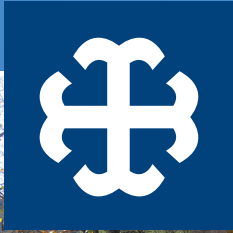


# ENVISION

FALL 2019



## MOTHER PAULINE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

**ELAINE ZEVKOVICH ROWZEE '88**

### Science alumna supports student research with legacy commitment

While Saint Mary's is known for its liberal arts tradition, the College has also established a visionary science program centered on undergraduate research and professor mentorship. One biology alumna, **Elaine Zevkovich Rowzee '88**, plans to support the sciences at Saint Mary's with a bequest commitment.

"I wanted to establish a lasting legacy that would live beyond me," Elaine said. "After serving on the Alumnae Board, I learned so much about Saint Mary's efforts to help underserved students not only to get an amazing education, but also a life-changing experience in college. I want to help them experience all that Saint Mary's has to offer."

Elaine's interest in science was sparked by her father's encouragement during her high school years, when he'd start conversations with Elaine about articles he'd cut out of the newspaper. Elaine studied biology at Saint Mary's, where she was mentored by then-professor Dr. Nancy Nekvasil, known to generations of students at Saint Mary's as "Dr. N."



*Elaine graduated with a bachelor of science in biology in 1988.*

For Elaine, studying science at Saint Mary's was transformative because of the required senior comprehensive. "As undergraduate students, we got to do actual research." Elaine feels that the outstanding mentorship was a steadying influence for her studies. She remembers Dr. Nekvasil coaching her before she presented her senior comprehensive project: "You know more about what you're talking about than anyone in that room," Dr. N told her. That message of confidence spread beyond her science studies and into her life as a whole.

STORY CONTINUED INSIDE



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[SAINTMARYS.EDU/GIFTPLANNING](http://SAINTMARYS.EDU/GIFTPLANNING)

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

*I can hardly believe it, but I have just completed my first year with the College.*

*This academic year, our core value focus is **community**. It's a perfect time to contemplate the wonderful group of alumnae, parents, and friends I have met in the past year, and the many I*

*have yet to meet. It seems like everywhere you go, you see Saint Mary's alumnae and families.*

*The College has fulfilled its promise to me as a place of **discovery**. The beautiful, hidden nooks on campus, the friendly faces, and the strong support from fellow staff members have made the last year a wonderful experience. I truly appreciate what keeps alumnae coming back for reunions and to visit this special place.*

*Thank you for everything you do to help the Saint Mary's community thrive.*

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Sherman".

Valerie Sherman, JD  
Director of Gift Planning

Contact info:

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To learn more visit  
[saintmarys.edu/GiftPlanning](http://saintmarys.edu/GiftPlanning)

## Embody introduces high schoolers' to Saint Mary's spirituality

Since 2016, cohorts of high school students have come to Saint Mary's to participate in Embody, a summer youth theology institute that engages high school girls on service, spirituality, and mentoring.

In 2019, Embody hosted 50 young women over the course of two weeks from local states, as well as California, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, and Utah. The students volunteered at local non-profit organizations and were mentored by five Saint Mary's students who lived in the residence halls with them and led small group discussions. Two of these mentors were past Embody participants, showcasing the leadership impact of the program.

Embody participants enjoyed lectures on the theology of creation, Catholic social teaching, and interreligious relationships. Campus speakers included staff from the Center for Spirituality, Saint Mary's alumnae, and faculty from the Department of Religious Studies.

Over the course of four years, 23 women who participated in Embody have enrolled as Saint Mary's students, including five this fall. The Embody program has been supported by a grant from the Lily Endowment, Inc., and Saint Mary's is looking for donors to help the program continue.



One of the two Embody cohorts from summer 2019.

## SPOTLIGHT STORY CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Elaine remains an advocate for girls who want to study science. "There are so many career opportunities in science and unfortunately, many girls are discouraged from studying science growing up." Elaine has directed her bequest to help underprivileged students participate in scientific research at Saint Mary's.



As Elaine met with development staff at Saint Mary's about her future gift, she realized "There are many opportunities to make a financial impact. Gifts can be large or small, but a legacy gift not only gives back to an institution that meant so much to me, but also continues to help shape future generations of women." To learn more about establishing a legacy for your passion, contact Valerie in Gift Planning at 815-280-3409 or [vsherman@saintmarys.edu](mailto:vsherman@saintmarys.edu).

Elaine with her father at commencement in 1988.



## Friends with Sisters strengthens Holy Cross bonds

For some 30 years, a student organization currently named Friends with Sisters has paired Saint Mary's students with a Holy Cross sister to engage in conversation, fellowship, and friendship. The program requires a commitment from participating students to visit with their sister at least one week. The program served 72 sisters last year, showing our students' commitment to engage with the Holy Cross legacy of the College.

Students normally join the club in their first year and continue to be partnered with the same sister for all four years. Some especially energetic sisters like Sister Carmel Marie Sallows '54 are paired with more than one student, since there is a waiting list of students who want to participate in the popular, not competitive program. "It's more than a student and a sister," said Lee Ann Moore, Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. "It really becomes a family."

Current Friends with Sisters president, senior Sarah Hautzinger, emphasized that lunch with her sister, Sister Sue Kintzele '64, is the highlight of her week. "It's so much more than volunteering," Hautzinger said. Sister Sue agreed, adding that it's good for students to personally know who the sisters are as human beings, and also the history with the College. Hautzinger spread the word about Friends with Sisters to dozens of first-year students at the



(Left) Sister Louisita and one of her paired students at the popular Halloween party (Right) Sarah Hautzinger with Sister Sue.

recent Student Involvement Fair, where students showed enthusiastic interest in participating.

Events have included ice cream socials and a popular Halloween party, as well with visits that include a student's friends or family. When a sister is in the "memory care unit" of the convent, students might read to her. Every activity continues and underscores the special relationship of the convent with the College, all while forging new relationships along the way.

## REUNION & MOTHER PAULINE AWARD

*This year, Saint Mary's welcomed a record number of alumnae and their family members – more than 1,000 – back to campus for reunion. Attendees enjoyed a weekend of beautiful weather to renew friendships, explore campus, and participate in special lectures by faculty.*

*At the banquet on Saturday night, the class of 1964 won the esteemed Mother Pauline Award for the highest reunion class participation in making legacy gifts. Fifteen members of the 55th reunion class have notified Saint Mary's of a legacy gift. Class reporter Mary Ann Curnes Fuller '64 accepted the award on behalf of her classmates. Fuller later said her classmates "radiate an energy, enthusiasm for Saint Mary's" and that their current and legacy gifts represent "past memories and future hopes."*

*Named for the College's first president, the Mother Pauline Society honors those who have let us know about a gift through a will, retirement plan, or other arrangement. People who make legacy gifts have an incredible impact on campus; for example, one in five endowed scholarships at Saint Mary's is funded by bequests or memorial gifts. You can let us know about a legacy gift with the reply card included in this newsletter, or contact Valerie Sherman, Director of Gift Planning (815-280-3409, [vsherman@saintmarys.edu](mailto:vsherman@saintmarys.edu)) to begin a conversation.*





# Saint Mary's College

NOTRE DAME, IN

**Valerie Sherman, JD**

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# ENVISION

## Guest Column

# Encouraging a Future Philanthropist



**Beth Castricone Bell '01**  
Relationship Manager,  
Breed's Hill Capital LLC

You know the importance of charitable giving. You have seen the impact either as a donor or a recipient. So how do you help your children or grandchildren see the same value? How do you pass along charitable values?

- **What Matters?** – Maybe she sees a stray animal and wants to help, or he has a classmate who doesn't have enough lunch money. When a child or grandchild shows concern about a situation, it is a prime opportunity to discuss charitable giving.
- **Start Small** – Maybe you already mandate that a portion of any cash earned or received go into a savings account. What if you also set aside an amount for charitable giving and encourage her/him to donate to a charitable cause?
- **A Personal "Match"** – We've seen it ourselves in the Donor Challenges. Matching is powerful! Agree to match any gift your future philanthropist makes if they do some research (with aid if needed). What organization is addressing the issue? What does this gift do for the organization?
- **Take It Further** – Can your child see the gift in action? Are they able to volunteer in person to see the impact?
- **Lead by Example** – When you make your own charitable gifts, talk about them. Explain WHY you give. I give to Saint Mary's College because it plays a significant role in who I am today, and my donation can help a future Belle on her journey down the Avenue.

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For more information on giving to Saint Mary's through your estate plan, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 574-284-4600 or [plannedgiving@saintmarys.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@saintmarys.edu).