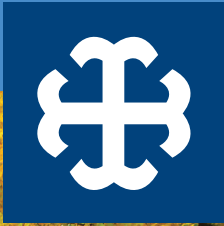


ENVISION

FALL 2020



MOTHER PAULINE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

RENEE SCHULTZ '92

Paying it forward

Like many alumnae, Renee Schultz '92 has been inspired to give back to Saint Mary's College to help the next generation of women enjoy the kind of success she has achieved.

Renee's education gave her the skill set to build her impressive career. While she was at Saint Mary's, economics professor Jerry McElroy assisted Renee in securing a summer internship at a mortgage company. This internship helped to launch Renee's career in the mortgage industry. She is now the Senior Vice President of Capital Markets at Fannie Mae.

Inspired by the doors that Professor McElroy opened for her, Renee wanted to offer opportunities to students and established an externship at Fannie Mae for Saint Mary's students over fall or spring breaks. After completing the externship, students can complete a summer internship with Fannie Mae's own program with the potential for employment after graduation.

Ten students have participated since the externship began in spring 2017, including five who participated in virtual internships in the summer of 2020. Students meet with women leaders in the company and learn about positions and the industry. Two recent graduates have been hired by Fannie Mae for their first job after Saint Mary's.



"Housing is the backbone of our economy," Renee said. "It's important to encourage women to explore traditionally male-dominated fields."

After Professor McElroy's passing, Renee established an endowed scholarship in his name at Saint Mary's and has set up a bequest to maximize the impact of her gift.

"My parents laid the foundation to who I am as a person, and Saint Mary's prepared me to use those family values for the career that laid ahead," Renee said. "It is now time for me to give back to others who may not have the same family support, financial means and/or encouragement to stretch their imaginations of who they can become and what they can achieve."



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We've been busy over the summer! The Saint Mary's community welcomed new president Dr. Katie Conboy, who hit the ground running with a virtual reunion celebration. Dr. Conboy also led weekly town halls with

faculty and staff to discuss complex reopening measures this fall.

This fall's classes will be held in a different environment than any alumnae have ever experienced. If you are curious about our plans, check out our Live, Learn, Work plan at saintmarys.edu/live-learn-work. As always, the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and the tri-campus community remains paramount.

Another important aspect of our summer work included faculty and staff participation in the Mercy Critical Concern Challenge, led by Dr. Redgina Hill, our new Executive Director of Inclusion & Equity. Our discussions focused on racial justice, which is fitting because social justice is this year's core value for the Saint Mary's community.

Continue to stay safe this fall, wherever you are.

Valerie Sherman, JD
Director of Gift Planning



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Students & Career Crossings Office navigate job market changes

As businesses temporarily closed or converted to virtual work settings in the spring, Saint Mary's students and the Career Crossings Office worked hard to match students with summer internships in a quickly changing environment.

Many students were able to convert their internships to virtual work with the original company, some internships were postponed, and others had a delayed start, according to Stacie Jeffirs, Director of the Career Crossings Office. Most students who experienced postponed or cancelled internships were able to find other opportunities, depending on their location and industry.

Danielle Lamb '21, a theatre and history double major, originally planned to intern with a small community theatre in Vermont; when COVID hit, the theatre closed through August. With Jeffirs' coaching, Danielle followed up with a contact at Gotham Artists in New York City to negotiate a virtual internship. Not only was she awarded an internship, but her work will continue through the fall.



Stacie Jeffirs hosts a 1:1 coaching session with Destiny Cooper '24, an intended biology major (pre-med) from Portage, Indiana

"Even though I am working for a company in New York City from my home in Michigan or at Saint Mary's," Lamb explained, "I am able to do all the things I would have done in person. We use a lot of Zoom, Canva, social media, and email."

The Career Crossings Office "was able to help me apply for grants so that I could still earn money while working for Gotham unpaid. I don't think I would have this opportunity if it weren't for

the wonderful guidance and support from Stacie Jeffirs and the Career Crossings Office," Lamb said.

This fall, many internships will continue to be virtual, although businesses and students have had more time to plan for a successful experience. Saint Mary's will be hosting a virtual career fair and will be able to host some employers who have never been able to attend in person. "Students will need to be creative, think outside the box, and have a conversation with the employer about transitioning their internship or job to virtual to preserve the work opportunity," Jeffirs said.

The Career Crossings Office regularly hosts 1:1 coaching, office hours, joint programs with the Writing Center, weekly skills-building workshops, and virtual career panels with alumnae. Going into the fall, Jeffirs confirmed those programs will be "99% virtual." The office's programming will focus on controlling what students can control, making alternate plans, and negotiating their work environment. "Future employers will be asking how students overcame obstacles and showed resiliency," Jeffirs said.

If you are interested in helping students at this challenging time, you can volunteer to speak with students individually or on a panel about your career, or you can reach out to Saint Mary's with internship or job opportunities at your company or organization. Please contact Stacie at sjeffirs@saintmarys.edu.

A Whole New World of VIRTUAL EVENTS

As the pandemic ramped up in the spring, the campus events that had been planned for spring and summer pivoted online. Large events like commencement and reunion were hosted virtually, as were other, smaller events that enrich and engage our community.

The Engaging Women Summit, for example, is usually hosted in May by the Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI) and is our region's largest conference for women business owners and career professionals. The event is a major fundraiser for WEI and aims to serve women through impactful programming on leadership, business development, and more.

As it became clear that an in-person event would not be possible, **Director of WEI Willow Wetherall** saw a benefit to shifting online versus canceling. "Life was turned upside down, and we wanted to be a source for meaningful engagement, inspiration, and practical tools for navigating the rapid change and uncertainty we were all experiencing."

The event was a strong opener to the virtual programming Saint Mary's has offered through the summer. "Even in the virtual space, attendees reported feeling a high degree of connection with other participants," Willow said, and the chat function was leveraged for lots of networking and "a-ha" moments with attendees.

Willow shared the strategies she used in marketing and executing WEI's virtual summit with others on campus and continues to develop more online programming. She has hosted virtual mentoring sessions with women entrepreneurs, short webinars, and an online version of SPARK (a multi-week program that coaches women entrepreneurs).

Another benefit of virtual engagement is to reach individuals that might not normally be reached. Willow noted that she was finally able to include Saint Mary's students in the Engaging Women Summit, and that "participation was no longer bound by geography," as speakers and attendees joined from many regions. Similarly, reunion attendees who normally might not have been able to come to campus were able to participate and learn.

A big event going online this year is the Christian Culture Lecture; this year's virtual event will feature a conversation between author **Tara Westover** and **President Katie Conboy**. The virtual aspect makes the lecture, long beloved by the Saint Mary's community, available to a wider audience for the first time. "Right now we have 30,000 registrations and a world-wide reach," said **Gabriela Maxwell, Assistant Director of External Events**



Saint Mary's also celebrated Women's Equality Day (Aug. 26) with a virtual coffee talk with South Bend Suffragists on Sept. 4.

and Community Relations. Because of the success of this event, future in-person Christian Culture Lectures may be hybrid events with a virtual component.

Laura Williamson Ambrose, the Chair of the Department of Humanistic Studies, has hosted the Christian Culture Lecture for years and felt it appropriate to mourn the loss of the in-person lecture "while simultaneously staying open to trying something new." She said, "We have always wanted to share the event with alumnae and friends of the College across the country – now we can do so throughout the world."

"The number of virtual events have increased tremendously, and the requests keep coming," Gabriela said. She is training a staff of five students to support events and gain experience creating digital marketing plans. Other events include an anti-racism film series, faculty and staff town halls, Get Inked (a writing workshop for teens), and events for Campus Ministry and the Center for Spirituality.

Mother Pauline Society and Madeleva Society members have also been invited to a series of events on a variety of topics, from a Lebanese cooking class to yoga to a presentation on civil discourse with a Saint Mary's professor.

During one of these events, **Tiffany McIver DeLuca '07** took alumnae and friends on a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel, with stories and close-up views that participants wouldn't have been able to see with an in-person tour. Tiffany lives and works in Rome as a tour guide, and her entire tour schedule was upended in March when the Vatican Museums closed to the public. "As always, from desperation comes innovation," Tiffany said, "and we focused on our business with the help of 21st century technology like Zoom and Gmail."

Tiffany has been able to offer her virtual tours to schools, nursing homes, and households all over the United States, and "instead of counting all that was lost, I focus on all that was gained and all the amazing people I have met throughout the pandemic."

Saint Mary's will continue to host virtual events to engage our alumnae, students, and community, even after the pandemic is over. We are grateful for the strength of our community and donors.



**Saint Mary's
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ENVISION



Guest Column

The Charitable Gift Annuity: a gift you can count on



Jennifer Winnett
Denniston '98
Plan International USA

In times like these, we are all looking for ways to help others while still taking care of our responsibilities close to home. A **charitable gift annuity (CGA)** is one way you can do just that.

A CGA is simple. You make a gift to an organization (like Saint Mary's) and the annuity pays you guaranteed income for the rest of your life. Then, at the end of your life, Saint Mary's will use your gift as you have directed.

Your interest rate is based on your age, just like a commercial annuity. The older you are, the more you will earn. For example, a 75-year-old right now would earn 5.4% per year on the CGA, while a 85-year-old would earn 7.6%.

You can also receive a tax deduction in the year you make the gift. Even better, if you make your gift with appreciated

stock you can stretch capital gains tax over the life of the CGA. Because of this, I always recommend you donate your most appreciated stocks to achieve the best tax benefits.

Interest rates are low right now, but many people are finding that CGAs offer better returns than their certificates of deposit or whole life insurance policies. Unlike some other investments, income from your CGA is guaranteed and does not fluctuate with the market or interest rates – and it helps you leave your legacy after you're gone.

Thank you so much for your support of our beloved Saint Mary's. If you'd like to learn more about charitable gift annuities, please reach out to Valerie (her contact info is on page 2) to see if this gift option is available in your state. Make sure to consult your tax adviser to determine if this, or any other charitable gift, is right for you.

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