

ENVISION

SPRING 2021



MOTHER PAULINE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

ADALINE STEFANAC CASHORE '70

Alumna & longtime staff member creatively gives back

As a dedicated Saint Mary's staff member for more than thirty years, **Addie Cashore '70** assisted alumnae and friends of Saint Mary's in countless ways. As her June 2020 retirement approached, Addie reflected on how she wanted to honor her own legacy at Saint Mary's.

Addie is the middle of three generations of alumnae. She remembers driving down the Avenue with her mother, **Mary Beth Mies Stefanac '33**, and meeting staff legends **Marion McCandless '00** and **Helen Carroll '26**. Addie cherished the relationships she formed as a student, especially meeting her future husband, Tom, at a dance in Le Mans Hall just three weeks after her first semester began. Years later, Addie was thrilled when her daughter **Annie Cashore Borjas '04** chose to attend Saint Mary's, continuing the family tradition.

When Addie began working at Saint Mary's in Alumnae Relations in 1989, she worked side by side with **Sister Basil Anthony '46**, who was "not the fearsome, larger-than-life Dean of Students I remembered from my student days. She provided historic perspective and wise counsel for my transition nine years later to the Development Office."

Wanting to maximize her 50th reunion gift, Addie reflected on her knowledge of appreciated assets. "I realized I could accomplish my philanthropic goal of a significant gift through a charitable gift annuity [CGA]. I looked at the rate of return that I was getting from an investment portfolio I inherited in 1996 and saw that I could match or exceed that rate by gifting it to Saint Mary's to create a CGA."

"As Director of Donor Relations," Addie said, "I took pride in helping to build and nurture relationships through meaningful stewardship and recognition of our donors' generosity, regardless of the amount of their gifts." And, now, Addie is able to make a significant gift of her own, to support the next generation of Saint Mary's women.

If you, like Addie, hold an under-performing asset, consider giving it to Saint Mary's – you can accomplish your philanthropic goals while creating income for yourself or a loved one. Contact Valerie Sherman (see page 2) to learn more.



Addie '70 and her husband, Tom.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

If there is anything the past year has taught me, it's that the Saint Mary's family reaches far and wide. Although this year has brought many challenges, one of the brightest spots has been the strengthening of our community through virtual outreach

and programming. We have been able to bring Saint Mary's to you, allowing you to "see" campus and interact with fellow alumnae, faculty, and students in new and interesting ways.

We strive to foster a sense of belonging in our community, and whether you are here on campus or joining us in a virtual world, our goal is to welcome everyone in the Holy Cross tradition. We hope you feel that belonging in your heart when we come together, even if physically we are apart.

All of you have partnered with Saint Mary's, sharing your many gifts to build a strong future for Saint Mary's College and bring a Catholic, liberal arts education to generations of women.

Yours in gratitude,

Valerie Sherman, JD, CFP*
Director of Gift Planning

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saintmarys.edu/GiftPlanning

Engaging Students on Extended Break

To protect our community from the impact of COVID-19 in fall of 2020, Saint Mary's opted for a compressed academic schedule that included eliminating fall break and ending our semester before Thanksgiving. With an extended academic break, faculty and staff generated creative solutions to keep students engaged before returning to campus in late January.



Saint Mary's offered a select list of academic courses and certificate programs, including a one-credit class that enabled students to craft a reading list and meet

in virtual discussion groups. Students could also participate in a free online coding certificate program, helping liberal arts majors gain valuable coding experience.

Faith-based programs abounded with programming through the Office of Campus Ministry, Office for Civic and Social Engagement, and the Center for Spirituality. Activities included podcasts, prayer groups, and coordinated opportunities for action to improve our world with a faith-grounded focus.

Another popular event was Success After Saint Mary's, where students prepared for their future careers through virtual interviews, presentations, and Q&A with alumnae, led by Career Crossings.

All of these opportunities fostered community and active learning even while students also enjoyed a well-earned rest with family.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Kathleen Bajo '70

William W. Cushwa, Sr.

Mary Cucchi Depman '50

Imogene L. De Smet '51

Ann Korb '54

Juliette Noone Lester '55

Anne Scheidler McGraw '72

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



ALL-IN: The Wilson Match

Saint Mary's is thrilled to announce that we have received a transformational gift from the Wilson Sheehan Foundation to support under-resourced students. The eventual total of \$7 million toward this goal will establish the **Office for Student Equity** to ensure that all students who want to access a Saint Mary's education can do so.

The Wilson Sheehan Foundation was founded by **Lorraine Sheehan Wilson '85** and her husband, **Chris Wilson (ND '85)**. The gift from the foundation includes an initial \$3 million to establish the fund, as well as an additional \$2 million pledged as a match for up to \$2 million in gifts to the fund from our community. Saint Mary's is calling the challenge: All In: The Wilson Match.

The Office for Student Equity aims to fill in the gaps for students who may already be receiving scholarship support but cannot afford the total cost of the full Saint Mary's experience. As of 2021, 29% of Saint Mary's students are first-generation college students, and 26% receive Pell grants (federal aid given to students from low-income households). For these students, the college environment can be new and they may not know where to turn for help.

Director of Inclusion and Equity Redgina Hill, Ph.D., will oversee the Office and will liaise with other offices on campus that work to assist historically first-generation and under-resourced students. "The work that our staff will be able to accomplish with these resources will improve student retention and experience," Hill noted. "Thanks to the gifts that have been made, I'm already working to help students this semester." For example, 65 seniors will be able to wear full regalia to commencement as a direct result of support from the Office.



You can read more about All In: The Wilson Match at saintmarys.edu/all-wilson-match or contact us at development@saintmarys.edu or **574-250-3394** if you'd like to make a gift or get involved.

College Announces Strategic Plan



Saint Mary's Board of Trustees and President Katie Conboy announced the College's next strategic plan: **Revere and Revise: Saint Mary's College 2030**. The plan addresses actions for the next few years but aims big, with a goal of strengthening Saint Mary's position as a leader and educator by 2030.

The plan is divided into 5 sections and focuses on expanding the College's success in specific areas, such as equity and justice, strengthening community, spirituality, graduate programs, financial strength, and empowerment of women. The Wilson Match (see above) was a direct result of early work toward the goals of the strategic plan that focus on removing barriers for academic success at Saint Mary's, as well as enriching the community with diversity and inclusion.

You can access the full plan online at saintmarys.edu/office-of-the-president/strategic-plan.



Saint Mary's College

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Addie '70 (page 1) and Tom, along with their daughter, Annie, at commencement 2004.

Guest Column

Support the Mission of Saint Mary's with a Future Gift



Mary Vertin O'Neill '64
Retired Director of
Advancement,
The College Preparatory
School, Oakland, CA

Through the decades, Saint Mary's has provided a unique opportunity for women: a path that provides academic excellence in many fields, prepares women leaders, and integrates today's professional expectations while emphasizing social justice.

Academic opportunity is something to which I believe everyone is entitled, and with a Catholic education comes the imperative to take responsibility for social justice. Saint Mary's has always framed social justice as a core value that is vital to today's society. The College provides opportunities to lead and learn while learning to value personal responsibility for that social justice aim.

My four years at Saint Mary's were an important part of what has been a wonderful life. Creating a planned gift for Saint Mary's is a way I can share my good fortune with

today's eager young women. I give modest support to the college annually, but I have arranged for a more generous gift in my will. I would encourage every member of the Saint Mary's family who can, to consider giving back in this way.

As Addie Cashore '70 mentioned in this issue, a charitable gift annuity is another creative opportunity to give back to the College. Gift annuities produce interest to you during your lifetime, and a gift to Saint Mary's at the end of your life. If you have an investment among your assets that is not performing the way you would hope it would, contact Valerie Sherman (see page 2) to talk about converting that asset into income for you and also a gift for Saint Mary's. With the tax benefits, income, and a meaningful gift, this is truly a win/win for you and Saint Mary's.

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.