrated Healthcare Education (CIHE) at the College. The initiative builds on the College's strength in health and behavioral science disciplines and takes education to the next level in a collaborative model.

"Healthcare organizations increasingly seek employees with interprofessional expertise rather than domain-specific skills alone," said Dana Strait, PhD, vice president for strategy and finance.



The future atrium of the Center for Integrated Healthcare Education (CIHE) in an architectural rendering of the renovated Regina Hall.

The CIHE plan will bring the College's five healthcare-related programs under one roof—including nursing science, speech language pathology, social work, gerontology, and autism studies. The strategy opens opportunities to increase student enrollment in high-demand programs. It also aims to reduce education costs per student through resource sharing across the disciplines.

The first step in the three-stage initiative is already underway, thanks to a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment and significant College investment. Renovation began in 2020 to transform Regina Hall into a state-of-the-art, interprofessional healthcare training center.

By August 2021, the nursing science program will occupy the first floor and lower level of Regina Hall. That move opens opportunities to expand undergraduate nursing enrollment by more than 30 percent. It also kickstarts economies of scale that will extend through all the healthcare disciplines.

"Nursing is one of the top three programs at Saint Mary's that interests students," said Mona Bowe, vice president for enrollment management. "Now we can increase capacity for each class and help meet workforce demand for stronger nurses who have a better understanding of how to care for the patient." The expanded footprint of the nursing program includes a central



lecture hall that increases capacity by 300 percent. That means a professor can teach up to 100 students in upper-division, required classes that have had limited capacity until now.

Two new simulation laboratories expand capacity for clinical training by 150 percent. Each lab has room for up to 20 students to receive hands-on learning with a simulation mannequin.

Integrated education forms a cornerstone of the three-stage plan for the center. It sets up an alignment of the five health sciences and behavioral health programs in one location at the CIHE. The learning model encourages development of team-based leadership skills needed in today's healthcare environment.


"Healthcare is no longer siloed. It's a holistic approach to patient needs," Bowe said. "Employers are looking for healthcare professionals who understand how to communicate with patients with diverse needs."

Stage II also expands technology, access to hands-on clinical training and resource sharing capabilities.

"Nursing does not work in a vacuum. It is part of a team," said Sue Anderson, PhD, director of nursing science. "We want students to think about problems and solutions as a team with the patient at the center."

The result: graduates ready to deliver the next level of high quality patient care. In reality, it also leads to lower cost of delivery for healthcare services and improves the patient experience.

"We are building for the future," Strait said, "with more well-rounded, mature practitioners."

 To view renderings and an architectural fly-through of the new CIHE, visit saintmarys.edu/Courier



Campus Art Collection Blossoms

This spring, more than 20 new pieces will expand the College's art collection and are currently being installed in the library, Le Mans Hall, the student center, and other buildings. The artwork, which includes a serigraph, an art print, and several posters by artist John August Swanson and an artist's proof print by painter and illustrator Laura James, were added to increase the representations of holiness and holy people (especially Saint Mary) on campus, according to Interim Vice President for Mission Molly Gower, PhD. Also on display are paintings on loan from various artists and collectors, including Carolyn Woo, who served as dean of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business and president of Catholic Relief Services. To view the full collection, visit *Courier* Online.

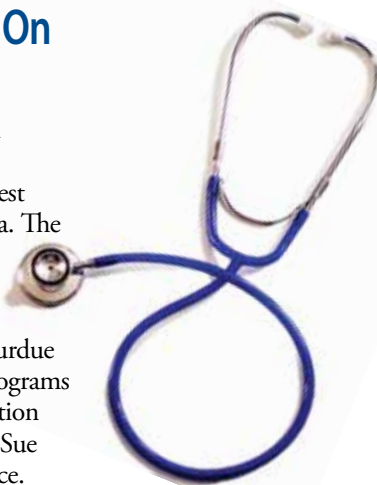
Guadalupe by artist Patty Icos

Sisterhood of Service Provides Random Acts of Kindness

A new student club banded together to spread hope during an unusual year. Sisterhood of Service held socially distanced events on campus. One such event was making door decorations for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. "We wanted to write verses and encouraging notes on them so they know we're thinking about them," **Megan Anderson '22** said. In honor of this group, we asked alumnae what random act of kindness made all the difference to them. Their answers are posted in *Courier* Online.

National Spotlight Turned On Nursing Program

Academic reputation, student success and program depth have earned Saint Mary's Department of Nursing Science a third-best ranking among nursing schools in Indiana. The nursing program also ranks in the top 3 percent of the best nursing schools in the country, according to Nursing Schools Almanac. Only Indiana University and Purdue University rank higher among nursing programs in the state. "Our broad liberal arts education sets the foundation for great nurses," said Sue Anderson, PhD, director of nursing science.



Paul Farmer Lecture Captivates Audience

The College has a long history of drawing those who are atop their fields to our campus. In March, medical anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer joined Jennie Weiss Block for a public lecture organized by the Center for Spirituality. The pair discussed global healthcare and how Catholic bioethics play a role in research and advocacy on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty.



Buildings Purchased from the Sisters

Saint Mary's College recently purchased three buildings from the Sisters of the Holy Cross: Bertrand Hall, Bertrand Annex, and Lourdes Hall. The College has no immediate plans to use the buildings, but the purchase will provide Saint Mary's with flexibility to move forward and expand when the time is right. The three buildings currently house administrative offices and general administration of the Sisters' global ministry.



Vaccination Clinic On Campus

On Friday, April 16, more than 1,000 members of our College community were vaccinated at a clinic held at the Angela Athletic & Wellness Complex. In partnership with Meijer Pharmacy, the first of two Pfizer vaccines was administered to students, faculty, staff, Sisters of the Holy Cross employees, Holy Cross College students and employees, and several neighbor organizations, and newly admitted students to Saint Mary's. **Natasha Robinson '21** got her shot to see her family safely. The second dose of the vaccine will be administered May 7 on campus.

Natasha Robinson received the first of two COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines on campus in April.



For full stories, visit saintmarys.edu/Courier

Finance Presentation Yields Lifelong Returns

By Melinda McNamara

Retired adjunct professor Mark Bradford gave a lecture that created real-life financial change for his students. It has even become the foundation for a Saint Mary's club that makes the investment principles available to any student who is interested.



Hannah Ziegler



Marta Herman

Hannah Ziegler '15 connected the dots between theory and reality after she heard Bradford's lecture called The \$10 Millionaire in his Intro to Management class. It's the same speech Bradford gives students today as advisor to the Saint Mary's College Investment Club. The essence: Start investing \$300 a month when you're in your 20s, and you'll have \$1 million at age 60.

Ziegler set up a mutual fund account at age 22 and invests in it every month. In five years, her fund has grown from a few hundred dollars into thousands. The experience helped her turn her passion for photography into an entrepreneurial venture a year after graduation. Today, Ziegler has built HZ Photography into a nationally recognized success—even during pandemic restrictions. It has also allowed her to enter the real estate market and purchase a home.

"If you want freedom in your life, you need to feel confident with your money," said Ziegler. "Everyone can feel the luxury of financial freedom by making the right decisions."

After hearing the ideas from Bradford's \$10 Millionaire lecture, **Marta Herman '19** was inspired to start the investment club in 2018. Students in the club, which now has more than 20 active members, learn how to take financial matters out of the classroom and into real life.

"The club empowers women to make real decisions about their money and take control of their own financial planning," Bradford said.

Many students who show up for their first meeting know nothing about earnings per share or how a mutual fund works. It doesn't take long for them to realize this is no sit-in-your-seat-and-take-notes exercise. And it's not simulated trading. They quickly get hooked on the outside-the-rules approach to learning about the power of money in real life.

Bradford seeds the investment club with \$25,000 from his personal savings. Students help Bradford manage his money by using online resources like Yahoo Finance and Motley Fool to learn about businesses like Starbucks, Disney, Teledoc, and CRSPR. They bring suggestions to the weekly meetings and take part in healthy debate about the pros and cons of an investment.

When it's time to make a trade, the club uses an actual online brokerage account set up by Bradford to buy and sell stocks. They take turns "pushing the button" to execute a trade and watch the flicker and flash of a transaction completed in seconds.

"This is real-life decision making," Bradford said.

Bradford says the goal of the club is to give away profits. Each year, the club sells all of its stocks and, once his seed money is replaced, the club donates funds to the College's annual donor challenge and a local charity.

Portfolio sales in 2020 led to an \$8,000 donation to the CASIE Center, a child advocacy service in South Bend. It was an experience none of the club members will ever forget.

"We wanted to make as much for the kids as possible," said **Isabelle Latsch '23**, co-president of the club. "It made us research a lot more so we could make good decisions."

The learning behind the investment club goes far beyond reading graphs and adding up dollar signs.

"Money leads to freedom, to power in students' lives so they can go on and do great things," Bradford said. "It's not about greed or being rich."

That's why the foundation of the club is built on three pillars—spend, save, give. Each factor teaches important concepts in money matters. Bundled together, the lessons learned become priceless 'A-ha' moments that compound over a lifetime.

Lessons not found in textbooks

Alexis Vittone '20, a business administration major, knew a little about finance from her marketing classes. She was interested in finance, but she didn't originally have a passion for it as a career path.

That changed her junior year when she joined the investment club and started to dig into the research on stock performance and the avenues available with finance degrees.

"I called my dad after my first club meeting and said, 'You should've taught me this a long time ago,'" Vittone said. "It's a whole new world that no one tells you about."

Now Vittone is on track to finish an internship in wealth management at a credit union. She plans to join the private client team full time and is on a path to earn her license as an investment advisor.

"The club opened a new career path for me—one I'm passionate about," she said. "It got me out of my comfort zone."

Latsch also gravitated quickly to the research side of the investing challenge.

"I've learned to think outside the box and how to be up-to-date with current events," she said. "It makes you feel powerful to be in charge of your own money."

Now Latsch has her own portfolio and invests with purpose. Her family even asks her to invest money for them.

In 2020, Latsch chose one stock in her portfolio—Amazon—as her donation pick. She expects to give profits she makes from her investment to the ALS Foundation in November.

Her giving spirit for ALS goes full circle back to her major in speech pathology. Latsch wants to give people a voice, even if they have difficulties with speech. Her contribution, monetarily as well as professionally, may go a long way toward making a difference in many lives.

Newfound confidence in real-world decisions


For **Hillary Ziemba '23**, financial freedom means more than buying and selling stocks.

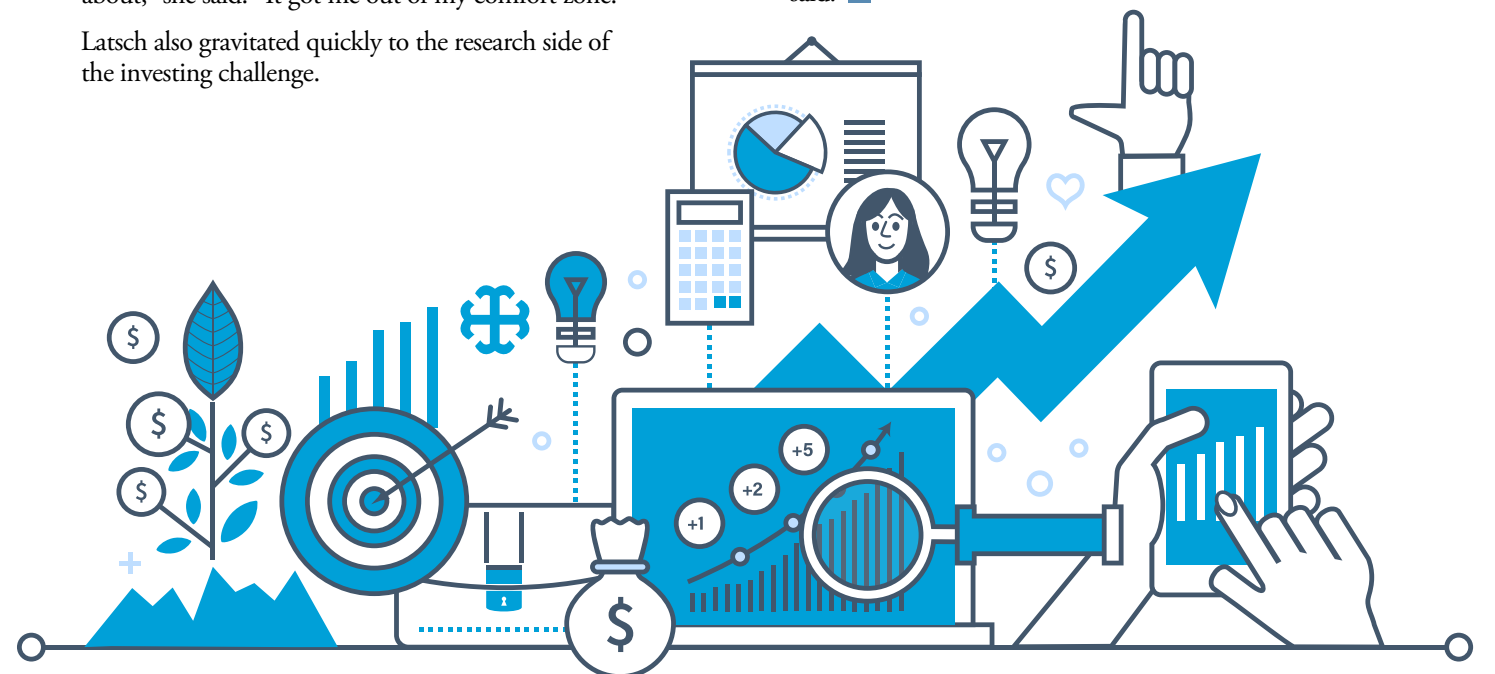
Ziemba, a business major, knew about investing before she joined the club last year. During high school, she worked at a bank and opened her own mutual fund. Her dad matches her investment contributions dollar for dollar.

Today, Ziemba serves as treasurer for the club. She took the initiative to start tracking stock prices on a Google sheet that every club member can see. Ziemba also watches the market to see what happens with stocks for her personal portfolio.

During school breaks, Ziemba helps her mom with bookkeeping for her family's manufacturing business in Jackson, Mich.

"Now I see how everything connects in running the business," she said.

She believes saving and giving add up to a peace she can live with for the rest of her life. "I've realized that you want to control your finances, instead of letting your finances control you," Ziemba said. 





Julianne Olivieri has cultivated a deep friendship with Natalie and is considered part of the family. (Julianne Olivieri and Natalie Jordanich)

Thriving Through Ongoing Care and Connection

By Carrie Rulli

“My time with Natalie has been the single most positive habit I’ve developed as a young adult. It’s a testament to the power of spending time together, even when few words are spoken.”

—Julianne Olivieri

Two Saint Mary’s students are learning that experience is the best teacher through their unique relationship with an 8-year-old South Bend girl.

Julianne Olivieri ’17 and **Anna Mullek ’19, MS ’22** have been working with Natalie Jordanich and her family for the past five years through a practicum course offered to undergraduate students interested in working with children diagnosed with autism. The home-based, hands-on therapy they provide has helped Natalie’s growth, enhanced their studies, and created deep connections between them all.

Mullek knew she wanted to work with special needs patients from a young age. Her sister’s Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis at age 3 sparked her interest, but work with local families—Ed and Julia Jordanich’s, in particular—solidified her passion.

“Working with Natalie has taught me the importance of targeting functional skills for her independence,” said Mullek, who is a dual degree student pursuing a master’s in autism studies and a master’s in speech language pathology. She spends 20 hours a week with the Jordanich family.

“Natalie is non-speaking and requires a high level of support, but it’s important for me to teach her how to do things, rather than simply completing tasks for her out of convenience,” she said.

Olivieri also knew when she was young that she would make a career out of working with children who have disabilities. She started an adaptive physical education course in high school, helping student athletes train for the local Special Olympics, among other activities and internships since then. She fully realized just how much her interest in working within the autism community fit her and her goals when she began working with the Jordanich family. It led to her participation in a program that conducts focus groups for local area college-aged students with autism, For Understanding Neurodevelopment (F.U.N.), a research lab that seeks to better understand autism founded by Joshual Diehl, PhD, Saint Mary’s faculty fellow and chief program officer for LOGAN Center.

“Before meeting Natalie, I knew I wanted to work with children with disabilities but I didn’t know in what context or how,” she said. “I know now.”

The Jordanich family met Olivieri in 2016, during her junior year at Saint Mary’s, as they sought help for Natalie through LOGAN Center, a South Bend-based organization that provides support, resources and opportunities for people with disabilities. It didn’t

take long for Olivieri to realize she was receiving as much as she was giving. She continues to commute from Chicago, where she completed a master’s degree at Northwestern University, to South Bend on the weekends to help Natalie. She has even joined the family for vacations, taking a break from her work as a behavior therapist and respite worker for children with disabilities. Olivieri plans to pursue her doctoral degree in behavior analysis.

Even though the kind of close care Mullek and Olivieri provide is considered informal, it has helped Natalie make great strides, Julia said.

“Natalie requires 24-hour supervision and is non-verbal, but because of Julianne and Anna’s efforts to work with her in areas including communication with an augmentative device, social skills, and physical skills, we have seen amazing progress,” she said.



The Jordanich family provides hands-on experience in a home setting while nurturing Natalie’s development. (left to right: Mia, Natalie, Ed, Julia and Lauren Jordanich)

Mullek said they consult with the family on the importance and relevance of Natalie’s target goals to her daily life based on the applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy Natalie receives. “We obviously work on different things than she does at school, but we do so with the support of Julia or Ed in the home setting,” she said. “This can make a huge difference. Both Julianne and I have worked as registered behavior technicians for ABA therapy, so we are adequately able to work with Natalie in her familiar surroundings.”

“Most importantly, I’ve learned the importance of celebrating all the small victories in Natalie’s life.”

—Anna Mullek

Balancing careers and raising their three daughters—Lauren, Mia and Natalie—the days are hectic for Ed and Julia, with Natalie’s care as the focal point of their daily schedules. The entire family has benefitted from the students being a part of their life.

“These young women have helped us expand our world, which mostly revolves around Natalie,” Ed said. “The emotional maturity, compassion, and creativity we see from Julianne and Anna has been an incredible blessing for our family.”

Mullek and Olivieri are the two most recent students who have worked with Natalie as they completed or advanced their degrees. Three other Saint Mary’s students have come into their home and their lives over the years to assist with Natalie. Julia calls it a huge blessing that Saint Mary’s has given them. They’ve connected with students over the years through Saint Mary’s faculty fellow Joshua Diehl, LOGAN Center’s chief program officer for child and adolescent services, and Kristin Wier, adjunct professor of the autism practicum course.

“The relationships and the collaboration we’ve done together with Saint Mary’s is so valuable, from research to sharing resources,” Wier said. “I’m honored to be involved with the faculty and students.”

Wier has been a part of the course and placing students with local families for the past 17 years. When she learned about the professional goals and specific interests of Mullek and Olivieri, she knew they would be a perfect fit for the Jordanich family.

“We really hit the jackpot with Anna and Julianne. They threw their hearts into it from the beginning, and I know the family and Natalie feel that,” she said.

Olivieri has learned more than she anticipated through her work outside the classroom.

“Though it might seem basic, I learned the power in showing up. Our weekly routine allowed Natalie to see me as a constant in her life, and she slowly began to open up to me in ways I had not anticipated,” she said. “My time with Natalie has been the single most positive habit I’ve developed as a young adult. It’s a testament to the power of spending time together, even when few words are spoken.”

Julia said she has loved all of the students and their care over the years. But having two consistent, longer-term care providers has been critical to her and to Natalie. Relaxation is rare, but when Mullek and Olivieri are with her family, she said she can actually take deep breaths.

“Julianne and Anna have changed our lives,” she said. “They have become part of our family and we’re so fortunate that Saint Mary’s brought them into our world.”

The feelings of gratitude and good fortune are mutual for Mullek and Olivieri, especially during the past year and the global pandemic when Natalie and her family were nearly the only people Mullek saw in person.

“It’s incredible to witness her learning and developing, and especially cool to see her accomplish things that I started targeting with her, like eating with a fork or wearing a seatbelt in the car,” she said.

“Most importantly, I’ve learned the importance of celebrating all the small victories in Natalie’s life.” **C**



Anna Mullek, a dual degree student pursuing a master’s in autism studies and a master’s in speech pathology, spends 20 hours a week with Natalie and the Jordanich family.

Chicago West

We could not have foretold 2020. A new college president, graduations, reunions, and the year our club was to celebrate Club of the Year. But all when no one could gather to celebrate — insert sad face.

Yet, we persisted. The Chicago West Alumnae Club’s book-loving regulars count on our nine book club meetings (social events) to read and discuss new books. 2020 didn’t change that! When we were unable to host one another in person for our monthly events we Zoomed into each other’s homes, germ-free, and kept up the club spirit with lively discussions! A virtual wine tasting or recipe exchange might be next, as we do miss our in-person gatherings!

Instead, we engaged via Zoom like the rest of the world. **Katie Foster Filbin ’92** and **Maeve Filbin ’21** hosted a virtual student sendoff in July, where incoming students were able to ‘see’ one another and pose questions to a senior with plenty of insight. And in the fall, the College helped us host President Conboy for an intimate chat as well. We embraced technology and applauded the new opportunities it presented us.

Unphased by the pandemic, in our final book club we collected suggestions for our 2021 book list. Our appreciation to **Anne Murray McDermott ’85**, who again used those ideas to create a great slate of books and prepare a virtual Zoom schedule for our next nine social events. If we are able to add hostesses in the future, we will!

The club Christmas meeting allowed us to share holiday plans and stories on a smaller scale. But our final activity for 2020 was a letter-writing campaign to the freshmen students from our club boundaries. This outreach was to encourage our future alumnae on their return to campus, their studies, overall well-being, and endurance. We pray they stay the course.

Yes, we’re still here. We still want to see you. Membership is not required for any of our book club or Zoom meetings, so please join an event. Join this inspiring group of women. To obtain a copy of the 2021 Book List, please send an email to smcwcolums@gmail.com.

Cincinnati

The Saint Mary’s Alumnae Club of Cincinnati was honored with a recent virtual “Coffee and Conversation” with President Katie Conboy during the first week in December. We enjoyed listening to Dr. Conboy’s updates and vision for the Saint Mary’s College community despite the challenging year.

We plan to have a virtual Epiphany Party, including a “donate-to-play” SMC trivia game on January 17 and are working to get more socially distanced events on the calendar for 2021.

Cleveland

The Cleveland Club has been trying to remain busy! This year, we collected generous donations for the current SMC students. We put together large care packages for the students after the fall semester. These packages included all sorts of things: snacks, school supplies, and coffee to name a few. At Christmas time, we collected

monetary donations and sent the current SMC students Amazon gift cards to fulfill their needs for the spring semester. In these difficult times, we wanted to provide the students with support. We have a virtual book club coming up in the new year. We are hopeful we will be able to gather together in person soon. We wish health and happiness to our members in the new year. If you would like information about the Cleveland club, please email **Miranda Oltmams Hoy ’16** at moltma01@saintmarys.edu.

Des Moines

The Des Moines Club, which typically does a service project in the spring, plans to do a project in summer 2021, if it seems safe to do so. Our annual service project is typically framed in the context of the topic of our fall Founders’ Day event. The Des Moines Club’s November virtual Founders’ Day event, which featured the president of the Iowa-Nebraska NAACP and two attorneys who have done pro bono work for that organization for many years, discussed racial profiling and the new Des Moines ordinance prohibiting it, as well as proposed anti-racist legislation for the 2021 Iowa legislative session.

Georgia

We’ve been on hiatus due to COVID-19, but we did our traditional goody bags in late January to welcome the Georgia Belles back to campus.

Anyone who is interested in joining the executive board should contact **Gina Caponi Parnaby ’02** at smcalumsga@gmail.com. We’re always looking for volunteers!

Los Angeles

The highlight for our club was a Zoom visit with President Katie Conboy in late September. Hearing about the current reality and managing COVID at the College and at the same time attending to the future direction was both inspiring and exciting for our club members. We welcome President Conboy to Saint Mary’s and southern California! Our book clubs continue to be successful, joining together in Zoom groups in LA and OC, new members welcome! If interested, contact **Susan Fitzgerald Rice ’61** for LA and **Colleen Monahan ’72** for OC.



LA Club Zoom Advent retreat.

We attempted our first Zoom Advent retreat on December 1. Survey evaluations affirm this new activity as we create new ways to come together virtually —alumnae appreciate opportunities to gather together, reflect, and focus on Advent. We will proceed with Lenten and Easter retreats in 2021.

And look for our next service project in April; there are endless ways to contribute and all are encouraged to participate from where they live. Our catchment area is HUGE and so we aim to do something in the same timeframe, in solidarity with each other and those in need.

Pittsburgh

The Saint Mary’s Club of Pittsburgh traded in their supper club for a book club this year. *Just Mercy* was our first read, and it was great to have the knowledge of **Judge Nora Barry Fischer ’73** on the Zoom call. Next we read *Tattoos on the Heart*.

We are also venturing to Rome on a virtual tour with professional tour guide and SMC grad **Tiffany McIver DeLuca ’07**.

We were able to send lots of gifts throughout the semester to local Saint Mary’s students.

Now they are just a short walk from the lake and a small gazebo. Jo Ann's sons live in Chicago (Justin) and St. Louis (Allan) and her daughter Anne lives west of Cleveland. And she has "been blessed with 10 grandchildren" that she must miss, since she's not been able to travel this year. "Pandemic life has not been too bad. Our families have been safe so far and I pray it stays that way." And for all of us, "God bless all alumnae, especially the Class of '67!"

I heard from **Mary Lou Bleeg** who, like most of us, has learned Zooming, and thus stays in touch with friends and the larger community, enabling her to volunteer virtually. She feels a part of her grandchildren's day via Facebook, while missing the real hugs and kisses! Mary Lou notes that we have many lessons to learn from this pandemic going forward.

Sharon Wilchar is busier than ever, so her report is brief. The big month-long art exhibition she organizes for her city was forced to go all virtual and, indeed, even included a virtual opening night with over 300 attendees "Zooming" in for the evening. Though she didn't have much time to surf the gallery or chat box, she was thrilled to see **Sue Williams Quinn** and her husband Bob, **Pat Holland**, and me in the audience. The exhibition theme this year: socially distanced but culturally connected. Sharon, Sue, and I have enjoyed connecting over books we are reading or recommending.

Following up on her comments in the recent *Courier*, **Betsy Robertshaw Umhofer** recommends viewing the newly released documentary *AGGLE* on Amazon Prime. Inspiring, especially for women, this is about the first RBG Women in Leadership Award winner.

Jeanne Graham Bixler is living her dream, having moved to beautiful Sun City, Palm Desert, CA, where she is an avid golfer. She loves the bright sunny weather and gorgeous mountain views. As do her visitors who are escaping the cold weather on the East Coast! Her son Ryan, with his wife Kate and daughters Mary, 17, and Celia, 14, visited from Atlanta, GA, and great family memories were made at Jeanne's beautiful resort-like home.

Graciela Batista Nearing writes that "Much has happened since our class 50th anniversary celebration. Michael and I celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2019. Our youngest has had two beautiful daughters, so that makes 10 grandkids and yes, one great-granddaughter, in total from our original four. We are spending three months in Memphis to help the young parents, both of whom are frontline MDs during these crazy times. We went on a pilgrimage to Poland in 2019 with our vicar priest, who showed us his beautiful country, and saw St. John Paul II's hometown and museum." I love how she finished her note and wonder how much she has left out: "That is the short version. Let me know if this makes sense. A big hug to all classmates."

There has been some sad news this cycle. I heard from **Mary Chmielewski Golichowski** that **Helen Kloswick's** brother John Louis Kloswick passed away in October 2020.

I am including the entirety of **Carol Garvey O'Malley's** note, and the picture that she attached. "Life can bring us great tragedies, and my heart is heavy because my daughter Kelly passed away. She was an extraordinary wife, the mother of a son, 14, and daughter, 12, and sister. She was a respected attorney, who lived with her family in Atlanta. I share my loss because there is possibly another classmate or two who have also lost a child. If you would like to get together on Zoom as a Compassionate Friends group, I would welcome such mutual support. My text is (574) 315-9513."



Carol Garvey O'Malley and late daughter Kelly O'Malley.

As thankful as we are when we are healthy and whole, I know that we all share Carol's and Helen's grief in hopes of lessening it a little.

1968

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Kathy Huisking Sullivan and **Harriett Hillebrand Cronin** each received a very appreciative letter from the recipient of their class scholarship. She is **Anna D'Andrea Keller '21** from Brentwood, TN, and her major is English writing.

Thanks to all of you for generously donating to our scholarship fund at our Reunion and for continuing to support it each year. Special thanks to our wonderful committee members, who worked diligently to contact our class. This fund enables young women to enjoy the same education we received, and our scholarship honors the Class of 1968 in a meaningful way.

On a personal note, **Kathy Huisking Sullivan** and her husband Steve miss traveling due to COVID, but they were busy all spring with an outdoor project and visited their son and wife in Colorado in August. Harriett is already in Naples, FL, the site of an annual mini reunion; she and Steve will be going to Naples in January.

From **Karen Huisking Coffey**: "The coronavirus has unfortunately caused so many of our Saint Mary's family heartaches. **Kathy Huisking Sullivan** and I lost a beloved cousin due to the virus and the cases just continue to increase. The virus has also impacted our ability to meet with our families and friends. Kathy and I have a Zoom call every Friday with fellow classmates **Barbara Gibson South**, **Penny Wingeier Sullivan**, and **Harriett Hillebrand Cronin**. It allows us to keep in touch and share with each other how we are doing. I was supposed to take a family vacation

last April to Jamaica with my husband, our four children, spouses, and grandchildren. We have not had a family trip in years. Of course we did not go and have postponed it until next April. We all can only pray a vaccine can end our isolation."

From **Mary Bartlett Wolf**: "One of the bright spots of 2020 was meeting a number of classmates for lunch in February in southwest Florida. Fingers crossed that we can regather in 2021. My COVID story is that cleaning closets allowed me to pass on to my 17-year-old granddaughter my triangle scarves from my SMC 'bad hair days.' She was actually happy to receive them. I also found duplicate pictures from various SMC dances and sent them with my Christmas cards! Grateful for family, good health, and fond memories of our class years and our reunions."



A nice luncheon in Bonita Springs, FL in February 2020.

Angela Maynard Sewall writes with her well wishes. Sadly, Angie's mother died on October 2, just 45 days before her 100th birthday.



Zip Largey Basile sent a photo from a mini reunion. Clockwise, starting from the bottom: Zip Largey Basile, Dee Sauer Pugliese, Maureen Claire Hunter-Bone, Ruth Nienberg (99-year-old mom of Jan Nienberg Swift), Jan Nienberg Swift.

1969

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Hello Classmates,

I always regret the time delay in relaying our news. Just as a refresher, here's how the timing works. I am submitting this column on December 1, 2020, although there is currently an issue in production, so this news may seem late. Sometimes I hear back from classmates who have sent me news, asking what happened to their submissions. I guess the easiest thing to say is that it will appear in the issue after you expect it! As a reminder, our news is in every issue, even and odd years no longer alternating, and the deadlines are April 1, August 1, and December 1. Let me also add that you can send me news ANY time, and I'll keep it in a folder to include. THANKS very much!

We have news from **K.T. Cannon-Eger** of a change of address. "After 31 years in the same

house, Bill and I have moved from Hawaiian Paradise Park into a condo in Hilo. It's necessary at this point in our lives to get him more access to senior services. Alzheimer's disease robs us each day of another shared memory. Sometimes he remembers who I am and sometimes not. The new mailing address is 101 Aupuni Street #820, Hilo HI 96720. Cell phone remains (808) 895-8130. Email remains kteger@hawaii.rr.com. Much aloha!"

Cathy Coates reported, "I am a grandmother now. Diana gave birth to Benicio (means blessed) in March 2020 just before quarantine started. I feel very blessed for getting to share in his life! Congratulations!"

Despite COVID restrictions that certainly have curtailed gatherings, **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie** sent her news from Colorado. She reported that **Kathy Ellis Prescott** has a new grandson, her ninth grandchild. Mary Alice and **Nan Raaf** got together for lunch recently. She also stays in touch of course with her Midwest Belles and said **Alison Whittaker Rink**, **Marian Morris Furey**, and **Margaret Roberts Richards** were all doing well. She added, "I am in touch with **Eileen Van Huysse**. She roomed with **Mary Parish** freshman year next door to me and then left. We just made contact through Facebook. She lives in her hometown of Jasper, IN."

Theresie Ambrusko wrote with happy news. "My husband and I are both retired, living in Carlsbad, which is just north of San Diego. Our daughter just got engaged to a Notre Dame grad! They met in Chicago, where she was working for the Cubs and he was with a law firm. She wanted to get closer to home so they recently moved back to San Francisco, where we lived for 30 years. I am so very, very grateful that we had our Reunion before COVID! If any of our classmates are in the San Diego area, please let me know. I would love to get in touch." You can email Theresie at tambrusko@sbcglobal.net.

Words can't express how grateful my husband Roy and I are to have our daughters with us now. They both quarantined for two weeks and arrived the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Christine's wedding was supposed to be celebrated in July 2020, but COVID caused the shuffling of many plans to July 2021. She is here for two weeks now, taking vacation time from her busy life in Massachusetts. She drove down to Alexandria, VA, stayed overnight with Katie and her husband Kelly, and then our daughters drove the rest of the way here in North Carolina the next day. Katie is staying for five weeks with us, through the Christmas holidays, and her husband will join us in mid-December. Teleworking with wonderful, flexible working situations are a blessing in the midst of this pandemic. Here's hoping a vaccine will be available by the time you are reading this column!

Finally, I want to let you know that **Mary Frances Nolan Kensingler** passed away August 18. Her daughter **Margaret Virginia Rose Kensingler-Klopper '00** wrote to ask me to include this information in our class news and added, "A scholarship fund has been set up in her honor, the Mary Frances Nolan Kensingler Memorial Scholarship, if anyone from your class would like to donate. She loved and valued her time at Saint Mary's so much and never ceased to talk about how much it formed and informed her." Fran was

from Iowa City and though she moved to California in the '70s, where she began her teaching career, she maintained her love of Iowa and her roots. Her obituary said that "She was the CEO of her farm at Desoto Bend, IA and her cherished United Farm, near Iowa City, IA. She was proud of the agricultural legacy of her mother's and father's families, and cared deeply about maintaining that heritage. Although she spent the majority of her life in California, she always identified as a Midwesterner and called Iowa home. She is survived by her devoted husband Timothy Allen Kensingler, two sons Daniel Clifford (Irina) and Timothy Robert (Meghan), three daughters Margaret (Mike), Mary Bridget (Steve), and Kirsten Louise Frances (John), nine grandchildren, and many other relatives."

Stay strong and be well, dear Belles. God bless!

1971

From the *Courier* Office

Sheila M. Cronin had a story published in *Kaleidoscope Magazine*, Winter/Spring 2021 edition. The story is based on the main character from her novel *The Gift Counselor*.

1972

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I usually fill a class news column with stories of our travels, family visits, get-togethers with classmates, and personal or business achievements. Unfortunately, we are still grappling with the COVID virus, so our travels are mostly to the grocery store and back, our family visits and get-togethers with friends are via Zoom, and achievements are hard to come by when you are working from home or your volunteer jobs are nonexistent. I am happy to tell you that a few people did step up to help me. And thank heavens for Facebook, where I see pictures of many of you.

Heather Tripucka Carr and husband Bill moved from Bloomfield to Manasquan, NJ and ended up about 10 minutes from Bill and **Clair Mignelli Hughes**. During the beautiful fall weather, the two got together for bike rides around Spring Lake along the ocean. On one of their rides, they saw **Beth Culligan**, who lives in Spring Lake, and exchanged socially distanced greetings.



Selfie of Claire Mignelli Hughes and Heather Tripucka Carr in Bayhead, NJ.

Vickyann Chrobak Sadowski had a Facebook picture of her adorable, oldest grandchild Josie, who lost her two front teeth. She is ready to sing "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth!" She is 8 years old and has a younger brother and sister.

Colleen Ann Monahan emailed about a January meeting of the Orange County, CA SMC Book Club she hosted at her home. She and **Peggy Griesbach '74** were the only two "in-person" attendees with several others joining online. The book was *Code Girls of WW II*. A highlight was seeing the US Army Corps uniform of Colleen's mother.

Sad news came from **Mary Kay Kronewetter Jeselnik**. **Ann Meuleman Jendryk** passed away October 15, 2020, after a struggle with cancer. Mary Kay said, "She was a good friend to many and never forgot one. I was blessed to know her." Those of us who remember Ann from college and Reunions agree. She was a lovely woman with a warm smile. Ann was a first-grade teacher and attended the high school graduations of those she taught.

A Facebook plea to **Lynn Marie Novotny** for some news resulted in a chatty email. In light of the pandemic, she started with a shoutout to all during this difficult time, hoping that everyone's families are healthy and safe. She is planning to attend our 50th Reunion in 2022 and hopes to see everyone there! Lynn lives in Burr Ridge, IL and had been a substitute teacher for six years. The schools shut down in March and Chicago shortly after that. She found herself without work and anxious about what was to transpire.

About a month later, she received a frantic 7 a.m. phone call from her mother, who winters in Florida. She wanted to come home now! So Lynn hopped a 10:45 a.m. flight from Midway to Fort Lauderdale. Three days later, she was back in Chicago with Mom. She said the flight—eight people total on the trip down and 20 on the return—made them feel like they had a private plane. When they reached Midway, there was one cab in the airport. A friend has suggested keeping a written account of the pandemic to pass on to future generations. Not a bad idea.

An article on **Denise DeBartolo York** is at <https://www.49ers.com/news/the-first-ladies-of-the-49ers>. Here is a passage from the article: "Denise currently serves as co-chairperson of the 49ers alongside her husband Dr. John York, whom she married in 1978. She is widely recognized as the leader of one of the largest female-owned corporations in the Bay Area and one of the most influential women in professional sports."

1973

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I write this column just a couple of days before Thanksgiving 2020. What a year it has been. The pandemic! The election! Definitely a year that will be recorded in the history books. I am hopeful that we will all be vaccinated and living "normal" lives by the time this issue of *Courier* arrives.

We should be proud of classmate **Mary Brelowski Zicafoose** (BFA), who has just published a book titled *IKAT: The Essential Handbook to Weaving Resist-Dyed Cloth*. While the book was written for textile enthusiasts, I thoroughly enjoyed paging through my copy before sending it to a niece who is a textile designer. Mary is a teacher, a designer, an artist, and a philanthropist. She creates large-scale tapestries and rugs, many of which can be found in private collections on three continents.



Book cover of *IKAT: The Essential Handbook to Weaving Resist-Dyed Cloth* by Mary Brelowski Zicafoose.

Nora Barry Fischer sent me a newsy update. "Don and I became grandparents again, this time to identical twin baby girls, Caroline Nora and Jacqueline Ann Schultz, born on September 10. Their mom Lauren is our daughter. She played women's lacrosse for ND, where she received an undergrad degree in art history and went back to ND for her MBA. There, she met her husband Peter, who was also an MBA student. We now have eight grandchildren including the Schultz five and our son Adam's three. Scott Hardy (ND '96) took my seat as a district court judge here

in Pittsburgh. I became a senior judge in June of 2019 and now that my seat and other vacant seats on our bench have been filled, I can hopefully reduce my caseload a bit more. Don continues to consult in the health care space and remains on the SMC board, where he has served on the COVID committee, among other duties."

Here's an update from **Pamela King**, who enjoyed a great "virtual tailgate" Zoom call with fellow '73 ND classmates John JC Greving, Paul Collins, Bill Sauerland, and Bill Allen. The "tailgate" preceded the exciting Clemson game. Pamela is also looking forward to a Zoom call with her '73 SMC/ND friends including **Julaine Brophy Brent, Jean Lysaught Hull, Beth Kennedy Sullivan**, and **Kris Kane Carr**. Pamela can be reached at elicodpap61@gmail.com.

I was happy to hear from **Cassie Baranko Jablonski**, who had this news to report. She, **Brigid Garvey Edmonds, Kate Mallard**, and **Mary Ellen Hayes Schaefer** have been meeting for a virtual book discussion each month. Some of the books they have enjoyed reading are *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, *The Book of Lost Friends*, and *Becoming*. "It has been fun connecting with each other every month, focusing on various topics in the books and sharing our insights."

After some encouragement, I persuaded two of my college roommates to submit information about their busy lives. **Mary Jo Geffert Lahr** has relocated and lives a mere 30 minutes from me. "After moving

to Charleston, SC from Minnesota this past spring, I'm experiencing many 'firsts'. We ate Thanksgiving dinner OUTSIDE! We have a long growing season, and my flower boxes have turned into mini jungles! My two daughters and their families live in the area and I relish seeing my three grandchildren regularly. My son, his wife, and my four additional grandchildren live up in Minnesota. Lots of new things to learn; lots of adjustments, too. Having my SMC roommates (**Terry Trenor Wilkins, Mary Ann Weis Fenimore, Peg FitzGibbons Higgins**) within driving distance is a bonus and makes our get-togethers a frequent reality!" **Terry Trenor Wilkins** has resided in Tampa with her husband John for the past 20 years. Terry is retired and enjoys Pilates, mentoring, and working with the homeless. Happily, all their children will join them for Christmas. Lauren and her husband Cincy live in Columbus, OH with their three children Flynn, 6, Grey, 4, and Coco, almost 2, and work at the headquarters of Express and Abercrombie, respectively. Teddy is moving from Chicago next month to Tampa in partnership with WingStop. Peter, an investment banker, and his fiancé Kelly, an attorney, live in Atlanta. Trenor is currently working on his master's in hospitality at Cornell. She hopes to visit her college roommates as soon as COVID is over.

1974

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Hello all, just a few notes from me:

Ellen Hanahue Popit, associate director of Illinois Heartland Library System and resident of West Frankfort, IL, was awarded the prestigious Crystal Honor Award by the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, also known as AISLE, at the organization's annual conference. AISLE is a professional organization that spans the state of Illinois and works to promote lifelong learning by the students of Illinois and to provide leadership and support for the development, promotion, and improvement of the school library media profession and programs in Illinois.

Classmate **Dede Lohle Simon's** daughter Michelle Noon (ND grad) was named in the top three "Most Influential Women in Private Equity" by the *Wall Street Journal*. Michelle started her career in investment banking with Morgan Stanley. She cofounded Clearhaven Partners in the Boston area several years ago.

Classmate **Julie Griffin Murphy's** daughter **Caitlin Anne Murphy '09** was honored with an Illinois Nurses Foundation's 2020 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award. The award highlights and celebrates young nurse leaders who are making an impact on health care and the nursing profession today and who will shape the future of the profession. Caitlin specializes in oncology at Rush University Medical Center.

Write me with your news, classmates, and let's hope we can actually visit with one another in 2021!

1975

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Our class of 1975 Reunion was canceled/postponed, but that didn't stop this group of friends from getting together on June 6 to celebrate via Zoom.

Tricia Lauerman Nobbe and **Livy O'Neill** were joined by our Notre Dame classmates Pam Strode Nosbusch, Kevin Nosbusch, Chris Burger Burns, Mary Sweet Palladino, Lynda Roesch, Chuck Katter, and Tony Malench. We shared memories, told funny stories, and engaged in a trivia contest. We are not sure if anyone won because refilling drinks seemed to be a bigger priority.

We followed up on September 12 and November 7 with tailgates before the Duke and Clemson games, respectively. **Debbie Joan Kruyer** joined us for this round of shenanigans. **Livy O'Neill** sent shot guess glasses to everyone before Clemson with a Jello shot glass decorating challenge. It was hilarious. We are all looking forward to a non-virtual Reunion in June.

A note to the Class of 1975 from **Peg FitzGibbons Higgins '73** class reporter: There has been no Class of 1975 news for some time. So, I bombed a Zoom call that involved my sister **Ann**

FitzGibbons and her five great friends from Saint Mary's: **Monica Fortune Hatch, Julie Blackwell Gelinias, Maureen Luxem Mossell, Carolyn Walsh O'Hara**, and **Anita Gluski Fuller**. After some persuasion, I received the following.

My sister **Ann FitzGibbons** retired from American Airlines in 2019 after 37 years as an international flight attendant. She currently lives in Chicago and wonders how she ever had time to work! Travel is still on her agenda, however, COVID has clipped her wings for the time being. Yoga has been a huge part of her life, studying in India and teaching in Mexico and on Kauai. Ann is grateful for the solid and enduring friendships with her Saint Mary's classmates.

Monica Fortune Hatch returned to school after raising her four children with husband Dennis (ND '75), earned an MA in rhetoric and composition, and then enjoyed a 20-year career as a full-time professor at a community college in southern Illinois. Retired in 2019, she is happy to have more time for cycling, hiking, yoga, and reading for pleasure. She does, however, miss the research papers her students wrote, which always taught her something new. "And I still treasure my time and education at SMC (and a year in Rome!), but most of all the dynamic women I met there and still count as my best friends."

From **Julia Blackwell Gelinias**: "I've been living in Indianapolis since law school and recently retired after practicing law for over 40 years while raising my wonderful son Alexander.

"As much as I enjoyed my practice, I have to say I'm loving retirement and can't wait to do a little more traveling when COVID is behind us. I love that the five of us in the photo (along with Anita, who is not pictured) have been able to get together so often over the years."



From left: Julia Blackwell Gelinias, Maureen Luxem Mossell, Carolyn Walsh O'Hara, Monica Fortune Hatch, and Ann FitzGibbons.

Anita Gluski Fuller retired to West Palm Beach, FL after working in her native city of Caracas, Venezuela for 40 years as a freelance real estate agent specializing in relocation for expats. She raised her only daughter Kristina Fuller (ND '07), who married the love of her life, James Ramos (ND '07), at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. Anita is now spending her time golfing and enjoying her passion for dancing/exercising to Zumba while keeping her mind sharp playing bridge, canasta, and Mahjong. "My sophomore year in Angers whetted my appetite for traveling around the world, especially now that I have the time to do it. In spite of living abroad for so many years, I picked up my friendship with these amazing women as if it were yesterday."

After living and teaching English as a Second Language in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and later Barcelona, Spain, **Maureen Luxem Mossell** returned to her Chicago roots, where she met her husband Shawn. Currently residing in Glenview, they are blessed with two healthy sons Luke, 30, and Jesse, 28. Maureen continues to enjoy teaching ESL on the local level. "It's the best job on the planet! In my free time, I enjoy movement of many kinds: dance, yoga, hiking in nature, and swimming in Lake Michigan. I am grateful to have shared so many wonderful moments and memories with all of these truly amazing, authentic friends."

And from **Carolyn Walsh O'Hara**: "I'm living in my hometown of Indianapolis and have raised four children here. I spent many enjoyable hours as an avid supporter on the sidelines of my children's various sporting events. Volunteering at their schools throughout the years was fulfilling and allowed me to make many new friendships. I'm now enjoying cooking, 'book clubbing,' and Pilates. Spending time with my 2-year-old granddaughter is a true blessing, as is my lifelong friendship with my SMC gal pals!"

1976



1977

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Hello, fellow classmates from 1977! As I am writing this, the world is battling a global pandemic. Many of us had smaller than normal Thanksgiving gatherings and it looks like Christmas will be similar. I sure hope that the new vaccines are effective and distributed efficiently to those with the greatest needs. I pray that you and your family stay safe. Please continue to share your news; we enjoy reading your updates. Just a few updates this issue.

In late October, **Patsy Jones Mullin**, her son Ryan, and I (Maureen) celebrated Patsy's 65th at Hilton Head Island. Before we went, I contacted **Patty Schirmer Smith**, who was able to arrange a short visitation for us with **Dorothea Wieland** at



Dorothea Wieland

Dorothea's assisted living facility. Dorothea looked great and was in good spirits. Of course we discussed some of our shenanigans from our days at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame. Dorothea would appreciate hearing from classmates; her address is: Dorothea Wieland, Life Care Center of Hilton Head, 120 Lamotte Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

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Patsy, Patty, and I were able to spend some time together, too. Patty gave us some updates on her SMC friends, namely retirements, travels, grandchildren, etc. Patty and her husband Jerry are enjoying the good life and golfing at Hilton Head.



Patsy Jones Mullin, Maureen Tomshack, and Dorothea Wieland

Patsy Jones Mullin, Maureen Tomshack, and Patty Schirmer Smith

Beth Marzano Fleming wrote: "This past fall, my husband Greg and I decided to continue our national park 'bucket list' and go out west. We arrived in Salt Lake City and drove through Utah and



Beth Marzano Fleming and husband Greg

Colorado. We went to Capital Reef, Canyonlands, Arches, Mesa Verde, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison. They are all spectacular in their own distinct ways! We then drove to Idaho and Montana to see dear friends. Of course we had to stop at Yellowstone to see Old Faithful. We saw the sign in Montana for

the shooting of the TV show *Yellowstone* but didn't see Kevin Costner! We had a terrific two-week vacation and crossed off items on the list!"

Beth continued, "While visiting the grandkiddies in Chicago in November, we got together with **Mary Jane Anderson Woodward** and **Cheryl Klein Fischer** at a German restaurant with an 'oompah' band! Had a blast!"

1978

Susan Margiotta Salem
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If you lived in Rome sophomore year 1975–76, you knew our local bar for coffee and frullati, Pascucci, which was conveniently located directly next to our school entrance. A frullati is a smoothie with the most delicious fresh fruit ingredients that you can imagine. This was back in the day when we were not inundated with smoothies and the like. This was pre-smoothie days. Frullati was often a daily routine. The owner Bruno proudly hung an SMC flag behind his counter for all to see. It was still there many years later when I visited in 1995 and again in 2005. We all treasured our old neighborhood of the Campo de' Fiori while living and taking classes just down the street from the Pantheon. It was magical.

EXCELSIOR

Lisa Keiser Jorgenson '78 was appointed as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Deputy Director General for Patents and Technology.

This past fall, **Jennifer Trachy Hakes '04** set up a Fundly page to donate to Pascucci since the pandemic has really hurt them. This donation drive features a Pascucci team t-shirt. The Rome group posted it on Facebook and many of us answered the call for help. They all have BRUNO written across the back and below his name it reads: io Fragola, e tu? We've decided to wear them at the next Rome reunion. It was fun to get the SMC Rome group engaged in a very worthy cause.

From **Lisa Maglio Brown**: "This year is different. Our stories are different. We've had much time to reflect during these difficult and frightening months and as we go into what appears to be a dark winter before a hopeful spring, I think we all feel the collective need to think about the things for which we are grateful.

"Without the usual hustle and bustle of daily life, I have felt called upon to pray more and to take this time to reflect on the gifts I have been given. I've spent time during this pandemic, like many of you, thinking about my years at Saint Mary's and how those years have carried me through life. The shared experiences at SMC have shaped me, held me up, and continue to do so.

"There are countless happy stories to tell of friendships made at SMC. We SMC grads are fortunate to have had such stories, but one illustrates to me, like none other, the seeds of friendship and service that were planted during our time at Saint Mary's. I had a serious bout with cancer a few years ago, while living alone, and I needed help to get through the very arduous treatment I had to undergo. Along with my daughter **Callie Rose Brown '15**, who was in graduate school at the time, two of our classmates arrived to help: **Susan Margiotta Salem** and **Suzu Plavac Heidkamp** (an SMC nursing graduate—none better!). Those three women saved my life. I might not be writing this today had they not been by my side. Along with those selfless special women, who flew across the country and left their jobs and families, were dozens of classmates on "Team Lisa," many of whom met when we were McCandless freshmen. They sent cards and notes and photographs to get me through a very difficult treatment. One of those women, **Diane Smits Lein**, sent me a hopeful and encouraging greeting card every day throughout my treatment and beyond into my lengthy recovery. Most importantly, all of those women kept me close in their prayers. SMC support expanded beyond the Class of '78 to the next generation of SMC women through my daughter's SMC Class of '15. They prayed, too, and supported my daughter so that she could be a strong and brave caregiver for me. The seeds were planted and grew. They began to grow our freshman year, in

1974, and they have bloomed and have re-seeded to carry on the love, the dedication to service, and the friendships that continue to transcend time."



Susan Coliton in her new office at the Santa Fe Community Foundation as Interim President and CEO.

From **Sue Coliton**: "Hi, everyone—I'm writing from my new office at the Santa Fe Community Foundation, where I've just taken on the job as interim president and CEO. I moved to New Mexico full time this past summer after 21 years in Seattle. Searching for some sun and better 'quarantining' space!

My Seattle chapter was full of excitement and new experiences. For 15 years, I led a family foundation that supported regional and global projects, got very involved in the local arts community, and developed deep friendships. I've been consulting for the past five years in the philanthropic sector and started doing 'interim CEO' work in 2019. Along the way, I took up western horseback riding, started competing in horse shows, and actually won a national championship in 2015! Now I'm doing trail rides here in New Mexico, exploring the landscape painted by Georgia O'Keefe.

"Sitting here in my office at the Santa Fe Community Foundation, my experiences at Saint Mary's from 1974 to 1978 seem a distant past. Yet, it only takes a moment to draw connections from what I learned at Saint Mary's to how I live my life now.

"Art History: Garrison Keillor always made me laugh when he would feature art history majors on his radio show *Prairie Home Companion*. I was an art history major at Saint Mary's. I've spent much of the last 20 years working among engineers, scientists, and technology experts. Communication skills, in many cases, were challenging for them. The interpretive and case-making writing I learned doing comparative analyses of paintings served me very well. Strong writing has been a critical component to my success; art history is, in fact, a great preparation for any career!

"Rome: I was fortunate to spend my sophomore year on the Saint Mary's Rome campus. Rome got into my blood through that deep, comprehensive program where I was able to stand in front of the great masterpieces of Western civilization. And, for the first time, live within and begin to understand different cultures and world views. Rome stayed with me—I continue to visit it regularly, often just to wander through the streets and remember the thrill of experiencing it for the first time. And spending that time in Rome gave me the skills and curiosity to live and work in Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, and Kenya.

"Girl Power: Feminism was a central topic in high school and college—especially, for me, around women's rights in the workplace. But it's in retrospect that I now truly understand the value of social, professional, and personal bonds among women. We need to support one another—in class, in our personal lives, and in the workplace. We need to share our wisdom, our connections, and help other women advance toward their goals. Together, we can make this a better world!

"If you find yourself in Santa Fe, please give me a ring!"

1979

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It is the end of November 2020 and I am writing this while we are still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Hopefully, by the time this column is published we will be on our way to normalcy in our lives. I hope that all of you have remained safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.

Cathy Lombardi Yerich wrote that she is living in Dublin, OH. In August, she retired from Nationwide Insurance after 26 years. She has two sons who are both graduates of Miami University in Oxford, OH. Both sons are engaged and are waiting for the pandemic to pass before getting married.

The weekend of October 2–4, Dubuque, IA was the site for a get-together for **Ann Regan Casey**, **Erin O'Neil Ryal**, and **Lori Shannon Kurtz**.

Ann told me that traditionally the three of them meet each October for an ND game and stay at Erin's home just off the ND campus.

However, due to the pandemic, they decided to meet at Lori's home in Dubuque. It was a lovely weekend of eating, drinking, and shopping. They mostly spent time reminiscing about their 45-year friendship and thanked God for the blessings that they have. Ann and her husband Sean manage their family's school bus operation in St. Louis Park, MN. Lori and her husband John are retired and live near their daughter Heidi, an ND graduate. Erin and her husband John have twin daughters who are seniors in high school and keep busy with their many activities. Besides the twin daughters, Erin and John also have five grown children who are living on their own.

From **Elizabeth Scheurer**: "Never underestimate a Saint Mary's education. Who would figure that a history major would have just received her sixth patent! US Patent 10,695,545-System and Methods for the Conditioning of Cerebrospinal Fluid was granted on June 30, 2020. This system and device have both acute and chronic applications for treatment of subarachnoid hemorrhage and neurotoxic disease states in which spinal fluid may benefit from filtration, e.g., Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis."

Let's hear from more of you for our next column.

1981

From the *Courier* Office

From **Dawn Parker Santamaria** and **Margie Quinn Zappa**:

As cochairs of this year's Reunion Gift Campaign, we want to encourage you to support the Annual Fund. Your gift could make a scholarship possible for a young woman to attend Saint Mary's and provide the help she needs to achieve her goals. Alumnae participation in the Annual Fund is a measure of satisfaction in your education and improves our national rankings. So, it's not just the total amount in gifts received, but our Class of '81 participation rate is equally as important to the College. Please make your gift through the Saint Mary's website saintmarys.edu/AnnualFund. You can make a difference and we hope we can count on you for support.

1983

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Betsy Cronan Malkus writes: "A few of us from the Class of 1983 have formed a pandemic book



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club and are about to meet to discuss and review our seventh book. Our first book, *Atomic Habits* by James Clear, inspired the name of our club: Nuclear Nuns. Most of our current members met as freshman on 2 North in Regina Hall-ZOO 2."

From **Helene Sullivan Martel**: "My family and I live in the San Francisco Bay Area. My husband Charley (ND '79) is an attorney with the State of California Judicial Branch. I am director of elder care and palliative care at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. Our daughter Adele is in her third year at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Before the pandemic and some job shifts, **Joanne Holland** and I worked across the street from each other and could walk Lake Merritt together at lunch. In the past few years, our family was delighted to spend time with both **Lisa Ruhe Minelli** and her husband in Italy and also some time here in the Bay Area with **Angela Michielutti** and her husband. Time flies but it is always wonderful to reconnect with friends from Saint Mary's."

EXCELSIOR

Kathleen Kennelly Pritchard '83 has been hired by John Hancock Investment Management in a newly created position, Head of Value Add.



1985

Elaine Suess
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Greetings, ladies! Fresh off the press:

Melissa van Ort Schrauth shared a hello from her home in Brussels as she was waiting to hear if flights would remain scheduled to the US. She was looking forward to being home for a month over the holidays. She continued: "Our son Patrick was married in August to a beautiful girl. They swam together and met at SLU. I have been on numerous Zoom calls with SMC friends, including **Tracy Bringardner Sommer**, **Mary Ann Potter Ruthmeyer**, **Cara Hageman Long**, and my SMC roomies **Myriam Hickey O'Neill** and **Trisha Nolan Anderson**. So fun to catch up and we managed the seven- and eight-hour time difference to Brussels. I also keep in constant contact with **Patty Brennan**, who gives me Chicago updates and keeps an eye on my kids! She and husband Mike have been on strict lockdowns in Brussels—curfews and mask mandatory policies. Still trying to learn the Dutch language. Stay safe, everyone! *Tot ziens!*"

Cheryl Miller Pryor also took the time to write and to share that she and her family are all doing well in Orland Park, IL. "This past year has been a year of cancelled plans, just like everyone else.

Most of my recent big news was in 2019. In June 2019, my youngest daughter Sarah (ND '16) married her college boyfriend at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. In December 2019, my oldest daughter Katherine (ND '13) was married at our home parish St. Francis of Assisi in Orland Park. We had many 2020 trips cancelled due to the pandemic. My last excursion in 2020 was a mother-daughter annual trip to Disney World to run in the Princess Half Marathon races in February. We have not been to South Bend since last football season and miss being on both campuses, as we loved seeing old friends while visiting and tailgating. My husband Vince (ND '85, '93) and I will be celebrating our 35th anniversary in July 2021! Happy anniversary, Cheryl!

And last, I reached out to **Christine Hansen Golic** after seeing a lovely ESPN video of her and husband Mike with their kids as Mike was announcing his retirement. The sentiments their kids shared with and about her and Mike brought tears to most of them and to me watching it! She notes that this update is her first in 35 years since graduation. Definitely never too late! Who's next? From Chris: "My family and I have been living in Connecticut for the last 23 years, but that time is coming to an end. My husband Mike (ND '85) has chosen to end his long run at ESPN. We will likely soon be splitting time between Scottsdale and South Bend. We have a home on Notre Dame Avenue

and love spending summer and fall there. I have personally been involved with the NFL, Pat Warner football, and USA football over the last decade, promoting youth football and working to make the game safer for the players. Our three children all graduated from Notre Dame in 2012, 2013, and 2016, respectively. The kids are currently living in the Connecticut and Boston areas. Mike and I were looking forward to attending our Reunion this past summer that was unfortunately postponed.

Hopefully, next year we can all get together. It will be nice to see old friends once again."

Would love to share more from you!

1986

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Hello, Class of '86. I'm sure most of us were happy to say goodbye to 2020 and hello, 2021, if for no other reason than, yes, that's right, it's the 35th Reunion year for the Class of '86! Hopefully, Reunion is still taking place in person, and many of you are planning on returning to the hallowed halls of SMC from June 4-6 to share memories of this amazing place, where we were blessed to spend time all those years ago. Here's a brief update on just a few of the amazing women we'll be seeing in June.

My husband Peter and I live in Chagrin Falls, OH and I am writing for a local newspaper. Our sons PJ and Nick graduated, respectively, from Dayton and Marquette. Both are working in Cleveland and we're loving having them close by. Daughter Katie is a senior at ND studying political science and economics.

Shannon McNamara Prestage and husband Norm (ND '87) are splitting their time between Glen Ellyn, IL and Atlanta, GA. Norm is in the midst of a five-year assignment in Atlanta, where they are renting in Midtown and loving city life. Shannon and Norm have three daughters. Claire is getting her master's in hospitality leadership at DePaul, Erin (ND '18) is planning events for a nonprofit in DC, and youngest Cait is a junior studying art at SMC.

Mary Moran Ketterer and husband Jeff (ND '86) are living in Bay Village, OH. Their daughters Samantha and Jane both graduated from Miami University of Ohio and are working in Cleveland. Son Jake, also a Miami graduate, is living and working in Tampa, FL.

Katy Orié Hardy and her husband Rob are living in Alpharetta, GA. Their son Patrick, 26, is in DC working as a research analyst for L&M Policy Research. Brian, 26, was married in September and made Katy and Rob grandparents to two beautiful children! He and his wife work for Caterpillar Financial in Nashville. Daughter Eileen will graduate in December from Georgia Tech, and Katy is grateful she will start her career close to home in Atlanta working for Racetrac Petroleum. Daughter Julie is a junior at Fordham.

Kirsten Knapke Kaltenmark and John (ND '86) welcomed their first grandchild Cooper last summer. Rumor has it he's already an ND fan. Kirsten and John split their time these days between Sanibel, FL, Lake Charles, IL, and Lake George, IN, covering all bases, ensuring year-round golf.

Jacqueline Kummer Skelly and husband Tim live in Lisle, IL with their 11-year-old daughter Maryclaire. Son Timmy is an aspiring singer living in LA who, by the time this issue reaches you, just may have been "crowned" our newest American Idol! That's right, the very talented Timmy competed on the show this winter. On a personal note, as Timmy's aunt, I couldn't be more proud and for those of you who knew Jacqueline in college, it's no surprise where he gets his vocal talents. Jacqueline is the religious education director for a local parish and is loving her job.

Barb Anthoine Barry and husband Matt are living outside Boston. Son Jack is a sophomore at U. Mass Amherst and daughter Erin is a junior in high school. Barb works in accounting and still gets back to Maine often to visit family.

Robin Rodi Creevy and husband Jim live in Evergreen Park, IL. Son Ryan is a sophomore at Marquette. Robin is in her 13th year teaching at Queen of Martyrs School and her 23rd year in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Mary Pat Callahan Touhy and husband Ed live in Palos Heights, IL. Mary Pat has been working for CIBC Bank Corp. for the past 12 years. Son Patrick (ND '14) married Connor Sullivan (ND '14) and is a second-year resident in pediatrics at Wake Forest Hospital in Winston-Salem. Daughter Mariclaire is in her third year of law school and Moira is a junior at Dayton.

Susie Miller Schilling and her husband Nick (ND '86) moved from Kansas City to South Bend in the fall of 2016 and live next door to **Mary Fran Gisch Kitz** and Mike Kitz. Oldest daughter Katherine (ND '10, '20) and her husband Christian have two sons with a baby daughter due in March. Daughter Megan (ND '16, '18) is a third-grade teacher at Marymount in NYC. The Schillings love that they are within 30 minutes of both girls. Nicholas Jr. (ND '14, '17) is working for the DOJ in criminal tax in DC and his wife Ellen is an emergency room nurse at Georgetown Hospital. Patrick (KU '11) and his wife Ali live in Dallas and have a 1-year-old son and a second due in January. Christopher played football for the Irish, graduated in May, and is working in wealth management in San Francisco for Iconic Capital. The Schillings love to host anyone who comes to campus. Contact Susie at 816-916-8697.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that we share that **Laura Zoberis Plantz** and her husband Ron (ND '86) lost their oldest son Zac in a car accident on Thanksgiving Day. We send our love and support to the Plantz family.

After a long period of stay-at-home orders, quarantining, little or no travel, we are hoping Reunion in person will happen. By the time you're reading this, we should know for sure and are preparing to see you on campus very soon. In the event that we cannot meet in person in June, the Alumnae Association is planning a possible virtual

event. If that's the case, you have received details from your cochairs **Ellen Crowley** and **Shannon McNamara Prestage** about events planned for the weekend. No matter what, no pandemic will stop the Class of '86 from gathering, virtually or in person, to reminisce and celebrate our days at SMC.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or updates.

1988

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It is early December. There is a fire in the fireplace and lights on the Christmas tree. Here in California, Gov. Newsom has just declared a new stay-at-home order. Since the school year began in August, I have been teaching virtually from my classroom. Today we were told every school in our district will be closed until January, maybe longer. It's a brave new world! I have found it exciting to be exposed to so many new teaching tools; I almost feel like a tech expert. But I am yearning for a return to normal.

Mary Catherine Pohn Spretnjak agrees: "I'm ready for COVID to be over, but I am enjoying having all three kids at home for a while. Mark (ND '20) is looking for a job in a tough market. Will (ND '21) and Liz (ND '24) have had a crazy year also." Mary isn't the only one happy to have kids nearby. I am thrilled to have my son Michael home, also teaching virtually as he finishes his master's in criminal forensics. From Fishers, IN, **Tricia Hug Schorr** echoes: "This year has been a blessing in that all our kids have been home for most of it. Our oldest, who lives in NYC, has been working his long hours while living with us. Our second played volleyball at Butler University and is graduating in May. She will be at Notre Dame for a graduate program that starts in June. Our youngest is a freshman at Notre Dame." **Kelly Ryan Hillery** is also "blessed to have all boys home since March." She has been teaching in person since September, which has been challenging. **Jackie Margaret Paez-Goldman** is enjoying extended time with family, too. Her husband James has been working at home since March. Everyone is healthy, so she says, "To be honest, it has been nice to have everyone stuck at home this year. Unexpected family time!"

For the Paez family, there was a virtual graduation for son Peter, who finished at Brown University in May. Her daughter Katie is a junior at Princeton University and Lulu is a senior in high school. "Princeton did not bring kids back to school in the fall, but will be doing so (fingers-crossed) in January, though classes will still be virtual. Lulu is filling out many applications but hasn't had the chance to visit one school." **Sherry Green Antonetti** and her family had multiple virtual graduations to celebrate last year. She shares: "The year 2020 was the graduation year. Bon from MICA with an MFA, **Mary Marta Grace Antonetti '20** from Saint Mary's College with a BA, Faith from high school, Rita from eighth grade, and Paul from elementary. We held virtual graduations with actual feasts for each with signs posted proudly on our driveway. Their accomplishments were just that, celebrations of perseverance, with the pomp

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and circumstance more internal than external." In other news, she continues, "I'm working on my third book—signed with a publisher and in the dreaded editing mode of writing, slated to come out in the fall of 2021." She is still teaching ninth-grade English locally at a public school.

Angie LeJeune Puetz is still in Traverse City, MI, as she has been for almost 25 years. Like so many families, she had "all children home during quarantine." Jack graduated from ND in 2018 and "Bridget will graduate from Saint Mary's in May with a BSN. She is working as a certified nurse assistant during her winter break. Tommy and Maggie are in ninth and 11th grade."

Kara Murphy Richards is living in Renton, WA (a Seattle suburb). She is the presiding judge for Renton Municipal Court. She relates: "My husband Craig is preparing for retirement after 35 years with Costco. My oldest son McKinley attended Creighton and now works for Costco as a logistics analyst. My daughter Landry is a junior at Notre Dame. My youngest son Sorin is a freshman at Bellevue College."

Some among us have found new employment opportunities. **Lisa Marie McPherson** recently took a new job with VW Credit, Inc., as director of sales operations and moved to Fairfax, VA. She is thrilled to be in Virginia and closer to family. And some are celebrating new employment

for children. **Suzie Bare Snyder** reports: "My daughter **Melissa Marie Snyder '17** graduated with her JD from Michigan State University this past May 2020 and just passed the bar in Florida on her first try! She took her attorney's oath over the Thanksgiving weekend and is now working as a criminal defense attorney with a law firm in Tampa, FL." Still others are moving into RETIREMENT (how is that possible?). **Meghan Farley Astrachan's** big news is that she just retired from her long career as a theatre teacher/director in NYC. She is excited for her next act!

Julie McNish O'Keefe may want to follow in Meghan's footsteps. She explains: "This year, I began my 33rd year teaching high school math and if there ever was a year to retire, this was it! I am currently experiencing 'remote learning' here in Michigan. The new technology, like teaching via Zoom meets, has been tricky for an 'old dog' like me, but I'm getting the hang of it. The perfect distraction from the stay-at-home orders that we all endured this spring was a Zoom call with Saint Mary's friends: **Anne Lipset-Kennedy, Mary Dodd Mellema, LeighAnn Donnelly, Anna Lamberti Holmes, Liz Sexton, Eileen Hetterich Eustis, Kerry McMonigle Bolger, Kristin Schmitz Cunningham, Diane Hammel Linkowski, Jill Winterhalter Fraggos, Frannie Thompson Kunkel, Margaret Galvin Loughran, and Megan O'Brien-Stanley.** What fun that was to catch-up

with these dear friends! I was also lucky enough to sneak away and spend a long weekend in June with **Eileen Hetterich Eustis, Kerry McMonigle Bolger, Liz Sexton, and Smithey Hashagen Wilson** at Smith's beach house in Kure Beach, NC. The nonstop stories about our families, jobs, and the good-old days at SMC filled our days and nights. We had four fabulous beach days, five-ingredient appetizers, lots of take-out meals, and most importantly we got to spend time with our SMC sisters...and yes, there were plenty of cocktails, too!"

We are all Zooming a lot these days, it seems. **Heather Miller Moriconi** has been organizing Zooms with SMC friends including **Elizabeth Neill Taylor, Mary Ann White Goode, Lisa Marie McPherson, Peggy Sweeney, and Suzanne Marie Moser.**

Beth Whelpley Bennett has also organized some virtual gatherings. She describes: "This group of 'college girls' has had a regular group chat and two extended Zoom calls, supporting each other and laughing together whenever possible: **Niki Bonacci Pugliese, Ann Wilson '89, Anne Marie Borgman, Moira Aileen Cronan-Vogt, Kathleen Bock Roche, Angie Leahy Esteve, Stephie Leahy Trujillo '91, Meghan Farley Astrachan, Amy Marie Appleby Hubbard, and Beth Whelpley Bennett.** Know someone in this group and want to join our next Zoom? We'd love to have you! Email Beth at bethtonybennett@gmail.com."

Facebook is another great tool for us to stay connected. I think **Julie McNish O'Keefe** says it best: "Thanks to Facebook, I am able to keep up with many old roommates and classmates, and as the holidays approach I often think about how blessed I was to choose Saint Mary's College and meet such amazing women. This has been a year like no other, so I hope everyone is healthy, happy, and finding peace as this crazy year of 2020 comes to an end."

Until our 35th Reunion, which will be here before we know it, let's stay connected virtually!

1989

Karen E. Crespy
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Happy 2021...hoping that everyone had the happiest and safest holiday season!

Martha Flick Jungenberg shared news that the Jungenberg family will continue to be posted to Mbabane, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), for three more years. Martha and Todd are working from home for the US Embassy as they patiently wait for the vaccine so things can get back to normal. They love it there and have found it bearable during the COVID-19 quarantine because they can drive to big game parks in eSwatini, not see anyone, and sit outside while giraffes walk up!

Their youngest daughter Emmalee, 17, graduated from form 5 (11th grade) and has been accepted into the International Baccalaureate program at Waterford Kamhlaba World College High School in Mbabane—one of Nelson Mandela's daughters attended Waterford!

Their oldest daughter Sophie, 22, was able to fly home for the holidays from Maastricht University in the Netherlands—she will graduate in 2021. And their middle daughter Grace, 19, is living at home and attending college online while working at the US Embassy as a security escort.

Maura Janes Race retired in fall 2018 anticipating she would volunteer for numerous charities; however, she truly believes that God had other plans. In November 2018, her 88-year-old mother started having health issues, so for a full year Maura drove between Grand Rapids, MI and Mt. Pleasant, MI until she convinced her mom to spend Christmas 2019 with her and her family. Fast forward to Christmas 2020, and Maura has sold and purchased a home during the pandemic, sold her mother's house and moved her into the Race home, all while trying to assist her son Brian, then a high school junior, with online schooling! 2020 was a crazy year but she wouldn't change a minute of it because of the gift of having her mom with her family.

Last July, **Beth Kelly Tabor** and husband Kent, **Bridget Goeyvaerts Overcash** and husband Tim, **Jennifer Rappold Ryan** and husband Mike (ND '89), **Julie Whiteman Sharp** and husband Tony, and **Elizabeth Long Hafner** and husband Chris met up and had a great time on Mackinac Island. Bridget and Tim rented a beautiful, historic home on the bluff of Mackinac and invited great lifelong

friends to share a wonderful time filled with laughter, dancing, hiking, and boating!



Mackinac Island get-together, from left: Jennifer Rappold Ryan, Bridget Goeyvaerts Overcash, Julie Whiteman Sharp, Elizabeth Long Hafner, and Beth Kelly Tabor.

Karen Crespy traveled to Grand Rapids, MI to see **Barb Moorhead Vedders** in August and was able to spend time with Barb, her husband Joel, Abby—a 2020 Calvin University graduate and sixth grade teacher, and Jack—a Calvin University sophomore. She continued on from Michigan to Chicago, where she had dinner with **Katy Burns** and later convinced a friend who had never been to South Bend to drive there for the day to walk around Saint Mary's and Notre Dame.

The Irish football team is 9-0 as I write this and, fingers crossed, we celebrate more wins in 2021!

NOTE: Please take a moment to update your information with Saint Mary's or through your class reporter. Keep in touch.

1990

EXCELSIOR

Rachael Jarosh '90 presented "Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Technology" at the 2020 Vatican Youth Symposium, sponsored by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

1991

Lisa Kosty Dincolo
smcbelles91@gmail.com

Hey there! Happy 30th (GULP) to the Class of '91. How can it even be possible?

Congratulations to my dear friend and our classmate **Erin Cusack Micklo**, who has been very politically active in the last few years. In addition to being an area field team leader for Sean Casten for Congress, she also ran for office HERSELF! Erin won



a seat on the Board of Trustees for the Glen Ellyn Public Library in Illinois! WAY TO GO, E! Proud of you!

Please continue to share your good news with your fellow Belles. Reach out to me on Facebook or at smcbelles91@gmail.com.

EXCELSIOR

Sheila M. Cronin '91 appeared in the last issue of *Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Experience of Disability through Literature and the Fine Arts*. Cronin's story, "Stanley," appears in Issue 82, "We Are Worthy."

EXCELSIOR

Kelly Grier '91 was given the 2020 Most Powerful Women in Accounting Award by the American Institute of CPAs and CPA Practice Advisor. The award is given to women who help define and advance the profession.

1992

Patsy McGowan Donahue
Smc92news@yahoo.com

Hope everyone is safe and healthy and praying 2021 brings an end to the pandemic! We have just a few updates from our class.

Congratulations to **Joelle Pouliot** on her marriage to Daniel MacLennan on June 30, 2018. **Marge DeBlasio Hoffmann, Susanne Largura Benedict, Lori Marucut Clark, and Jennifer Rasmussen Turkos '94** were all there to help celebrate their special day! Joelle and Dan live in Fallston, MD.

Alicia Higgins-Kinane's son had a Zoom wedding in September. She and Tom will be grandparents in March 2021.

To celebrate **MK Larsen Harby** turning 50 in November, **Greer Gilliland Stasko, Katie Gretter Rice, Andrea G. Matovina Schlidt '91, and Keri Latherow Kocur '93** were all invited to the Larson family Zoom "Happy Birthday MK Party!" They all enjoyed the surprise celebration. Greer's oldest started law school at George Washington Law School, so they're hoping to meet up with Katie and her husband Kevin one weekend when it is safe to do so.

Mimi Brennan Gehres met up with **Cara Balog Cesareo** on February 1-2, 2020, in Philadelphia for a quick double 50th birthday

Summer Camps

for girls

We know how much your daughters and granddaughters look forward to Summer Camp!

Registration is now open for our 2021 Summer Camps. Overnight and day camp options are available!

For more info and to register today, visit saintmarys.edu/Camps

I am strong. I am creative. I am curious.

getaway. They have remained close with daily phone calls, but it was a rare in-person opportunity as she lives outside NYC in New Jersey and Mimi lives outside DC in Maryland.

Hope to hear from more of you soon! Please check out our class Facebook page and please keep in touch.

1996



EXCELSIOR

Elizabeth Nessner '96 a former Chicago Public Schools principal, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer by the Civic Leadership Foundation (CLF), a Chicago-based education nonprofit.

1998



EXCELSIOR

Sara Nienaber VanSlambrook '98 was named to the Indianapolis Business Journal's 2020 Women of Influence list. She currently serves as the United Way's Chief Impact Officer.

2001



Molly Kahn Allen
mollyallen201@gmail.com

Greetings, Belles of 2001!

I sincerely wish this finds you well and that as we approach celebrating our 20th Reunion, it is my hope we will be able to safely assemble in person at Saint Mary's to mark the occasion.

Catherine Schroeder shares that after three years of teaching at Greeley School in Winnetka, IL, she has received tenure and represents her colleagues in the teachers' union. Catherine and her family split their time between Evanston, IL and a beach house in the Indiana Dunes.

Erin Rafter Stacher wrote in with an update. She shares: "Locked up at home... abroad—this is pretty much how I would describe 2020! When our careers in the cruise industry brought me and my husband to Geneva, Switzerland in 2017, we were excited to be close to family in Europe, have the opportunity to travel, and still take regular trips back to Florida. All was going fantastically smooth and as planned, we kicked off 2020 spending New Year celebrations in Salzburg, Austria, and followed that with a February ski trip to Ischgl, Austria (which would soon become the epicenter of the pandemic in Europe). Geneva is not a large city and the particular neighborhood we live in, Champel, is quite small. I compare it to a college campus as we often run into colleagues on our walk to work and it's hard not to see a friendly and familiar face at the local market on Saturdays or in one of the cafes. This all came to a crashing halt in March. From one day to the next our professional industry was brought to a halt and Geneva went into full lockdown. No more travel; walks to work through the park became moving from the bedroom to the den; gone were the friendly faces at the market—everything was closed. This continued until June when we had a brief respite from the strict lockdown but were faced with the new normal of face masks, social distancing, and small gatherings. The summer was not as we expected, with visits from family in the US being cancelled and tight restrictions preventing travel throughout Europe. We did manage to have some fun this year exploring Geneva, and I will say with my new pizza-making and bread-baking skills I am ready to participate in a cooking show. We have also been very fortunate that while the cruise industry as a whole is suffering, we managed to safely resume operations in the Mediterranean with two of our ships. In October, Geneva once again went into a lockdown. This year as we put up our Christmas tree over Thanksgiving weekend, we did reflect on how fortunate we are even during these trying times. As we hung our Celtic cross on the tree, we felt the blessing was quite apropos: May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

Brook Hughes Fates and husband Tim are happy to announce the birth of Beatrice Honor Sherburne Fates on November 21, 2020. Mom and dad along

with big sisters Josie, 7, and Millie, 5, are so in love with their new bundle of joy.

Belles of 2001, we wish you well as we enter our 20th year since graduation and happily putting 2020 to a close. Be well, Molly.

2003

Amy Greene Smith
agreeneasmith@gmail.com

Hi Friends,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and well. It's certainly been an interesting and challenging year. I am so happy to share great news from our classmates.

Katy Theresa Best shared some exciting news about **Mackenzie McGee**, MD, who was named the Illinois CancerCare Foundation Rock Doc for excellence in her field of radiation oncology. She was honored for her clinical research, improving the lives of her patients, and moving their treatment forward. Thank you for your important lifesaving work, Mackenzie!

Earlier in 2020, Katy virtually attended the wedding of **Lauren Kristen Meyer '04** to Adi Rajasekar. **Megan Bennett Weiland '04** and **Casey Mahoney Tokarz '04** were also in attendance with **Christina Jean Vestevich** via Twitch. Katy shared, "Although we longed to feel the northern California sun with Lauren and Adi, we were happy to be able to see her as a beautiful bride and hear her dad name all the cities worldwide where loved ones were also watching and celebrating."

Meghan Lafferty Eppler and husband Rob welcomed their first baby, a beautiful girl, Molly Frances Eppler into the world on March 26, 2020. Meghan shared, "While it's been difficult to bring her into this world during a pandemic, and mostly unable to share her with our family and friends, we are so thankful that she is a healthy and happy little baby!" In addition to that great news, Meghan moved from Perrysburg, OH to Holland, MI for Rob's job. Meghan is happy to be on the west side of Michigan near the beautiful lake and within walking distance to downtown Holland. Meghan says it's a great place to raise a family and she's hoping to meet other families and hopefully some fellow Saint Mary's alumnae.

Katie Rand Davis and husband Joel had a baby girl Josephine Helen on April 6, 2020. She was 7 lbs. 15 oz. and 21 in. with a full head of black hair. Katie's son Teddy, 2, is an incredible big brother. Katie writes, "We are loving being a family of four even though the timing has been challenging. I can't wait to be able to introduce her to my SMC crew!" Katie also left her teaching job in Princeton in the summer of 2019 and is currently the private educator for a family with two elementary school daughters. Katie is calling it her "Crazy COVID Career!"

Amber Jernigan Messmann shared that she and husband Luke welcomed their second daughter Marin Waverly on June 2, 2020. Amber shared, "She is our miracle baby because we were told we had less than a 1 percent chance of getting

pregnant again due to infertility issues. God is so good! We are so in love, and her big sister Meira, 3, is the best helper to mommy and daddy and is always wanting to take care of her little sister."

Christine LaVigne Osburn shared that the spring 2020 quarantine didn't change much for her family since she was already homeschooling her children over the past nine years. Christine has worked with other moms and families throughout the pandemic, providing guidance on homeschooling. When dance season went virtual, Christine turned her home into a studio and had Zoom school and dance classes going constantly. Christine has been having Zoom calls with her family (**Kim LaVigne Bialek '07** and **Jennifer Ann LaVigne '09**) throughout the year and also had a "parking lot date" with **Janelle Koop Keller**. Janelle's daughter Hannah and Christine's daughter Lydia are best friends. Christine and Janelle's sons also get along well and enjoy spending time together. Christine also was recently accepted to Franciscan University in Steubenville's online master's program in theology.

Katy Disinger Thall and husband Chad welcomed August "Augie" Wayne Thall to the world on July 22, 2020, after a successful and healing induced VBAC at 41&1 weeks. Katy says, "He's perfect and so chill and loves to watch his big sister and brother, Mary Jane and Larry." Katy celebrated MJ and Larry's second birthday in 2020 at the St. Louis Zoo with masks and social distancing.

2005

Jaqueline Torres
jacquelinecuisinier@gmail.com

Sister Kathryn (Katie) Jane Press, ASCJ, felt the call from the Emerald Isle once again. "Nearly 19 years to the date from when I first arrived in Ireland to study in Maynooth, I'm back living in Ireland. This is my second time living in our convent in Waterford City. I'm super bummed there's no SMC students living here this year and would welcome any other SMC visitors and friends!"

2006

Ellen Louise Riley-Davis
erileydavis@gmail.com

As I write this, Thanksgiving was just three days ago, and I have homemade turkey stock simmering on the stove in preparation for soup this winter. It's hard to believe how quickly 2020 has come and gone, but there have been many exciting announcements to share this year. And I think everyone is looking forward to our class Reunion in 2021!

It is hard to believe that this summer we will return to campus in celebration of our 15 years as Saint Mary's College alumnae! **Kate Grace Huffman** looks forward to reconnecting with our class for what promises to be an incredible weekend. If you have not already done so, Kate encourages you to consider a gift to the 2006 Reunion Gift Campaign. Your gift is a great way to

continue the wonderful tradition of supporting Saint Mary's and will play a significant role in providing financial support for the College and its students. If you need any further information on how to support the campaign, please contact Kate at katehuffman@gmail.com.

Emily Fannon Rathbone and her husband Justin Rathbone welcomed their son Leo Joseph on February 17, 2020.

Kirsten Fantom, DVM, and husband Jarrett welcomed Declan Lee Fantom Clem on April 24, 2020. Declan joins proud big sister and future Belle Alice Catherine born March 8, 2017. Declan and Alice are looking forward to future tailgates with all of their Saint Mary's College aunts. Kirsten, Jarrett, Alice, and Declan reside in St. Joseph, IL.

Cammie Johnston Horan and Scott (ND '06) welcomed Mary Alice on November 1, 2020, joining siblings Neil and Maeve.

Kellye Lynn Mitros and James Mueller (ND '04) had a pandemic wedding! On September 26, 2020, 24 guests, masked, outdoors, with gorgeous weather, gathered on Island Park at Century Center in South Bend. Longtime friend (former) Mayor Pete Buttigieg officiated. Everything was absolutely perfect! Kellye also recently accepted a position as the program manager for the Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center.

Lauren Condon Butera would like to thank any nursing alumnae from the Class of 2006 who may be working the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alumnae: **Melissa Rae Adams, Holly Agnes Anderson-Reyes, Meredith Anne Casey Hardt, Christine Cooper Williams, Diana Creveling Dygulski, Jill Dazell Wozniak, Anne Drolet Edwards, Frances Clare Dunker '05, Kelly Grieshop Stephon, Alicia Heimann Eaton, Erin Elizabeth Hillers, Camille Johnston Horan, Angela Kelly, Katherine Lauer Kohler '05, Lindsay Knust Barnicle, Julianne Miller Kwasny, Susan Mitchell Derenski, Sarah I. McKay, Jennifer Pillar Ginder, Natalie Ribail Pearce '07, Stephanie Lyn Riley, Angela Rizzo Gay, Bridget Ryan Draz, Angie Scheumann Blotkamp, Elizabeth Seutter Seebohm, Christine Weyforth D'Amato, and Meghan White Pesce.** (We apologize for anyone we may have missed, who may have studied nursing or medicine past their time at Saint Mary's College! Please know your work is extremely important!) Thank you so much to those working as this health crisis continues.

2007

Lisa Victoria Gallagher
lgalla01@gmail.com

Allison Marie Frane married Steven Adam Stamp in an intimate ceremony on May 30, 2020. They live in Villa Park, IL and are looking forward to (fingers crossed) celebrating with all their family and friends in May 2021.

Rosemary Walsh Girouard and her husband Pat (ND '07) welcomed their daughter Harriet Rose on August 27, 2020. Harriet was greeted at home by her big sister Mabry Frances, 2. They live in Nashville along with their dog Sadie, 14, who Rosemary adopted from a shelter in South Bend during her senior year at Saint Mary's.

Kirsten Kensinger married John Periman on August 18, 2020, in Arroyo Grande, CA. **Mary Frances Nolan Kensinger '69** (who has since passed away), **Margaret Virginia Rose Kensinger-Klopfer '00**, and **Elizabeth Nolan '50** were present at the small ceremony. The couple resides in Anchorage, AK.

From our resident humorous narrator, **Jessica Binhack**: "You. Guys. I am sorry. Apparently saying in my last post that "hopefully 2020 is better" was a poor choice. Bad move. Not smart. UGH. That was rude of me. Obviously, 2020 looks like my junior year at SMC: unpredictable, unstable, and wild. The term 'you better check yourself before you wreck yourself' is hittin' different this time around. The pandemic has been a doozy in Indy. I have become a person who does not leave her neighborhood. I have built my own all-inclusive resort of sorts called Club NEO in my Fletcher Place neighborhood. Amenities include an above ground blowup pool, a blowup hot tub, paver patio, a garden with too many tomatoes, a MAX CHILL cooler (cuz we chill), and a grill from Aldi that I built myself. Why would I leave?! I have added skills to my resume such as a pool chemical master as well as a paver patio builder. Basically I'm a stone mason of sorts. This fall I went back to work, in person, during the pandemic as a behavior specialist who can't keep socially distanced from screaming, spitting, and running kindergartners. Cool cool cool. My mask game is insane. I had more physical touch the first two days of school than I had had since March. I built a 'garage gym' that would put the SMC fitness area circa 2007 to shame (not a hard task to do...). I'm currently in the process of building a bar in the other half of the gym. It'll be a place of good and bad habits. I also cranked out a 16-month master's degree in building level leadership in 11 months. That was my penance for asking for a good 2020. It was awful. There's not much more to add. No broken bones or ripped leggings. No travel. ANYWHERE. I'm still working as a behavior specialist with a few other roles on my plate. I have two master's degrees now and I have no children (thank jeebus) except my pup Sharon. Life is boring, but I'm ok with boring during a pandemic."

EXCELSIOR

Helen Casey '07

was recognized for celebrating 10 years with the Mike Morse Law Firm last year.

a blessing to know we have the support of our sisters as we've navigated this long year of COVID.

In the past few months, we've been filled with gratitude to celebrate both new baby Belles and wedding bells! **Erin Nanovic** welcomed a beautiful baby girl Laura Magdalena Bezerra into the world on September 29, 2020. Wedding bells rang beautifully for **Ellen Smith Chuchna** in small family ceremony on July 11, 2020.

On October 1, 2020, we celebrated **Kristine McInerney Romeo's** marriage to Frank Romeo.

We love hearing about all of the wonderful changes happening for our 2014 Belles. Please continue to stay safe and healthy, Belles. You are always welcome to share your news with us by dropping a line to belles2014news@gmail.com.

EXCELSIOR

Susan Head Furber '14 had her first novel, *The Essence of an Hour*, recently published by UK publisher Valley Press.

2015

Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole
nicoleotoole128@gmail.com

Dear Class of 2015,

I write this to you in the middle of the 2020 holiday season. This Christmas, I pray for all of your health, happiness, and success in the New Year! A special thank you to all our former classmates who worked as frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. We all pray for your health and safety every day and are so appreciative of what you do. That said, we sure did not let 2020 get the best of us!

Many of our classmates accomplished and celebrated some pretty amazing things this year.

Lexi Meagan Pearl served her first deployment in Qatar as a captain in the Air Force and made it home safely. Thank you for your service, Captain Pearl!

Paige Allen Kelliher graduated from Valparaiso University Law School in 2019, became licensed in the State of Tennessee, and began practicing at Scott & Associates, P.C., in the greater Nashville area. Congratulations, counselor!

Emily Rae Neumann was promoted to research program manager at the Medical College of Wisconsin's Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Congratulations, Emily!

Elizabeth Grace Stoecklein received her independent licensure in social work. She also got engaged to Zachary Liapis. Double the congrats, Elizabeth!

Sam Moorhead DiSanto and Alessandro DiSanto (ND '15) were married in Pennsylvania in October among family and friends. They live in Chicago, IL. Congrats, Sam and Alessandro!

Emily Anne Scanlon is a speech language pathologist by day, jewelry designer by night! Emmie started a small business, Emmie's Earrings, LLC, in Chicago, IL. Emmie designs and creates fabulous and affordable handmade earrings. She even has an SMC-themed earring! Check out her earrings at emmiesearrings.com and [@emmiesearrings](https://www.instagram.com/emmiesearrings) on Instagram.

Anna Marie Sullivan launched her blog In All the Details. Anna founded In All the Details as a way to share her passion and appreciation for the small details in life—a thoughtful gift, a beautiful flower arrangement, a well-styled party, or a weeknight dinner board—with others. For Anna, the secret to living a beautiful life is In All the Details. Check her out at inallthedetails.com, [@inallthedetails](https://www.instagram.com/inallthedetails) on Instagram, and [facebook.com/inallthedetails](https://www.facebook.com/inallthedetails) on Facebook!

About a year ago, **Nora Veronica Clougherty** began sharing her passions of cooking with the world through her Instagram [@cookingwithnora](https://www.instagram.com/cookingwithnora) and grew through the quarantine. She loves to share fun and easy recipes all while trying to bring some joy into everyone's day. Go check her out!

Mary Kate McLaughlin got engaged to Rob Anderson in Buffalo, NY among family and friends. Cheers, MK and Rob!

Allison Sheets DeBlock and her husband Chris welcomed their daughter Ara Louise on September 9, 2020, weighing 8 lbs. 11 oz. Allison and Chris are hoping she will be a future Belle!

Madeleine Jean Sampson married Michael Nichols in Cleveland, OH on September 12, 2020, among family and friends. Congrats, Maddie and Mikey!

Kelly Gutrich Darragh and her husband Rick Darragh welcomed baby boy Richard Darragh III ("Trey"). Welcome, baby Trey!

Amanda Gilbert O'Sullivan and Thomas O'Sullivan (ND '14) welcomed their son Thomas David O'Sullivan on August 14, 2020, in Chicago, IL. Congratulations, Mandy!

Don't forget to send me your exciting life updates to: nicoleotoole128@gmail.com. Wishing you all a wonderful 2021!

2016

Jennifer Anne Vosters
smc16news@gmail.com

Hope everyone is healthy, happy, and halfway sane as we enter our second year of life in a pandemic! Fortunately, we've got some great news to report.

First up: BABY BELLES! **Isabella Gagnon Meaux** and her husband Samuel Meaux were blessed with the birth of a baby boy Daniel Waters Meaux on June 28, 2020, at 2:14 a.m. Mom and baby recovered well and the whole family is doing great!

Ashley Watkins Reagan and her husband welcomed their baby girl Eleanora Grace Reagan on September 29, 2020! They can't wait to visit SMC for her first official Ave pic.

Congratulations and best wishes to our WEDDING BELLES! **Holly Rosaleen Higdon** married Andrés Osorio on January 4, 2020. **Francesca Lidia Georgen** was a bridesmaid.

Adriana Ledesma married Michael Bourne on June 27, 2020, in Davison, MI. Adriana is a physician assistant working with COVID patients daily in Lansing, and her husband is a tool and die maker working in Saginaw.

Victoria Ellen Otteson married Thomas Savidge on October 24, 2020. Fellow Belles **Meghan Clare Cusack**, **Danielle Nicole Hillebrand**, and **Jessica Garduño Álvarez** were in attendance. **Cecilia Marie Migliacci**, who was unable to travel due to COVID restrictions, was deeply missed!



Major props to Belles who have started graduate studies! **Helena Theresa Petlick**, who worked with the US State Department in Ukraine until summer of 2020, was named a Coverdell Fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, where she is an MA candidate. We are continually inspired by you, Nellie!

Congratulations are also due to those who have switched cities and jobs! In September 2020, **Kaylee Anne Titsworth** moved to San Angelo, TX, where she now works as a 911 dispatcher. Wishing you well, Kaylee!

Thank you for keeping us updated, Belles! Don't forget to send news of births, weddings, new jobs, new cities, new schools, accomplishments, and graduations to smc16news@gmail.com.

2018

From the *Courier* Office

Jenna Marie Buche was named a #SchoolHero through the Office of Catholic Schools through the Archdiocese of Chicago (where another alumna **Jen Jermano Miller '93** is principal).

This is Jenna Buche's third year teaching lower levels at St. Damian School and Preschool Academy; she has attended Catholic schools her whole life. In her first two years at the school, she worked in pre-K4 and this year took on the challenge of teaching first grade to remote and in-person students. Buche says that her "favorite part of being an elementary education teacher is being able to foster a love for learning in a child's life early on in their education." She loves to see the development in her students throughout the year and "how proud they are to show their classmates and families all they have learned at St. Damian." Multiple parent submissions agree that "Miss Buche has gone above and beyond the calling of teaching every single day.

She is constantly innovating new and exciting ideas for her students, both in person and remote. Her teaching has been flawless, and her love for her students shows in everything she teaches."



EXCELSIOR

Katie Frego '18 was named the #1 Sales Representative 2020 for Abbott Nutrition, where she works as a Pediatric Sales Representative.

2020

From the *Courier* Office

Mara (Molly) Frances Conry Hart was named to the coaching staff at Vanderbilt. Way to go, Molly!

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