

The background of the cover is a photograph of a tall, red brick Gothic Revival bell tower. The tower features a large, open belfry with three tall, narrow arched openings. Above the belfry is a smaller section with a cross on top. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground on the left, there are branches with bright pink cherry blossoms. The title 'Saint Mary's College' is in a white serif font, and 'COURIER' is in a larger, bold white serif font. The issue date 'Spring 2020' is in a smaller white sans-serif font.

# Saint Mary's College COURIER

Spring 2020





# UPON REFLECTION

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Many who know me know that I enjoy people greatly and am quick to give hugs, so this time of sheltering in place and social distancing is especially challenging for me. And yet the scientist in me fully supports these directives, knowing how important it is for us to be taking part in these important practices to flatten the curve and keep our loved ones and communities safe.



Honestly, when I said “see you later” to students, faculty, and staff at spring break, it truly was “see you later.” The incredible Saint Mary’s community has been a huge part of my life for the last 36 years. I’ve learned so much from the students, faculty, staff, and sisters over the past three decades, and this time apart has given me pause to reflect.

The faculty at Saint Mary’s would walk on hot coals if it meant helping a student grasp a difficult concept. I have known many who work hours far beyond what is “required” so they can serve their students well. I believe the faculty are among the most unselfish people I know — with their time, their energy, and their hearts.

The Saint Mary’s women I have known through the years humble and challenge me. They are articulate, they teach and care-take, and lead and love with passion and compassion. Even the most timid among them shows tremendous bravery out in the world, sometimes because of great adversity and sometimes because what she is pursuing requires her to be resilient and reach further.

I am inspired by these women and the women who will come after them and continue to shape the world. A women’s college is more relevant today than ever and the thing I am most certain of is that Saint Mary’s will continue to respond and adapt during these changing times — just as it has for 176 years.

It is the nature of a classroom of women that all have the opportunity to form arguments, to be encouraged, to stumble but not fall. Women encourage one another. Women challenge one another in ways that are productive.



We talk a lot about women finding their voices in our classrooms and in the student government settings and on committees with faculty and staff. This happens because those voices and opinions are valued. And I will say again and again, the world needs more Saint Mary's women!

Although I am not Catholic, I have found the universality of the Catholic tradition keenly relevant and an important aspect of the education we offer. And one of the things I love about the Catholic intellectual tradition is that of engaging in dialogue with others and coming alongside others to walk with them where they are. I believe so deeply in these Christian principles. Jesus walked with those in society that were shunned and ignored — the most vulnerable and therefore the ones with the most potential to grow. I have always felt like being at Saint Mary's gave me the opportunity every day to walk as Jesus did. Even if I wasn't successful one day, I could come back and try again the next day.

Though we have been through a very disruptive time, Saint Mary's College will continue to persevere and navigate in spite of these circumstances. There have been many other challenges, large and small, that the College and its community has had to face, and yet that's when we come together and harness our power. Know that I have confidence in our beloved College and in our future president, Katie Conboy, to persevere and continue to grow.

While I am not sure when we will be able to be together again, please know that I am already looking forward to that time regardless of when it is. So this is "see you later," and although I won't be on campus nearly as much anymore, please know that so many of you have touched my heart and shaped the woman I have become, and Saint Mary's will always be in my heart.

One final note since many have asked: I will be retiring in May 2021 after a year of sabbatical and moving to Tennessee to be with my beautiful grandgirls.

All my best,

*Nancy P. Nekvasil*

Nancy P. Nekvasil, PhD  
Interim President





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## **About Saint Mary's College**

Celebrating 175 years of empowering women to make a difference in the world, Saint Mary's College is recognized as a pioneer in the education of women. A Catholic, liberal arts institution in Notre Dame, Indiana, the College offers more than 50 undergraduate academic programs and also offers co-educational master's degrees.



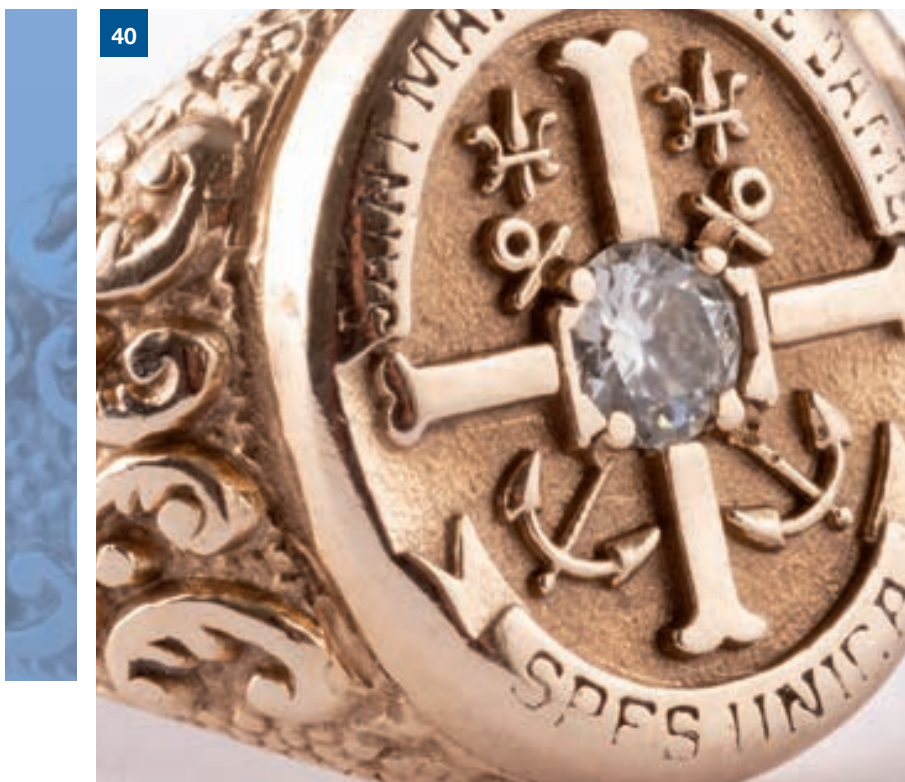




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- > Autism During the Pandemic
- > Catherine Pittman Gives Us Coping Strategies
- > Student Art Online







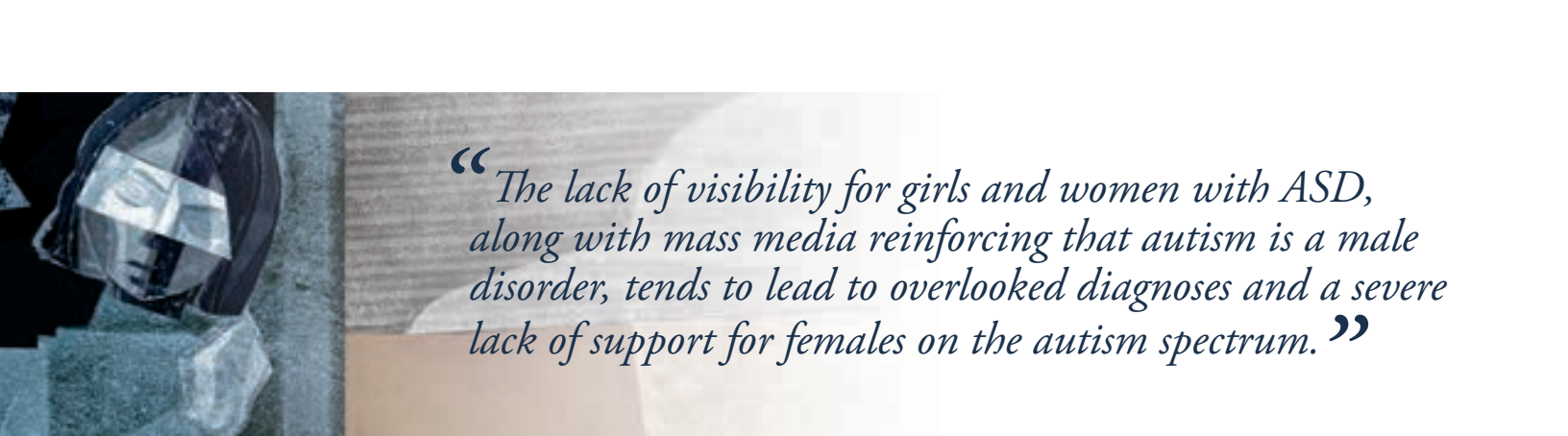


# The Hidden Faces of Autism

By Haleigh Ehmsen '16

When you think about someone with autism, who comes to mind? For me, it's a family member. Alex is kind, shy, obsessive, and extremely intelligent. Like many on the spectrum, Alex is sensitive to textures, especially food and clothes, and interests become all-consuming. Some recent examples are specific video games, flowers, and French culture — which resulted in everyone having to eat crepes every day for a month.





*“The lack of visibility for girls and women with ASD, along with mass media reinforcing that autism is a male disorder, tends to lead to overlooked diagnoses and a severe lack of support for females on the autism spectrum.”*

If you don't know someone personally, it's likely that you turn to media and pop culture to help you understand individuals with autism. Characters on popular TV series such as ABC's *The Good Doctor* featuring an autistic male character with savant syndrome, and Netflix's *Atypical*, features a male teenager on the autism spectrum. Both shows skew our understanding of how the disorder manifests, how functional an individual with autism might be, and that it is most prevalent in males.

So what is autism? Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is said to be a “developmental disorder” because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life. Symptoms include difficulty with communication and interaction with other people and restricted interests along with repetitive behaviors. Autism is known as a “spectrum” disorder because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience. It is also diagnosed at four times the rate in boys than girls.

According to Joshua Diehl, a faculty fellow for the new Master of Autism Studies program at Saint Mary's, there is a lack of research happening on the topic of girls and women with autism, which leads to a gender bias. “We have a strong belief in our national — and even international — communities that autism is predominantly a male condition,” Diehl said. “Studies to better understand autism spectrum disorders often include little or no females in their sampling. This lack of representation in the research continues to hinder our understanding of autism in females since they simply are not being studied at the same rate as their male counterparts.”

This gender bias has a real impact on the lives of girls with autism. According to Diehl, boys get diagnosed faster and more readily, and therefore gain more access to support. Girls and women on the spectrum are falling through the cracks.

The lack of visibility for girls and women with ASD, along with mass media reinforcing that autism is a male disorder, tends to lead to overlooked diagnoses and a severe lack of support for females on the autism spectrum. But the new Master of Autism Studies program at Saint Mary's is seeking to change this rhetoric through programs on campus, community engagement, and student research.

Associate Professor Michael Waddell leads the Autism Studies Program and believes there is a great need at the College and beyond. It is the first program of its kind to combine faculty expertise across the disciplines who teach their subject with the lens of autism at the forefront, from the foundational course that examines the biopsychosocial dimensions of autism, through courses that study autism interventions, speech and occupational therapy, and more. The program seeks to have a profound influence on its students and the field of autism.

Waddell is working closely with students to expand their learning in the program beyond the classroom to make an impact. One student, **Jalyn Doyle '20**, is an undergraduate studying speech language pathology and upon her graduation this spring will be enrolling in Saint Mary's dual-degree program between the Master of Autism Studies Program and the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology. Because communication is a key issue for individuals with autism, the combination of the College's Speech Language Pathology program paired with autism studies allows students an interdisciplinary approach to understanding autism and caring for individuals on the spectrum. Doyle's interest in ASD began before she came to Saint Mary's and she's thrilled that the College's robust program will allow her to conduct research and contribute to the field.

Doyle hopes to expand research on the subject of communication and social skills in girls with autism. “I wanted to place myself in the area of highest need,” she said. Doyle's inquiry into girls with ASD has led her to an interesting truth: “higher-functioning” adolescent girls on the spectrum have the highest rates of suicidality than other groups. Further, she is interested in social relations between girls with ASD and the ways that girls may struggle with the unspoken rules within girl-friendship culture.

“Camouflaging” may offer an interesting insight into girls with ASD and is often a subconscious survival technique. Of course, nearly everyone makes small adjustments to conform to social norms, but young boys with autism (and even those without) tend to be disruptive when struggling socially or emotionally, while girls with ASD tend to withdraw, which often hides the disorder and can increase depression. And camouflaging calls for constant and elaborate effort. For young girls, who are typically more socially skilled, symptoms of ASD are often hidden by young girls and aren't diagnosed until later in life, if ever.





*Director of the Autism Studies program Michael Waddell who is helping to lead the mentoring initiative said, “We saw a need at the College and it’s great for our graduate students to be able to put what they’re learning in the classroom into action.”*

*Research shows that indicators of success for individuals on the spectrum are strong social skills, executive skills, and daily living skills, rather than high IQ. A pre-college program for girls with autism to help them prepare for college is in development—hoping to launch in summer 2021. This will be one of the few programs in the country and is being developed by Waddell and three MAS students.*


*The length of the program is still being determined, but will allow students to take a course and get an introduction to negotiating other dimensions of college life.*

Outside of the classroom, Saint Mary’s is training members to best care for adolescents and teens through an Autism Studies Workshop series. In just under two years, the series, funded through a generous gift from the Peter B. and Adaline Ruffin Foundation, will have provided 11,476 hours of training through the PEERS workshop to regional mental health professionals, educators, family members, and other professionals who work with youth with social challenges.

Saint Mary’s has always been an advocate of women through education. Our Master in Autism Studies program is a commitment of that, responding to the need for better care and understanding of those with ASD by providing an interdisciplinary approach.

“The dedication of the faculty within the Speech Pathology and Autism program is absolutely unprecedented,” Doyle emphasized.

“I have truly never met people who are not only so passionate about the fields of [Speech Language Pathology] and [Autism Spectrum Disorder] and are as equally as passionate about students becoming excellent, compassionate, and empathetic practitioners.”

If you were wondering, Alex is my stepsister. At a school that has educated and empowered two generations of women in my family, it’s no surprise that Saint Mary’s is leading the way in research around girls and women with autism. I am proud of the work Saint Mary’s is doing to raise awareness and expand research that will increase support and opportunities for young women like Alex. Perhaps the research will lead to a broader understanding that the face of autism is both male and female. 



Learn how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting those with autism at [saintmarys.edu/Courier](https://saintmarys.edu/Courier)





Mary Zahm '10 (ND '11) is a successful engineer at the GM Design Studio outside Detroit.





# Blazing (and Building) a Well-Engineered Trail

By Kathe Brunton

It is perhaps the ultimate freedom — to be able to choose and create your own path in life. It is also a philosophy that Saint Mary's College holds dear, and our Five-Year Dual Degree in Engineering Program is emblematic of this belief.

The only 4+1 dual degree engineering program in the country, this opportunity is offered in partnership with the University of Notre Dame. The close proximity of the two schools allows students to receive a bachelor's degree from Saint Mary's in any field, then finish their studies with a second bachelor's degree in engineering from Notre Dame after an additional year. Students form stronger communities, engage in authentic research experiences, and obtain meaningful mentoring from both institutions.

"This program attracts prospective students interested in combining a liberal arts education with the technical education inherent to engineering," said Professor Toni Barstis, director, dual degree engineering program. "The program is flexible, and the opportunities following graduation are limitless."

In existence since 1977, the dual degree program was not formalized until 2006. It benefits both schools because Saint Mary's does not offer an engineering degree and Notre Dame seeks to attract more women engineering students. It is open to all Saint Mary's students, who can choose from chemical, biomolecular, civil, computer, electrical, aerospace, or mechanical engineering, or environmental geoscience and computer science.

The Saint Mary's professors in the program provide guidance to students in finding internships and advice on future careers. The students spend one to three summers performing academic research and/or industrial internships, and because of Notre Dame's excellent career fair for engineering students, the dual degree program students find jobs easily, Barstis said.



During the summer following her junior year, **Patricia “Happy” Hale ’17** (ND ’18), whose Saint Mary’s major was computing and applied math, interned with Optum, a health services division of UnitedHealth Group. There she worked on a project to develop a security architecture visualization that was implemented after 10 weeks of development.

“It was my idea and a project that I really owned,” she said. Today, Hale is a test engineer at Google.

Many students would say that graduating from an all women’s college with this degree offers them the “best of both worlds.” Saint Mary’s provides a collaborative, leadership-oriented education firmly grounded in the liberal arts and Notre Dame provides a technical education in engineering.

“Our graduates are excellent communicators, well read, generally and technically educated, and professionally trained,” said Barstis.

**Madeleine (Madi) Powell ’12** (ND ’13) is proof positive of this advantage. She majored in chemistry at Saint Mary’s. Out in the work world, she discovered the value a Saint Mary’s liberal arts education brought to her career.

“I think at Saint Mary’s we’re a very unique blend of being able to do math and then also, because of our liberal arts background, to explain how and why. We not only understand scientific theory and technical process, but we are much better — compared to other students outside a liberal arts education — at being able to explain ‘why.’”

Powell currently is a master scheduler for military engine programs at GE Aviation.

Like other Saint Mary’s students, the dual degree program participants are passionate about giving back. One graduate organized an informational session for chemistry, math, and engineering majors to learn about the program. Graduates also are committed to helping others obtain internships and jobs. Such connections are critical to building a strong program and helping every young woman blaze her own trail.

So where do we go from here?

“To further improve this and other STEM programs at Saint Mary’s College, we are focused on a professional development curriculum, from first to fourth year,” explained Barstis.

A group of highly dedicated Saint Mary’s College STEM alumnae, faculty, and students have established the STEM Professional Development Committee, whose mission is to empower women in STEM and foster a “Women of Action” culture at Saint Mary’s College, with a focus on professional development, inclusivity, and diversity.

The goal is to provide professional development opportunities, including career guidance, networking opportunities, and essential skills development to Saint Mary’s growing STEM community.

“We aim to provide alumnae mentorship, networking, and community building by drawing upon a ‘pay it forward’ attitude in order to build a culture of collaboration at Saint Mary’s College so as to create the next generation of women leaders in STEM.”

Christa Costello consults with a co-worker on a job site.





# Leah Buck '18 (ND '19)

**Chemistry major with minors in physics and mathematics — and chemical engineering major (ND)**

**Operations Development Program Member, AbbVie**

*AbbVie is a global, research and development-based biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world's most complex and critical conditions. The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology, and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world.*

## **What drew you to your specific discipline in engineering?**

My high school chemistry classes ignited my interest in science as a career and sent me to Saint Mary's intending to pursue chemistry with a dual degree in chemical engineering.

While my major never formally changed, it wasn't until my third year of the program that I felt deeply engaged in the discipline. As my coursework shifted towards biochemistry and bioengineering, I started to understand how chemistry and chemical engineering could solve some of the world's toughest health problems. Reading about and performing biochemistry research captivated me. The complexity, harmony, and beauty of the world on a molecular level drew my heart and mind to the Creator. As I studied protein folding and metabolism, I couldn't help but be in awe of how the movement of electrons made my body, my mind, and the whole world behave as we know it. This captivation with biochemistry pointed me towards the pharmaceutical industry.

## **What do you do in your current position?**

I chose my employer, AbbVie, specifically for its dedication to patients and commitment to science. I am spending the first three years of my career rotating through different full-time positions in the company's Operations business, to learn about all that it takes to make medicines, including scaling up chemical processes from laboratory to commercial production, building a quality system, and executing day-to-day activities in a manufacturing plant.

## **Did it make a difference being at a women's college during your time at both schools?**

I am confident that I would not have completed this program if I wasn't a part of the Saint Mary's sisterhood. My classmates taught me what it means to work relentlessly towards a seemingly impossible goal, and how to react in grace both when the goal is realized and when we fall short. My volleyball teammates demonstrated sacrifice — of their time, of their talents, and often of their bodies — for the sake of one another and the game. My friends held me accountable in both my faith and my relationships, always calling me to love God and the people

around me more than the day before. The women that I had the privilege of sharing my Saint Mary's experience with modeled for me excellence in studies, sport, and sisterhood, and taught me to believe that I, too, was capable of that excellence. Being surrounded by loving, passionate, powerful women enabled me to see my own gifts and compelled me to work fiercely to best share those gifts with the world.

## **What does it mean to you today that you achieved an engineering degree through this program?**

As I look back on my five years in the program, I remember the tears over assignments and stomach-drops at poor test results, but more vividly, I remember the dance parties in Madeleva, the rosary decades in Holy Cross Chapel, and the laughs in the chemistry labs.

The program pushed me further intellectually than I expected. At the same time, my liberal arts education, my mentors, and my friends led me to discover who God desires for me to be — a chemist, an engineer, a faithful friend, and a daughter of the Eternal Father.

## **What advantages did being in this program at a women's college give you?**

The academic rigor of the dual degree program has given me a jump start into my career, giving me a skill set unique among my peers. But the biggest gift that my Saint Mary's education gave me was proclaiming the truth that I am so, so much more than my educational accolades or my job title. My time in the program formed my mind and heart to believe I am called to and capable of greatness, alongside my best Belles, and though the grace of God.



Leah Buck is putting her chemical engineering degree to work at pharmaceutical giant AbbVie.





## Mary Zahm '10 (ND '11)

**Major in mathematics — and mechanical engineering (ND)**

**Integration Design Engineer, General Motors**

*General Motors is a multinational corporation headquartered in Detroit that designs, manufactures, markets, and distributes vehicles and vehicle parts. The company is the largest American automobile manufacturer and one of the world's largest.*

Mary Zahm in front of her own car, a Cadillac. Mary assisted with the design and development of this model.

### **What drew you to your specific discipline in engineering?**

I had not targeted any particular field or industry for my future career, so given its breadth and high-level of adaptability, I chose the mechanical engineering discipline.

### **What do you do in your current position?**

I work in the General Motors Global Design Center — specifically in the Cadillac Design Studio — as a sort of liaison between creative designers and engineers. It is my responsibility to help facilitate a customer-focused balance between aesthetics, requirements, and real-world limitations involved in the product development of a vehicle. I am ultimately responsible for integration of all the parts and components within a specific portion of a vehicle.

### **What do you love about working in the field/discipline?**

I love the creative, vibrant energy of the Design Center environment, the diversity of my team members (personality, nationality, etc.), and the challenge of problem-solving and critical thinking required to manage integration work. I need to be informed of details spanning the subjects of manufacturing methods, material properties, human factors, legal requirements, customer satisfaction, competitive benchmarking, and more!

### **Did it make a difference being at a women's college during your time at both schools?**

Being at Saint Mary's College while pursuing degrees there and at the University of Notre Dame made a world of difference! I found I was much more "at home" in the environment at Saint Mary's — the smaller class size, individual attention from professors (especially in the math department!), and the warm family-like attitude that allowed me to flourish and provided me with the support and encouragement I needed to bring that same confidence with me across the street to my classes at Notre Dame.

### **What does it mean to you today that you achieved an engineering degree through this program?**

It is an honor and a blessing to have attended both institutions. I believe that completing the program is a testimony to the kind of determination and work ethic one needs to succeed. Also, my great, great-uncles, John and Albert Zahm, were both deeply involved in science at Notre Dame. John wrote a book on women in science, and Albert was the first professor of mechanical engineering. I am the first woman in my family to get a degree in engineering. I think they would be proud.

I look back at my experience with the dual degree program with incredible gratitude and pride. I see now even more than I did at the time what a challenging program it can be. I am incredibly grateful I had the opportunity to pursue that kind of challenge. I am incredibly grateful for the community I had around me to help me accomplish it, and I'm proud I was able to stick with it! It led me to where I am now — in a career I can truly enjoy — and I would not have gotten where I am without the dual degree program.



# Rachel Bonek '18 (ND '19)

**Major in physics and applied mathematics —  
BS, electrical engineering (ND)  
Associate Engineer, Applied Physics Laboratory**

## **Johns Hopkins University**

The APL is a not-for-profit, university-affiliated research center that serves as a technical resource for the Department of Defense, NASA, and other government agencies. APL has developed numerous systems and technologies in the areas of air and missile defense, surface and undersea naval warfare, computer security, and space science and spacecraft construction.

## **What drew you to your specific discipline in engineering?**

My dad is a circuit board designer, and he had always encouraged me to pursue electrical engineering. I ultimately chose EE because it is involved with just about anything; there are many opportunities and areas to work in.

## **What do you do in your current position?**

I am in a rotational program called the Discovery Program, in which I rotate through four positions around the lab in two years. I'm now in my second rotation. I am helping test and analyze 4G LTE for Priority Services to ensure that national security and emergency preparedness users can communicate during emergencies.

## **What do you love about working in the field/discipline?**

I love EE because it is involved in almost every part of our lives! I love that I get to work on cool projects for a great company with amazing people.

## **Did it make a difference being at a women's college during your time at both schools?**

As a student at a women's college, I found support in my fellow classmates, my teammates, and my professors. Having that experience as a woman in STEM, especially in male-dominated fields like physics and electrical engineering, gave me the confidence I needed to succeed.

## **What does it mean to you today that you achieved an engineering degree through this program?**

I am thankful for the opportunities I have as a recent graduate. Having both degrees broadens my opportunities and helps me leverage a wider knowledge base. I am able to approach technical challenges from multiple perspectives.

From the program, I gained a solid technical and professional foundation to be able to pursue whatever I choose. I've also met amazing engineers, and some of my best friends, through the program. 📍



Rachel Bonek on the University of Notre Dame campus.



Dual degree recipients (including Rachel, standing second from right) display their Saint Mary's and Notre Dame diplomas in this photo from 2019.



## Christa Costello '15 (ND '16)

**Economics major with minor in mathematics —  
and in major civil engineering (ND)**

**Project Engineer, MW Builders**

*Founded in 1932, MW Builders is a general contractor with capabilities nationwide, offering an array of construction and preconstruction services in several construction sectors including corporate, education, hospitality, industrial, mixed use/retail, multifamily, public, senior living, and student housing. The company is based in Pflugerville, Texas, with locations in Midland and Plano, Texas and Kansas City, Kansas.*



### **What drew you to your specific discipline in engineering?**

I have always loved architecture since I was young, but I did not have a talent for drawing. The realization that I liked math and science more was solidified during my first year at Saint Mary's. I decided to leave my architect dreams behind and pursue a civil engineering degree instead.

### **What do you do in your current position?**

I work closely with the project manager and take care of various tasks to make sure the project continues to move forward, such as contract writing, billing, and change orders. I am also the liaison between the design team and the field team when there are discrepancies in the plans.

### **What do you love about working in this field?**

I like that I can wake up every day not knowing what challenges I will be facing. Construction is constantly changing and moving at a quick pace. Therefore, no two days are alike. That is what keeps the job interesting. I am always learning.

### **Did it make a difference being at a women's college during your time at both schools?**

At Saint Mary's College I was able to find my confidence and my voice. I was then able to use those skill sets in the classroom and in group projects. Being at Saint Mary's allowed for a greater focus and drive since I had a very strong support system with my other classmates as well as the faculty on campus. Having their support meant that we were not alone when times were rough. We had each other's backs. It was truly a sisterhood.

### **What does it mean to you today that you achieved an engineering degree through this program?**

Looking back, I can honestly say that I use various skill sets I learned from both degrees every day. I cannot imagine having my civil engineering degree without my economics degree. In my field I can see both sides of a situation, and I can make a decision for the best possible outcome.



Christa Costello looks over a finished project.

Unlike many dual degree programs, this is a 4-1 program vs. 3-2 program. That means I still received a degree from Saint Mary's at the end of my fourth year regardless of that fifth year. With a 3-2 program, a student needs to finish all five years to receive both their degrees. To me, that makes Saint Mary's College dual degree program really unique. If I had to make the decision again, I would still choose the dual degree program every time. 📍



# Where are they now?

Our engineering alumnae are really going places! Check out the list to see where a few of them are now!

**Jennifer Pittman '10** (ND '11) Project Engineer at Lochmueller Group

**Barbie Nicole Shaw '10** (ND '11) Production Planner and Scheduler at PPG

**Emily Gore Abeling '11** (ND '12) Americas Retail Market Lead at PTC

**Mary Kathleen Parsons '11** (ND '12) Associate Consultant - Environmental - HSE - IAPI at Eli Lilly and Company

**Cassandra Williams Pearson '11** (ND '12) Manager of Finance & Risk at Accenture

**Taylor Leigh Chamberlain '12** (ND '13) Environmental Engineer at Newport News Shipbuilding

**Diane Marie Hyzer '12** (ND '13) Engineer at Boeing

**Alyssa Nicole Richards '12** (ND '13) Manufacturing Engineer at General Atomics

**Diana Michelle Vega Pantoja McMillan '13** (ND '14) Senior Process Engineer at Abbott

**Azunne Anigbo '14** (ND '15) Quality Control Laboratory Technician at Levy Technical Laboratories

**Haley Elizabeth Gordon '14** (ND '15) Value Stream Improvement Champion at Tectum Inc.

**Yeilyn D. Colón '15** (ND '16) Laboratory Manager at Hazel Technologies, Inc.

**Dara Marquez Venegas '15** (Purdue '17) Automation Chemist at Chemspeed Technologies, Inc.

**Tabitha McSorley Ricketts '15** (ND '16) Associate at Pariveda Solutions

**Alexandria Renee Schultz '15** (ND '16) Highway Engineer at Faller, Davis & Associates, Inc.

**Madison Overly '16** (ND '17) Chemical Engineer at Shell

**Ida Taline Hasmig Pakhchanian '16** (ND '17) Project Engineer at The Walsh Group

**Adrienne Frances Rose Bruggeman '17** (ND '18) Environmental Engineer II at AECOM

**Kaleigh Ellis '17** (ND '18) Analytical Chemist at Alcami Corporation

**Nohemi Toledo '18** (ND '19) Missionary at Farm of the Child

**Courtney Katherine Weston '18** (ND '19) Environmental Engineer at Eli Lilly

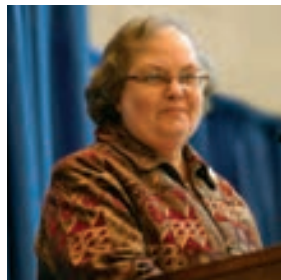


Meet more engineering alumnae from the last decade at [saintmarys.edu/Courier](http://saintmarys.edu/Courier)



# *For* Katie Conboy

*“... I really feel like  
this is a place where  
I can make a difference.”*



Hundreds gathered on February 12 in Spes Unica Hall to hear the announcement of the new president-elect, Dr. Katie Conboy. The exciting news and presentations were followed by a reception in the Cushwa-Leighton Library, where guests were able to mingle with Conboy.





# *the Sky's the Limit*

By Gina Twardosz '20

For some, the Saint Mary's sisterhood extends far beyond the edges of campus, past the outskirts of Notre Dame, and into the homes and hearts of many of the alumni who have since graced the halls of Le Mans and Spes Unica with their lasting presence. President-elect Katie Conboy wants to be a part of that sisterhood, too.

Katie Conboy will be the 14<sup>th</sup> president of Saint Mary's College and will take over from Interim President Nancy Nekvasil in June. Conboy has served as provost at Stonehill College as well as provost and senior vice president of Simmons University.

While Conboy has spent most of her life on the East Coast, both living and working there, she is not unfamiliar with the tri-campus community. She attended graduate school at Notre Dame, where she met her husband Tom and the two were married in the Basilica. Conboy said that returning to Indiana "feels like coming home." But while she was in Massachusetts, Conboy thought her stakes would be in the ground forever.

"I didn't think I was ever gonna pull them up," she said. "But my husband and I really feel like this is a place where I can make a difference."

And this difference starts with encouraging a sense of belonging at the College. As an "army brat," Conboy said she felt that she always had to take a sense of belonging with her. While the belonging we carry within our hearts can go a long way, Conboy feels that we cannot simply keep this belonging to ourselves. We must extend belonging outwards in order to encompass everyone in our community.

"We should accept each other and embrace each other in our differences to create a sense of belonging that's for everyone."

So what will Saint Mary's be like with Conboy as president?

Interim President Nancy Nekvasil led the College while the search for Conboy was conducted. In her time, she was described by many as having the spirit and tenacity of the four Sisters of the Holy Cross who founded Saint Mary's.

Before her interim presidency, Nekvasil taught physiology to students across the science spectrum and was awarded the Sister Maria Pieta award in honor of her teaching. During her time as interim president, Nekvasil's passion for facilitating learning helped her lead Saint Mary's with a dedication to its community of students, faculty, and staff.

Katie Conboy hopes to carry on this legacy — and the legacy of all Saint Mary's presidents — by expanding what it means to be a part of the Saint Mary's community.

"I want Saint Mary's to be seen as a very serious place out there in the world," she said. "I want students to be seen as serious students and to be taken seriously as students and as people who are contributors to this society."

Saint Mary's was founded in order to give women access to higher education and this is something that Conboy holds in high esteem. She hopes to expose the world to Saint Mary's by potentially opening up the College's graduate programs, which would allow people to have access to the wealth of a Saint Mary's education through a comprehensive online experience.

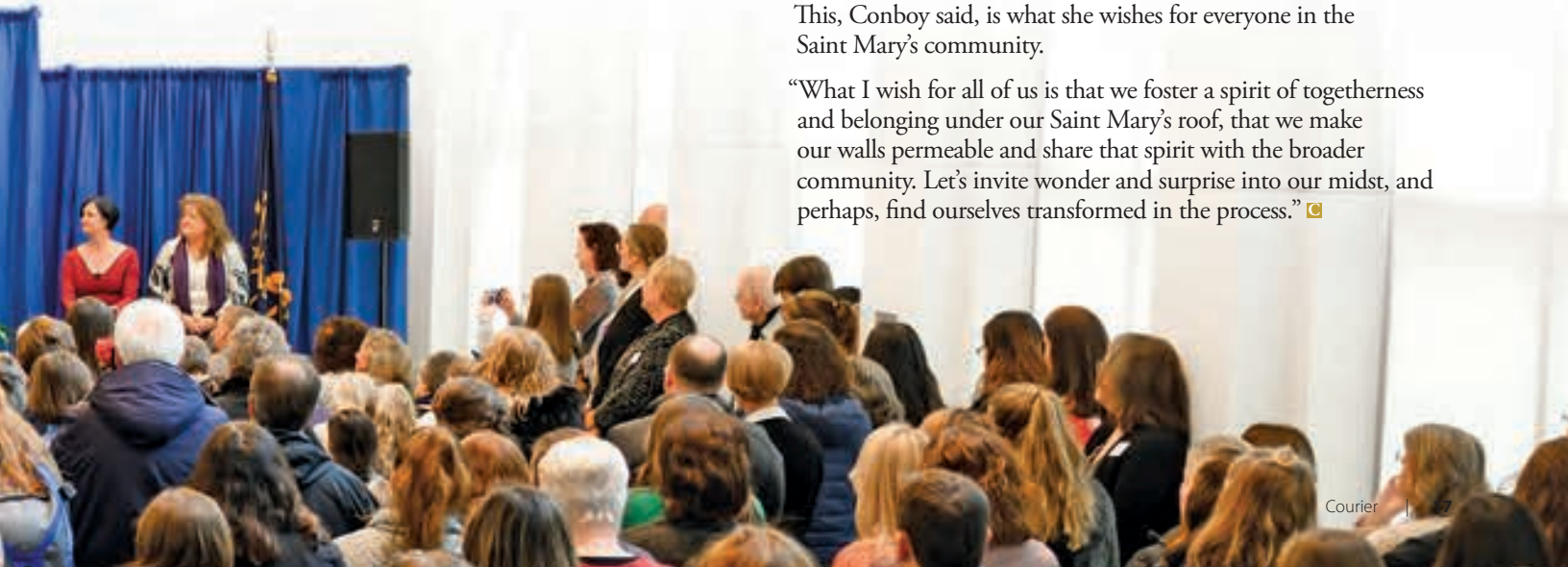


When Conboy was announced as the president-elect on February 12, she was welcomed by hundreds of students, as well as staff and faculty, in the Decio Commons where she gave a short speech introducing herself to her new community.

She spoke about her life, her choice to come to Saint Mary's, and her love of Irish literature. She concluded her address by reading "The Skylight," a poem by Seamus Heaney. In the poem, a man, living in the claustrophobic confines of his wooden roof, is set free with the induction of a skylight, which opens up his world beyond belief.

"..when the slates came off," Conboy read to the almost silent crowd, "extravagant Sky entered and held surprise wide open." This, Conboy said, is what she wishes for everyone in the Saint Mary's community.

"What I wish for all of us is that we foster a spirit of togetherness and belonging under our Saint Mary's roof, that we make our walls permeable and share that spirit with the broader community. Let's invite wonder and surprise into our midst, and perhaps, find ourselves transformed in the process." 🍷



## ALUMNAE DEATHS

## 1940

Patricia O'Neil Stewart December 2, 2019

## 1942

Betty Walsh Harvey December 23, 2018  
Louise Kulka Merkel November 5, 2019  
Eileen Clifford Reed January 2, 2020

## 1945

Nancy Hoffman Bires November 27, 2019  
Virginia Dora Duesterberg December 24, 2019  
Betty Biever Savage November 12, 2019

## 1946

Renee Chrissis Hansen November 6, 2019

## 1947

Eleanor Ring White January 28, 2020

## 1949

Susan Wagner Broeren December 8, 2019  
Nancy Byrnes Riley January 1, 2020

## 1950

Mary McGee Dorsher October 24, 2019  
Joanne McCabe Schmitz June 29, 2019

## 1951

Mary Condon Rice June 8, 2019

## 1952

Mary Jean Zalesak Worthington July 27, 2019

## 1953

Anne Foley Klimek December 20, 2019

## 1954

Rose-Marie Oppenheim Dilenschneider January 17, 2020

## 1958

Agnes Whalen Miller January 11, 2020

## 1959

Margaret Heineman Daniels January 2, 2020  
Theresa Soete Debelak January 31, 2020

## 1961

Margaret Shaw Bricke January 19, 2020  
Carol Luetkemeyer Wulf January 7, 2020

## 1962

Terese Devitt Hoffman January 15, 2020  
Mary Buman McCarthy November 24, 2019  
Sister M. Martin Ostafinski, CSC January 27, 2020

## 1963

Florence Jaworski December 12, 2019  
Sheila Danehy Yaeger November 21, 2019

## 1964

Deborah Eisenmenger Simon June 22, 2017

## 1965

Mary Meade Lally September 5, 2019  
Eileen Camp Nordhoff December 10, 2019  
Sandra Hewitt Sutherland May 23, 2019

## 1968

Lou Anna Shotts Britt December 22, 2019

## 1972

Frances O'Connell Pratt May 11, 2019

## 1974

Suzanne Curtin Haley September 13, 2019  
Helen Bathon Tigani February 2, 2020

## 1975

Coleen Hogan January 15, 2019

## 1986

Marion Frances Hovorka December 30, 2019

## 1990

Susan Elizabeth O'Connor November 30, 2019

## 2002

Jamie Lea Kazmierzak February 3, 2020

## 2007

Jolanta Szumial November 22, 2019

## FAMILY DEATHS

Joseph Ahearn III, husband of Kathleen Kraus Ahearn '67, January 21, 2020.

Barbara Aigotti, mother of Diane Marie Aigotti '86, January 14, 2020.

Gary Armbrecht, father of Kelly Armbrecht Perry '02, January 5, 2019.

Robert Beutter, husband of Mary Wilhelm Beutter '57, January 2, 2020.

Mary Jean Blum, mother of Caroline Blum Pavis '97, cousin of Joan Kreutzer Knaack '78, December 21, 2019.

Evelyn Dwyer Cleland, mother of Janice Dwyer Wiggins '84, January 17, 2020.

Ralph Cortas, father of Bernadette Cortas Golitz '87 and Jennifer Cortas Howe '91, December 20, 2019.

Edward A. Cox Jr., father of Mary Cox Coffey '84, Maureen Cox Scanlon '86, Margaret Cox Petrucelli '88, Rosemary P. Cox Conway '94, and Catherine Mary Cox '98, grandfather of Margaret Hogan Cox '18, father-in-law of Mary Jo Hogan Cox '85, March 16, 2019.

Virginia DePore, sister of Sally Teppert McKendry '58, December 1, 2019.

Thomas Diener, father of Michelle Diener Filicichia '81, January 10, 2020.

Christopher Dwyer, son of Marcia MacLennan Dwyer '82, grandson of Joan Vogel MacLennan '61, nephew of Karen MacLennan Tierney '89, July 30, 2019.

John Fannon, father of Megan Fannon Dioli '02, November 9, 2019.

F. Thomas Forsey, father of Kelly Forsey Gustafson '94, December 7, 2019.

John Goth, husband of Rita Moliski Goth '50, January 22, 2020.

Dorothy Grontkowski, mother of Michael Grontkowski Lewinski '82, great-aunt of Samantha Noel Wassel '10, December 30, 2019.

William Keenan, husband of Nancy Higgins Keenan '61, father of Patricia Keenan Kinsella '87, uncle of Martha Roark Higgins '69, brother-in-law of Sheila Higgins Botti '62 and Louann Kennedy Keenan '66, January 2, 2020.

Robert Kyle, father of Kathleen Kyle-Halter '95, December 3, 2019.

Jaclyn Moorhead, mother of Barbara Moorhead Vedders '89, December 13, 2019.

Philip Morehead, husband of Brenda Hoban Morehead '98, November 8, 2019.

Albert Perini, husband of Ann Purcell Perini '63, brother-in-law of Patricia Wiedner Purcell '69, February 25, 2020.

Stephen Pinter, father of Michelle Pinter Hickey '91, January 21, 2020.

Daniel Plunkett, son of Anne Kantowicz Serafin '61, nephew of Colleen Plunkett Dorrlycott '61 and Patricia Plunkett Atwell '67, July 7, 2019.

Paul E. Purcell, husband of Patricia Wiedner Purcell '69; brother of Ann Purcell Perini '63; nephew of Sister M. Stephen Purcell '40, CSC, and Sister M. Philippa Purcell '48, CSC; and uncle of Allison Holly Stride '15, February 28, 2020.

Robert Rakoczy, father of Heather Rakoczy Russell '93, February 3, 2020.

Thomas Rownd, father of Kathleen Rownd Zullo '83 and Carolyn Rownd Jourdan '91, June 13, 2019.

Carl Soller, father of Katherine Soller Maloney '09, January 26, 2020.

William Sturgis, husband of Nancy Sanders Sturgis '58, September 29, 2019.

Irene Suth, grandmother of Tammy Suth Crowe '89, December 2, 2019.

Michael Sweeney, husband of Meaghan Nash Sweeney '90, brother-in-law of Stephanie Nash Hart '90, December 31, 2019.

Roy Thorpe, husband of Karen O'Donnell Thorpe '68, August 11, 2019.

Edward Ulicny, father of Maureen A. Ulicny '82, December 22, 2019.

Patricia Welling, mother of Kristin Welling Peters '93, December 11, 2019.

Francine White, mother of Francine White Quigley '86, November 30, 2019.

Frank Wiedner, father of Patricia Wiedner Purcell '69, grandfather of Allison Holly Stride '15, January 31, 2020.

Douglas Zion, father of Laura Zion Bucolo '94, December 24, 2019.

For births and weddings, please visit  
Baby Belles and Wedding Belles  
at [alumnae.saintmarys.edu](http://alumnae.saintmarys.edu)







## Chicago South

Chicago South Alumnae Club is still in its regrouping phase but we've recently done some exciting things and have more events planned. In November we held an event to assemble finals goody bags for current students. In February we participated in a service project to prepare lunches for the homeless through the Pro Labore Dei Mission in Robbins, IL. On April 19 we will be hosting a paint and sip social event. We haven't chosen what we're painting yet but it will be SMC related! An email with full details will be sent out to area alumnae. We are also planning a send-off for the first-year Belles. Details such as date and location have not yet been finalized. Once we have everything set, emails will be sent out. Our club has a Facebook page where we list upcoming events. Please Like Saint Mary's College Chicago South Alumnae Club and keep in touch with the club. Any questions or suggestions on events can be sent to **Sabina Russo Fitzgerald '92** (smrf1269@gmail.com) or **Kristen DiNovo Maxwell '97** (skmaxwell2000@gmail.com).

## Chicago West

The Chicago West Club enjoyed a full year in 2019 from our 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations to a visit from Interim President Nancy Nekvasil in April. But we're ready for even more fun in 2020. For starters, the book list was published in December, so we hope you're reading and plan on joining us for a discussion and gathering in 2020. A small contingent traveled

back to SMC in November for the Literary Festival to see **Adriana Trigiani '81** and her author friends. It did not disappoint! We had a wonderful time on our road trip and were able to pick up a number of autographed books, too! Watch for an even bigger caravan in 2020!

The club newsletter was published in the fall and we're still collecting dues. For our early-bird payers, our \$50 Amazon gift card winner was **Kim LeDoux '77**. Go to our club website for membership information or email [smcwcualums@gmail.com](mailto:smcwcualums@gmail.com).

Aside from book club, we held our annual Christmas party at the home of **Joanne Tracy Marsh '69** on December 5 and had a lovely evening with door prizes and toasting SMC's 175 years. We collected gift donations and delivered them to the People's Resource Center (Wheaton) for their Share the Spirit Holiday drive. Also, food and care package donations were boxed up and delivered to three lucky students from our area. We hope they did well on exams and enjoyed the treats!

Thanks to all who attended our cultural event *Emma - The Musical* at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier in February. And for our spiritual side, we gathered for Mass and brunch on Sunday, March 15 in Winfield. **Joanne Marsh '69** coordinated these events. Many thanks to everyone who helps plan and coordinate all our events; it is a team effort. If you have an idea for an event, give us a call. We don't bite and we're known to have a great time together.

And finally, the big news: Your Chicago West Alumnae Club was recognized as Club of the Year for 2018-19! Our club is made up of amazing women, but we are so humbled to be recognized. Watch for an upcoming event to celebrate this honor!



**Adriana Trigiani '81, Julie Griffin Murphy '74, Kristin Simono Newell '90, Joanne Tracy Marsh '69, Alison Spohn Kavulich '93** – November 2019 SMC Inaugural Literary Festival.

## Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Alumnae Club recently presented a check for \$2,000 to the Off the Streets program for women recovering from human trafficking and addiction. Club members used the woman-focused



## CLUB NEWS

Queen Bee Half Marathon on October 12 as a way to raise awareness and money for the organization. We will host our Epiphany party on January 26 and look forward to another successful year of events.



### Cleveland

The Cleveland Club enjoyed a wonderful night with Dr. Nekvasil in late October. Dr. Nekvasil traveled from South Bend to fill in the club on the current happenings at Saint Mary's College. The club was very excited to hear all of the wonderful things happening for students and staff on campus. She helped us create finals care packages for the students, which included many goodies. If you're interested in joining the club for future gatherings, please contact **Miranda Hoy '16** at moltma01@saintmarys.edu.

### Columbus

The Saint Mary's College Alumnae Club of Columbus had a great fall filled with events! On Thursday, October 3, our club partnered with the women of the Columbus Notre Dame Alumni Association for an evening discussion focused on women's financial wellness with SMC/ND club member and Forbes Best-In-State wealth advisor **Kathleen Lach '85**. It was a great evening filled with insightful investing and financial advice for women.



This fall our club also held our annual Fall Gathering at the home of **Julie Radca Vieta '95** and **Morgan Vieta '16** for current students to meet and greet our local alumnae. We had a great time meeting the families of our current Belles!



Our monthly book club run by **Marilyn Messick '69** is going strong and we were proud to welcome local author Miranda Chase to our November meeting to discuss her recently published trilogy. At Christmas, our club partnered with the Columbus Notre Dame Alumni Club for our annual Mass and Santa brunch. Around fifty alumni and family members showed up to pray together and visit with Santa!

Our club is currently planning events for 2020 and welcome any Belles in the Columbus area to get in touch with **Colleen Lowry '11** at clowry01@gmail.com or **Sarah Ryan '89** at sarahryan@insight.rr.com to join us at our future events.

### Dallas

The Dallas Alumnae Club gathered at the home of **Lydia Haggard Novakov '72** in December for our annual Christmas Dinner with special guests Interim President Nancy Nekvasil and **Kara O'Leary '89**, executive director of Alumnae and College Relations. We listened intently to the presidential search update and enjoyed hearing what the students were involved in around campus.



Book club continues in the new decade and a leadership meeting is scheduled for May. Please see the current newsletter for details. If any local alumnae would like to join us or get involved in club events, please contact club President **Carole Dziminski Klauert '83**, c.klauert@yahoo.com. In lieu of dues, we are asking for donations to help defray event costs and build our scholarship fund. Checks made payable to Saint Mary's Alumnae Club of Dallas can be mailed to **Mandy Strauss '90**, 4414 Buena Vista #9, Dallas 75205 or you can use the online pay option: alumnae.saintmarys.edu/dallasdonation.

### Dayton

The Dayton Club had several fun outings last fall. We had a great turnout for the painting party at the K12 Gallery, where we painted various scenes from Saint Mary's campus (Le Mans, The Avenue, and the French Cross) in honor of our 175<sup>th</sup> year. We volunteered at The Glen at St. Joseph to help with the annual Halloween party for the children. And we celebrated our fourth year of sponsoring one day for The Glen's Twelve Days of Christmas (this one takes a village, so thank you to all who donated!). So wonderful to see and hear from our Dayton alumnae!

### Des Moines

The Des Moines Club hosted a November Founders' Day event that featured a presentation by the executive director of Drake University's Harkin Institute, a public policy organization dedicated to the four policy areas on which Senator Tom Harkin focused during his legislative career. For the past ten years, the Des Moines Club has invited a prominent speaker to help us celebrate Founders'

Day by deepening our understanding of the issues of the day.

The club sponsored a service project in February at Dorothy's House, an organization dedicated to helping victims of trafficking. The club also had an amazing day of service at the Ronald McDonald House. **Sarah Sullivan Bigelow '96** organized the event. We prepped and assembled delicious Taco Bake casseroles at the new Des Moines Ronald McDonald House location. It just opened in January and we were given a tour of this amazing place that many parents call home (for days, weeks, and months).



### Fairfield/Westchester

The Westchester/Fairfield Club hosted its annual Winter Social in Stamford, CT. The event was well attended by alumnae from 1971 through 2015 as well as two current students (seniors!). The club is grateful to **Rosanne Pecora McManus '78** and husband Bill (ND '78) for once again opening their festive home for fun, food, and fellowship! It was a fabulous evening!



On behalf of the club's Executive Committee (you know who you are!) we would like to thank all of the alumnae who sent in dues. Our dues allowed us to support students from our area during the year, including send-off gifts in the fall and finals care packages in December.

We are looking ahead to schedule a club activity in the spring; ideas under consideration include a service project or a sip-and-paint event.

If you would like to help organize or participate in a club event, please contact **Sally Georgen Archer '83** (ctarcher@optonline.net).

### Grand Rapids

The Grand Rapids Alumnae Club has much to be thankful for during the Saint Mary's College 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

We celebrated Founders' Day together at Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant in early November with small bites, wine tasting, and of course a toast to our SMC founders and friendship.



In December we celebrated Christmas together at our annual party held at **Janet Krueger's '69** home, where another toast was given in celebration of Saint Mary's College educating women for 175 years! We were blessed to share the night with Interim President Nekvasil and **Kara O'Leary '89**, executive director of Alumnae and College Relations! We so appreciate Dr. Nekvasil and Kara taking time out of their busy schedules to join us and update our alumnae on the current happenings at SMC. At the event, we signed cards for the current SMC freshmen, made by our own **Rebecca Sypniewski '96**. They were delivered with the care packages to the girls during finals week. We also collected non-perishable food items for our service project to be delivered to the St. Alphonsus food pantry here in Grand Rapids.

If you are interested in being part of our club events or book group, please contact our president **Tara Millar '90** at [tmillar@comcast.net](mailto:tmillar@comcast.net).



## Kansas City

The Kansas City Club gathered together in December for our annual holiday lunch at Brio on the Country Club Plaza. Everyone enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. All of the wonderful ladies brought items to contribute to finals care packages for the three Kansas City area students.

Please make sure that your contact information is up to date with Saint Mary's so you can receive invitations and updates about the Kansas City Club.

## Los Angeles

We had a lovely Founders' Day celebration in September at **Lucy DaGiau's '83** home. We have also begun book clubs in Los Angeles and Orange County as a result of last year's Saint Mary's book. Lastly, we have completed our five-year project of selling Christmas ornaments. This is a big accomplishment that will benefit the club's scholarship fund.

## Nashville

The Saint Mary's Nashville Club will be hosting its Annual Student Send-Off Party Sunday, August 16, 2020. Please make sure you have updated your contact information with the Alumnae Office as this is the only way for us to get in touch with you. We plan to host another Nashville Sounds baseball game in June or July (depending on weather and availability). Contact **Monica Cannon Meeker '03** ([cannon.monica@gmail.com](mailto:cannon.monica@gmail.com)) if you would like

to host a book club event. We look forward to connecting with local alumnae through our community outreach programs scheduled for 2020. All the best!

## Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Club continues to meet monthly for a supper club. It has been so fun to try different restaurants around the city together. If you are interested in joining our email list, please email [pghsmclub@gmail.com](mailto:pghsmclub@gmail.com).

## Quad Cities

The Saint Mary's alumnae in the Quad Cities had a joint student send-off with the Notre Dame Alumni Club of the Quad Cities on August 3. Our incoming first-year student and current students were happy to meet their Notre Dame classmates from the area.

## South Bend

On October 29, the club honored **Carol Ann Mooney '72** with the club's Founders' Day award. It was a wonderful evening celebrating our club, the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint Mary's, and Carol Ann Mooney. The total dollars raised that evening for the club scholarship were \$21,560, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who matched gifts up to \$10,000. It was a fabulous event. Special thanks to the co-chairs of the event **JoAnn Grima MacKenzie '69** and **Adaline Stefanac Cashore '70** for their leadership of the event along with their committee. Additional thanks to **Mary McEney Harding '84** as the emcee for the "Fund A Belle" raise your paddle portion. After our event, our South Bend Alumnae Club Endowed Scholarship now totals \$101,209. Our scholarship is the second largest club scholarship endowed at the college.



The club continues to help provide a meal for the local Ronald McDonald House. We are grateful for those who give of their time and cooking every other month. On December 11, 2019, the club continued its tradition of providing finals care packages to over 130 of our students. Many thanks to all the alumnae who donated items for these care packages. The club will continue to provide opportunities in the spring months for our club area to network and have fun. Please remember to check our club at [smcsclub.com](http://smcsclub.com) or email us at [smcsclub@gmail.com](mailto:smcsclub@gmail.com).

## Toledo

In August, the Toledo Alumnae Club gathered with Notre Dame's Toledo Alumni Club to send off first-year students with an annual cookout at Sidecut Park. We were excited to welcome four new Belles from the Toledo area. Then in December, we gathered as a club to celebrate the end of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We began with Mass at Historic Saint Patrick's Church and were able to present the offertory gifts at the Mass for the third Sunday of Advent. Thirteen ladies then enjoyed brunch at Manhattan's, while toasting with mimosas to our special anniversary year!



If you would like more information about our club and future events, please contact **Elizabeth Munger '12** and **Toni Marsteller '13** at [SMCclubtoledo@gmail.com](mailto:SMCclubtoledo@gmail.com).



**Thank you for sharing your news with us and for participating in our dynamic alumnae community. As a rule we do not censor Class News. This section is intended to be an avenue for self-reporting of life occurrences. The content or positions of these submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the College, the Office of Alumnae Relations, or the Courier staff.**

## 1950

From the *Courier Office*

**Mary McGee Dorsher** died in October 2019 from pancreatic cancer. Over the summer she enjoyed visits from classmates **Frances Hanson Thale** and **Mary Ellen Molony Brady**. She showed grace and courage throughout her illness and played bridge until a week before her death. Her family has made a special donation to the art department in her name.



## 1952

Marilyn Dargis Ambrose  
mambrose2@sbcglobal.net

**Vivian Tuerk Markham's** husband Bill died in October after reaching his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Vivian wrote that they were happily married for over 66 years and that their five sons and families were very involved in helping them through his rapid decline. She plans to move to a retirement home now. We all extend our deepest sympathy and prayers.

**Mary Dvilaitis Blanford** made her annual visit to the Oceanside and San Diego areas in October. Her daughter Mary Jo accompanied her this time and her neighbor host went back to Chicago with her. Mary and many of our class will be turning 90 next year, so traveling isn't so easy, is it. **Mary Musante Kraemer** also joined us for brunch and we had to tip our waitress a bit more for taking up a booth long past the lunch hour. It's always so uplifting sharing our lives' highs and lows with those who have known us these many years. **Mary Jean Wallace Paxton**, who also lives in the Oceanside area, wasn't able to join us. We kept her in prayers. **Mary Musante Kraemer** is keeping up with life in her retirement home. And **Mary Dvilaitis Blanford** lives in her "granny flat" with one of her daughters in suburban Chicago.

We did have a lunch date at my home a week earlier; however, I had an emergency trip by ambulance to the hospital so it was canceled. All's well, but I can't say how many "God-incidences" happened along the way. Many good Samaritans came to the rescue when I became delirious with 103 fever. She called 911, got my family to rescue my two therapy dogs waiting in the car parking lot, a late night technician who did an amazing ultrasound and found the problem (a blocked gall "rock" in my bile duct), a gentle caring gastroenterologist who skillfully performed a non-invasive surgery to remove what had been growing for over a year. Guess those "tummy aches" were serious. Anyway, God is good if we but recognize the many signs along life's highway.

On a brighter side, all the Ambrose family (now mostly on the West Coast) joined for a week-long family reunion celebration in Long Beach, IN on the shores of Lake Michigan where they all grew up. My brother Edmund's family still lives in the South Bend area and joined us often since we rented an Airbnb right on the lake. The panorama photo taken on the shoreline included 56 of us from matriarch Lynn at 88 down to our newest grandnephew of two weeks. It was an absolute delight letting everyone else take charge and simply enjoying the beauty of the lake and hiking up the sand dunes, clam bake on the sandy shore, swimming, boating, games, trivia quiz competition, water skiing, dancing to Lithuanian folk tunes, visiting ND and SMC with many in the family as alumnae noticing the huge changes to both campuses. We had lived there over 30 years, so biked to the elementary and high schools they attended, enjoyed our hot dogs and root beer floats at the local drive-in, even visited the cemetery in town where their dad and three brothers are buried. "Down memory lane."

An unexpected bonus was having **Teresa Simkus Suelzer**, now living in Valparaiso, IN, drive down with her daughter to spend a short afternoon visiting with me and family. Lots of stories only Terry and I would know. She was at Saint Mary's only her freshman year, then transferred to Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. She met her future husband Ray Suelzer there, who was a high school classmate of the late **Sally Disser Weigand** (another freshman-only classmate) and her husband Bob Weigand — and of course we can exaggerate all we want — who can challenge us?

Received an email from **Annemarie Matt Seidler** saying, "I wish I had exciting news to report. Unfortunately, I do not. Bill and I are living in the same house we have lived in for the past 46 years. I have one piano student, who keeps me connected to my music and the outside world. I also am president of Seidler Farms, located in Northeastern Nebraska, which I inherited from my dad in 1971. No, I do not do any plowing. I just mainly sign checks for seed corn and fertilizer. Best wishes to all!"

Maybe not so exciting, but certainly a good life. Let's hear from more of you for our next column. May your New Year of 2020 be an exceptional one of peace and love!

## 1955

Maureen Sullivan  
(248) 458-1999  
maureen98@msn.com

Dear SMC 1955 Classmates:

You recently received some material regarding the upcoming 2020 Reunion. I was asked to change the format if I so desired; however, due to some health challenges (I am A-ok now) I was unable to alter the questionnaire nor make the usual quarterly phone calls. Instead, in speaking with **Frances Clohessy Spillane** and **Barbara Bridgman O'Connor**, we decided that not too many questions for our classmates are in order. Rather, a trip down memory lane might be more interesting.



For the record, seventeen of our friends have gone to their eternal reward since the last Reunion and 98 women out of 104 still receive *Courier*. I am still waiting to hear from some of you of some items of interest that we might share with others.

We are all grateful to be alive, somewhat well and kicking. We received a very well-rounded educational, spiritual, and social education, which has stood us well for all these 65 years. Some married and raised families and even held jobs along the way, some remained single and held interesting positions in the work world, and our class had a few who entered the religious life. Other than classes, while at Saint Mary's we remember football games, Sunday afternoon Tea Dances, hat and glove attire while going off campus, spring/winter uniforms, walking in the underground tunnel, bridge games and smoking in the Rec, tennis tournaments with some of the nuns, life at Reidinger House, and particularly all the long-time friendships we have made. We even met a racial challenge in the early '50s when **Agnes Osei Basoah** from Africa was refused service in a South Bend restaurant. After a call from one of the sisters, that changed immediately.

Unfortunate happenings are all part of life and we handled those with grace learned from Sister Madeleva, Sister Sophia, and the other Sisters of the Holy Cross.

What we hope more than anything is that the College will remain true to the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and that the current and future students will be prepared for the next steps of their lives as we were when we graduated.

Keep "Belles" Ringing All Over the World!

## 1957

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Summer disappeared in a flash, as it always does, but I'm happily catching up on your adventures. I was delighted to note familiar names in the Legacies section of the Summer/Fall *Courier*. Among the May graduates was **Samantha Rose Geaslen**, daughter of **Judith Trippe Geaslen '84**, niece of **Patricia Trippe Brand '80**, and granddaughter of our **Rosemary Knope Trippe**. Rosemary has recovered well from her heart surgery, and she and Sam were there to celebrate.

Just after the August column deadline, **Mary O'Connor** took off on a cruise on the Elbe River. It was an opportunity for her to visit places in East Germany that were inaccessible when she lived and taught in Nuremberg in 1959. The trip began in Berlin, where a great niece lives and works and was delighted to be her guide, and ended in Prague. Prior to departure Mary visited **Ellen Boyle Benish** at her Benessere Winery in Napa. Ellen was having a memorial tree planted for her late husband John. As I write this I am thinking of Mary and Ellen and all our California friends, as concerns mount regarding fires, air quality, and power outages. Scary indeed!



**Jody Donohoe McGoldrick** had an amazing river trip this October with friends from her former (and evidently successful?) investment club. They were excited they could fly direct from their nearby Hartford Airport to Dublin and then to Paris. After Paris and Normandy, they cruised down to Rouen and Giverny enjoying the sights along the Seine.

**Peggy Kearin Carey** managed to squeeze in two very different fall trips before winter's arrival. In September she was part of a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, which she reports was an amazing experience. Her November trip to Malta and the Greek islands was totally different but delightful.

Not all trips start at the airport! George and **Margie Smith Broucek** drove from their Minneapolis home for a Chicago visit in September. They arranged visits with family and George's high school and Notre Dame friends and happily saved a day to connect with **Dee Kiley LeFevour**, **Josie Murphy Vorda**, and Dick and I.

Another September get together was coffee at the Lake Forest home of Dan and **Pat Peterson Huber**. **Irene O'Leary Van Beckum** drove down from Brookfield, WI and Dee and I joined them. We were lucky to meet the Huber's daughter **Elizabeth (Ann) Huber Kasten '84** and celebrate her birthday while we were there. Later Irene, Dee, and I joined Josie and **Janet O'Connell McCue** for lunch.

Janet happily attended the September wedding of another grandson. Andrew, son of her son Brian, was married in Sycamore, IL and the wedding was another wonderful family occasion.

**Anne White Maysak** was another classmate making the most of lovely fall weather to travel. She started visiting family in Michigan and then spent a few days with **Mary Kathryn Carroll Hartigan** in Kenilworth, IL. Mary Kathryn made sure Anne got to appreciate Chicago cultural experiences, including the Art Institute and the Lyric Opera. She treated Dee and I to lunch with Anne in Oak Park before they went to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio. What a perfect tour guide! Hopefully a picture of the four of us at lunch will be included in this *Courier* or a prior issue. Anne then headed on to Ottawa to spend time with cousins and others from her growing up days before going home to Maryland.



**Mary Kathryn Carroll Hartigan, Dee Kiley LeFevour, Anne White Maysak, and M.G. Turner Enderle** together on October 9, 2019 in the Chicago area (Oak Park) when Anne was visiting from Maryland.

Our classmate **Katie Adele Perry** has proven that there are unexpected (and unwelcome) reasons to temporarily relocate. In early August she was the victim of an accidental water problem in her condo, which caused major damage. As I write this in mid-November, she is still residing at a Marriott Suites but eagerly awaiting the return to her home. This experience gives new meaning to being "home for the holidays."

The family deaths section of the Summer/Fall *Courier* listed the death in March 2019 of Anthony Garruto, MD, husband of our classmate **Peggy Murray Garruto**. Dr. Garruto practiced medicine in New Jersey for 42 years before retiring and moving to Sarasota, FL. He is survived by Peggy, their four children, and seven grandchildren, to whom we send our sympathy.

In an October email, **Nancy Vivian Wallace** told of a wonderful May week in London. She visited her oldest granddaughter Caitlin, who is pursuing a career there in investment banking. What a special time to share! A grandmother of eight, Nancy makes annual trips to Houston to spend time with her youngest grandchildren Sean and Hannah. Their father, son Patrick, is a surgeon and teaches at U of Texas Medical School. Nancy is an enthusiastic "adopted" New Englander, having lived there for about 60 years. About 20 years ago she got involved in the old New England craft of rug hooking and has made many rugs, the more complex the better. I was impressed to hear that she is working on her fourth Oriental. She just loves it and an additional bonus is the many friends she has made through this avocation.

I was particularly happy to get Nancy's email. I need more communication like hers! I truly don't want to always include the same classmates or the people I have seen. Please help me to be more inclusive.

While perusing the Fall/Winter edition of the *inSpirit* publication from the Sisters of the Holy Cross, I noticed a photo and write up about **Sister Miriam P. Cooney, CSC '51** (who we knew as Sister Miriam Patrick). Sister was honored recently when alumna **Karen (Kae) Bichimer Sobczyk '81** and her husband Michael established an endowed grant for Undergraduate Student Research in Mathematics in her name. She was certainly one of the many wonderful faculty members who taught and influenced us those many years ago. Sister was a friend of **Maureen Butler O'Malley's** grandmother but Maureen and Sister reconnected after Sister returned to the Saint Mary's convent in 2010. Maureen herself made a recent trip to NYC to join her California daughters in celebrating the birthday of daughter Megan.

## 1958

**Barbara Hilger Hanahan**  
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Hello to the SMC Class of 1958!

This is **Barbara Hilger Hanahan** — your class reporter checking in from Winnetka, IL. I emailed lots of our class and have heard from several of you.

Below are the updates from those who dropped me a line. Feel free to send more comments and updates as they arise!

**Mary Hustead Bottum** sends a hello. News from **Mary Alice Hixson Malesardi** says they spend Thanksgiving with their two daughters. She and Dick and family celebrated their 60-year anniversary at Hilton Head, SC.

Another great note came from **Marlene Slavin Fogarty** out of Atlantic Beach, FL. The Fogarty family recently all enjoyed a reunion in Ireland. She also joined the League of Women Voters and is active in working to improve education. Marlene and **Eleanor Hanks Connors** visited **Ellen Canny Werner** in Fort Myers, FL last spring. Marlene will be in Chicago in 2020. She also mentioned **Kay Duffy O'Leary**, who lives in Park Ridge, IL.

I heard from **Joanne Rogan Chalifoux**. She too sends her hello from Bay Shore, NY. A sweet message came from **Barbara Hartmann Russell** of Fargo, ND. "Good for us to be here" are words of wisdom (Sister Sophia) that have guided me these many years. I never dreamed how important they were when she spoke them to us," said Barbara. Barbara missed our recent Reunion, but she received the class Reunion picture from **Sally Teppert McKendry**.

**Paula Lawton Bevington** from Atlanta, GA talked about the Class of 1958 contributing to the SMC scholarship fund in the name of Sister Alma. The recipient is **Cassidy Jean Miller '21**, a student at SMC. She wrote a letter of thanks to our class.

More news from **Jody Vetter Olson** hailing from Minnesota. She is hoping to go to the Christian Culture lecture at Saint Mary's next year. **Jane Eyerly Kozuszek** might attend, too. Jody said 11 inches of snow fell at Thanksgiving this year. "Ah, the joys of winter in the upper Midwest," commented Jody.

**Ellen Canny Werner** luckily is back in Fort Myers, FL for the winter. **Karin Moore Beckert** visits Ellen in January. Later in the year, the usual suspects will come down for an annual luncheon with Ellen — **Sally Hultkrans Callahan, Eleanor Hanks Connors, and Patricia Kennedy Flock** from Naples, FL; **Mary Ann Coryn McGee** joins from Fort Myers, FL, and **Marlene Slavin Fogarty** out of Atlantic Beach, FL. Ellen has enjoyed 32 winters in Florida. Lucky her!

**Hannah Grasberger Storen** sends her hello from Houston, TX. She recently saw her first grandchild married. A happy time.

**Sally Hultkrans Callahan** of Elgin, IL had 20 family members for this Thanksgiving. A great time was had by all. **Sue Corcoran Griffin** recently had two visitors from our class to her home in Aurora, IL: **Maggie Casey Phillips** from Lemont, IL and **Ann Mulligan Hinderscheid** of Brookville, FL. Sue says, "Good friends, good family, and I love singing in the local choir. All my love to you all."

Also, one last special letter arrived from **Teddi Reid Murray** out of Surprise, AZ. She shared a true miracle that happened in her family. On May 23, 2019 her son George, who is a monk at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Redwood, CA, climbed to the top of a dead tree with a chainsaw to cut

it down. He fell six stories. He suffered a broken back, a concussion, broken ribs, hip injuries, and multiple head and facial fractures — including even his eye sockets. He was airlifted to a trauma center with little hope of survival. Many prayers were said by all and with multiple surgeries Brother Gideon (George) is almost completely recovered. He will be entering Catholic University this coming fall to become a priest! A real miracle, indeed!

These are all the stories I received for 2019. But I, too, had one adventure I wanted to share with you all. In September of this year I enjoyed a two-week trip to Egypt. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would experience such a journey. To see the Great Pyramids and civilization from 5,000 years ago was humbling, for sure. It was fabulous — I even got to ride a camel.

Have a great year!

## 1959

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I received an obituary from Saint Mary's about our classmate **Mary O'Meara Koziej**, who was a day student from South Bend. She passed away on March 26, 2019 from complications following a heart attack. A long-time resident of Centerville, OH, she is survived by her second husband and two children. She served as a substitute teacher and later founded and ran a tennis racquet business before working in retail. Please remember her in your prayers.

**Carol Lucas Dunne** called to tell me that **Katie Hall Kilcullen's** husband Bob passed away August 24, 2019 in Denver, CO, where they were living in an NFL-funded retirement community. He died of esophageal cancer and complications of CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) from his days playing for the Chicago Bears. Katie has since moved in with her daughter who lives nearby. She writes, "It is a surreal time to not have him by our side. However, it was difficult these last few months to see him so diminished. He did continue to work on his art until the last few days."

My sister **Betty Benford Belfiore** lost her husband Jack to cancer on October 13, 2019 in Venice, FL. He had been ill for some time. Gerry and I will join her and her family in December in Florida for his memorial service. God bless us one and all. Please remember Bob and Jack in your prayers.

**Betsy Finneran Kennedy** has sold her big house in Michigan City and moved across the lake to the Clare Retirement Community in Chicago, one block from the Magnificent Mile. She writes, "Very nice for all visitors and for my five kids in the city. Lots of activities in the community itself. What I will miss are the sunsets — will have to arise early for the sunrises." I think by now that **Carol Podesta Foley** and husband Brian have moved to a retirement community as well. I spoke with her in October and they were still trying to sell their apartment on

North Lake Shore Drive. Attending a friend's funeral, she ran into **Julie Franden Fitzgerald**, who traveled from Cary, NC for the same service.

**Connie Roller Curtin** writes from Scottsdale, AZ that she had lunch with **Mary Moran Smith** and **Rosemary Zirille Spalding**. She has become very involved with genealogy, as have I. Check out FamilySearch.org — it's a great free genealogy site.

Gerry and I are settled into our new continuing care retirement community called Reata Glen just outside the city limits of San Juan Capistrano, near the Mission. We're enjoying all of the wonderful amenities they have to offer and the new friends we've met. I have joined a great pickleball group, which is all the rage here in California, and have hung up my tennis racquet for good. Heading to Florida for Christmas to spend time with our daughter and family in Naples and of course my sister in Venice.

Thanks to everyone for sharing your news. I look forward to hearing from you next time.

## 1960

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Class of 1960 gathers for our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion this year... can you believe it? I hope as many as possible can gather and rejoice!

Fall luncheon in Chicago brought together **Mary Jo O'Callaghan Martin**, **Peggy Hock Cahill**, **Suzanne Shay Saletta**, **Barbara Graham Stotzer**, **Marilynn Morrissey Sparacino**, **Diane Zarantonello Sullivan**, **Elaine Van Etten Cassidy**, **Jane Simpson Kiep**, and **Maureen Hogan Lang**. The afternoon was filled with excited conversation about Reunion with all of us anxious to return to SMC. Some wanted to stay on campus and some wanted to stay at the Inn (about half and half split) but all excited to attend all or part of our Reunion. Please call a classmate or one of us if you need to be convinced. It will be the best 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion we shall ever celebrate! See you there.

## 1961

Wini Tennis Kristufek  
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**Jean Lucey Easterly** sent word that she continues her ministry as the faith formation coordinator for All Saints Catholic Church in Hayward, CA. She leads two Bible study groups and teaches parents on Sundays while their children are in children's faith formation. Jean teaches baptism classes for children in elementary school and scripture studies for candidates in RCIA, and coordinates parish-wide events, including concerts, missions, retreats, and seasonal series, including Advent and Lent.

I received very sad news from **Anne Kantowicz Serafin**. Her youngest son Daniel "Duff" Plunkett died suddenly on July 7. He was a larger-than-life person: a poet, linguist, international economist, teller of bad jokes, ardent sports fan, especially the

Boston Celtics, and fount of wisdom on endless topics. They honored him with a memorial in Portland, ME, where he had lived for many years, and also in Newton, MA, where he grew up and where many of his family and friends still live.

**Colleen Plunkett Dorrycott** and **Patsy Plunkett Atwell '67**, Duff's aunts and SMC grads, attended the Newton memorial with several of their family members. It was a warm and loving and bittersweet reunion for all of us.

**B.J. Sitzberger Gorman** sent a picture of herself, **Katie Herbstritt McMahon**, and **Nancy Higgins Keenan** at an October lunch get-together. She considers it truly a blessing to share a fun time with classmates.



Left to right: Nancy Higgins Keenan, Katie Herbstritt McMahon, and B.J. Sitzberger Gorman.

I received an email from a proud grandmother **Pauline Capelli McTernan** saying her granddaughter Megan Berry had been accepted to Saint Mary's. Megan will graduate from St. Joseph's Academy in May 2020 and will attend Saint Mary's in the fall.

The highlight of the year of turning 80 for **Meg Scott O'Neill** was walking the best parts of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, 195 miles, with her daughter and her husband.

**Mary Roemer** continues to be filled with gratitude and joy for all the many greetings, support, and prayers she has received from classmates as she continues to struggle with recovery from her accident. She sends thanks to all for their support and prayers.

Joining with one of our classmates, I wish to sing the praises of the wonderful women of the Class of 1961!

Thank you to all who answered my request for news. It's always good to hear from you.

## 1963

Gail M. Donovan  
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**Ruth Schmelzer Balestra** and husband Victor enjoyed a full month in Spain recently. They spent the first 10 days hiking along the coast of northern Spain, setting out from Hondambia on the French border and going through San Sebastian to Bilbao. Ruth and Victor signed up with a tour company that



they had used about eight years ago when they walked the Camino de Santiago. The daily hikes on the most recent trip were beautiful, taking them "along country roads and rocky dirt paths, through farmland and forests with magnificent views that often overlooked lovely white beaches far below. The delicious food — often seafood and always abundant with local wines — was our reward at the end of each day." Other spots were visits to Loyola, the birthplace of Saint Ignatius, Guernica, and Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum.

Ruth says she was especially interested in how the Basque language has proliferated since she visited in the 1960s when Franco ruled as dictator and banned the language. Not only is it openly spoken now, all the street signs, store signs, directional signals, and the like are in Basque and then in Spanish. Basque, she says, is not related to any other known language; it is spelled phonetically since it is only in modern times that it has been written down. When they went to Mass in San Sebastian, the responses and a hymn were in Basque with the words projected on a screen. Both Ruth and Victor were moved by the Prayers of the Faithful that included those in prison, those who guard prisoners that they remember their humanity, all migrants at sea, and corrupt politicians.

After their walking tour, Ruth and Victor rented a car to visit other parts of northern Spain, including the Picos de Europa and the prehistoric caves at Altamira with impressive drawings that date back 13,000 years.

On return to the states, Ruth picked up her work with the EKIP program (Every Kid in a Park), a venture that weekly involves her with fourth graders in the Miami-Dade County schools, all of whom visit the Everglades in the course of the school year. Fourth grade teachers participate in trainings to introduce materials on the Everglades before the day-long trips that run all year; at the actual site, volunteers like Ruth are presenters at "stations" or tables, teaching the children about the wonders ahead — alligators, water, birds, invasive species, and so on — while sharpening their powers of observation for the trek. Once briefed, the children go out on the trail to explore. So many of the children have never been out of their neighborhoods, and Ruth enjoys seeing their excitement as they discover all the unique things in this natural environment so close to their homes. Ruth sends a special note to anyone who has fourth-grade grandchildren or knows other fourth graders: Go online at [everykidoutdoors.gov](http://everykidoutdoors.gov) to get a free pass for the fourth grader and everyone else in the child's car to all national parks in the US. Contact Ruth at [vbalestra@aol.com](mailto:vbalestra@aol.com).

**Peggy Woodin Green** has moved to Pearland, TX, near to a number of her children, which is a boon. Five of her 20 grandchildren can just drop in regularly and she sees their parents often. She watched Hurricane Harvey grow and eventually lap at her door, but she was spared any flooding. Peggy found the move to Pearland challenging but reports that new friends have helped with the transition and all that it entails. She describes her life as "full," but she also misses all the fun that she and Marty Green (ND '63) enjoyed in a long and happy marriage. Plans for a summer trip to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria keep her looking forward. Peggy's new email is [greenpegjmg@gmail.com](mailto:greenpegjmg@gmail.com).

**Mary Rainey** and I traveled from separate directions to Lexington, KY and a visit with **Margie Nutting Ralph** and Don (ND '61) in October. It was a relief seeing that Don is making solid progress after a traumatizing fall that landed him on his head three-and-a-half years ago. After many interventions and neurosurgery, Don can now negotiate the house on his own, but Margie must accompany him when he takes any trek outside. The four of us enjoyed many good laughs and conversations, good wine, and good food. One highlight would have been unanticipated years ago at SMC: Margie treated us to the races! Over and beyond the magnificence of the horses and their breathtaking power, the cultural ambiance of the race grounds was an absolute trip. Mary and I were so glad to be with Margie and Don. Send word on visits you've had recently with classmates! It's very special at our age and we have so much to share.

## 1964

**Mary Ann Curnes Fuller**  
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Dear Ladies of the Class of '64,

**Noel Giblon Manion's** granddaughter Emerson Cate Henry has been accepted to the class of 2024! She will be the third generation! Noel credits **Patty Malone Nathe's** father for encouraging the two of them to go to SMC. **Andrea Dillon O'Neill** attended a Christian Culture lecture at SMC with **Jean Kelly Galanti**. Alice McDermott was the speaker and Andrea recommends all her books and Elizabeth Strout's. Last October, Andrea and her husband went to Ireland and Scotland.

**Kay Christenson Janiszewski** attended **Janet Walton Gisleson's** funeral in New Orleans and misses her friend. **Maureen O'Hara Pesta** and her husband John attended the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of John and **Pat Hilger Zeigler '66**.

**Fran Bardello Craig** has begun to retire. She had lunch with **Mary Carmody Bradley** in San Diego and sees **Eileen Bleeg Cavanagh** often. Fran is happy to report that the 1964 Class Jubilee Scholarship gave \$8,000 to a student in 2017–18 and \$9,300 to another student in 2018–19!

The VA-ND game was a fun time for several get togethers: **Bobbie Borchers Flecker, Joanne Casellini Kelly, Mary Kay Brady Turner, Anne Froning Laboe, Angie Braunstein Maher, Linda Camiller Sanderson, Susan Shalgos Wolsfeld, Carol Cronin Moran, and Roberta Limarzi Weinsheimer**.

December 11, **Margaret (Sis) Reynolds McBride, Ellen Brown McBride, Roberta Limarzi Weinsheimer, Maureen Andrew Latimer, Mary Van Etten Weithers, Karen Mortimer Williams, Colleen Pierce Garard-Dahlem**, and I took a Christmas luncheon down to see **Nancy Drew Sheehan** on the south side.

Many of our class, their spouses, and families are in need of prayers — all sorts of special intentions that have been shared with me but I do not have their permission to share with all of you. Please pray, keep in touch, and share your encouragement with those

classmates who need our personal touch.  
PEACE, LOVE, HOPE, AND ENJOY

## 1965

**Sheila Kelly Ames**  
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Cheers to 55 years, ladies! We are now the "Older Than Golden Belles!" I am so hoping that you will all try to attend our 55<sup>th</sup> Saint Mary's Reunion the weekend of June 4 to 7. It should be memorable, fun, with loads of chat time to catch up. Please try to join us! We are aiming for an informal, engaging time.

**Joan Marskey Slattery** sends a thoughtful update. "Just returned from Saint Mary's and the ND–Navy game. Took our 16-year-old granddaughter, who is a sophomore in high school. 'Twas a wonderful weekend, with Mass at the Church of Loretto to finish the occasion. At the Mass they blessed the sisters who were responsible for areas in Africa, Asia, North America, and South America. I was so proud. I have two aunts who were Holy Cross sisters. They continue to do wonderful things. Another highlight this year... dinner in New York at the lovely home of **Nancy Wagner LaValle** and Luke, with **Lil Chard Beshel** and Larry joining us. We shared memories and lots of laughs as we watched the lights of New York City come to life. Between the six of us, we had more than 150 years of marriage. How lucky are we?? Hoping to see a little Slattery walk the halls."

All is well with **Pat Hoben Daniels** in SW Florida. "The weather is beginning to change from hot and sticky to rather nice. I keep busy with all the activity here so don't feel lonely or neglected. One of my sons moved to Dedham, MA this summer and the other moved into St. Joe, MI. I was fortunate enough to take a trip to Cuba...once again this past March, and then spend a few weeks in Portugal and Spain in October. Both were extra special trips."

An update from **Teffy Lyons Brosnan**: "I'm not sure I will be able to make our Reunion, but I will certainly try. My work with the prison has expanded to my being in charge of an outreach program for men and women leaving the jail. When we do a retreat, we give them a business card with the deacon's information and my cell number. I have been quite busy helping people get housing and jobs. As for my personal life, I visit my sons John and Michael as often as I can and in April we are going to Hawaii together with my niece and her family."

**Eileen Fitzgerald Harris**, our favorite songstress, wrote a thank you to Lil for her birthday club missive! "Dear Lil: You never fail! Thank you so much for your kind birthday wishes. You are amazing! I sing at the senior citizen's center here in the boonies (south of Tallahassee). But this town is so peaceful compared to Miami. Hope you are doing well. Blessings, Eileen." Eileen is going to try to attend our Reunion.

I'm grateful to **Marianne Spalding Schiavone** for sending her news, as it was a bit sparse for this column. "I think what we do here in Chicagoland is pretty routine and also very fulfilling. Granddaughter Kate, 14, Oak Park River Forest High School freshman, raised over \$12K for Opportunity Knocks, a 501(c) (3)

entity serving adults with disabilities in our local areas. This was Kate's sixth annual Knocktoberfest. She has help from many of her loyal friends, and this year additional high schoolers came to help. God bless our youth. My husband Dave baked 14 loaves of bread for Kate's fest and took orders for many more from generous donors. At least two loaves are delivered nearly every day and our kitchen reflects his efforts.

Dave and I look forward to an Australian/New Zealand excursion beginning December 30. We are flying nonstop from Chicago to Auckland, which should prove interesting for us old timers. We hope to reconnect with a lovely Aussie golf pro who lived with us for a week when she was in high school and was in the states to qualify for the open at our local Oak Park CC. After finishing well in the tournament in Atlanta, she earned a four-year scholarship to Duke University. **Cille Sorrentino Bucolo** and her family in town will join our family for Thanksgiving once again. This year we are game for a new plan: dining at Oak Park CC and bringing leftovers home. I am honored to serve on the board of the foundation at that club, through which we endowed over \$183K in scholarships this year to deserving employees and caddies. God bless our youth again." And, bless you, Marianne, for your news!

Ladies, again — please consider our 55th Reunion. I can't wait to see everyone. And please remember our Class of 1965 Memorial Scholarship Fund. It provides much needed assistance to our current Saint Mary's Belles!

## 1966

**Mary Kay Duffy Gott**  
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This fall, my husband Larry (ND '64) and I took a Notre Dame trip to Croatia. When we received the list of fellow travelers, we recognized a familiar name, **Sue Armel Haley** and Phil Haley (ND '65). Sue and Phil were celebrating a belated 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip. Their daughter **Ann-Marie Haley Berg '91** had taken a bicycle trip through Croatia and she had encouraged her parents to visit this beautiful country. We spent 10 wonderful days with them exploring the cities Zabreb, Split, and Dubrovnik.

Sue said that her roommates **Carol Flaherty Angelotti** and **Kathy Bayer Harnisch** meet every year in Florida. Their husbands graduated together from Notre Dame in 1965. Carol lives in Sarasota, FL and Kathy lives on Mercer Island, WA. Sue and Phil escape to Naples, FL to avoid the Minnesota winters.

Two weeks after this trip, I traveled to Skaneateles, NY with **Pam Smith Malone, Mary Dunn Finneran, Jane McCoach McKee, Dede Cotter Delaney, Kathy Donovan Dur, Sharon Priester Lewert, Amy Bertorelli, Carolyn Hart Irvine**, and **Elizabeth Naes Scofield**. We all flew into Syracuse airport and drove a half hour to Skaneateles to the Sherwood Inn. This inn was super quaint and perfect for our group. We toured the town, ate at the best restaurants, and drank wine while we talked and talked.

One day we took a drive to the MacKenzie-Childs showroom and studio in Aurora, NY. We had a private tour of the MacKenzie-Childs showroom house. By the time we reached the third floor our eyes were bouncing out of the socket with all the intense visual displays. Google MacKenzie-Childs to see what I mean.

**Sharon Priester Lewert** organized this trip. Sharon's late husband Adam was from this area, and she with her family spent many a beautiful time vacationing in Skaneateles. We all enjoyed the quaintness of the town and the special time we spent with our group.

Pam flew in from Nashville, TN and arrived first. So she was the official greeter. **Carolyn Hart Irvine** flew from San Francisco and arrived last. Her life is filled with grandchildren, who all live within blocks of Carolyn and Mike in San Mateo.

Become a part  
of her legacy.

### Is Saint Mary's in your estate plan?

If so, we invite you to join the Mother Pauline Society. Membership honors those who help build our campus, scholarships, and operations through thoughtful estate plans and help fulfill the legacy of Mother Pauline O'Neill — "The Builder."

To join, simply let us know of your planned gift so we may include you in future events.

Learn more at:  
**saintmarys.edu/GiftPlanning**



**Valerie Sherman, JD**  
Director of Gift Planning  
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**Sharon Priester Lewert** and I flew from O'Hare airport with **Dede Cotter Delaney**, who came to Chicago early to visit with her grandchildren. **Mary Dunn Finneran** flew from Portland to New York to spend a few days with **Jane McCoach McKee** in Connecticut. **Amy Bertorelli** arrived a few days early to New York City and toured the city with her personal guide **Kathy Donovan Dur**.

We had a wonderful visit, but missed our dear late **Gail Marino Meireing**. We called Mark, her husband, to talk about our good times with Gail.

**Marilyn Kozmer Sommers** received a letter written by the recipient of our class scholarship. **Lindsey Herdsman '22** hails from Rockford, MI. She intends to major in psychology and social work. Her major is titled Communication Science and Disorders. She hopes to work with a team that aids children going through a medical crisis.

Lindsey will play soccer for her Saint Mary's years and looks forward to studying abroad. Her letter eloquently expressed her appreciation in receiving our class scholarship to help her defray the cost of attending Saint Mary's. In the summer, Lindsey works as a groundskeeper at a golf course in her area. She cited the early hours and physical work that gives her the mental toughness to do well at Saint Mary's and in life.

## 1967

**Alyne T. Ricker, MD**  
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Does anyone remember these lyrics: "Ain't nothin' gonna break my stride, nobody's gonna slow me down..." (Matthew Wilder, 1983)? Many of our classmates continue to take this seriously.

Wonderful news from **Marty Tower Rebuck** and her husband Jim, who have now legally adopted a 6-year-old child that they had fostered since infancy. Marty says, "Wish us luck!"

**Mary Chmielewski Golichowski** traveled with husband Alan to China in October. They traveled by plane, high-speed train, and bus on a "Silk Road" themed trip. "Amazing," Mary writes.

**Patty Jo Haggart Turner** and **Pat Crouere Denechaud** went to Paris this fall. While there, they attended the Cordon Bleu Cooking School, visited the Moulin Rouge and the Louvre, and enjoyed the many great restaurants as well as a dinner cruise on the Seine. Patty Jo said that she learned one thing at the Cordon Bleu. Can you guess what? Back home in Dallas, she saw the extent of damage caused by the EF3 tornado that swept through on October 20. Thankfully, no lives lost.

**Cheryl Smith Hofweber** is still in Smithers, BC, "still writing songs and teaching workshops to educators on anxiety. Volunteering to coordinate an adult guitar camp and chairing a Local Action Team focused on improving services for youth experiencing mental health and addictions challenges takes a bit of a bite out of my retirement years. When there's time, I'm loving to share hiking, traveling, and cycling with John. Life is good, and it's always a special connection to keep in touch with SMC classmates." She writes that her latest song is

the *Could'a Should'a Would'a Blues*. Can you relate? In December, she's off to Hawaii for a few weeks of sun and sleep!

**Mary Lou Bleeg** reports that she is blessed with good health and able to devote lots of time to volunteering and to political causes.

**Suzanne Seidl Griffin's** activities are numerous, as we saw in her previous report. Yet she reports that she is nearly finished with the first draft of a novel (in the bio-fiction genre) that is modeled on the Afghan families she encountered during her work in Afghanistan. No slowing down for Suzanne!

**Loreli Trippel's** next adventure will take her hiking in Patagonia in early December. She has recently enjoyed hiking (and interesting restaurants) in Steamboat in September and saw the gorgeous fall colors in Yosemite in October. "And I ran a 10K race in 56 minutes... faster than I ever thought I would run again."

**Sharon Wilchar** writes, "In August Pat Holland and I decided that we wanted to spend the Saturday after Thanksgiving in a 50-degree rainstorm in Palo Alto while an atmospheric river sweeps over the stadium!" We report here that despite the weather, they stayed 'til the very end to see ND triumph over USC.

It was great to hear again from **Jeannette Samper** in Bogotá. She says that "life continues to evolve in a tranquil and positive way." She still has a lively and prosperous practice as a marriage and family therapist. As she is bilingual, she can work with international couples and families, and thus "enter new worlds and unknown cultures and ways of life." Her five grandchildren aged 1 to 16 years live in the states (Florida and Massachusetts). She would love to have visits from classmates!

## 1968

**Elizabeth Christopher Elmore**  
econprofessor@gmail.com

**Sister Catherine Osimo, CSC**, was elected as General Secretary for the Sisters of the Holy Cross and serves as a member of the general administration. She still directs the Congregational Archives and Records headquartered on campus at Bertrand Hall. The sisters and Saint Mary's College continue to work toward forming an archive collaborative with the College and several congregations of women religious in the Midwest.

**Barbara Gibson South** wrote that she and Hank took a cruise in May from Lisbon to London with David and Julie Eisenhower joining them for two days touring Omaha Beach and other sites in preparation for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. "Ike's grandson was an outstanding speaker in some lectures on ship and such a great host telling us such interesting history about the times. We climbed to the top of Mont Saint Michel before touring the Normandy sites."

They then cruised up the Thames under the London Bridge and spent three days with their youngest son Stephen and his wife, who are living in London. A perfect birthday celebration for Barb! She is

looking forward to joining the classmates who are in Naples, FL this winter. They will continue our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion there!

## 1969

**Joyce O'Donnell Bussewitz**  
joycebussewitz@gmail.com

Hello, dear classmates,

The special celebrations for Saint Mary's College and her 175 years to date are winding down. What a remarkable year of looking back at memories and looking to the future to make more memories! I hope we see lots of photos in *Courier* and on Facebook commemorating this milestone. Seven members of our class met in Denver, CO to toast our beloved alma mater, and **Kate Garrity Leatherman** posted that photo on Facebook. Also included in the wonderful photo were **Mary Ann Tavery**, **Susan Martin**, **Joyce Kenny Young**, **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie**, **Kathy Ellis Prescott**, and **Nan Raaf**.

I am sharing some additional comments from our Reunion questionnaire. I know this is an extra busy time of year with Advent and Christmas here. No one sent in news, but here are some comments on the forms you filled out last spring prior to Reunion.

**Cheryl Corsaro** retired from her work at the National Institutes of Health in science administration in February 2019. She enjoyed a long career at NIH, working there for 34 years. Congrats, and happy new adventures in retirement! Her advice was to "Be willing to take advantage of serendipity when it happens in life."

**Katie Barber Lanoue** included in her update the news that she and her husband John have two great sons, who each have two children. Katie said they were leaving last April to take their 14-year-old granddaughter to Krakow, Berlin, and Amsterdam. "In terms of a personal triumph, of course I am most proud of our sons. We were very involved and supportive of them during their growing up years. However, I learned how to play golf after the age of 50 and was club net champion for three years, which was personally very satisfying."

**Mary Bramlage Minton** listed her personal triumphs as "raising two extraordinary children alone from toddlerhood and founding of the ongoing Holy Family Phoenix Ministry for separated and divorced Catholics." I know you are overjoyed to spend time with your children and grandchildren, Mary, from your Facebook postings!

**Patty Hanna McCauley** has spent 24 years teaching refugees basic skills, English, and citizenship. How gratifying that must have been — a win-win situation for you, Patty, and your students alike! She and husband Mike have three children and live in Wisconsin.

**Denise Fontana Hoover** has two children and while working full time as account manager of large commercial accounts she received a certificate of painting at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2008 and then her MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2015. She retired

from the insurance business in 2016 and for advice offered "Love living — It's a great job! And for personal advice — paint, paint, paint!"

That's all for now, friends. God bless!

## 1970



## 1972

Missy Underman Noyes  
munoyes@comcast.net

My dear classmates — I am writing this in December as we approach a new decade and another big birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF US!

I have been writing this column for a while and love hearing about your families, trips, joys, and sorrows. However, a fall email from **Colleen Ann Monahan** probably tops the list as one of THE most amazing adventures. I hope I can do justice to the magnitude of her trip. Since it is the only news I have, I am reprinting most of her email.

Colleen wrote: "Score another one for the Class of 1972! I just completed the Camino Frances, a 500-mile walking pilgrimage across Northern Spain —

alone. This is the same route followed in the movie *The Way* with Martin Sheen (available on YouTube). Departing St. Jean Pied de Port, France on April 11, I arrived at the tomb of St. James the Apostle 40 days later on May 20. I found that there are many women, our age and married even, who attempt this pilgrimage alone. It was widely agreed among the women I met that the Camino Frances proper is one of the safest places for a woman to travel alone. There were days when I did not see anyone for hours and it became a wonderful walking meditation. Early on, I became very ill, probably just a cold, but it laid me out for several days.

Since I was traveling over Semana Santa (Holy Week) I elected to take the bus and train to keep up with my reserved accommodations until I was able to walk again. I did consider returning home, but the support I received from friends and family to continue kept me there until I was recovered enough to resume walking. I am so glad I persevered to Santiago. I ended up walking over 350 miles! I cannot convey the personal peace I found along 'the Way,' the wonderful people I met, and how much I learned. It stretched my personal resources to travel like this alone. The education I received on this journey is on par with attending SMC/ND. Two things I did not realize before this trip: how much this meant to others in my life, and how much it would mean to me each and every day after completing it. I encourage everyone to make this pilgrimage if at all possible. The weight loss and fitness level achieved are worth it!" Colleen wants to share her email: smcmonahan@aol.com.



Colleen Ann Monahan on her 398-mile trek in Spain.

Needless to say, I was in shock after reading her email. Walking 350 miles by yourself in Spain at our age? We are wonderful, but Colleen is not a marathon/iron woman participant. I emailed her and asked for the background. We both agreed this would be a great movie and found a title: *No Good Story Ever Started with a Salad*, hopefully starring Julianne Moore. Colleen explained she had dinner with some moms from her son's school when the Camino came up. She admits, "This may be

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where the wine came in," but several of the women expressed interest in walking the Camino. Time passed and she raised the subject again — no takers. Go alone or stay home? As you already know, she proceeded on her own and has an amazing story and memories from the trip. There is more to this story, but I don't have the space to tell it all. I suggested her adventure would be a great article for *Courier*.

With love and best wishes.



EXCELSIOR

**Cheryl Taylor '72** has decided to step down as President and CEO of the Foellinger Foundation, a private charitable organization she joined nearly 30 years ago.

## 1973

Peg FitzGibbons Higgins  
mfhiggins2310@gmail.com

It's hard to admit that we graduated from high school 50 years ago! I went to Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, IL and attended my Reunion in October. There were about a dozen of us who attended Saint Mary's and I'm happy to report that we had a good showing at the Reunion. It was great to catch up with **Debbie Carvatta, Jan Leibold Zorn, Kathy Murphy-Keedy, Maureen McDonagh, Michaela Garrity McCarthy, Pamela King (ND '73), and Nancy Cummings McGowan.**

**Molly McArdle Larsen** wrote with some interesting travel notes. She and **Mary Nokes** took a trip to the Ligurian coast of Italy, which included hiking in the Cinque Terre. "We had talked about a trip overseas last year at Reunion and finalized this two-week excursion this spring. September is a beautiful time there as we boated up the coast past the villages, hiked from Monterosso to Vernazza, and visited the other villages. We also went up the mountains into Tuscany, visiting wineries and agriturismo. Included in our travels were the marble quarries of Carrara and Tower of Pisa. What a wonderful time we had!



**Mary (Molly) McArdle Larsen and Mary Nokes** with the coast of Cinque Terre in the background.

"Mary lives in Alexandria, VA and is still working as a conference planner for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Since Reunion last year, business has taken her to Orlando, Austin, and Las Vegas. She also travels often to see family and friends.

"I live in Flagstaff, AZ. I retired from the City of Flagstaff as a programmer/analyst and am enjoying retirement with my husband Dallas. We travel quite a bit as well, mainly in the West. I'm involved with our master gardener county program and am an avid quilter.

"We always enjoy reading about our classmates and thought it time we report in as well!"

Mary had some additional news to add. "I just attended my 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion last weekend in Johnstown, PA. We had about 90 people from Westmont High School — including some spouses and guests, but we were all delighted with the turnout. **Madlynne Veil Griffith** and I were in attendance. **Marian Kennan Boulus** wasn't able to make it due to family obligations and was missed! Friends of Bob Choby (ND '73) had fond and funny memories of him. He passed away many years ago, but was quite a light in the world when he was in attendance both at Westmont HS and Notre Dame!"

Pamela King (ND '73) news: "I thoroughly enjoyed attending our Regina Dominican (Wilmette, IL) 1969 High School reunion in October! Our high school class was fortunate to have had approximately 12 girls enter Saint Mary's as freshmen back in '69. I continue to be very busy with my role with Northwestern Medicine in Chicago, IL. My sports activities of boxing, kickboxing, and DUT classes fill my schedule. Family and friends are precious and I would invite any SMC friends who visit the Chicago area to please reach out. I would love the visit! I'm thrilled that our high school reunion reconnected me with **Peg FitzGibbons Higgins** (our class reporter)!"

**Sue Brown Pettit** writes that she lives in Middletown, RI and retired after 45 years of service from Newport Hospital. She was a staff technologist working in the core lab, which consisted of chemistry, hematology, coagulation, and urinalysis.

Her career was rewarding and fast paced. Sue and her husband Bill have two sons and an 11-year-old granddaughter. They are proud of them all and enjoy newfound freedom by traveling and playing golf.

One of our published authors **Sheila M. Cronin '71** was awarded "Chicago's Best Small Business Storyteller for 2019" by Alignable, a small business social network. Here's hoping Sheila's story does well in the regional and national competitions!

Michael White, the son of **Debby Lavin White** and her husband Joe (ND '71), was the screenwriter for a docudrama about stolen babies in Peru in the 1980s. The film was shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May, as well as the Chicago Film Festival in November. Mike researched and wrote the screenplay over a period of 11 years — clearly a labor of love.

## 1974

Jill Fahey Birkett  
jbirkettct@yahoo.com

More news to share that was submitted from our classmates during 2019. I realize you will probably be reading this in 2020 but it's always nice to hear updates.

**Sharon Dillon Robinson**, an independent distributor for BEMER Medical Device, writes from Scottsdale, AZ. She and her husband have three children: Michael, who is headed for the Air Force, Kathryn, who is a freshman at ND, and Stefanie, who is a student at Scottsdale Community College. One of the things she loves about Saint Mary's is that people she met 45+ years ago are still a part of her life. She keeps in touch with **Kathy Reeves O'Donnell, Toni Benedetto Soule, and Linda Bladowski Hellmuth**. Linda also wrote and noted that she is in Dublin, OH, where she enjoys volunteering. Her husband Robert (ND '74) and she have daughter Emily, who graduated magna cum laude from Notre Dame with a marketing major and art history minor and then attended medical school at UCSF, graduating in physical therapy. She and her husband have blessed Linda with twin grandchildren. Their second daughter Missy graduated from Marianist University of Dayton and she has been a special court advocate for neglected and abused foster children. She is also married and recently moved to Reno and she now directs development for the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras.

**Diane Brown Green** was a "neighbor" of mine in Holy Cross Hall freshman year. It was so nice to hear from her. Diane lives in Mobile, where she is a special education teacher. She and husband Jon have four adult children, Brian, Bridget, Shannon, and Kevin. They also have 11+ grandchildren (another was expected at this writing)! She plans to retire shortly and will spend more time with her grandchildren; she wants to help out with them. She noted through the ups and downs of parenting, aging parents, she still feels blessed.

From Des Moines, **Debbie Tirsway Hubbell** writes that she is retired and a community volunteer. She and husband Michael have a son Cooper and a

son Alex. Both are married and Debbie has two grandchildren. She notes that she and her husband spend winters in Scottsdale, AZ but she loves being back with her grandchildren. Some of the gals she has stayed in close touch with are **Peggy Scanlan Brown, Dianne Elizabeth Gibbons, Mari Beth Lefere, and Sue Danner Armstrong.**

**Mary Kay (KK) Conaty Leicht** writes from Indianapolis, where she is a preschool teacher, and those lucky kids because she says she LOVES it. I believe she and husband Jack (ND '74) have four adult children, all of whom graduated from ND or SMC (**Amy Leicht Kilbury '10**) — amazing! KK and Jack have also become grandparents.

From Austin TX, **Mary Kraft Shanahan** writes that she is a songwriter. Mary, you now hear oodles of jealous “wows” from the rest of us. She and husband Gary have one son. Mary is also the co-chair of the Humanitarians in the Arts and Interfaith Council. She mentioned that she enjoys getting together for the Notre Dame cheerleading reunions.

**Shauna Marie Dunn** is based in Palm Beach Gardens, where she is a registered nurse, MSHSA. She is married to husband Paul Gyorok. One of the things that has surprised Shauna across these many years is the return to education and then pursuing a career that blends the past and present. She really enjoys staying in touch with SMC friends, especially **Barbara Jacobs Mueller.**

**Mary Ann Judge Thornton** has recently retired and she and husband John were therefore betwixt and between in deciding where to live as she wrote to us. She spoke of all the paperwork involved in retirement and moving, as the plan was to move to South Carolina.

**Muffet Foy Cuddy** resides in beautiful Santa Fe, NM, where she is also retired. Her children are Erin and Reese. Although she resides in Santa Fe, she plans to spend this year and part of next year in Thailand, exploring Southeast Asia. What an adventure. She enjoys getting together with old friends at ND football games and the weddings across that group of friends.

From Petaluma, CA, we hear from **Mary Romer FitzGerald**, where she is a retired high school English teacher. Four of her children live within an hour's drive, with another living in the state of Washington. She and husband Edward have also been blessed with grandchildren. She indicated that she and her husband are still settling into the rhythm of life as retired people and she is hoping to travel more. She noted that **Debbie Johnson Schwiebert** and **Kathy Hurley Ferguson** and she get together every few years, recently Carmel and New Orleans.

**Ann Susan Dunn** resides with husband Richard Marshall in Williston, FL. Ann indicated she actually hasn't been back on campus since graduation... well, it's changed! She enjoys reading, meditating, feeding horses, being an e-activist, doing yoga, and

time with her spouse. She indicated she and her husband tend to travel short distances, traveling to the many places that are close to enjoy in the area. (Ann, maybe the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, eh?)

My dear former Chicago roomie **Jackie Schimizzi Ehlert** writes from Chicago, where she is also retired. She and husband Rick have been blessed with two wonderful sons Michael and Richard. Michael is working on his master's degree at Purdue and Richard graduated with his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and uses interesting materials to create beautiful pieces. She is hoping to get some time to spend with family relatives in Italy, and since Jackie was a Rome program student, I'm sure she will be happy to return to beloved Italy. One of our mutual good friends is **Julie Griffin Murphy**, whose main comment was “what — 45 years? Where has the time gone?” In Julie's case... those years have gone to a wonderful life with her husband Bob (ND '74) and their great large crew of children and grandchildren.

Thirteen grandchildren as of this writing!

I was lucky to see two dear friends from school in the last two months: I met **Jan Gabler Cranfield** in New Orleans for a dinner when I attended a conference. We spent the time (and half the night) in my hotel room just gabbing. **Judie Moore Green** and her husband Rich (ND '76) came into NYC for a wedding, leaving us a nice two-hour window to have drinks and laughs before they headed off to the festivities. Both visits were short but GREAT FUN!



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# 1975



# 1976

Karen Zagrocki McDonald  
kzmcdonald@msn.com

**Karen Zagrocki McDonald** had the opportunity to visit with fellow alumnae this past year. Shopping and lunch with **Kimbelee Olmstead Ostrowski**... twice. Kimi keeps busy spoiling her first grandchild Lincoln and substitute teaching in Western Springs, IL. Cheering on the fighting Irish as they beat Bowling Green with **Eileen Flanagan DeJong** was a great time and a great opportunity to catch up. Eileen's daughter Amy attained her PhD this summer and is working as a food scientist for Mars-Wrigley in Chicago. Eileen is enjoying retirement by traveling near and far. In October, **Rosemarie Moulis Outly** and her family joined Karen and her husband Tim for a pre-Chicago Marathon dinner. Rose's daughter Megan was competing in the marathon, her third. A November lunch with **Mary Beth Stanicek Theiss** and Valerie Sherman from the College's Office of Development gave us an opportunity to catch up on each other and Saint Mary's. Mary Beth is loving being a grandmother to two lovely lasses, with another granddaughter expected in early 2020. Future Belles? Finally, I ended up my year of "reconnecting" with holiday tea at the Drake in Chicago with Eileen and Kimi. Can it really be 47 years since our class was freshman. Time flies and we look darn good, if I may say so myself.



Celebrating the holidays and 47 years of friendship since meeting freshman year: **Karen Zagrocki McDonald**, **Eileen Flanagan DeJong**, and **Kimi Olmstead Ostrowski**.

# 1977

Maureen G. Tomshack  
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**JoAnn Cusano Szewczyk** wrote: "My husband and I recently visited SMC and ND for the ND-Bowling Green game (10/5/19). It was my first time back in 33 years. Very nostalgic and very overwhelming but also magical. After spending the weekend at ND, my husband and I traveled to Chicago and I met up for dinner with my roommate **Jennifer Fencel Richardson** and her sister Wendy Fencel (ND '80). Wonderful weekend!"

Just some info on me — after living 58 years in the same town (30 of them married), my husband Bob and I moved to a 55+ community in South Jersey. We are enjoying retirement and lots of traveling.

**Jennifer Fencel Richardson** is currently working in an HR leadership role. We both welcome anyone who wishes to reconnect to do so. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me.



Wendy Fencel (ND '80), **JoAnn Cusano Szewczyk**, and **Jennifer Fencel Richardson** finding it comical that they were positioned under a sign that read "Il Convento."

**Beth Marzano Fleming** wrote: "My husband Greg and I walked in the Gobble Gobble four-mile walk/run with the ND Club of Naples on Thanksgiving."



**Beth Marzano Fleming** and husband Greg.

I travelled to South Bend for the Notre Dame-Southern Cal football game (10/12/2019). On Friday night my sister **Nan Tomshack Tulchinsky '64** and I attended the 2019 Knute Rockne Spirit of Sports Awards Celebration. Also attending were our classmates **Patsy Jones Mullin** and her son Connor and **Mary Anne Brown Schuster** and her husband Ken. Patsy represented her family in receiving the Legacy award given to her grandfather Elmer Layden, one of the Four Horsemen and head coach at Notre Dame in the 1930s. Alan Page, a Notre Dame football player from the 1960s and a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court, received the Living Legend award and gave a wonderful moving speech.



**Patsy Jones Mullin** receiving award.

On Saturday, Patsy, Mary Anne, and I attended the Madeleva Society Tailgate at SMC. We met Interim President Nancy Nekvasil and she gave us a quick update on SMC activities.



**Patsy Jones Mullin**, **Mary Anne Brown Schuster**, and **Maureen Tomshack** with Nancy Nekvasil.

**Faye Judith Maloof** and her son Billy drove in later for the game. We all met up to tailgate before a very cold football game.

Good times were had by all.

## EXCELSIOR

### Beth Veihmeyer '77

continues to devote herself to service, along with the nearly 700 Saint Mary's alumnae in the Washington, DC area. For 15 years they have partnered with Catholic Charities in Washington, DC to help new families each year pay rent, utility bills, and even provide new cars when needed.

# 1978

Susan Margiotta Salem  
susan.salem@gmail.com

In an email I received from **Sharon Pocus Black**: "There is something really great about longtime friends, especially SMC friends! My SMC classmates **Maura Murrihy**, **Brigid Rafferty**, **Colleen Clucas Wilcox**, and I manage to get together twice a year or so. This past visit we discovered a Chicago treasure — the artsy and splendid Driehaus Museum on Erie and Michigan. Congrats to Colleen who has earned the title of *Chicago Magazine* 5 Star Realtor!"

I received this update from **Marla Treckelo Buck**: "**Sharon Feaster Karmozyn**, **Diana Hendrickson Mezzanotte**, and **Marla Treckelo Buck** just shared a fabulous roommate reunion in Buckhead (Atlanta), GA! We toured historical sights, reveled in southern hospitality, and enjoyed the vibrant restaurant and bar scene in Buckhead. It was a much needed, therapeutic get-together filled with continual laughter and reminiscing!"

Sharon is married to James Karmozyn (ND '78, '80) and is blessed with three grown children: Theresa Claire, John, and Joseph. Diana is married to David



**Sharon Feaster Karmozyn, Diana Hendrickson Mezzanotte, and Marla Treckelo Buck** just shared a fabulous roommate reunion in Buckhead (Atlanta) GA!

Mezzanotte (ND '77, '78, '80). They have two adult children David James (ND '10) and Michelle (ND '14). Marla is married to Daniel M. Buck (ND '77, '79) and is the mother of Brian Richard (ND '08) and Marissa Anne.

We are determined to keep the fun and camaraderie going by having many more reunions in the years ahead! Thank you for letting us share our joy!

**Rosanne Pecora McManus** lives in Stamford, CT and is a publisher with Readerlink Distribution Services. Lucky girl either works from home or from her office in San Diego. She and husband William have two boys. Matthew, 29, is married and a project manager in Brooklyn. Wade is in facilities at a hedge fund and is in a band and still plays hockey. Her boys are wonderful, good people. Roseanne's SMC roommate is still her best friend. She wishes she had traveled more during college but other than that she wouldn't change much.

I'm reporting at a very hectic couple of months in my world. I just started a new job at Progressive Insurance (yes, they hired an old girl) and am thrilled for the opportunity and the great fit for me. My husband just had a total knee replacement and is recovering well. We are downsizing in two weeks, giving up yard work and square footage. All of this just weeks before Christmas. My daughter Lesley is now 36, married, and has a career in medical sales for GE, living in Indy. Don't ask me how she could possibly be 36 when I am only 37(?). Time flies. My parents are still in good health at 89 and 91 and I am truly blessed.

God bless you beautiful women of Saint Mary's Class of '78. I am forever grateful that I made the wise decision to attend our beloved college. It made me who I am today.

## 1980



## 1983

**Sue Poss Harrison**  
susanpharrison@gmail.com

**Mary Stauder Keefe** writes: "In March of 2017, I retired from a wonderful 34-year sales career at a Midwest steel company. The following September my husband and I sold our house in the western suburbs of Chicago, bought a motorhome, and traveled the country for 19 months. It was fabulous as we visited many national parks and met so many wonderful people, including **Monica Gugle Graffeo**. We recently returned to Illinois, where we have settled in Round Lake Park and are ready to begin the next chapter. In August, several classmates met in the Northwoods of Wisconsin for a mini-reunion. **Kim Kisling Walsh** graciously hosted a group at her lake home in Woodruff, WI, where we shared lots of memories and lots of laughs."



From left to right: **Kim Kisling Walsh, Kate Wilson Fahrenbach, Mary Stauder Keefe, Deirdre Grant Gehant, Julie Kanak Rigali, and Amy Lowden Saletta.**



Some gals from '83 and '82 got together at the home of **Katie Barry Stack** located outside of Michigan City for the ND-New Mexico football weekend. Present were, from left: **Joan Coogan, Heidi Lucke Sullivan, Katie Barry Stack, Barbara Deal McDonald '82, Mary Beth Kinsella Malloy, and Mary Therese Weiden Gruenes.**

## 1984



EXCELSIOR

**Janet Alberti '84**

was recently named the Anne and Jim Rothenberg Vice President and CFO of the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in California.

## 1985



## 1987



EXCELSIOR

**Jill Tiefenthaler '87**

was named CEO of the National Geographic Society by its board of trustees. She will assume her role in August 2020.



# 1988

**MaryKay Kathleen Scheid**  
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(909) 913-3013

As I write, I am anticipating visits with my Chicago-based SMC sisters during the Christmas break. But some of you have already begun your holiday celebrations. Recently, a group of SMC and ND grads met for their annual holiday lunch at RL in downtown Chicago. The group had a wonderful time catching up!



Pictured are **Katie Pike Kanaris, Trish Smith Scanlan, Mary Whalen Garvey, Mimi Sullivan Moore, Jean Louise Guarino, Katie Kearney Devereux, new grandmother Teresa Donegan O'Brien, Lenore Madden McCarter, Lois Morahan Sheridan, Kate McDevitt Meyer, and newly appointed Cook County Circuit Court Judge Erin Haggerty Antonietti.**

**Anne Farrell McKay** has just returned from a unique Thanksgiving adventure. She shares: "Just spent Thanksgiving on a medical mission trip in Amman, Jordan doing heart surgeries on children and was able to take my entire family (husband and four kids and one of my sisters) with me to experience the mission, culture, people, and food."

You don't have to wait until my request for news to send me updates! Email me whenever at marykay\_scheid@yahoo.com.

# 1989

**Karen E. Crespy**  
kcrespy@yahoo.com

As I write this, we are headed into the holiday season...as you read this, I hope spring has sprung!

Classmates are on the move again...**Martha Flick Jungenberg, Todd**, and their daughters (Sophia, Grace, and Emmalee) moved from Lagos, Nigeria to Mbabane, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) in August 2019 and will be living there for at least three years. Todd is the consular chief and Martha works in the regional security office at the US Embassy. They've enjoyed several safaris already! And visited the wine country in Franschoek, South Africa at the end of November.

Sophia, 21, is attending Maastricht University in the Netherlands and will graduate in 2021 with a BA in arts and culture. She took a gap six months to teach English in Huanchaco, Peru before starting at Maastricht. Grace, 18, graduates this May from the American International school of Salzburg in Austria. Emmalee, 16, is attending Waterford Khamlaba United World College of South Africa high school in Mbabane.

**Kellen Celeste Brugman** returned to Michigan and is living in western metro Detroit after enjoying eight years in the "American Riviera" of Santa Barbara, CA. She is happy to be near family again and is working with people and corporations using Ayurveda and yoga programs to improve health and wellness. Michigan has also allowed Kellen visits with **Melissa Carpenter Miller** and **Karen Handloser Bradford**.

**Gail Garcia Steffen** and John (ND '89), **Penny Falaschetti Dolan** and Dennis (ND '89), and **Laura Burns Gaffney** and Ned (ND '89) (the husbands were roommates in Alumni Hall) gathered for the wedding of Patrick Hogan (ND '89) in Tampa, FL on November 16, 2019. Chris Redmond (ND '89), the fourth roommate, was also in attendance, but his wife **Liz Molinsky Redmond '90** was unable to attend due to kid activities and was missed by all! Terence Perenich (ND '89) and George Molinsky (ND '89) were in the wedding party. Penny, Gail, and Laura had a wonderful time catching up and celebrating!

## Alumnae Retreat

June 27, 2020

### Join Us Online for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumnae Retreat.

The annual spirituality retreat is heading online... and is free!

The global pandemic has caused all of us to adapt to a sudden crisis that causes continuing challenges to how we live our daily lives. Faith can be a rich wellspring from which to draw inspiration and strength, but our spiritual lives can also feel challenged at this time. As we adapt as individuals and communities, we invite you to join us for a virtual retreat to renew your spirit and connect to the Saint Mary's community.

Registration for this free online offering will be available in the near future.

Visit [saintmarys.edu/Retreat](http://saintmarys.edu/Retreat) to learn more.



Before the wedding, there was Reunion 2019, where biology majors reunited! The group included **Janie Eaton Boeschstein, Penny Falaschetti Dolan, Carol (Cathy) Mansfield Fox, Laura Burns Gaffney, and Jenifer Chlebek Cottrell** — who came all the way from Australia!



In September, **Karen Crespy** ran into **Kathy Conte Prokopius** in a northern Virginia hotel lobby! So, it was only fitting that Karen attended the Notre Dame vs. Virginia game with family and enjoyed tailgating with Kathy and Mark (ND '90), **Kara O'Leary**, and **Melissa Howe Miller** and Brian (ND '89). Karen had a quick halftime visit with **Jackie Brody Tavitas '91** and an end of game realization that **Patricia (Trisha) Tierney Keilman** was only two rows in front of her. Add in an Irish win and it was a very #BelleYeah weekend!

## 1990

Colleen Mooney McGee  
CMooneyMcGee@aol.com



Many classmates gathered briefly in the Chicago area on December 4 and 5 to attend the memorial services for **Sue Elizabeth O'Connor**, who passed away unexpectedly on November 30. Fellow high school and Saint Mary's classmate **Mary Elaine Cassidy** wrote this about Sue: "Sue was instrumental in communicating class news and had a way of uniting all who knew her. She was an adventurous person who enjoyed traveling the world and spending time with her family and

friends. Sue loved her experience at Saint Mary's College and even had the chance to participate in *Jeopardy* during college week. She will truly be missed. Sue coordinated the effort to have a bench on campus dedicated to **Jennifer Herzog Clark**, another classmate who died much too young, during our last Reunion (a scholarship fund also was established in Jen's name by her family)."

The memorial services were a fitting tribute to Sue, who in life brought so many people together through her love of theatre, trivia, travelling, family, friends, and Saint Mary's. While gathered for a sad occasion, fond memories of time with Sue were shared by all. Among those classmates attending: **Laura Jacob Wozniak, Sarah Hughes Smith, Linda Enright Riva, Theresa Hart Dearie, Chrissy Fleming, Katie Ortman Hirsch, Mary Kay Gaido Werner, Anita Knebel Douglas, Barbie Jeffers, Debbie Weltin Katzbeck, Kim Mahoney Barrio, Eileen Gallagher Loranger, Mary Elaine Cassidy, Monica Badar Hehl, Kathy Panos Dunleavy, Mary Elizabeth Sande, Toni Fontana Galassini, Amy Elizabeth Heimberg, and Carol Mindock Wilkins.**

Too many classmates to mention attended the services, so my apologies if I inadvertently omit news of anyone. Here are a few news items picked up through conversations: **Sarah Hughes Smith** and husband Dan live in Connecticut and have three (almost) grown children having just finished or finishing college. Sarah is a second-grade teacher. **Laura Jacob Wozniak** lives in Lancaster, PA with husband Kevin and is kept very busy with their 4-year-old twins. **Katie Ortman Hirsch** and husband Howard live in the Los Angeles, CA area, where they are avid ice hockey fans of their son Taylor. **Kim Mahoney Barrio** and husband Jerry live in Palatine, IL with daughter Meghan, who is quite precocious and an aspiring dancer. **Eileen Gallagher Loranger** lives in the greater Chicago area with husband Matt. Eileen just began a term of service on the SMC Alumnae Association Board of Directors.

A few additional items that some classmates so kindly provided upon request:

**Toni Fontana Galassini** shares that she has worked for Chicago Public Schools for the past 26 years with 20 years of classroom experience and the past six years at the district level with the Office of Early Childhood Education. **Erika Brito Estrada '03** is a co-worker. "Last November, I presented a session at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference in Nashville for Preschool — second grade teachers and administrators. I also had the opportunity to lend a classroom teacher's perspective to the book *Growing Mathematical Minds* in collaboration with Erikson Institute. I am looking forward to connecting with classmates at our Reunion this summer!"

**Deirdre Milon Ralph** has switched from a career in business to becoming a special education teacher at a middle school near Annapolis, MD after completing a teacher's certification/master's program at Notre Dame University of Maryland in Baltimore. "I am enjoying being done with the program and being in the classroom. So many SMC classmates have been working very hard as teachers over the years, so any help you can give me is appreciated! Additionally, my family

has a graduation this year at Notre Dame: Bridget, our oldest, will graduate and head into the Navy following her NROTC commitment."

**Lisa Catenacci Midkiff** has just returned stateside after spending two years living in Naples, Italy with her family and husband James, an officer in the Navy. They are currently stationed in Virginia. Lisa writes, "It was a once in a lifetime experience for us and we loved every minute. We visited 15 countries and my son and I learned Italian. Our oldest Jimmy is a naval officer stationed in Spain. Our middle son Steven is also a naval officer, stationed in Hawaii, and married to his high school sweetheart! Joey, our youngest, is a sophomore in high school. Glad to be back in the states and looking forward to reconnecting with everyone at Reunion!"

Lastly, this issue of *Courier* may arrive just before our 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion. I hope that you will plan to participate in our Reunion and/or Reunion campaign so that we can celebrate Saint Mary's together once again. Recently, a few of you posted a meme on social media that put things into perspective. To paraphrase, it stated: "2050 is now as far away as 1990." Let's not wait another 30 years to visit Saint Mary's or one another...looking forward to seeing you in 2020!

## 1991



EXCELSIOR

### Mollie Baumer '91

was chosen this spring as one of the Cardinal's Award Honorees. This award celebrates the selfless, self-effacing, and talented people who make up the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

## 1992

Patsy McGowan Donahue  
smc92news@yahoo.com

**Maureen Reilly Donehoo '93, Kathleen Golski Coolman, and Jo Biergans Lupo** recently got together for the first time since 2007. Kathleen and



her husband, Russ, live in Frisco, TX. Kathleen works for HCS as their National Director of Quality for their urgent care service line. Jo and her husband Joe live in Bedford, NH. Jo is the longest serving staff RN at BASC, an outpatient ambulatory center. Maureen and Scott live in Brentwood, TN just south of Nashville. Maureen recently stepped away from VanderbiltHeart, where she was manager of eight outpatient clinics scattered across southern KY and middle TN, including the internal cardiac device program to strive for a more work-life balance.

Maureen now is at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital as a case manager and is back to treating peds patients, her first time since nursing school. The ladies had a fabulous weekend, picking up where they left off instantly! Each one has a child in nursing or health sciences.

Hope to hear from more of you soon! Please keep in touch.

1995



2000



2001

Alyson Leatherman  
alysonleatherman@gmail.com

2001, hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season! A short, but sweet update.

**Jessica Ellen Johnson** shared, "My husband and I recently made the move to Kalamazoo, MI, where I accepted the senior tax position at Greenleaf Trust. So far, we are thrilled with our new home and I love my new job. It's nice to be near friends and family again after so many years of living on the East Coast."

And lastly, I'm excited to report that I survived the first two terms of my counselor education PhD program at Oregon State University while working full-time. I have many years of study ahead, but so far, it has been challenging, rewarding, and well worth it. Until next time, my best.

2003

Amy Greene Smith  
blarney223@aol.com

Hi, Friends!

I hope this finds you and your loved ones happy and well. Here is some news from our classmates:

**Annie Furman Worthington** shared the happy news that her daughter Grace Regina Worthington was born on June 8, 2019. Annie writes, "Grace 'eked out' her older brother by half an ounce and a quarter of an inch. Samuel LOVES his little sister and can't stop snuggling her. The two are quite a pair — making each other (and mom and dad) laugh all day long. Grace is a wonderful baby and a very happy sleeper!"

**Kremi Petrova Angelova** recently shared that she met the love of her life a few years ago, Joe, whom she married in 2018. Kremi had two wedding celebrations, one in Chicago for family and friends in the US and another in Bulgaria for Kremi's family back home. Kremi's best friend and roomie from SMC **Lily Pascucci Harrison** was the maid of honor



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Supported by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

at both celebrations. Kreme and Joe also welcomed their first child in August 2019. Beautiful baby girl Elliana is growing healthy and happy, and Kreme and Joe are in love all over again.

**Katie Vincer Sears, Nicole Ciminillo Scott,** and **Mackenzie McGee** attended Saint Mary's first annual Literary Festival this past year. Katie writes, "It was such a wonderful event organized by fellow alumna **Adriana Trigiani '81**, and we would encourage other classmates to join us next year! We continued our mini-reunion the remainder of the weekend as our families all hung out and the kiddos played together."

I am honored to be serving as the current president for the Alumnae Association Board of Directors. As sitting president, I am also a member of the Board of Trustees. In addition, I was asked to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. It's such an honor and quite humbling to be able to serve my beloved alma mater in so many facets. An extra bonus is having the opportunity to return to campus frequently. I've enjoyed meeting with students and reconnecting with past professors.

Personally, I am currently living in a suburb of Columbus, OH. As a general dentist, I own two dental practices as well as an insurance processing company, Scarlet Insurance Management, and I'm an adjunct professor at Ohio State's College of Dentistry. Scott and I celebrated our 10-year wedding anniversary this past August. We have

three kids, Scotty, 7, Stella, 6, and John, 4. As a family, we enjoy traveling the world! This past summer we returned to Kenya, where I volunteered at the Maasai Dental Clinic. And we have also visited Asia and Europe this past year. The days are long, but the years have been so quick!"

In July 2019, **Martha Jane Thieneman** assumed the role of executive director at the Readiness Center ([readinesscenterinc.org](http://readinesscenterinc.org)). Martha also completed an 18-month collaborative leadership program for women religious and associates with the Sisters of Mercy.

Last, but certainly not least, **Meghan Lafferty** married the love of her life Robert Eppler on November 30, 2019 in Charleston, SC. Robert is from Plymouth, MI and graduated from Michigan State University. Meghan and Robert recently moved to Perrysburg, OH, where Meghan started a new job in marketing, working for Hoopla digital, a division of Midwest Tape out of Holland, OH.

Thanks to those who shared their news. We hope to hear from many more of you in the next *Courier* issue!

## 2005



## 2006

**Ellen Louise Riley-Davis**  
[erileydavis@gmail.com](mailto:erileydavis@gmail.com)

As I write this, Thanksgiving celebrations have just wrapped up, and as you read it, spring break is starting! There seemed to be a bit of a Class of 2006 baby boom with **Camille Kelly Esmacher** and her husband Tom welcoming their daughter Mary Susanna Esmacher on July 2, 2018.

**Danielle Lerner Porteus** and her husband Al Porteus welcomed their second daughter Harper Siena on April 12, 2019.

**Susan Mitchell Derenski**, MSN, WHNP, and husband Michael Derenski had their daughter Luna Carolyn on April 24, 2019, joining Evelyn Josephine, a proud big sister. Susan has hopes to bring them to the Saint Mary's campus one day! Susan is celebrating seven years with BJC Medical Group as a WHNP. She still credits the Saint Mary's College nursing school for giving her the drive and confidence to be a nurse and nurse practitioner!

**Sarah Medina Steimer** graduated with distinction from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in May 2019 with her JD. She passed the July 2019 California Bar exam!

**Emily Marie Fannon** married Justin Rathbone on May 18, 2019 in Waitsfield, VT. They were lucky

# Summer Camps *for girls*

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While we've had to cancel some sessions, we are still planning to hold Day Camps in July.

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



enough to have many Saint Mary's family join them to celebrate: **Meghan Elisabeth Cassidy, Corrie Brisson Coble, Sarah Staley Gable, Mary Elizabeth Nelson,** and Emily's aunt **Tracy Jane McAuliffe Schilling '78** and uncle Andy Schilling (ND '76).

**Katy Karr Jones** and Ryan Jones welcomed their fourth child Andrew Thomas on June 14, 2019. Andrew joins his older siblings Jack, 8, Amelia, 6, and Timothy, 2.

**Megan Kathleen O'Neil** and her husband Scott Rienbolt welcomed their baby Andrew Owen O'Neil Rienbolt on June 16, 2019.

**Jackie Paunicka Ferguson,** her husband Ben Ferguson (ND '05), big brother Kieran, and big sister Milly welcomed baby Georgina Josephine on July 23, 2019.

**Megan Ubinger Shelton** and her husband Gavin Shelton had their second daughter Palmer Lee Shelton on August 9, 2019.

**Jenifer Pillar Ginder** and her husband Christopher Ginder had a daughter Everly Genevieve on August 30, 2019, joining her big sister Grace Rose, 3.

**Stephanie Snyder Seliga-Soulseed** and her husband Michael Seliga-Soulseed welcomed their third child Xavier Horizon Seliga-Soulseed on September 18, 2019.

## 2007

Lisa Victoria Gallagher  
lgalla01@gmail.com

**Ashley Goudreau Blessing** gave birth to her second child on July 17, 2019. She writes: "Lillian Marie is healthy and thriving and planning on being a future Belle."

From **Jessica Marie Binhack**: "Well, it's been awhile since I've given you all an update on my life. In 2019 I welcomed Sharon Christine Binhack into my world. She arrived full of energy at 11 pounds 4 ounces and covered in hair! She was quite a terror the first four months of life, but she has calmed down and is a great...puppy. A few friends and I drove down to New Orleans for spring break and on the way back two of us got the stomach flu. Imagine having to stop every hour for someone to vomit in a parking lot. In hindsight it was hilarious, but at the time it was awful. That's what I get for acting like a trash person for a few days. In May I got to sit in the PAGODA at IMS and watch qualifications for the Indy 500. I've never been so close to my favorite drivers, mostly sober. It was a dream come true. This past summer was an interesting one. On the first day of summer vacation I broke my wrist riding my bicycle to the grocery store. The cart on the back of my bike hit a fire hydrant and I flew off and crushed some bones in my wrist, scraped my knee, and RUINED MY FAVORITE LEGGINGS. Definitely a driver error and my fitness efforts were foiled. That's what I get for riding on the sidewalk. Don't ride on the sidewalk in the city. It's rude, guys. I laid in the middle of Delaware Street in downtown Indianapolis cussing about my broken wrist while people ran over to help me. This is totally on brand

for how I react to things that suck. Eventually I got out of the road, picked up my scratched Ray Bans, and called my mom. That's what 34-year-old single women do, call their moms when they have a boo boo. I got some hardware put in my wrist and soon after left for a European adventure to Portugal and Ireland. In Ireland I attended a wedding of a good friend I met when I studied there. I also got to catch up with some of my other Irish friends. One thing I'll never regret was studying abroad. I made lifelong friendships and learned that a five euro two liter of Devils Bit cider always ends in a rough night and an ugly morning. When I got back I was welcomed home to some ridiculous medical bills because my teacher health insurance is fake. At the end of the summer I almost took a job in Chicago, where I would have gotten a raise and better health insurance, but I turned it down. Most recently I bought my first washer and dryer! The color is slate and it will look amazing in my creepy basement that I have to walk down steep stairs, go outside, open cellar doors, climb down to a dungeon to get to. It's been four years since I've had washer/dryer in the same space I have lived. This is adulthood and I am killin' it! So, I'm still in Indy (for now) with my puppy Sharon. No kids (thank jeebus). I'm a behavior specialist who coaches seventh grade girls basketball and I recently started grad school again for school administration. A girl has to take care of herself and a single Indiana teacher salary isn't gonna do it. And, quite frankly, I don't want to drive that drunk pedal bar all summer anymore. Every few weekends are fine, but "No, Chad, I don't want to play *Old Town Road* and get you your eighth Bud Lite. Sit down!" All in all, 2019 seemed to be the year of karma, specifically bad karma. Hopefully 2020 is filled with good karma and no broken bones."

## 2008

Natalie Grasso Cockrell  
natgrass@gmail.com

Cate Cetta Scola  
catecscola@gmail.com

**Theresa Klear Larson** and her husband John Larson (ND '08) welcomed a daughter Lucia on April 15, 2019. Lucia is their fourth child, balancing the Future Belles with the Future Domers. She is already adored by her big siblings Ariana, 7, Arthur, 4, and Julian, 3. They live in Birmingham, MI, a suburb of Detroit. Theresa writes from home while taking care of the little Larsons.

**Meghan Underwood Dewey Evans** married Sean Evans on July 7, 2018 at Mt. Carmel Church in Montecito, CA. **Meghan Jane McEvoy-Hein** attended the wedding. They gave birth to their first child, a son, Blaine Underwood Evans on March 30, 2019.

**Honore Kathryn O'Brien Hyland** and John Patrick (JP) Hyland welcomed a daughter Neve Kathryn on October 13, 2018. Baby Neve joins big brother Killian Francis, who turned 3 in September 2019. After years of working in the nonprofit and for-profit sector, Honore returned to school and received her master's in elementary education from American University in August 2018. Honore is now a fourth grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Washington, DC.

**Lesley Weaver** married Joseph Garavalia on October 12, 2019 in Stillwater, MN, where they are living while Lesley completes her last year in the Health Services Research, Policy and Administration doctoral program at the University of Minnesota.

**Erica Harmony Liskey** and husband Carl welcomed their second child Adeline Mae on July 24, 2019. Big brother Elliot is proud of his new role!

Finally, a personal note: My husband Peter and I welcomed our own son Theodore Williamson Cockrell on June 23, 2019.

Best wishes for a warm and happy spring — Cate and I look forward to receiving your updates for the next issue!

## 2010



Michelle Alyse Giannola  
SaintMarysCollege2010@gmail.com

Happy 2020, Belles!

I hope everyone's start to the new year has been filled with laughter and joy!

Reminder to update mailing addresses so we can get Reunion information out to everyone. You can do this through the college website or by emailing me and I will pass along the updated contact information.

Also, there's a Saint Mary's College Class of 2010 Facebook page. If you haven't joined already, search the name above to receive updates with Reunion FAQs along with other tidbits from our class!

Don't forget you can share life updates (births, marriages, mini reunions, moves, new jobs, graduations) throughout the year!

## EXCELSIOR

### Patty Duffy '10

recently competed in the Southeast Asian games as a member of the Philippines Women's National Rugby team, where they took home the silver medal.

## 2011

Christina Kolling Carlson  
cmkolling@gmail.com

Hello, 2011 Belles,

**Eliscia Filice Turner** and husband Eric welcomed their baby boy Emmett Francis Turner on November 7, 2018.

**Kelly Jean Zenere** is now working for Matrix Partners, which is a pet-passionate PR and marketing company in Chicago. She joined the

social media department as its social media manager in March 2019. Her responsibilities include growing social fan bases for the company's clients through innovative social and digital marketing campaigns, as well as defining performance indicators for new clients.

**Franca Marie Peluso** recently completed her third master's degree, as she earned an MSEd in educational leadership from Indiana University South Bend in May 2019. She is currently living in Granger, IN and is serving as an adjunct professor in the education department at Saint Mary's in addition to being an assistant women's tennis coach for the Belles.

**Liz Amber Bajema** received her PhD in chemistry from Northwestern University last year. She is now working as a medical science liaison for Amgen, specializing in solid tumor oncology. She lives in the Buena Park neighborhood of Chicago with her boyfriend and younger sister, and enjoys visiting her cousin **Maria Betten '20** at Saint Mary's.

**Colleen Lake Reuvers** and husband Zach Reuvers (ND '11) welcomed a daughter Reagan Pierce Reuvers on June 23, 2019. Reagan was born perfectly healthy, weighing in at 8 pounds 8 ounces and 20.5 inches long. She is a delightful baby and greatly admires her older brother Ryan, 2!

**Kaitlin Feller Bacher** married Tilman Rolf Gerhard Bacher on August 3, 2019 at a beautiful castle in Eggolsheim, Germany. They currently live in Munich, Germany.

**Hanna Rae Vicary** and husband Daniel welcomed daughter Piper Renée Adams, who was born August 12, 2019. Piper was 7 pounds 11 ounces, and they currently live in Erie, PA.

**Colleen Rebecca Lowry** married Nate Shipman on September 1, 2019. Belles helping to celebrate were **Caitlin Rose McGuire**, **Tara Dawn Hill**, and **Amelia McGannon Dinh**. Colleen recently started a job as the director of the Foundation Board at the Ohio State University.

**Steph Smiy Miller** and husband Adam are excited to celebrate the birth of their son Jackson Paul, who was born October 10, 2019 in Owensboro, KY. Jackson was 8 pounds 5 ounces and 21.5 inches long.

**Kristin Finnerty Rhoa** married Michael Dalsass on October 12, 2019. The newlyweds were married in Pittsburgh, PA, where they currently reside.

**Allie Hensley Tyler** and husband Clark welcomed their second daughter Prudence Bee on October 29, 2019 at 9:14 p.m. Pru weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. Their oldest Winnie is excited to be a big sister. The Tyler family

currently resides in Columbus, IN. Allie also recently transferred school corporations and started at St. Bartholomew Catholic School in August as a first grade teacher.

**Kate Elizabeth Humes** and wife Colleen welcomed their daughter Parker Meyers on October 30, 2019 at 12:38 a.m. in Indianapolis, IN. Parker weighed 7 pounds 10.8 ounces and was 20 inches long.

**Alison Bennett Fleig** and husband Matt welcomed their daughter Lila Ann Fleig on November 11, 2019. She was 20 inches long and weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces. They are currently living in Toledo, OH.

**Ashley Feely Hutson** received her PhD in sociology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; the degree was conferred in December. Leslie Wang from SMC's Department of Sociology hooded her at the ceremony.

As always, there are exciting things happening with the alumae from our class! If you have news to report, feel free to contact me at any time.

Go Belles!



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## 2012

Kate Alycia Kirbie  
SMCclass2012@gmail.com

**Catherine Moore Anton** graduated from Lewis University in December of 2019 with her nurse practitioner degree. She also recently moved from Chicago to Hanover, NH for her husband's job.

**Meg Patricia Otten** began a new position in the fall of 2019 as a placement consultant in Shanghai, China and now works to place beginner and experienced teachers with international positions in Asia and the Middle East.

**Laura Rose Schiraldi** is completing her third year of pediatric residency at Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown, NJ. She will be staying another year as chief resident.

**Kerriann Dooley Pettaway** married Greg Pettaway on July 7, 2018 in Holy Spirit Chapel. In August 2019 she earned her doctorate of nursing practice from our very own Saint Mary's College. The couple welcomed the birth of their daughter Audrianna Charlotte Pettaway on September 27, 2019.

**Liz Leeuw Gaston** married Jake Gaston on November 9, 2019 in Columbus, OH. Many Belles joined her as guests including **Catherine Moore Anton**, **Kirsten Thornton Vi**, **Jennifer Alyssa Leakakos**, **Julianna Loebach Koselke**, and **Liz Johnston Busam**.

**Loren Sampson Jackson** and her husband Joseph Jackson, who married in September of 2017, welcomed the birth of their daughter Ira Jo Jackson in January of 2019. Loren also began a new job as marketing director of Wolverine State Credit Union last year. The family has lived in Alpena, MI since 2015.

**Sarah Shoff Sabatino** and her husband Steve Sabatino (ND '12), who married on July 7, 2017, welcomed the birth of their first child Dominic Evan Sabatino on August 15, 2019.

**Katie Ciresi O'Brien** and her husband Pat O'Brien welcomed the birth of their third son Graham Patrick O'Brien on September 17, 2019.

**Lindsey Blankenberger Suriano**, along with her husband Zachary (ND '12) and daughter Madeleine, welcomed Jackson James into their family on September 25, 2019. The family resides in Papillion, NE.

**Katherine Casey Condon** and her husband welcomed the birth of Nicholas Alexander Condon on October 18, 2019.

## 2015

Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole  
nicoleotoole128@gmail.com

Greetings, Class of 2015:

These 2015 Belles have been a busy bunch since graduation! Here are some updates as to what our Belles have been up to in the last five years...make sure to brush up before Reunion this summer!

**Emily Haskins McNally** and husband Andrew McNally (ND '17) welcomed baby girl Selah Grace on August 24, 2019. **Alyssa Lanting Henneman** and husband Chris Henneman (ND '15) welcomed baby girl Ashley Elizabeth on October 11, 2019

On October 19, 2019 **Allison Sheets DeBlock** married Christopher DeBlock at Morris Park Country Club in South Bend, IN. Allison's sister **Mackenzie Sheets Meyer '09** was her matron of honor. Congratulations, Allison and Christopher! **Elizabeth Jean Murphy-Delaney** and Dan Delaney (ND '15) got engaged on the Saint Mary's island and were married on July 12, 2019 at the Basilica at Notre Dame. They even had their rehearsal dinner in Haggard Hall!

**Mary Elizabeth Verdun** graduated with a doctorate of nursing practice and family nurse practitioner from Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford, IL and has accepted a position at Mayo Clinic in their internal medicine department. Congrats, Mary!

Congrats to the Class of 2015 for such exciting life events and accomplishments! Send me your personal updates to: nicoleotoole128@gmail.com.

## 2016

Jennifer Anne Vosters  
smc16news@gmail.com

**Kathleen Leeuw McManus** married Billy McManus in July 2016. The couple lived in Maryland for a time, where Katie taught first grade, and welcomed their first child Maximilian Richard on May 25, 2018. They have since moved back to Indiana and were blessed with their second child Felicity Rose on November 11, 2019. Congratulations on another addition to your beautiful family, Katie!

**Marie Smith Lackey** married Gabe Lackey in July 2018 at the US Naval Academy chapel in Annapolis, MD. The couple met at the Navy Ball held at Saint Mary's on a Navy-ND game weekend in November of 2013! **Bridget McCue O'Rear** stood as one of the bridesmaids and **Caroline Witik** and **Bailey Lynette Benoit** were also in attendance. Marie is now living in Baltimore, where she is a third-year dental student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Congratulations and best wishes, Marie!



**Kylie Nikole Jungles**, in her final year of medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago, presented research on health care disparity in allergic diseases at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference in October 2019. Approximately 15,000 physicians, residents, and medical students attended the conference, which was held in New Orleans. Kylie presented her research on atopic dermatitis in African-American children. Well done, Kylie! You've made your classmates very proud.

Don't forget to send your updates—weddings, births, graduations, new jobs, new cities, big accomplishments, Belles' reunions, etc.—to *Courier*! Email smc16news@gmail.com.

## 2017

Maggie Carswell Pohl  
mcarsw01@saintmarys.edu

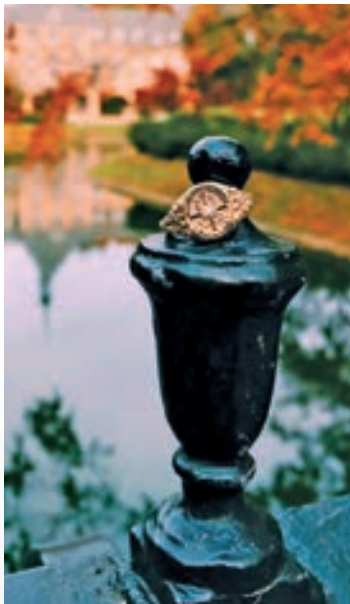
This fall was a busy one for our class with so many weddings! **Alyssa Danielle Mazurek** married James Koci (ND '17) on August 10. **Marissa Tissot Rodery** married Travis Rodery on October 4. **Sarah Bastian Clay** married Matthew Clay on November 9. **Ashley Ann Rios** and **Emma Dorothy Bolton '16** were bridesmaids and **Anna Josephine Roemer** joined in attendance. Congratulations to you all!

This was a very special fall for me, as I married Mike Pohl (ND '17, '18) on September 28 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh. **Megan Carswell Singleton** was my matron of honor, and I was so lucky to have **Kaileigh Ann Moore**, **Maddy Alicia Danz**, and **Hannah Patricia Molloy Hestad** as my bridesmaids. My mother **Ann Marie McGraw Carswell '88** and **Katie Elizabeth Dwyer** were in attendance as well for the celebration!





(left) Photo: Ali Hall '16





*“I couldn’t wait until I got my ring so that I could feel connected with my fellow Belles.”*

— **Rebecca Klayborn ’21**

# Rings Doing Things

By Gina Twardosz ’20

What makes a Belle? Is it their curiosity about the world and their place in it? Or what about their unmatched conversational skills and the radiant ebullience they bring wherever they go?

There’s a lot of ways to know a Belle, but one of the quickest ways for alumnae, students abroad, and even just current *Smicks* on spring break to recognize each other is by their ring.

The Saint Mary’s ring has been sold since the 1950s; the current ring design that features the names of both Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame wasn’t conceived until 1973. While the two institutions share a history and a mission to educate their students, the Saint Mary’s ring has become a tradition rooted in the identity of the Saint Mary’s student and her experience at the College.

For **Madeleine Mauck ’20**, her ring symbolizes the sisterhood she shares with her fellow Belles and the hard work that goes into maintaining a Saint Mary’s education.

Others find that their ring becomes an inseparable part of themselves — it follows them on adventures, into the workplace or at their internships, during birthday parties or nights out, and, for most, it follows them into church and gleams brightly as they practice their religion.

“I love when I’m at Mass and everyone asks to see my ring,” said **Rebecca Klayborn ’21**. “I show them mine and I get to see everyone else’s ring.”

Rebecca couldn’t wait until she got her Saint Mary’s ring. Balfour, the current ring manufacturer, usually starts reaching out to Belles in the fall of their junior year so they can have their ring before, or around the start of, winter break. It can be a time of joyous yet anxious excitement for some as they wait to hear news of the precious package’s whereabouts.

“I couldn’t wait until I got my ring so that I could feel connected with my fellow Belles,” Rebecca said. “I especially love wearing my ring outside of campus — that’s how I find other alumnae, through looking at their ring.”

And when that ring arrives? Well, you can be sure each and every Belle will post a picture of their ring and announce to the world yet another way they’ve become inducted into the Saint Mary’s

community. **Madeline Molloy ’17** recognized this phenomenon and wanted to spotlight this aspect of Saint Mary’s sisterhood in an inspirational and engaging way: that’s why she started the Instagram account ‘Rings Doing Things,’ where current Belles and alumnae can share pictures of their ring wherever they are in the world.

Each ring is as unique as the Belle who wears it. Balfour offers several options for the price and style of the ring, but for those looking for a more personalized experience, they can opt to engrave their ring with a personal message or even significant dates.

**Sara Schlecht ’21** has carried on her family’s legacy by attending Saint Mary’s — and she wanted her ring to always be a little reminder of this shared history.

“My ring has my mom and my grandma’s class years engraved on it along with mine,” she said. “It’s a constant reminder of the women who made me who I am. My ring is a reminder of something beyond blood that I share with them — this very special place.”

While the bond between Saint Mary’s women extends beyond that of a ring, the ring symbolizes the shining, shared connection that never fades away.

When first year Belles begin their journey at Saint Mary’s, they close the circle of students, which means that, metaphorically, every new Belle becomes welcomed into the warmth and safety of the Saint Mary’s community. But when senior Belles get ready to graduate in the spring, they open that circle back up so that they can begin to leave campus and start their next journey.

The (circular) ring is just another way for Belles to remember that at one point, we were all enveloped in the love and support of the Saint Mary’s sisterhood, and we can carry that memory, that feeling, with us for the rest of our lives. ■





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Ellie Jeffers '22 captures herself in this digital self portrait titled *Newspaper Collage*.



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