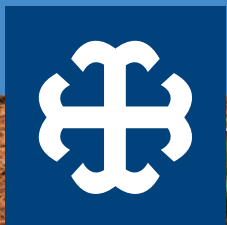


ENVISION

SPRING 2020



MOTHER PAULINE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

LORELI TRIPPEL '67

Alumna honors parents with gifts from her IRA

Saint Mary's donors are taking advantage of creative ways to give through retirement plans. One such alumna is **Loreli Trippel '67**, who is starting a scholarship through gifts from her plan.

Scholarships are important to Loreli because her education was partially funded by financial aid from the College, including the South Bend Alumnae Club Endowed Scholarship. "I want to help other women have the opportunity for a Saint Mary's education when their financial means are limited," she said.



Loreli, front row with purple sleeves, cycled through Italy with a group of alumnae and friends in 2018

Loreli loved her math courses on campus and computer science classes at the University of Notre Dame, leading to a career in software engineering. She studied Russian and joined a University of Michigan summer program that brought her to Russia, Denmark, and Finland. This experience ignited a lifelong love of travel for Loreli, and led her to work for a time in Germany.

Loreli, like many alumnae, first heard about the IRA charitable rollover, or "qualified charitable distribution," from her investment advisor when she began taking required minimum distributions, or RMDs. Leveraging gifts through her retirement plan, Loreli decided to endow a scholarship at Saint Mary's in honor of her parents, Joseph and Virginia Trippel, because her parents supported her education and career goals. "I wanted to show my gratitude for that. I was the second of ten children in a family that was not wealthy; my parents could not afford to pay full tuition, but they participated to the fullest extent possible."

In retirement, she travels across all continents with active trips involving hiking, skiing, and cycling, including one with Saint Mary's to Tuscany!



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

While the Saint Mary's community is poised for change, spring 2020 has posed more challenges than most of us expected!

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, Saint Mary's is adapting and continuing our mission of educating women. Students have come home from study abroad,

and classes have gone online for the remainder of the semester. But in the midst of everything, over 350 seniors will earn degrees in May, and in June, Dr. Katie Conboy is poised to take the reins as Saint Mary's next president.

Our community's readiness for the future comes from our strength and focus. On February's 24-Hour Donor Challenge, our community came together to raise over \$1 million from more than 4,800 donors. The leadership of Interim President Nancy Nekvasil has been exemplary. And, in the midst of everything, we are hard at work building the class that will enter Saint Mary's in fall 2020.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Saint Mary's family.

Stay safe and well,

Valerie Sherman, JD
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Ministry Assistants Build Supportive Campus Community

Residence halls at Saint Mary's College receive a boost in student support through ministry assistants (MAs) – four students who build community each academic year in residence halls through spiritual companionship and exploration. MAs embody the Saint Mary's value of community by serving others and reaching out to students in need.

MAs collaborate with Campus Ministry, headed by Regina C. Wilson, MMus., MDiv. One MA, now in her third year, is Nicole Popow '20. Nicole says she loves the "rich conversations" that she has with her residence hall staff and students, reaching students where they are with condolence cards, birthday messages, events, and pastoral visits.

"The shared task of forming community is precisely the task a ministry assistant has," Nicole said. MAs follow the Holy Cross tradition of addressing the needs of each student as a whole person – body, mind and spirit. "We provide



Regina C. Wilson and Nicole Popow '20

opportunities for our residents to share their faith journey with us and with each other, forming a safe place for their faith to grow."

As students complete this semester online due to the global pandemic, MAs are reaching out to students virtually with Bible study, a letter writing activity, a speaker panel, and one-on-one meetings.

Saint Mary's is seeking funding for a fifth ministry assistant position to work in Le Mans Hall, still the largest residence hall on campus.

IN MEMORIAM

Saint Mary's acknowledges alumnae and friends who have recently passed away, leaving thoughtful bequests to the College:

Lois Langford Berry '54

Anita T. Costin '66

Virginia "Pinky" Duesterberg '45

Eileen Cox Karp '54

James BN Morris

Susanne Tiedebohl '47

Elise Torczynski '55

Bequest gifts from alumnae, parents, and friends enable future generations of students to access a Saint Mary's education.

Saint Mary's announces president-elect Dr. Katie Conboy



Dr. Conboy speaks as president-elect February 12.

On February 12, 2020, Dr. Katie Conboy was announced on campus as the 14th president of Saint Mary's College. At an on-campus event that was also viewed online by many alumnae and friends, Chair of the Board of Trustees Gretchen Flicker '93 thanked Interim President Nancy Nekvasil for her service and introduced Dr. Conboy to an applauding crowd of faculty, staff, students, and invited guests.



Dr. Katie Conboy

Dr. Conboy began her academic career at Stonehill College, a Holy Cross institution in Massachusetts, where she served first as a professor of English literature, then as Provost. She comes to Saint Mary's from Simmons University, a women's college in Boston, where she served as Provost and Senior Vice President.

While she earned her Ph.D. in English literature from Notre Dame, Dr. Conboy even took a class at Saint Mary's.

To close her remarks, Dr. Conboy quoted from a Seamus Heaney poem to analogize the beauty of change as a skylight that brings light into a beloved space.

The College community looks forward to Dr. Conboy's first day as President on June 1. You can find out more about Dr. Conboy on the Saint Mary's website under Meet **President-Elect**.

Facilities team works to

REFRESH CAMPUS thanks to bond issue

Our facilities team has been busy this year, under the leadership of Vice President for Strategy and Finance Dr. Dana Strait, who began at the College in March 2019. The College recently received a \$51 million bond to support facility upgrades.

Projects were prioritized from the campus master plan and a list of deferred maintenance items. Saint Mary's also collected perspectives across campus to recommend areas where the prospective student tour could be improved.

"Everyone who is intimately familiar with campus knows how special the campus is in any student or faculty's experience," Dana said. "We know a campus visit is our most effective selling point – students who visit campus are 40 percent more likely to enroll than students who don't."

The facilities team is putting campus's best foot forward as Saint Mary's recruits students and serves them through graduation. While completing planned repairs, the team replaced flooring,

lighting, and furniture in ways that enhance student experience by being easier to clean, more beautiful, or more functional.

Although special care is being given to facilities that have not received as much attention as others in recent years, one of the most impactful projects was renovating the first floor of Le Mans Hall, one of campus's most iconic spaces. This area posed a particular challenge because of intense use by students, events, and staff offices, Dana noted. After Saint Mary's restored wood surfaces, fireplaces, and changed the use of spaces (particularly the suite used by the Admissions Office, see photo), students have become noticeably more social in the space.

Campus will continue to evolve and improve under additional funds available from the bond issue, and we hope visiting alumnae, parents, and friends will love the updates as much as students, staff, and faculty do.



The admissions office welcomes prospective students and their families in this newly refreshed space on the first floor of Le Mans Hall.



Guest Column

How to Benefit Family and Saint Mary's Through Your IRA



Kelly O'Connor Dancy '06
Walny Legal Group LLC

Changes to the law have significantly changed retirement and estate planning, meaning alumnae should reevaluate their plans.

In 2019, the SECURE Act was passed by Congress and signed into law, effective January 1, 2020.

The Act eliminated the age limit for making contributions to a traditional IRA and increased the starting age for required minimum distributions (RMDs) from 70½ to 72. The Act also changed the tax treatment of inherited IRAs and eliminated “stretch” provisions.

Prior to the SECURE Act, beneficiaries of inherited IRAs could stretch distributions over a longer period, including their life expectancy, and thereby spread out the payment of associated income taxes. However, the Act eliminated this deferment for most beneficiaries. With the exception of 5 specific beneficiaries (surviving spouse, minor child,

disabled beneficiary, chronically ill beneficiary, and a beneficiary who is not more than 10 years younger than the decedent), all designated beneficiaries (generally an individual or a qualifying trust) of inherited IRAs are required to take distributions within a 10-year period.

While the “stretch” is gone, a little planning can simulate a stretch longer than 10 years while also benefiting your favorite charity. One good estate planning vehicle is a charitable remainder trust (CRT) – an irrevocable trust that generates an income stream for a period of time, for either the donor or other named beneficiaries, with the remainder going to charity. A donor can name the CRT as the beneficiary of an IRA, then name children as beneficiaries of the CRT. The income payments can then be “stretched” over the terms of the trust or the life of the beneficiaries, but certainly longer than 10 years.

With a little planning, donors can make impactful gifts to charity *and* benefit their family at the same time.

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.