

# Saint Mary's College COURIER

Summer 2021







# UPON REFLECTION

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At Saint Mary's, we have been talking a lot lately about empowerment—about how we can expand the ways the College contributes to the economic and social advancement of girls and women. Highlighted as one of the four commitments of our strategic plan, this work is central to our future. It also contributes to the greater good of our global society.

Our strategic plan has a horizon of 2030. That is also the timeline for the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda—17 ambitious goals in which “gender equality” is included with objectives such as “no poverty,” “zero hunger,” and “clean water and sanitation.” It is hard to imagine how these ends can be achieved in less than a decade, but we all know nothing will change without targets that inspire drive and determination. If half the world's population is female, then half our human potential dwells in girls and women. And education is clearly a key factor in developing and realizing that potential.

Handing each member of the Class of 2021 a diploma, I thought about the diverse skills and talents of this group. I thought about the resilience of our students and about the complex world they are entering. I thought about the education they have pursued and the ways they have grown beyond even their own expectations. Their confidence has been incubated in a context where they never had to question whether they were taken seriously, and they leave us fully fledged—ready to test their wings in the world beyond the end of The Avenue. This is the empowerment Saint Mary's has accomplished since its founding.

Although our reunion was virtual again this year, it still offered convincing evidence of how faithfully graduates return to the College each year, like birds of a feather, to reunite with friends, classmates, faculty, staff, and the Sisters of the Holy Cross. I'm reminded of the closing line of a poem I love: “At end of day, we all come home to roost.” Every Saint Mary's alumna I have met tells her own story about how her college experience shaped the trajectory of her life and about what draws her back to SMC like a homing instinct. And I'm struck by how these graduates become mentors and door-openers for the next generation. So much of women's empowerment is about women themselves—women who create and preserve powerful professional and personal networks and use them to lift up others.

As we (hopefully) turn a corner with COVID-19 and look back at a tremendously successful and collaborative year of navigating crisis, Saint Mary's can find some lessons for meeting the future needs of girls and women. The pandemic disproportionately affected women: worldwide they represented nearly 70 percent of the frontline health workers dealing with the virus; they left work at higher rates than men to assume childcare and eldercare responsibilities; and lockdown circumstances placed many at higher risk of domestic violence. Saint Mary's can take a lead in addressing the post-pandemic needs of girls and women by offering a variety of leadership programs for pre-college girls, by creating non-degree and stackable credentials for women who need new skills to enter or return to the workforce, and by judiciously adding graduate programs in fields that will advance women in their established careers—and will also educate men who take seriously their own responsibility to advance women.

Together, let's continue to imagine how Saint Mary's College can give wings to the dreams of girls and women and expand the horizons before them.



Katie Conboy, Ph.D.  
*President*

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## About Saint Mary's College

Celebrating over 175 years of empowering women to make a difference in the world, Saint Mary's College is recognized as both a visionary pioneer and an enduring innovator in the education of women. A Catholic, residential, women's liberal arts institution in Notre Dame, Indiana, Saint Mary's College offers more than 50 undergraduate academic programs for women as well as graduate degrees open to all.

Jacqueline Rojas  
shines as the 2021  
Lumen Christi Award  
recipient and the  
2020 Saint Catherine  
Medal awardee.  
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## ONLINE EXTRAS

Check out *Courier* online for sharable articles, additional photos, videos, and more.

Take a deeper dive into many of the stories and enjoy interactive content.

[saintmarys.edu/Courier](http://saintmarys.edu/Courier)



# Reuniting from Afar

By Haleigh Ehmsen '16



While many alumnae anticipated greeting their classmates with hugs this year, Reunion weekend connected them virtually for the second year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hundreds of alumnae from the classes of zeros, ones, fives, and sixes connected with their fellow Belles on the first weekend of June from the comfort of their homes. Online events started Thursday evening and continued through the weekend, culminating with a spirituality retreat on Sunday.

One of the weekend's most popular events was Saturday morning's nostalgic walk down The Avenue streamed live on Facebook. Alumnae relished the scenery as Executive Director of Alumnae and College Relations **Kara O'Leary '89** and Associate Director of Alumnae Relations **Lexi Grady Haitzma '17** led them down the storied pathway. In the comments, alumnae shared their memories of living on campus, and in total, the video received more than 3,000 views.

After the walk, a panel session featured alumnae who are living out Saint Mary's mission in their communities. **Jennifer Paluszak Hadden '96** moderated the discussion with panelists **Cheryl**

**Lynne Bonacci '86, Paula Dawning '71, Jingqiu Guan '11, and Adriana Garces Petty '01**, as they shared their stories of making a difference, during and after their Saint Mary's education.

**Olivia Beck '16** joined the session from her home in Illinois. She was inspired by hearing the panelists share their experiences at Saint Mary's and how it shaped them into the women they are today. "No matter how big or small, Saint Mary's made a difference in their lives and the lives around them. I thought that was an important reminder for us to hear," Beck said.

Beck also joined the Class of 2016 social hour and the Vigil Mass streamed from Holy Spirit Chapel in Le Mans Hall. These online events made her feel connected to the College that will always have a special place in her heart, especially during a year of social isolation.


Alumnae joined other virtual Reunion events including Saint Mary's Trivia Friday night. Teams answered questions about Saint Mary's history, current events, and campus happenings. **Megan Woods '16** and **Katlin Woods '16** and their grandmother **Mary Dahm Kearney '56** were one of the

teams that joined, and their intergenerational knowledge helped their team win the event. Megan and Katlin live in Boston, while Mary lives in California. The virtual format allowed them to take part together as a team, a memory they will always share. All three also connected with the greater Saint Mary's community in a way they wouldn't have been able to otherwise.

Many alumnae look forward to their milestone Reunions, and 50 is a big one. **Sarah Belanger Earley '71** served as chair of this year's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee. She attended many events over the weekend. "While in person is way better, it was so nice to see old friends and reconnect," Earley said.

She said even without gathering in person, the Class of 1971 still managed to win three awards at this year's Reunion Gift Campaign Awards Ceremony: class participation, the most Mother Pauline Society members, and total money raised in support of

the College. Earley noted that Zoom has limits, but being able to engage the Class of 1971 and winning three awards showed the strength of their Saint Mary's pride.

While the College plans to host Reunion in person next year, the virtual Reunion weekend fostered a powerful sense of connection between alumnae and with the College that so many women call home. 

## Your Reunion is Coming Soon

**June 2–June 5, 2022 (for classes ending in 2 or 7)**

**June 9–12, 2022 (for classes ending in 0, 1, 5, or 6)**

**June 1–June 4, 2023 (for classes ending in 3 or 8)**

**May 30–June 2, 2024 (for classes ending in 4 or 9)**

## Illustrious Alumnae

**Each year the Alumnae Association selects honorees from nominated alumnae to recognize their achievements. During Reunion weekend, President Katie Conboy presented the awards to those alumnae.**



### Outstanding Young Alumna Award

**Chisom Adaana Igwe '17** earned her undergraduate degree in computer science, and is now a proficient software engineer with Reddit, working in Ireland. Boldly creating a path for herself in the software engineering field as a woman, and as a woman of color, she has remained connected to the Saint Mary's community through various workshops and discussion panels in computer science, and mentoring others.



### The Humanitas Award

**Cheryl Bonacci '86** is being recognized for her lifelong dedication to social and restorative justice issues, advocating for and in direct ministry to adults in prison, children who have been tried as adults, and most recently, women who are transitioning from incarceration. A communications major, Bonacci has earned the nickname of Mama Cheryl from the hundreds of individuals she has inspired over the years.



### The Alumna Achievement Award

The inspiration **Joyce Garvey Bray '69** discovered at Saint Mary's became the foundation for her work, mission, and success as an adult in New Britain, Connecticut. She made it her life's work to help end the shame and stigma of breast cancer, and to increase research possibilities. As an advocate for women's health, Joyce continually strives to be a role model for girls and young women, especially her granddaughters.



### The Distinguished Alumna Award

The career of **Kathleen Callan Brady '71** has spanned from successful corporate lawyer to a take-charge non-profit leader who continues to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people. Kathleen's significant career and community leadership accomplishments, along with her compassion, dedication to helping others, and ceaseless service to those underserved, exemplify the mission of Saint Mary's College.



Read more about these outstanding awardees at [saintmarys.edu/Courier](https://saintmarys.edu/Courier)





President Katie Conboy attaches **Stefanie Winnicki's** valedictorian pin.

# Celebrating Resilience *Together*

By Haleigh Ehmsen '16

**Iyana Dorothy Hughes**, who graduated with a Master of Science in Speech Lanuage Pathology, shows her Saint Mary's spirit.





One ending is always the beginning of something new, whether it's the end of a college education or the end of a global pandemic.

We celebrated this year's Commencement ceremony on Le Mans Green, with 350 members of the Class of 2021 and their families and friends. The ceremony on May 22 marked the beginning of a new chapter for the graduates, but also marked the beginning of in-person gatherings and celebrating together after more than a year of physical distancing.

Under a brilliant sun, President Katie Conboy, Ph.D., welcomed the graduates and their families, noting all the work students have put in to make it to this moment. "This day is the culmination of so much hard work on the part of our students, and many sacrifices on the parts of their families," she said. "It is our opportunity, all together, to celebrate their accomplishments and to send them off with all the pomp and circumstance they deserve."

Graduates lined the lawn in their caps, gowns, and French Cross masks at the largest gathering students, faculty, parents, family and friends have likely been to in the past year. Each student was permitted six guests for the outdoor ceremony.

The speeches highlighted the theme of resilience as students have faced significant challenges and uncertainty during their final year at Saint Mary's. Nancy Nekvasil, Ph.D., former interim president of Saint Mary's and longtime biology

professor, presented the commencement address. "I encourage each and every graduate here today to continue living a life of resilience. Discouragement will come. That is a part of life. But as you weather those tough times, you will find a strength you probably never knew you had," she said.

Nekvasil encouraged the Class of 2021 members to take pride in their accomplishments and know that what they have endured has made them stronger. Each name was called and students were handed their diplomas, a symbol of their commitment to their education in various fields and a bright future.

Conboy kept her closing charge to the Class of 2021 brief. She referenced a speech Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, CSC, gave in 1959 about the phrase "alma mater," which translates to "generous mother," meaning that place where one went to college becomes a mother of its students, or the mother of one's mind.

"I hope for all of you, great discoveries, wherever the tides of life take you," Conboy said. "And I also hope those tides bring you back to Saint Mary's very often, because 'to be an alum,' Sister Madeleva said, 'is to bear on one's shoulders this mother of one's mind.'"

Saint Mary's has mothered the minds and prepared another class of graduates—during the challenges of a pandemic—to make a difference in the world.



## COMMENCEMENT 2021

### Commencement Highlight: Multiethnic Graduation Celebration

Wearing bright blue stoles intricately embroidered with the French Cross, 29 seniors from diverse backgrounds celebrated the 14th annual Multiethnic Graduation Celebration May 19, 2021.



Since 2007, Saint Mary's has hosted the celebration (except 2020 due to the pandemic) to bring together and honor first generation and multiethnic students. While only students and faculty were in person this year, the event was livestreamed so families could share in the moment.

**Katerina Esguerra '21** explained how she had grown from a nervous young Filipina into a confident woman through her coursework and campus involvement at the College.

**Tyler Davis '21** told of her experience as a black student at Saint Mary's, and encouraged students to see the community in the room. "I'm sure many of you are carrying the burden of your family's sacrifice, or the frustration with how they don't understand your struggles, but take comfort in knowing people sitting beside you share in this hardship," she said.

Mana Derakhshani, Ph.D., recently retired director of the Center for Intercultural Women's Leadership (CWIL), shared in her keynote address how she witnessed students and administrators work together to develop cultural awareness over the years. When Derakhshani first started, in 1989, efforts were just beginning to support students from diverse backgrounds. Today the College has initiatives and programming through the Office of Multicultural and International Services, Office for Student Equity, and beyond.

"This annual celebration provides an opportunity to celebrate our diverse student population and their educational accomplishments," said Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Gloria Roldán Jenkins. "Coming together on such a joyous occasion is very important to us as an inclusive and supportive community."



The Class of 2021 Multiethnic Graduation event



Valedictorians **Katie Jackson**, **Stefanie Winnicki**, and **Kelly Harris**



Honorary degree recipients (left to right) **Keith Egan**, **Margaret Cushwa Haller '90** (accepting the award on behalf of her father William Cushwa), **Sister Mary Louise Full '65**, and **Nancy Nekvasil**



## Words of Wisdom from the Valedictorians

**Katie Jackson**, *speech language pathology with minors in gerontology and social work*

"Leave this campus with joy and the knowledge that you and your abilities are valuable. Walk down The Avenue with that hard won sense of self-confidence that you so rightly deserve."

**Stefanie Winnicki**, *global studies with a concentration in anthropology and minor in Mandarin Chinese from the University of Notre Dame*

"I encourage all of you to take a moment and reflect on where we find ourselves right now. We are all very different people; we all have unique abilities and talents. So much good can be done in this world if we all make a conscious effort."

**Kelly Harris**, *business administration with concentrations in finance and management*

"As we leave this beautiful campus and venture into the world, I urge all of you to please hold onto hope. Not the hope of this world, but the unshakable hope which Jesus provides for all of us, in all circumstances."

## Honorary Degree Recipients

*Three individuals received honorary degrees from Saint Mary's for their commitment to the College over several decades.*

**Nancy P. Nekvasil, Ph.D.**

A beloved member of Saint Mary's community for 37 years, Nekvasil delivered the Commencement address to the Class of 2021.

**Sister Mary Louise Full '65, CSC**


A member of the Board of Trustees for 17 years, Sister Mary Louise has been a dedicated member of the Saint Mary's community since she was in the Sisters of the Holy Cross's novitiate and an economics and business major at Saint Mary's.

**Keith J. Egan, Ph.D.**

Egan contributed greatly to the life of the College as an international scholar, faculty member, and founder of the Center for Spirituality.

## President's Medal

**William Cushwa**

Cushwa was devoted to Saint Mary's his entire career and served nine years as a member of the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees. He was awarded the prestigious medal in May 2020, but his recognition was postponed due to COVID-19. Cushwa passed away September 8, 2020. 



**Lumen Christi Award  
and  
Saint Catherine Medal**  
Jackie Rojas



**Outstanding Senior**  
Addie Bobosky



**Madeleva Award**  
Noris Larkin, DNP

# 2021 Legacies

Our legacy graduates celebrate along with their family members: mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other women who all attended Saint Mary's. (*Mothers are listed in italics; deceased alumnae denoted with an asterisk.*)

**Raigan Alyse Althouse**, Riley Nicole Althouse '17

**Sara Jane Aubry**, *Natalie Hultz Aubry* '92

**Marissa Danielle Baldonado**, Rosemarie Alejandra Baldonado '19

**Emma K. Baldwin**, Caitlin Frances Gibbons '16

**Marybeth D. Barnes**, Sheri Lynn Barnes '94

**Karley S. Bounds**, Kasey Lynn Bounds '19

**Theresa Hoa Bridge**, Ann Marie Lutholtz Dust '02

**Emma Catherine Brownsberger**, Nancy Chelius Drenning '93

**Hanna M. Chenoweth**, *Susan Wirtes Chenoweth* '80, Barbara Wirtes-Dolan '79

**Alana Natalie Cieszykowski**, *Nancy Nungesser Cieszykowski* '84

**Grace Natalie Clucas**, Colleen Clucas Wilcox '78

**Rebecca Helen Corn**, Samantha Catherine Corn '18, Margaret Koch Scharf '74

**Molly Elizabeth Cutter**, *Kristin Hannapel Cutter* '91, Jamie Barnes Hannapel '01, Ashley Hannapel Bournay '13, Emily Catherine Cutter '18

**Isabella Rose D'Aquila**, Patricia D'Aquila Marickel '73, Margaret D'Aquila Mader '79, Christina Marie D'Aquila-Phillips '02

**Megan Marie Davy**, Monica Marie Davy '19

**Bridget R. Donnelly**, Grace Caroline Donnelly '19

**Allison Rose Driscoll**, Catherine Mackay Schwartz '90

**Maeva Kathleen Filbin**, Mary Kate Foster Filbin '92, Ellen Filbin Manola '90, Tricia Foster Monahan '96

**Colleen Rose Fischer**, Kathleen Letcher Kale '71, Anne Letcher Greif '82

**Meghan Dolan Fors**, Amy Fors O'Connor '99

**Moir Kathleen Fulton**, *Doreen Murphy Fulton* '90, Kathleen Murphy Grosswald '92

**Maria Elisa Gallegos**, Ivette Del Carmen Gallegos '17

**Alejandra Guadalupe Gamboa**, Estephania Guadalupe Aguilera '16

**Carina Garza**, Marialicia Garza '19

**Elise Nicole Gerken**, *Marie Koscielski Gerken* '92, Megan Marie Christiana '09, Alice Koscielski Lesniewski '48\*

**Mary Katherine Florence Graziano**, Margaret Reynolds McBride '64, Ellen Brown McBride '64, Jeanne M. Reynolds '83

**Alexandra Nicole Gumz**, Roberta Gumz Mocogni '83

**Jessica Hardig**, Charlene Szajko Marino '89

**Clare Marie Harding**, *Mary McEnery Harding* '84, Sistie Doherty McEnery '58, Clare McEnery Napleton '87, Nora Elizabeth Napleton '19

**Sarah Catherine Harouse**, Maureen Enry Dymond '87

**Olivia Hope Heppeler**, Taylor Nicole Heppeler '16

**Kylee B. Hillmann**, Sharon Lewis '76

**Aubrey V. Houser**, *Amy Brinkhoff Houser* '97

**Rhiannon Maria Jones**, *RoseMarie Lopez Jones* '80, Mary Lopez Gardner '82

**Claire Elizabeth Kavanaugh**, Elizabeth Kavanaugh Terrell '89

**Hunter Caitlin Kehoe**, Taylor Kiley Kehoe '19

**JoAnna Leigh Keilman**, *Patricia Tierney Keilman* '89, Kelsey Anne Keilman '20

**Bridget Lillian Kenney**, Claire Patricia Kenney '10, Julia Catherine Kenney '13, Elizabeth Alma Kenney '15, Colleen Kenney Vedra '94, Joyce Murtagh Stengle '86, Maureen McCarthy Kenney '83, Ann Korhumel Filipiak '83, Karen Korhumel Weidner '77, Kathryn Korhumel Dise '75

**Lauren Brianne Kinniry**, Morgan Lynn Kinniry '18, Sheila Egts LaMaster '05, Kristin Marie Kinniry '21

**Kristin Marie Kinniry**, Sheila Egts LaMaster '05, Morgan Lynn Kinniry '18, Lauren Brianne Kinniry '21

**Karen Cecelia Klimek**, *Marilyn Benchik* '89, Rosemary Boughal Benchik '61\*, Dawn Kennedy Boughal '66, Mary Hollies Benchik '89, Jacquelyn R. Benchik-Osborne '89, Hannah Kristina Benchik '20

**Kerrie Anne Koller**, *Margaret Daday Koller* '90, Mary Daday O'Brien '09, Maureen Siobhan Daday '17

**Jane F. Korson**, Sophia Rose Korson '13

**Meghan E. Lang**, Katherine McSorley Ricci '07, Margaret McSorley Drahs '09, Rosaleen Mary McSorley '13, Grace Marie McSorley '15, Theresa Bernadette McSorley '18

**Maria Katerina Leontaras**, Kaliope Zembillas Miller '81

**Melaine K. Lowe**, Anita Lowe Fitzgerald '74

◆ **Colleen Mary Lynch**, *Mary Jo Gill Lynch* '83, Josephine Sullivan Gill '46\*, Rose McCullough Sullivan 1911\*, Rosemary Gill Kenyon '76, Claudia M. Traudt '73, Lisa Gill Grabowski '03, Megan Gill Stempin '08

**Grace Angela Maher**, *Patricia Sullivan Maher* '87, Clare Maureen Maher '15, Madeline Rose Maher '17, Katherine Rose Sullivan '12

**Rebecca Caroline Mason**, Alexandra Elizabeth Ward '19

**Emma Cate McGahan**, Sheila McGahan Monardo '82, Anne McGahan Harmet '86

**Caitlyn Elizabeth McKevitt**, Elizabeth McKevitt Knollman '08, Mary McKevitt-Balash '11, Sarah Catherine McKevitt '17

**Meghan Marie McNamara**, Amy Gentile '92, Alexandra Zellner DiPiero '12

**Mila Annais Medich**, Melanie Medich Obren '85

**Karla April Moreno**, Itzxl Alejandra Moreno '17

**Cailey Rose Muldoon**, Mary Muldoon O'Kane '83, Sheila M. Muldoon '85

**Anne E. Mundy**, *Margaret Pearl Mundy* '90, Kathleen Pearl Hughes '87, Kathleen Ann Frechette '13, Emily Pearl Tryniecki '13, Alexa Meagan Pearl '15

**Katherine Susan Nash**, Sharyn Raff Kelly '68, Mary Nash McKenna '80, Patricia Nash Mullen '87, Megan Kelly Fisher '96

**Grace Louise Nolan**, Hallie Marilyn Nolan '18

**Carly Elizabeth O'Loughlin**, Abigail Anne O'Loughlin '19

**Emily Ann Oppman**, Bailey Elizabeth Oppman '18

**McKenna Michelle O'Shea**, Kristie O'Shea Baker '93, Maureen O'Shea Junge '94, Kristin Galbreath Ganton '96, Kaitlyn Marie Baker '16

**Emma Louise Panowicz**, *Maria Dominello Panowicz* '92, Kathleen Pastore Miller '70, Joyce Miller Fuchs '72, Alicia J. Miller Cassell '82, Susan Panowicz Nichols '83, Elizabeth Bradley Couch '84, Bridget Bradley Feeks '85, Sarah Bradley Fink '86, Catherine Panowicz Kuminecz '89, Michelle Renee DeLee-Hamilton '91, Elizabeth Miller Williams '92, Lisa Dominello Winde '95, Andrea Dominello Remke '98, Mary Beth Miller Dominello '99, Carla Dominello Schlieske '99, Julienne Louise DeLee '15

**Emily C. Pantelleria**, Kristina Pantelleria Nuter '87

**Giavanna Carmella Paradiso**, Domini Michelina Paradiso '14

**Natalie Kristine Platon**, Linda Enright Riva '90

**Bridget Ann Puetz**, *Angela LeJeune Puetz* '88, Maureen LeJeune Harty '66, Shannon D. LeJeune '74, Erin Dierdre Harty '98, Victoria Ellen Otteson '16

**Katherine Carol Richerson**, Maureen Richerson Parlier '93

**Jane Marie Rudolff**, Julia Marie Rudolff '19

**Megan Elizabeth Saunders**, *Elizabeth Marzano Saunders* '95

**Sara Jane Schlecht**, *Marjorie Hellinghausen Schlecht* '77, Ann Hellinghausen Rusnak '79, Linda Susan Kawecki '79, Marjorie Fiehrer Hellinghausen '53\*, Marjorie Vaughan Fiehrer '29\*

**Emma Therese Schramko**, Gretchen Esabel Schramko '19

**Elizabeth Lauren Schulte**, Rachel Lynn Schulte '16, Emmalee Meganne Schulte '19

**Margaret Rose Shereck**, Mary McCarthy Obernesser '90, Eileen Maria Kelly '99

**Hannah Louise Skrypkun**, M. Rosealeen Dunleavy '47\*

**Bridget Nicole Slandzicki**, *Carolyn Hawthorne Slandzicki* '89, Kathleen Hawthorne Dasta '88

**Brianna L. Smith**, Alyssa Marie Smith '16

**Elizabeth Karen Speybroeck**, Emily Louise Speybroeck '19

**Jenna Bartley Stengle**, *Joyce Murtagh Stengle* '86, Kathryn Korhumel Dise '75, Karen Korhumel Weidner '77, Ann Korhumel Filipiak, Maureen McCarthy Kenney '83, Colleen Kenney Vedra '94, Grace Ann Hillman '20, Bridget Lillian Kenney '21

**Joan K. Stephens**, *Carol Knych Stephens* '83, Kathryn Knych Dapper '87, Christina Knych Ugo '97, Katelyn Dapper Dressing '12, Sarah Dapper Cobb '15

**Molly Catherine Stickell**, *Colleen Seigel Stickell* '88, Caroline M. Stickell '16, Cathleen Mary Seigel '88, Karen Siegel Cunningham '85

**Sydney Marie Swartz**, Samantha Totten Miller '00, Kaylee D. Swartz '20

**Hannah Norma Thomas**, Morgan Lea Thomas '15, Rachel Ann Thomas '20, Theresa Kloska Thomas '85

**Allison Nicole VanTornhout**, Emily Marie VanTornhout '16

**Johannah Delphine Ward**, Bridget Thomas Muckle '98

**Lexis Mackensi White**, Annette Kohl Strasser '04

**Megan Elizabeth Will**, *Christine Pugliese Will* '92, Doralil Sauer Pugliese '68, Blanche McGovern Pugliese '34\*, Anne Pugliese Kasprzak '94, Kathleen Pugliese Fleury '96, Kerry Elizabeth Pugliese '99, D'Ann Sauer Kelty '70

**Kathleen Maura Williams**, *Molly Bridges Williams* '91, Theresa Marie Bridges Price '82\*, Kaitlin Price Pontzer '06, Meghan Price Paz '11

**Laura Ellen Wood**, Lynne Olivier Barton '91

◆ **Colleen Lynch is the fifth straight generation and three centuries of women to graduate from Saint Mary's, which is unprecedented for the College.**



## Speech Language Pathology Expands Scope



As a career field, speech and language pathology is expected to grow 25% over the next 10 years. Two new programs are preparing students to move into the profession

faster, complete with their master's degrees.

The Speech Language Pathology Bridge Program is designed for those who already have an undergraduate degree, but are looking for a career change. This one-year program moves at an accelerated pace and takes into account the classes students completed as undergrads. On the other side of this bridge, they can move into a master's program.

The 4+1 combined bachelor's and master's program is an accelerated track that gives students a foundation in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. It also provides professional preparation to meet certification standards and licensure requirements for entering clinical practice. In five years, students will leave Saint Mary's with a bachelor's and master's degree in Speech Language Pathology and ready for their careers.

## Campus Projects

### O'Laughlin Auditorium

New flooring, fresh paint, and artwork is now beautifying the O'Laughlin lobby. Construction on the Campus and Community Events offices began to help make the space more inviting. Large custom artwork panels were installed in the theatre, designed by faculty member Michaela Duffy, professional specialist in scenography theatre.

### Le Mans Hall

What began in summer 2020 continued this summer as construction teams installed 286 new air conditioning units throughout the building, built in 1926. The system was selected to preserve the historical look of the building while providing air conditioning throughout. Similarly, more than 800 new windows were installed.



## Embodying Beauty, Justice, Faith

The Center for Spirituality hosted the Embody Summer Theology Institute July 11–16. Sixteen high school juniors and seniors spent their days and evenings exploring the values of beauty, justice and faith. Campers participated in service work, lessons on theology, worship, and reflection with peers. Saint Mary's students and alumnae served as mentors to lead them through their spiritual journey. Next year's dates are on the books!

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

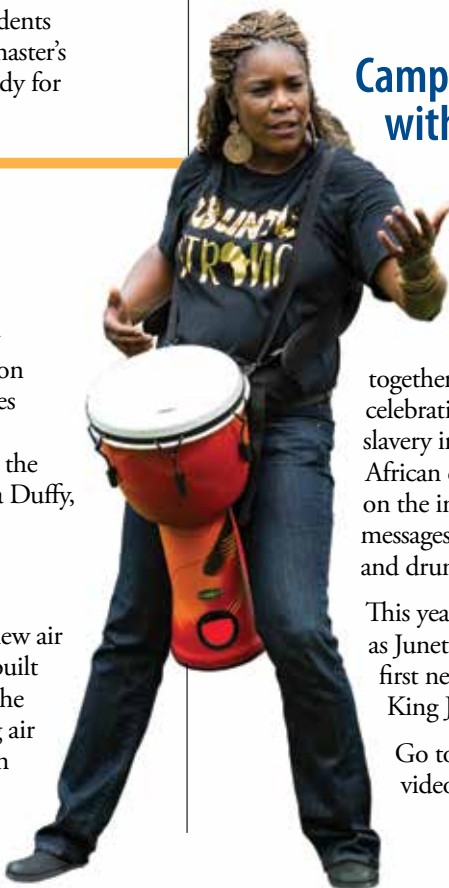
## Campus Celebrates Juneteenth with Drums

The sound of drums filled the campus air Friday, June 19, in celebration of Juneteenth.

Led by Nicole Williams of Rhythm to You, a local musician and activist, the Saint Mary's community came together to drum, dance and lift their voices in celebration of the date that marks the end of slavery in the United States. Williams shared her African drumming skills and prompted reflection on the importance of the day, as she wove messages of unity throughout the movement and drumming.

This year's celebration was especially meaningful as Juneteenth National Independence Day is the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.

Go to *Courier* Online to read more, view a video of the celebration and more photos.



Read more  
at [saintmarys.edu/Courier](http://saintmarys.edu/Courier)

# Regard the Past to Envision the Future

by Melinda McNamara

Saint Mary's rises  
to the challenge  
of learning, living,  
and growing during  
a pandemic



Natasha Robinson '21 joined more than 1,000 others from the campus and local community to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at Saint Mary's vaccination clinics in April and May 2021.

*"We did more than survive.  
We truly thrived. I chalk that up  
to the remarkable Saint Mary's  
spirit that prevailed among all  
our constituents — administrators,  
faculty and staff, students,  
alumnae, parents, and friends  
of the College."*

—Katie Conboy, Ph.D., President

Last year tested everyone at Saint Mary's—from faculty and administrators to students, staff, friends, and family. It was a complex, challenging time, filled with long days of principled questioning and difficult decisions. Above all, it was a time to listen, learn, think critically, and welcome creativity.

By all accounts, the challenges of COVID-19 changed the College in profound ways. Every avenue demanded attention—from academics and operations, to residence life and the mental, physical, and emotional health of all on campus. A powerful mindset quickly took hold to preserve the spirit of relationships that is at the heart of Saint Mary's. The community stepped out in faith and charted a path focused on safety, and holistic care.



## Academics: Forging a New Path

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*“Realization dawns slowly, yet we had to act quickly.”*

—Karen Chambers, Ph.D., Dean of Academic Student Services

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Saint Mary's has crisis plans in place for plenty of scenarios. But all the planning could not have prepared the College for a life-changing public health catastrophe that impacted every part of the world.

“We had plans in place for a natural disaster in Italy or a systems failure on campus, but not a worldwide pandemic that was evolving by the minute,” said Karen Chambers, dean of academic student services. “We had to figure out who needed to be at the table to make decisions, even though we didn't know if it would develop into a real, sustained crisis.”

Despite the unknowns, everyone in leadership recognized a need for clear thought and planning to confront countless scenarios. Task force teams focused on the mission: Keep students safe; continue student education; give students the tools they need to progress toward their futures.

The difficult decisions began in February 2020 when conversations started about bringing students back to the US from their study abroad programs across the globe. At home, on-campus residents were cautioned against travel of any kind for spring break. They left in March 2020 never dreaming they would be away from campus for the rest of the semester.

In these critical weeks, the virus disrupted the entire nation. Completely virtual campuses, once considered unfathomable, became a reality overnight.

“We had 10 days to prepare to go online,” said Titilayo Ufomata, provost and senior vice president. “Even though it was not easy, everybody did what they had to do so we could deliver the education we are used to giving our students.”

That meant taking faculty out of the classrooms they loved and finding ways to connect with students in a totally remote environment. The days of lectures, learning labs, and hands-on instruction were paused indefinitely. Instructors needed to learn how to use virtual resources to share screens, open breakout rooms online, and answer questions sent through chat and messaging applications.

Online training sessions developed by the IT team guided faculty and staff on how to set up virtual classroom tools to keep students actively engaged. Conference webcams installed in every classroom accommodated remote and hybrid learning.

“Our instructional technology department partnered with several members of the faculty who have a wealth of experience in online instruction,” said Todd Norris, chief information officer. “The teamwork was truly inspiring.”

Outreach to our students all over the country revealed that not everyone had access to fast, reliable internet necessary for digital classrooms. Wi-Fi, hot spots, even cell service that students and faculty take for granted on campus were not guaranteed in this remote environment. In many situations, private spaces to join

video conferences, collaborate with classmates, and study were not equally available for all students.

“There was a lifting of a veil about disparity and diversity with students,” Chambers said. “We had to find the best ways to reach students where they were and get them where they needed to be.”

Alumnae and the community at large stepped in with emergency funds to give students the access they needed to progress academically. The College loosened its pass/fail grading policies to ease burdens of learning in complicated circumstances. Asynchronous class schedules gave students in time zones stretching across the country a way to work at their own pace.

## Operations: Come Back Better

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*“There was no such thing as moving too quickly. We needed to act with speed to make decisions to protect the safety of students and the campus community, yet recognize the risk with each decision.”*

—Dana Strait, Ph.D., Vice President for Strategy and Finance

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Change comes slowly in the academic environment—until extraordinary times present a clear vision of opportunity. As the campus shut down in spring 2020, leadership recognized a strong call to look forward and imagine the future.

“As we were closing down buildings and sending students home, we asked ourselves, ‘What can we do now that we couldn't have done before?’” said Dana Strait, vice president for strategy and finance.

The nearly empty campus afforded a unique opportunity to quickly adapt into a safe, secure environment for residents, faculty and staff, even under pandemic conditions. Initial upgrades included high-efficiency air filters, touch-free water dispensers, Plexiglas or acrylic barriers, and hand-sanitizing stations that complied with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Operations teams also set in motion ambitious timelines to move forward with facilities improvement projects that had been long-desired. Central air conditioning in Le Mans Hall, energy-efficient windows in Le Mans and McCandless halls, elevator upgrades, and the reopening of the underground tunnel connecting the Cushwa-Leighton Library to Le Mans Hall topped the revitalization list.

The shutdown further afforded an opportunity to overhaul campus dining. An empty dining hall provided time and space for a new dining partner—Notre Dame Campus Dining—to onboard new staff, grab-and-go options, a Starbucks coffee shop, and outdoor seating that transformed Noble Family Dining Hall and the 1844 Café. Guidance from county, state, and federal public health experts helped shape robust safety standards for meal service and ensure a safe, healthy environment.

"It was a gift to have that time to be able to strengthen the dining program for years to come," Strait said.

By the time students returned in August 2020, the transformation of the campus reflected a new normal with a safe environment for learning, research, working, worship, and socializing.

## Student Affairs: Planning with Intention

*"It would be a terrible waste of trauma to go back to business as usual. We experimented with things from every angle and forged new ways to deliver content, support students, and support faculty as teachers and researchers."*

—**Titilayo Ufomata**, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President

Days after the spring 2020 semester ended, Saint Mary's announced its intention to reopen the campus with in-person instruction for the fall semester. Faculty and staff had 10 weeks to reimagine the entire campus. That set in motion complex planning to prepare for a safe learning and living environment that remains true to the College mission.

"We came out early with our decision (to bring students back to campus for the fall)," Titilayo Ufomata, provost and senior vice president, said. "It gave us focus to make the plan work."

Faculty and staff made tough decisions to alter the fall academic calendar—no easy feat, even in the best of circumstances. It needed flexibility to fit every possible scenario from in-person classrooms to remote and hybrid learning. Virtual computer labs gave students more ways to connect to the software they need to fully engage in their coursework.

"Our learning management system is designed to support face-to-face, hybrid, and online instruction," Norris said. "Instructors were able to accommodate students learning face-to-face and those attending online from their home or from a quarantine location."

Multiple task forces dove into complex discussions about how to protect the campus community from the spread of the virus. An on-campus diagnostic testing site adjacent to the Health and Counseling Center gave students quick access to COVID-19 screenings. The Mother Angela Care Center opened in Regina Hall South to care for students in quarantine and isolation.

IT experts took on the daunting task of implementing virus-tracking software that fed an online dashboard with daily COVID-19 updates. Outside partnerships opened resources to launch SMC Care—24-hour-a-day, live, remote medical and mental healthcare—for students on and off campus.

"Check up. Mask up. Back up. Wash up." became the daily mantra. Everyone in the Saint Mary's community did wellness self-checks every day before class or work. Random COVID-19 screenings turned into a way of life.



In spaces where physical distancing was possible, students attended classes while following pandemic safety guidelines and protocols.

"The RAs were true heroes," said Ariel Leary, former director of residence life. "They had to keep the bubble tight and make sure residents followed all the protocols or they wouldn't get a spring semester on campus."

It took unrelenting diligence, monitoring, reminders, tolerance, compliments, and plenty of smiling eyes to reach the goal—a complete year of in-person education and an in-person commencement for the Class of 2021.

The vision for the future now includes a transition to laptops, rather than traditional desktop computers, for all faculty and staff. An expansion of Wi-Fi to outdoor gathering areas opens opportunities to move classes and study areas out of traditional spaces.

"We have experience and knowledge now that we can take forward," Ufomata said. "Our newfound flexibility with technology frees us to become a totally green campus and expand the way we teach so we can reach more people."

## Community: Coming Together with Purpose

*"It's been incredibly heartening to see the community come together. We do 'challenge' right. We are resilient people."*

—**Mona Bowe**, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Co-director of the COVID-19 Response Team

Relationships matter at Saint Mary's. That's why over the past year it became more important than ever to look out for each other. Teams of students, faculty, staff, and administrators stepped forward to take on tasks that took them out of their comfort zones and away from their usual roles.

"Every decision had perspective from all points of view on campus," said Mona Bowe, co-director of the COVID-19 response team. "I look back in awe at how everyone was willing to jump in and do what needed to be done."

Daily task force meetings addressed every facet of campus life, from academics, residential and student engagement, to health and safety standards. Although early shutdowns and shelter-in-place restrictions forced sweeping changes, the goal remained constant: bring everyone on campus to live, learn, work, and pray together again.



“The Saint Mary’s culture is so special,” said **Giavanna Paradiso ’21**, president of the student government association. “You have to be in it and feel it to understand that everyone cares so deeply about you.”

To recapture that sense of community at the start of the new academic year, every activity needed a re-do—from move-in events to social gatherings, even outreach. Residence Life and student organizations planned more than 400 virtual and physically distanced events during the semester to keep students connected. Outdoor gathering spaces popped up for dining, relaxing around fire pits, and breathing in the fresh air.

Incoming students and recruits took advantage of virtual tours and a Zoom Room, where students could pop in to talk about campus life. Orientation and traditional activities for first-year students adopted innovative approaches to meet safety guidelines, yet help students build connections that last a lifetime.

“I was worried coming in my first year that I wouldn’t find a home,” said **Margaret McNabb, ’24**. “But Saint Mary’s is so intentional about building community, and that made me feel like I do have a home.”

## Student Health: Caring for the Mind, Body, Spirit

*“Our student leader volunteers became the bridge between academic needs and holistic care. They were rooted in the mission to meet the emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of every student.”*

—**Liz Palmer ’13**, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry

The beauty of the Saint Mary’s community radiated in countless ways last year, perhaps none more profound than at the Mother Angela Care Center (MACC). The dedicated isolation and quarantine space provided a temporary home for more than 300 residential students who were exposed to the virus or tested positive over the course of the academic year.

As MACC started to fill, a task force from campus ministry, student life, and health services recognized an unmet need and quickly mobilized to care for the students’ emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

“Students felt completely separate from the community,” **Liz Palmer ’13**, assistant director of Campus Ministry and co-director of the Mother Angela Care Center, said. “We became their point of contact and wanted to serve them with a spirit of hospitality.”

Student workers also stepped forward to serve as a connection with the outside world. In two-hour rotations, they brought in meals for students, helped with admissions, and restocked the refrigerator. They delivered care packages from faculty, brought in extra pillows and special blankets, and delivered hand-written messages of hope and healing from well-wishers.

McNabb knew the hardship of isolation and quarantine first-hand. She was quarantined in November when her roommate tested positive for the virus. While she tested negative throughout her time at MACC, it was a lonely, difficult experience. The highlight of her day was seeing people deliver meals. That’s when she knew she wanted to be a smiling face for those who followed her into MACC.

“I learned the power of a smile goes a long way,” she said. “And yes, you do smile with your eyes.”

**Emily Shetterly, ’24**, signed up to work at MACC at the beginning of the year and was in isolation for contact exposure twice. She understood the importance of a caring spirit, no matter what hour. Called in to visit MACC in the middle of a late evening snowstorm, Emily joined a brigade of student workers to find dry sheets and pillows for new admits.

“It felt important to help them get comfortable, and they were so grateful,” she said. “It was a magical moment.”

## Doors Open to a Rebirth of Community

The communal experience of a congregate-living campus defines the heart of Saint Mary’s. That’s why the new near-normal includes face-to-face instruction, student gatherings and events, and a whole-hearted embrace of visitors on campus. It also gives a way for all of us to breathe more and come together with a reaffirmed faith and peace as a community, stronger than ever.

“I’m hoping the closed doors from this past year are behind us,” said Paradiso. “We’re never better than when we can be physically in our community together.” **C**



Share your story of resilience with us at *Courier* Online: [saintmarys.edu/Resilience](https://saintmarys.edu/Resilience)



Professor Tom Bonnell teaches 18<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature on the north patio of Madeleva Hall in fall 2020.

## ALUMNAE DEATHS

## 1941

JoAnn Skinner Tolson July 30, 2020

## 1944

Helen Muldoon Diltz April 17, 2021  
Louise Peterman Prosser April 4, 2021

## 1947

Mary Voor Tarr Crouch February 20, 2021  
Marilyn Miller Kronenberg April 24, 2021

## 1950

Sister Patricia Brewer, RSM October 27, 2020  
Rita Moliski Goth February 25, 2021

## 1951

Sister Michael Marie Williamson, CSC May 4, 2021

## 1952

Patricia Egan Skudnig April 30, 2021

## 1953

Nancy Barker Peterson April 18, 2021

## 1954

Sister M. Cyril Dubala, CSC March 20, 2021  
Schevaun Robinson Massey February 23, 2021

## 1955

Sue Mitchell Crowley February 20, 2021  
Rita Hamilton Cunningham August 11, 2020  
Johanna Dempsey Leda-Starczewski March 5, 2021

## 1956

Mary Richmond Lieser April 8, 2021  
Ruth Collins Pflaum October 5, 2020

## 1957

Barbara Barker Dooley April 13, 2021  
Shirley Dillon Gerbracht March 4, 2021  
Mary Jo Walsh November 15, 2020

## 1958

Charlotte Hiegel Hardin May 15, 2020  
Margaret A. Sullivan Hartnett March 27, 2021  
Colleen Conway Slater December 9, 2020

## 1959

Sue Warneke Collins May 5, 2020  
Marcia Cole Towne December 7, 2020

## 1961

Rita Malek Palmer August 27, 2019

## 1964

Jane Molloy Bish February 27, 2021  
Margaret Diver Mastros April 8, 2021

## 1965

Judith Piers Locher March 9, 2021

## 1968

Kristine Thorsen Barnhill April 10, 2021

## 1970

Mary Martinez Palomino October 9, 2020

## 1978

Sally A. Beckman April 17, 2021

## 1979

Jeanne Leslye Dickinson February 22, 2021

## FAMILY DEATHS

David Amm, father of Hope M. Amm '02, March 17, 2021.

Anne Broderick, mother of Maureen Broderick Connolly '94, April 8, 2021.

Daniel Burke, brother of Virginia Burke Gannon '63, uncle of Jacqueline Cuisinier Torres '05, April 13, 2021.

James Curley, husband of Bertha Leblanc Curley '56, November 9, 2020.

Thomas Dieter, uncle of Clare Reising Sobieralski '86, brother-in-law of Beth Kamm Reising '57, October 26, 2020.

Victor Doms, father of Leanne Doreen Doms '97, March 21, 2021.

Richard Driehaus, uncle of Marie Lenore Mellin Rossi '89, March 9, 2021.

John Engler, husband of Margaret Maher Engler '57, father of Kathleen Engler Malone '82, brother-in-law of Ann Maher Lee '62, January 28, 2021.

Patrick Farrell, father of Kelly Farrell Culver '96, March 13, 2021.

Patricia Fewell, mother of Ann Fewell Diroll '98, mother-in-law of Barbara Krugh Fewell '89, April 24, 2021.

Ellen Flach, mother of Ellen Flach Prendergast '78, January 13, 2021.

Marie Francis, mother of Mary Francis Corrigan '73, February 28, 2021.

Nicolas Garcia, father of Adrienne Renee Hurt '05, April 1, 2021.

Joseph Gatto, father of Suzanne Gatto Gibbons '80, March 6, 2021.

Sharon Kennedy Gerlach, daughter of Eileen Kilday Kennedy '61, sister of Kathleen Kennedy Tiso '84, niece of Louann Kennedy Keenan '66, cousin of Mary Revord Schriker '80, March 23, 2021.

John Gisondi, husband of Mary Ann Carroll Gisondi '62, August 25, 2020.

Helen Grima, mother of Jo Ann G. MacKenzie '69 and Kathleen Grima '71, March 8, 2021.

Bob Harmon, husband of Colleen Taffee Goldkamp Harmon '59, stepfather of Barbara Goldkamp Henry '86, April 18, 2021.

Craig Hartzell, father of Rachel Hartzell Waltz '98, April 6, 2021.

Daniel Igoe, father of Kelly Jane Igoe '88, April 15, 2021.

Thomas Keck, husband of Janet Rauch Keck '59, brother-in-law of Alice Rauch Bares '53, February 27, 2021.

Rosemary Kelly, mother of Mary Jo Kelly Martin '79 and Patricia Kelly McNeill '81, March 7, 2021.

Robert Kerby, husband of Mary Corbett Kerby '57, April 14, 2021.

Anthony Lisa, husband of Kathleen Cooney Lisa '67, April 4, 2021.

George Maloof, father of Virginia Maloof Cascarilla '71, Teri Maloof Kratus '73, and Faye Judith Maloof '77, uncle of Jacqueline Aftora Orsagos '82, April 12, 2021.

Helen Marget, mother of Amy Marget Nimmer '76, aunt of Susan R. Marget '80, April 1, 2021.

Michael Manuszak, husband of K. Cecilia Telang Manuszak '83, March 29, 2021.

Matthew Payton, husband of Karen Hosinski Payton '84, brother-in-law of Mary Beth Hosinski Burns '82, April 22, 2021.

Harry Reich, husband of Marilyn Brennan Reich '50, father of Elizabeth Reich Pittman '86, February 3, 2021.

John Arnold Richard, husband of Rosemary Zimmerer Richard '67, brother-in-law of Ruth Zimmerer Bailey '61, uncle of Suzanne Bailey Scott '95, March 14, 2021.

John Sandner, father of Kathleen Sandner Gialamas '92 and Angela Sandner Stensrud '04, March 11, 2021.

Michael Sasgen, father of Andrea Sasgen Kopko '11, April 5, 2021.

Michael Schork, brother of Caroline Schork Mitola '61, February 25, 2021.

Marion Thuma, sister of Elizabeth Chihan Canizaro '61 and Catherine Chihan Westbrook '68, October 6, 2020.

Paul Traub, father of Cynthia Marie Traub '01, January 19, 2021.

Bernard Walsh, father of Robin Walsh Bourjaily '96, February 20, 2021.

**For births and weddings please visit  
Baby Belles and Wedding Belles at  
alumnae.saintmarys.edu**



## SISTER MIRIAM P. COONEY '51, CSC

**Sister Miriam Patrick Cooney '51, CSC**, passed away December 16, 2020. She was 95 years old.

Sister Miriam was a beloved professor of mathematics at Saint Mary's College for more than 40 years. Born in 1925 in South Bend, Indiana, Sister Miriam obtained her undergraduate degree in mathematics from Saint Mary's in 1951. In 1953, she earned a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame. Later, she earned two degrees from the University of Chicago: a master's degree in the physical sciences in 1963, and a doctorate degree in mathematics in 1968.



"Sister Miriam's love for mathematics has produced generations of Saint Mary's women who have used their gifts for the benefit of others," said President Katie Conboy. "Her leadership during a time when few women pursued degrees in math, as well as her commitment to religious life, has had a profound influence on the College. We give thanks for her many years of dedicated service and her life of prayer."

Sister Miriam's teaching career at Saint Mary's began in 1950. She rose to chair of the math department from 1968 to 1991. She also served as associate chair in the math department at the University of Notre Dame from 1971 to 1972. In 1975 she won the Spes Unica award, which recognizes a Saint Mary's faculty member's eminent service to the College.

In 1981, Sister Miriam co-authored a study of 130 Catholic women—primarily religious sisters—who held doctorate degrees and had careers in mathematics.

This resulted in a Smithsonian Institute project and a published study, *Directory of Women Religious in Higher Education*, in 1986.

She also co-authored the article, *Recruitment and Retention of Students in Undergraduate Mathematics* in 1990 and *Celebrating Women in Mathematics and Science* in 1996, among other published work.

In addition to her service to the College, Sister Miriam's broader advocacy for women in mathematics is legendary. She started Hypatia Day in 1991 at the College to encourage local high school girls with an interest in math and other STEM fields. The event was named after Hypatia, who was born in 370 A.D., and known as the first female mathematician.

**Kae Bichimer Sobczyk '81** reflects, "Sister was a strong proponent of women in mathematics and shared her passion with math majors at Saint Mary's College. She knew we could succeed and expected our best. She inspired me beyond graduation and throughout my career."

To honor Sister Miriam's dedication and positive influence on her life, Kae and her husband, Mike, established the Sister Miriam Cooney, CSC '51 Endowed Grant for Undergraduate Student Research in Mathematics at Saint Mary's to fund student/faculty research in math.

A prayer service for Sister Miriam took place December 17 at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto.





## Chicago West

The ladies of the Chicago West Club took the pandemic in stride, continuing book club meetings and social gatherings via Zoom. No one had to fight traffic to get to these sessions, but we did have to bring our own snacks! We enjoy our discussion leader **Joanne Tracey Marsh '69** and always welcome newcomers. This is still a great way to join us and check out the group! The reading list is posted on our club website.

In June, we took another step toward uniting our club together as we prayed for good weather and met "on the patio" at the home of **Julie Murphy Griffin '74**. The book was quite secondary to the revival of our face-to-face social events. We even collected donations for the People's Resource Center and appreciate everyone's generosity. Watch for club emails to learn of future in-person book club events. We will continue to use Zoom as well, whenever possible.

We have exciting news to announce! After 15 years as club president **Alison Spohn Kavulich '93** has passed the baton to **Lauren Caprio Stewart '04**. Lauren took over as club president in May 2021, but has been an active club member for a decade and we're grateful she was willing to take up the charge of leading. She and husband Ryan are parents to two beautiful children Michael and Meghan and live in Hanover Park. Lauren is the assistant principal at South Elgin High School. About stepping down, Alison commented that she wouldn't trade her alumnae club sisters for anything, noting the treasured friendships she has gained with women of all class years. "The friendships I've made in the Chicago West Club rival the closeness I shared with my own classmates while at Saint Mary's. And I know Lauren will do a great job!" Many congratulations to Lauren and continued thanks to all our club officers and board members for their ongoing commitment to the club's success.

If you're interested in joining the club or helping out, contact [smcwcals@gmail.com](mailto:smcwcals@gmail.com) for more information.

## Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Club was thrilled to host President Conboy last December for an engaging virtual conversation. We started 2021 by hosting two virtual events to benefit Cincinnati Union Bethel's *Off the Streets* program, which serves the needs of women who have survived trafficking and exploitation. Our January Epiphany Party included a fun SMC-themed trivia fundraiser, and the program was so well received we organized a follow up Dessert and Game Night with the *Off the Streets* residents in April.



In March, we all pretended to vacation to Rome as we welcomed back **Tiffany McIver De Luca '07** for a beautiful Zoom tour of Saint Peter's Basilica. In May, the club gifted student care packages for all Cincinnati-based students during finals week. We thank everyone who supported the club's activities over the past year even when in-person gatherings weren't possible. We're excited for the summer months and the opportunity to safely convene outdoors for planned volunteer activities.



Visit [smccincinnatialumnae.weebly.com](http://smccincinnatialumnae.weebly.com) for current info on upcoming meetings and events.

## Colorado

Colorado alumnae met virtually for a "sisterhood" yoga session led by **Becky Meade Burke '10**. The club also hosted a virtual visit from President Conboy in early May. The club hopes to begin in-person events later this year.

## Columbus

The Columbus Alumnae Club is working to establish an Ohio organizational license plate for Saint Mary's College. If you are an alumna living in Ohio and would like to learn more or sign the petition supporting this effort, please contact alumna **Katie Gugle '89** at [krgugle@aol.com](mailto:krgugle@aol.com).

On Wednesday, May 26, the club hosted a virtual conversation with SMC alumna and author **Adriana Trigiani '81** to discuss her book *Tony's Wife*.

Our club recently hosted the annual 614 Challenge benefiting the Erin Gibbons Memorial Scholarship fund and we were pleased to raise \$4,262.21 from 36 Columbus donors. A huge thank you to everyone that participated this year.

If you would like to learn more about our alumnae club, please contact **Colleen Lowry '11** at [clowry01@gmail.com](mailto:clowry01@gmail.com)

## Des Moines

The Des Moines Club was pleased to host a virtual visit (with clubs from Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri) with President Katie Conboy in February. As vaccination rates grow and case numbers decline, the planning committee looks forward to meeting in June to schedule events for the coming year.

## Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Club continues to thrive, even in Covid times. Our book clubs (one for LA and one for Orange County) meet by Zoom. The OC club read *Ireland* by Frank Delaney. All of us are of Irish descent and **Laura Schmidl '07** studied in the Ireland program, so we had a spirited conversation!

We held our second annual Service Day in April. Club members wrote to current seniors and the Sisters of the Holy Cross at St. Catherine's in Ventura; helped in parishes; and helped individuals with cooking meals, as in the photo with **Linda Shepard '84**.



After a good response to the Advent retreat, we held a Lenten retreat and sent ashes to all the participants since California was still in lockdown. Zoom has provided a wonderful opportunity to bring our club together from the central coast to Orange County for spiritual reflection.

And, of course, our Christmas ornaments are available again. The response over five years has been excellent. The club continues this project with many members involved, as it is a BIG project each year. Check our website to order: [saintmaryslacub.com](http://saintmaryslacub.com).

## Nashville

The Nashville Club plans to host an in-person Student Send-Off in late July/early August. Everyone should update their information with the alumnae office so they receive the invitation. Email [alumane@saintmarys.edu](mailto:alumane@saintmarys.edu) to do so!

## Pittsburgh

The Saint Mary's Club of Pittsburgh spent the spring traveling around Rome with Saint Mary's grad **Tiffany McIver DeLuca '07**. She led us in a series of virtual tours. Although we miss gathering in-person, it was a fun way to spend our Sunday afternoons.

## Toledo

Belles from the Toledo area were so happy to take part in Coffee and Conversation with President Conboy in March. It was a great opportunity to get to know Dr. Conboy better and connect with each other virtually. We are looking forward to seeing each other in person again soon! If you would like to get involved in our local club, please email **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

Mary Mudd McHale  
muddmm@aol.com

I've just finished a remarkable 600-page book, *Leonore's Suite*, by **Mary Beth Klee '75**, daughter of the late **Lee Iserson Klee**. Mary Beth uses letters, stories, and Lee's memories to write a historic fictional account of the 37 months that Lee, her late sister **Betty Iserson '51**, and their mother Agnes were confined at Santo Tomas Internment Camp (University of Santo Tomas) in Manila during WWII.

Before the war, the Iserson family was living in Manila, where they ran a family embroidery business. But when the war began, Lee's father Harold was working for the Army Corps of Engineers installing a landing field on another Philippine island.

"I went off to prison in a Cadillac," Lee wrote about the day, January 6, 1942, when Japanese officers piled Agnes, her daughters, and others into a "gleaming Caddie" and interned them at Santo Tomas, where they were crammed in with 4,000 others for three very long years.

Mary Beth has done an excellent job of bringing those years to life—the loss, the cruelty, the unsanitary conditions, and the hunger—but also the ingenuity of the prisoners who found ways to make the best of it. The Isersons, for example, managed to set up a fudge-making business. The prisoners organized a theater, choral groups, dances, boxing matches, card games, and fairs. There were teachers among the prisoners who organized a school—with very few books and paper that had to be erased to be reused.

That education, however, was so remarkable that after liberation by American troops in February 1945, Lee went on to St. Francis de Sales High in Utica and was valedictorian in 1946 before enrolling at SMC. Her sister Betty, two years younger, became a Maryknoll missionary in the 1950s, served in Chile, and took the name Sister Harold Agnes in honor of her parents. Betty died at 62; our classmate Lee died at 68. Amazing to the end, their mother Agnes lived to be 85.

Harold Iserson died of pneumonia February 24, 1942, at age 39, but his family didn't learn about it until a year later. They met a newly interned priest who told them he had baptized Harold. Harold was Jewish, from a devoted Jewish family, but he wanted to die in the faith of his wife and daughters.

The book's title, *Leonore's Suite*, is the title of a suite composed by Harold as a 13<sup>th</sup> birthday gift for Lee and it was especially treasured during her internment. The book jacket and design are by Mary Beth's "sister and best friend" **Eileen Klee**

**Sweeney '76**. The book is available in hard cover, soft cover, and electronic. Check Amazon.

I had a phone chat with **Margaret Quinn O'Grady**, who lives in Naperville, IL. Sadly, she has suffered the deaths in recent years of three of her family—all named Thomas: her husband Tom O'Grady in September 2014, brother Tom Quinn in April 2018, and grandson Dr. Tom O'Grady in October 2018.

I also enjoyed a "visit" with **Mary Ellen Molony Brady**. Years ago, Mel moved to Morgantown, WV, to be near her daughter Laura Brady and her husband Timothy Sweet, both of whom are professors at West Virginia University. Mel is a Master Gardener. Health problems (including broken bones from a skiing accident!) have prevented her from gardening, but she uses that talent as a gardening consultant.

**Betty Nolan** was an excellent secretary for the Class of 1950 for many years. She had succeeded the late **Mary Cucchi Depman**. Our class can be proud to have these and other column-secretary classmates keep us in touch. Anyway, Betty wrote a note thanking me for taking over and said her prayers go with me. I hope I can do half as well as she did. She included these Christmas card notes:

**Terry Kelty Strudeman** loves independent condo living and has kept up with her watercolor painting, recently completing a large, challenging landscape.

**Anne Reynolds Pyron** writes that her travels have been curtailed by the pandemic but she's enthusiastic about attending future Saint Mary's Reunions.

Mel hadn't heard from Moni (**Sister Ramona Marie Oppenheim, MM**) but she did send a recent clipping featuring Sister Ramona and Sister Noel in Maryknoll, NY.

As for Betty herself, she keeps well and has visited family in both California and Florida in recent months. She's now longing for warm days so she can plant her tomato crop. By the way, Betty, I want to commend you on your beautiful handwriting!

I was saddened to hear of the death of Joe Scheidler, founder of the Pro-Life Action League, on January 20, 2021. Joe roomed with my husband Jack at Notre Dame and has been a longtime family friend. His memoir, *Racketeer for Life*, mentions our late classmate **Rosemary Stokes**, who worked with Joe in the League for many years.

As for me, I live only 15 miles from the US Capitol. So, it has been a wild several months for me. Washington is my city for theater, dining, and touring. I miss it! However, I have had both Pfizer shots and enjoyed having my local family gather at my home to help celebrate my 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in March.

Please email me with what's going on in your life. Include the title of the last good book you read.

## 1952

Marilyn Dargis Ambrose  
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This will be a short column since I didn't hear from many of you.

I did get some news from **Genevieve Paulic Abell** right after the New Year. Her daughter Ann Shearing wrote that her mom lives in Pomona, CA, now in San Antonio Gardens Assisted Living. She and her husband Charlie moved to California when he joined Kaiser Medical Group. She has four children, six grandkids, and three great-grandchildren. Pomona is just north of me in Orange County, so perhaps we will be able to connect after this pandemic is over.

From **Mary Dvilaitis Blanford**: "I've been thinking of you, Caleb, and Grace. No news except today is my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday and I got the COVID-19 vaccine. Yep, I'm still older than you, but have two California friends who are a year older. Hope you're doing well."

**Mary Berners Kishler** writes: "I'm sorry I don't have much news but did have a surprise while driving recently. I suddenly became severely dizzy and light-headed and had to pull off the road into a nearby bus stop. After opening the windows for fresh air found no improvement so I called 911 and landed in the hospital ER for seven hours. Many tests couldn't find any cause so they sent me home and I am fine now. Never anything like that happened before. Too much excitement for someone living like a hermit. Age is only a number. We all pray that will be an isolated incident, Mary."

**Sister Emily Demuth, CSC**, updated us: Our Saint Agnes Medical Center recently held a Memorial Service of Hope for the family members of patients and for two of our very own employees who died of COVID-19. We had a special candle lighting ceremony prayer, which I offered, and a luminary light for each person. It was a very moving and uplifting memorial service. I have connected with Saint Mary's Spirituality Center especially during Lent."

**Nancy Hutchison Newton** writes: "In November, I moved to an assisted living community in Houston, not far from my daughter Ann. I was hardly settled when I fell and broke my hip but now I am OK and enjoying life here at the Tradition. I hope you are well and I send greetings to all. How blessed we are!"

A few words from your *Courier* correspondent. I'm in the midst of preparing for my 90<sup>th</sup> jubilee birthday in August and hopefully the pandemic will be fading into only memories. I have a lovely garden and with our generally moderate weather, it should be a memorable event including lots of Lithuanian heritage traditions.

Hope to hear from more of you for our next column.

## 1955

Maureen Sullivan  
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Greetings from Michigan. However, when you read this in the *Courier* hopefully I will be happily settled (which means organized) in my new apartment in downtown South Bend. Yes, I am returning to the home of our alma mater and you are all welcome to visit me anytime. Details to follow! I hope when I am settled to get in touch with **Dolores Dietsch Berry** and maybe we will be able to break bread together. I am still hoping to hear from classmates for whom I

have left a message on their phone or maybe from some of you who may have been in touch with them. Please check former edition of *Courier*.

Surprise – Surprise – Surprises are always welcome! While in Florida, I received a call from **Rosemary Semancik**, who was a staff student during her college days and now lives and enjoys life in Sun City, AZ. We had such a pleasant visit on the phone. She told me that after teaching in Northwest Chicago, Indiana, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia, she lived for many years in the California Bay Area. While she was in Saudi Arabia, there were four other SMC grads there also. How fun was that! She is still working on her family genealogy, which includes visits to cousins in Slovakia. She wants to send special greetings to the staff students who were at SMC during her time there.

I also spoke with **Shirley Wagner Van Devere** (my freshman roommate in Holy Cross Hall), who is enjoying life with her family both at her home on the lake in Akron, OH and in Florida during the winter months. She also sends her regards to all.

I do hope by the time this reaches you the pandemic will be behind us and we can enjoy life to the fullest once again. Go Belles!

## 1956

Joan Mette Reddy  
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Thanks to the members of the Class of '56 who responded to my efforts to spread the news about the Class of '56. **Carol Lee Jasper Markley** is first mentioned because she sent in her news about five minutes after I sent out the email. Carol Lee said at the time she wrote that she was "like everyone else—waiting for the vaccine." I see Carol Lee occasionally since we both live in suburban Detroit. She keeps in touch with longtime SMC roommate, **Sheila Siebert Gallagher**, Iowa high school friends, and "my 15 amazing grandchildren: 14–28. They keep me updated and young in spirit."

**Sheila Siebert Gallagher** phoned her news of life in Western Springs, IL. She keeps in touch with **Carol Lee Markley**, her long-time friend. Sheila lives alone since the death of her husband, but her two daughters watch over her. Sheila, like me, is a birder and loves to travel via Elderhostel. We even took the same birding trip via Elderhostel—at different times—when more active.

**Pat Garvey McCann**, another early correspondent, moved to a retirement facility in Rancho Mirage, CA after her husband's death. "My seven children have given me 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild." She volunteers at a shelter for battered women, aptly named "Shelter from the Storm." She sends her greetings to all!

**Mary Carey Swift** writes from Chevy Chase, MD, where she relocated after her husband's death in 2016. Mary says that it is a nice community. She plays golf, has picked up bridge again, and exercises a few times a week. She considers herself blessed with family living close.

**Rita Conley Bourjaily** also has family living close to her Western Springs, IL home. "Three of our five kids live within 10 minutes and at least one stops in

every day to see if we are still breathing." Rita notes that her 89-year-old husband has Alzheimer's and says "days can be challenging." When Rita was more active, she did a lot of volunteer work for her church. She was a minister to the sick.

**Barbara Clark**, who only attended Saint Mary's our freshman year, writes that she has "fond memories of that year." She has lived 32 years in Naples, FL. Before COVID-19 hit, she was active in church, homeowners' association, and bridge. Her hobby is researching family history here and in Ireland.

Another alum who was not with us for four years is **Mary Alice Parsons**. She was with us through her sophomore year and has stayed in touch with many classmates.

**Anne Clifford Petach** calls herself a "a lost sheep," adding that "This is my first-ever response to requests for class news." (Sorry, Anne, but I had to shorten your nice long email.) Anne has been a widow for 21 years and still lives in the home in a Los Angeles suburb that they purchased in 1968. She is the mother of seven sons. Only one lives close enough for convenient COVID-19-time visits. Anne makes good use of Zoom and Skype. She married into the Eastern Catholic Church and has been active ever since. Anne sent a second email to let us know about **Maura Rooney**, our classmate who left after the freshman year to enter religious life. Years later, Maura's brother died, widowed with 10 children. Maura left the convent to care for them. Ann said of Maura, who died in February 2005, that "she was a holy and happy woman, practical and prayerful."

**Kathryn Wroblewski Clay** wrote: "COVID-19 has brought most of life's pleasures to a halt." She lives now in Waukegan, IL, but she lived previously in a condo in Chicago and remembers a more active life there. Her husband died in 2010. He was a math teacher at a local high school. Kathryn spent 35 years as a reading specialist. She has one daughter and two granddaughters.

**Pat Brown O'Brien** says, "I did not graduate from Saint Mary's, but Saint Mary's was a VERY important part of my college life." Pat transferred in January of her junior year to be closer to Neil, whom she later married. The couple have four children, 16 grandchildren, and 19 greats. During COVID-19, they have played a lot of bridge online.

**Lucy Connolly Ohlrich** still lives in Oshkosh, WI, but they sold their house. She and her husband are living in assisted living. She celebrated her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 24. She says, "Never thought about being 87 years old. My health is pretty good; I am grateful. Every day is adorable."

**Maryjeanne Ryan Burke**, who lives in Indian Wells, CA, says COVID-19 travel restrictions have kept them from seeing their two children and families, who live in Chicago for over a year. Maryjeanne says that Indian Wells is a lovely place to spend the winter, but they all are "hoping that things will change soon."

**Mary Ann Brady** writes from a senior independent living complex in Indianapolis, IN. She says that everyone is well cared for. They have all received their vaccinations, but still mask and distance. Mary Ann has adjusted to the change of lifestyle. Her facility offers many activities. "It's easy to get used to the masked, distanced, and slower way of life. Most

people don't have this opportunity. Many residents have long prayer lists of people and events they pray for and about. For sure, good can come out of everything!"

**Joyce Dyckes Slavsky** says the only change in her life is that they have moved to Jensen Beach, FL year-round. Her sister **Shirley Dyckes Kelley '55** is also there, and their oldest son and his wife live in Florida six months a year.

**Eileen (Bunni) Hennessy Griffin** reports from her condo in Park Ridge, IL, which she loves. A few years ago, she sold the house in which she had lived for 48 years. Bunni was widowed over 27 years ago. Much of her life now is involved with the care of her older sister, who lives in an assisted living facility near her. Her sister is bedridden and has severe dementia. Bunni's five children have always been extremely supportive.

**Carolyn Flynn Fay** is another classmate who lives in a senior living community. She and her partner moved into one in Indianapolis, IN three years ago. They are very happy there. It has a large Catholic population and daily Mass. Carolyn has two children and two granddaughters. She sees **Mary Kay Shanahan Cesarone** every so often and plans to visit her this summer.

**Connie Wesner Fox**, who lives in Dayton, OH, says, "Hello. I left Saint Mary's after the second year and pursued my bachelor's and master's degrees elsewhere."

**Mary Dahm Kearney** lives in a continuing life residence in San Diego, CA. Mary says that she "is very happy and content here." But it has been a difficult year. Her husband died last April after a long fight with bone cancer. Mary speaks of their wonderful 62-year marriage. "After retirement, we were able to travel all over the world. We had a great family life. I miss him every day, but I have many more great memories."

One of the classmates with whom I (me, Joan) have stayed in touch is **Carolyn Greives Kelley**, who has lived for many years in Wakefield, MA. Carolyn lives alone, and none of her three children can help her daily. However, Carolyn uses streaming, Zoom, and the other wonders of this micro-world extensively. She continues to drive, but she tries to avoid difficult driving. A younger SMC-er **Karen Siegel Cunningham '85**, who lives nearby, has been a big help by providing rides when needed. Carolyn says, "When I was 14, I could hardly wait to be able to drive. Now, I want to see if I can establish a 'Driving Miss Daisy' relationship."

**Louise Warnicke Renault** is a classmate who has worked out a good driver relationship with a neighbor. Louise does not like to drive and he provides one whenever she needs one, although she does a lot via computer. Louise has been a teacher with Oschner Lifelong Learning Institute for years, teaching via the internet. She has an impressive list of past and future classes. Coming up: "1056-to-Henry II." Louise lives in Tucson, AZ, a city that she loves. She has five children and six grandchildren.

**Adrienne Chapleau Wolf** reports that she and three other classmates met yearly until COVID-19. Their last meeting was in March 2020. "We will rendezvous after COVID-19." They are: Adrienne, who lives in Cherry Hill, NJ, **Denise Becker Roemer**,



(freshman class) who lives in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, IN, and **Barbara Trippel O'Keefe** from Chicago. They very much miss **Aileen Bullard Droege**, who died a few years ago.

**Charleen (Lambie) Froats Jordan** writes from a senior living facility in St. Paul, MN. Lambie, a widow, says that she is very comfortable, has been vaccinated, is still driving and going out. About "Lambie," she says: "SMC classmates are the only ones to still call me 'Lambie.' All these years since graduation, working, and married life, I've been 'Charleen!'"

**Jeanne Foley Stokes**, a retired nurse, lives in San Antonio, TX. She has nine children and 10 grandchildren.

In 1990, **Barbara Dubois McCarthy** and her husband retired to an island called Whidbey in Washington. She says, "I live in a very small town called Coupeville and love it!" Barbara's husband died in 2018. She says she is still adjusting. She notes that she hasn't bumped into any Saint Mary's girls on the island!

**Donna Janda Lorenzini**, who lives in Hinsdale, IL, has four children, one of whom graduated from Saint Mary's, **Nancy Lorenzini Kopec '83**. Donna has 13 grandchildren. She is a retired nurse, who worked in various specialties including hospice and clinical instructor.

**Phyllis Ann Joseph Shamoun** writes that she is very active in the church's Charismatic Movement. She calls it "my Passion." She and her husband live in Dallas, TX now, but they lived in Greenville, MS for over 50 years. They have five children and eight grandchildren.

**Bertha Leblanc Curley** lives in Alexandria, LA with all her large family nearby. She lost her husband in November. There are three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren with one on the way. Bertha is a pro-life activist with the accent on "active." She and her husband have worked for pro-life all over the world.



From Bertha Leblanc Curley: Birth of first grandchild and wedding of grandchild.

**Paula Rochon Egyed** lives in the historic home in Spring Lake, MI that she and her deceased husband renovated years ago. She is still adjusting to her husband's death, but she feels well cared for, thanks to the attention of good neighbors and family. Paula has five grandchildren, and a great-grandchild is coming in September.

Now for my news. I'm really happy to be able to re-establish the news of the Class of '56 and appreciate all of your support. I had orders to edit strictly so I did a lot of cutting. Sorry! As for me, my husband and I are healthy and fully vaccinated. The year of the COVID-19 has produced its sorrows and joys. My younger brother died last spring (not of COVID-19) and our first great-grandchild was born in October. The Wheel of Life keeps turning! You will be reading

this much later than when it was written. After all, we are an Easter People.

## 1957

**Mary Gladys (M.G.) Turner Enderle**  
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My April 1 deadline evokes thoughts of spring and the possibility of easing into some degree of normalcy. Before dreaming ahead, I'll start with the joy of Christmas connecting. **Pat Bauervic Leonard's** 130-year-old Michigan farmhouse with views of Grand Traverse Bay continues to be a drawing card for summer gatherings for her five children and their families. The group has increased with the December birth of Pat's youngest grandson, born to her son John and his wife Kyle. Does this give Pat the honor of having the youngest grandchild? Pat enjoys telephone visits with **Janet O'Connell McCue** to keep in touch.

**Mary Comisky Riley's** card featured the stunning artwork of her daughter Betsy and her greetings from Arizona.

Dan and **Pat Peterson Huber's** card from Lake Forest, IL mirrored the hopes of many, with better news coming about the vaccine to bring cheer while enduring continuing limited family gatherings and events.

**Mary O'Connor** is coping well in Palo Alto and like many uses the additional time we all have at home to broaden her mind and outlook. She recommends reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, which has been on many best-seller lists this year.

**Bobbi Frederick Black's** greetings came from her winter home in Chandler, AZ, but she had worked in a visit with her daughter Debby and family in Texas. With her son and family in California, she has put her Mancos, CO home, The Bauer House, on the market again to allow more freedom for travel.

**Jody Donohoe McGoldrick's** card pictured some very appealing dogs owned by family members, including the one living closest who "thinks he lives at my house and gets out of the car, barking loudly for me to open the door." Jody was delighted to receive a Christmas phone call from **Mary Camblin Crean** in Indianapolis, which prompted some good laughs and memories.

I had a nice chat with **Mary Kathryn Carroll Hartigan** in February before she left our cold and snow for Florida. We agreed that the younger generation is much more flexible, especially with many working and learning remotely. Three of her grandchildren enjoyed time together at her Aspen home: Michael and his brother Joseph, both working remotely, and Katherine, remotely studying at UCLA. Certainly making the best of things and enjoying unexpected time together in their free time.

Sam and **Rosemary Knope Trippe's** card really brought me a smile. They included a great picture of the two of them along with the year's summary. After the early 2020 Raleigh, NC pre-COVID-19 wedding of their grandson, attended by nearly

the entire family, they spent the rest of the year in "lockdown" enlivened by individual family visits to them in Easton, MD. Sam is busy in his position on the board of their retirement community and Rosemary has returned to the golf course.

I wonder if any of you saw the obituary of **Sister Miriam P. Cooney, CSC '51**. It was in a publication of the Sisters of the Holy Cross after her death in December 2020. It outlined her amazing academic achievements and contributions to the education of women in math and the sciences. Sister was a friend of **Maureen Butler O'Malley's** family and Maureen remained a faithful friend and visitor.

My email appeal to participate in Saint Mary's Donor Challenge in February brought a bonus in the form of a phone call from **Eva Haas Dolan**. We agreed that our class percentage of 31 percent was still "pretty darn good" and we can all be proud of ourselves!

A recent phone call from **Shirley O'Brien Creamer** was prompted by her granddaughter Claire and husband Dave's impending work-related move to Chicago and Shirley's interest in their choice of housing and location. It made me wish I was more knowledgeable but it was fun to talk and catch up!

The "For the Record" section of the Winter 2020 *Courier* mentioned the March 14, 2020 death of F. Roger Oswald, husband of our classmate **Joan Snetsinger Oswald**. I was shocked to learn that Joan passed away shortly after, on April 17. The Oswalds were married in 1956 after Roger's Notre Dame graduation and lived most of their married life in Sylvania, OH, where they raised their four children.

The same *Courier* listed the death of **Lucinda Carolyn Dill Dapo**, of Wake Forest, NC. Carolyn came to Saint Mary's from Terre Haute, IN and used her degree in sociology and her thoughtful and gentle nature to serve others as a social worker and librarian. Predeceased by her husband Roland Francis Dapo, Carolyn is survived by her two children and families including two grandchildren. News of her death brought memories from **Nancy Vivian Wallace**, her roommate for two years, and **Julie Bohan Allen**. Both referred to Lyn as one of the kindest people they had known.

Nancy shared happier news that her twin grandchildren graduated virtually from UCLA last June! Rosemary is working remotely in Connecticut and James started Boston College Law School, which is near her home in Sudbury, MA, so she gets to see both occasionally (following all COVID-19 protocols, of course).

February brought news of the death of **Mary Jo Donovan McGuire**, who grew up in Albert Lea, MN. Mary Jo transferred to Marquette after sophomore year, where she roomed with **Irene O'Leary Van Beckum**. Post-graduation as an American Airlines stewardess living in Chicago, she met her husband Butch McGuire, owner of a very popular pub of the same name. Butch predeceased her but Mary Jo is survived by their three children and seven grandchildren.

While I enthuse over emails and an actual letter, a real live phone call is such a treat. **Carole Nordengren Suttner** gifted me with one early in March. John and Carole are never lacking for family company and activities with their eight children,

19 grandchildren, and now seven "great-grands" under 6 adding to the fun. Like many, their family was touched by the COVID-19 virus. Their daughter Mary and her husband were both seriously ill and hospitalized but thankfully recovered.

My email reminder about the annual Mass for our classmates, especially those deceased, brought many wonderful responses. Among those heard from: **Ellen Boyle Benish, Judy Hanks Maus, Irene O'Leary Van Beckum, Mary Jo Cleary Maddux, Jeannine Timko Lechner, Ann Schultheis Massey, Mary Hertel Hartman, Nancy Mack Gallivan, Bobbi Frederick Black, Mary Kathryn Carroll Hartigan, and Jacques Buckley Hobbs.** We have been united in the spirit of this Mass since 2016, when **Julie Bohan Allen** was inspired with this good idea, and each year we regrettably have more deceased to remember.

## 1958

**Barbara Hilger Hanahan**  
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Dear Classmates,

Thinking of you all. How are you? Are you having a good day? I have had both my virus shots. Many of you mentioned that you have yours, too. Good news!

Enjoyed a nice phone visit with **Patti Rogan Beckman.** She is well and happily sees her children and grandchildren often.

**Suzanne Lipetska Cierzniak** wrote to say her husband James Cierzniak (ND '57) passed away January 4, 2021 after a six-year battle with Parkinson's. Her five children were an enormous help. She now looks forward to returning to their home in Mishawaka.

**Mary Ann Saxe Hickey** reported she and Roger after this pandemic year are delighted to see tulips and mums popping up and robins pecking for food out of their window! She also mentioned they are both vaccinated. Their six children and their families use Zoom to stay in touch.

Mary Ann also reported on **Mary Alice Hixson Malesardi.** She and Dick are fine and getting ready to fly to Charleston, NC to celebrate Easter with their two daughters. It's also Mary Alice's birthday and her daughter Patty's, too.

Greetings from Florida come from **Ellen Canny Werner!** She is living in Fort Myers year-round. Ellen tells me she is getting up daily, feeling grateful for the sun and warm breezes. How wonderful is that!

A nice hello from **Sally Teppert McKendry!** Like most of us, she celebrated her monumental birthday in February, going out to dinner with John.

Next, I heard from **Joan Renehan Thompson** with wonderful news that she is vaccinated. Even more wonderful news, Joan is going to Hawaii with friends in April!

**Theadora Reid Murray** sends her hello! Sadly, Teddi lost her dear sister Sue in January after a valiant battle with cancer. Much love to Teddi and their families.

I talked to **Sue Corcoran Griffin** on the phone. She sends her love.

**Jody Vetter Olson** got her two shots after much time spent on the internet—most of us had the same experience! Jody talks to **Paula Lawton Bevington** on the phone. Needless to say, sometimes Georgia politics comes up. A lot is going on in Paula's home state!

Lots of love!

## 1959

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Sadly, our ranks continue to thin. I received an email from **Sally Porth Brown** in January that her dear friend, nursing colleague, roomie, and classmate **Maureen Esbensen Busse** passed away on January 3, 2021. She is survived by two children and four grandchildren. Her husband Bob predeceased her in 1984. He was an ND grad and a member of the Notre Dame Marching Band, who earned his PhD in chemistry from Rutgers. She lived in Statesville, NC, but had just recently moved to a nursing facility in Taylorsville, NC. Although Maureen's lifelong nursing career began in a hospital, she held positions in which she visited the sick and dying in their homes, worked to remove and rehabilitate child abusers, served the public at the county health department, and nursed those in need at the county home in Florida. She also taught medical assistants at a technical school. After she got her master's degree in science at Nova University in 1982, she held several administrative positions, one of which included fighting Medicare fraud. In retirement, Maureen cherished the company of her rescued cats.

**Connie Roller Curtin** sent me an obituary for **Lori Postillion van der Plas**, who lived in Phoenix, AZ, as does Connie. Lori passed away on December 19, 2020, at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. She was predeceased by her ex-husband Robert van der Plas and is survived by her loving life partner of 20 years Steve Cunningham. Lori received her MA and PhD degrees in psychology from Loyola University in Chicago. She practiced as a clinical psychologist for many years, both in Illinois and Arizona. She was very proud of her Italian heritage. Her father's family was from the Abruzzi region and her mother's family was from the Veneto region. She was an expert on family history and the "go to" person for questions on how everyone was related. Please remember our dear classmates and their families in your prayers.

**Jackie Baumer Berg** writes from Huntsville, AL that she and Tom have been blessed with four of their children and families living within walking distance of them. She and Tom both lost siblings this year, one from COVID-19.

**Colleen Taffee Goldkamp Harmon** writes in her Christmas letter that she and Bob are living in their home of 25 years with no immediate plans to change. "Bob continues to struggle with his

Parkinson's but has three new sports cars for indoor use...a cane, a walker, and a wheelchair." Colleen writes that she has recently been diagnosed with myasthenia gravis and is struggling with double vision, hoping and praying that her treatment will help and be successful. Received a pithy email from **BJ Hood O'Brien:** "November 26, 2020, my 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary fell on Thanksgiving Day! My husband Bob and I celebrated at home (Indiana), alone, with a nice turkey dinner. Easiest Thanksgiving ever! Two days later, I ran the Saint Mary's virtual 5k. I won my age group (70 and older) at 46 minutes. Hard to believe. It's a sanity saver in the COVID-19 years. Snow is melting, all is well."

**Peg Stratton Burleigh** wrote that she spent the holidays with her daughter Beth in Colorado following the loss of her husband in February 2020. Beth is also a widow and has written a book, *Tragically Beautiful, ESSAYS OF LOVE, LOSS AND HOPE* by Beth Bullard, a story about the many challenges she faced and how she and her two children have learned to adapt and move on. The book is available through Amazon.com. Peg was hoping to visit with **Mary K. Moran Gaudet** while in Colorado.

**Mary Moran Smith** writes from Phoenix that 2020 seems to have been put "on hold" by the pandemic...no graduations, no reunions, no weddings. She has three granddaughters trying to pull off weddings in an eight-month span. She is still playing golf and card games with "age-appropriate" friends once a week—okayed by her doctor.

Brian and **Carol Podesta Foley** are settled in their Lake Forest Place continuing care cottage but are finding it hard to meet with other residents because of COVID-19 restrictions. They celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as many of us did last year. None of their 19 grandchildren are married but there is engagement talk in the air. They have one in high school, one in medical school, and the rest gainfully employed or in graduate school. They have one grandchild who ran the New York marathon in less than four hours and another who played football for Holy Cross on full scholarship, graduating this spring. Because he has a year of eligibility left, he has been offered a one-year scholarship to Duke.

**Marge Liebrich O'Connor** is delighted to announce that her granddaughter **Caroline Margaret Kiefer** is a freshman at Saint Mary's and she loves reliving all the memories she has of her freshman year...the football games, etc. She is undergoing serious health problems, however, so please keep her in your prayers. She buried her husband the week before Christmas and then came all the legal work. She was diagnosed with pneumonia in March just as COVID-19 was ushered in. Her heart failure and a-fib got worse and by now she has undergone necessary valve repair to improve the situation. She closed with, "We '59ers are hanging in there but some have more troubles."

**Pat Wilson Fastiggi** wrote, "I saw recently on Facebook that 2020 should become the new swear word. Maybe. But also points out to us the things that we consider most important. Our family, the health of our family and friends. Anyway, a very strange year." Pat stayed in semi-quarantine in Vermont most of the summer following her sojourn from her winter quarters in Texas, but headed back to Texas in early fall away from the isolation of her lake house. On June 20, she welcomed her first great-grandbaby.



**Aurelia (Pucky) McCormick Zimmerman** moved to Villa St. Benedict, a residential retirement community in Lisle, IL, with her husband Jack, as Alzheimer's was making his life increasingly miserable. As I reported last issue, he passed away in 2020. I sent Pucky a copy of the story I wrote about the "Transom Incident" at Saint Mary's our freshman year just before exams, titled "A Little Night Mischief." I thought she might enjoy it since she played an integral part in our juvenile high jinks. Her response: "Thanks for the memories. I'm so pleased that you remembered my bravery. I guess that's my legacy at Saint Mary's. I have many fond recollections of my year in South Bend, but the Transom Incident tops them all. Barbara, I laughed so hard that night that my body went limp. I could only get in one or two transom bangs before I had to brace myself against the wall to stand up. Meanwhile, my roommate **Terry Queenan Frei** lay in bed and howled. My Lord, it was so much fun. I never understood why Sister Madeleva was so upset about some innocent freshman hijinx. Second to 'the incident'—well maybe not second—were the many great girls in our class and friendships made." Pucky is very happy to report that she still enjoys a connection with Saint Mary's and Notre Dame, as her grandson is a freshman at ND. (If anyone wants a copy of "A Little Night Mischief," please let me know and I will email it to you.)

I just heard from **Betsy Finneran Kennedy**, who sent me an obituary for Thomas Keck, husband of **Janet Rauch Berg Keck**. He passed away February 27, 2021 in Oak Brook, IL. Please remember Jan and her family in your prayers.

I spoke with my sister **Betty Benford Belfiore** in Florida. She fell and broke her wrist just before Christmas but is doing fine and up to her eyeballs relandscaping her property.

Gerry and I continue to enjoy life at Reata Glen in Orange County, CA. COVID-19 restrictions are softening. Gerry has use of the gym now and I'm back to playing doubles pickleball three days a week. We've received both vaccines and are enjoying a sense of relief that we were not struck down in our elderly years with such a tragic virus. So life goes on tentatively. Five of our grandchildren are officially engaged, as is our daughter Marie, so there are lot of weddings in the wings—and you know what, to follow. Our fourth great-grandchild is due in June. One of our granddaughters was accepted into the residency program at Resurrection Hospital in Chicago—her first choice. Life is Good!

## 1961

Wini Tennis Kristufek  
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Earlier this year, **Pauline Capelli McTernan** was one of 12 recipients from four statewide regions in Wisconsin to be named as a 2020 Treasures of the Church Award honoree by Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listek and Catholic Charities.

**Reggie Ryan Wyles** wrote she had entered a new phase of her life by moving into the same retirement home in which her mother spent the last 15 years of her life. She knew of no other facility as good, and her youngest son and his family live

nearby. The second person she met there was a member of our "little sister" class at SMC. **Barbie Breen Hickey** and her husband Don planned to visit soon.

**Judy Halter Enright** sent news her granddaughter **Katherine (Kitty) Margaret Mary Enright** would be a freshman at Saint Mary's next year, and her sister Rose Enright will be a junior at Notre Dame. Three other sisters: Lucy, Grace, and Mary Clare Enright all graduated from Notre Dame. Another sister **Bridget Enright '14** graduated from Saint Mary's.

**Mary Kay Biddle Aisthorpe** wanted our classmates to know that **Claudia Cronin Waller** passed on February 22 of this year in Naples, FL.

**Eileen Kilday Kennedy** sent sad news of the passing of their daughter Sharon Kennedy Gerlach, age 57, on March 23 of this year, of brain cancer.

**Kay Decker Koppel** asked for our thoughts and prayers for her and her husband, who had a stroke two years ago and is now in a nursing facility for treatment of several health issues. She's unsure what the next steps will be.

Sometime in May, **Susan Fitzgerald Rice** was planning to have lunch with **Julia Armstrong-Zwart** in Moss Landing, CA, a half-hour drive for each.

Thank you to all who answered my request for news. My next deadline is August 1, 2021. I'd love to hear from you.

## 1963

Gail Donovan  
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**Pat Greeley Lechman** was first to forward news before the April deadline for the summer issue. Pat sent birthday wishes to all and hoped others would share their plans for marking this significant event. Friends nearby were planning a "drive by" on Pat's big day and her family was renting a house on Catalina Island to celebrate the event. Pat and her daughter **Laura Lechman Rodriguez '97** are teaching a Bible class on Zoom to 9–12-year-olds. Pat hopes folks will attend our 2023 Reunion, which is always "a gift of time with amazing women who share so many values and are truly inspirational!"

Like Pat's family, **Susan Biever Grey's** family of seven grandchildren and eight adults had plans to mark her birthday at Scarboro Beach in Rhode Island. Getting away together for her birthday has long been a family tradition, enabling the cousins to build their relationships and experience the joy of being with the extended family. Past convenings have been at the Grand Canyon, as well as in Maine and the Adirondacks. Susan has a brother in South Bend, so she regularly returns for football weekends that end with Sunday Mass at Saint Mary's.

**Isabelle Pogue Brienza's** birthday coincided with Easter this year and she celebrated with her children and their spouses as well as the grandchildren not yet away at college. Isabelle shuttered her flourishing tax preparation and consulting practice when she could no longer meet in person with her clients during the pandemic. She relishes her

Simsbury, CT community, where neighbors have nurtured their social bonds in ways respecting pandemic restrictions. As she reported in late March, "For socializing, every afternoon that the weather possibly permits, between five and 15 of us meet in the nearby parking lot. If it is nice, we bring over folding chairs and spend an hour or more socially distanced. If it is too cold, we stand around stomping our feet for a shorter time. It has been helpful." Similarly, one of her two book clubs has continued to meet in backyards when it is warm and by Zoom when it is not. More recently, Isabelle's "one-table mahjongg group, safely vaccinated, resumed playing in (her) living room." On her own, Isabelle has been disciplined about daily exercise and using her treadmill; she also describes herself as "addicted" to a new pursuit—working on thousand-piece puzzles. At the time she wrote, Isabelle had plans to attend granddaughter Alyssa's Notre Dame graduation on May 22. Another granddaughter Rose is entering her sophomore year at Saint Mary's in the fall and loves the place. "Even with COVID-19, she has been very active, participating in ND's Marching Band and a Saint Mary's/ND Irish stepdancing club."

**Gretchen Seidensticker Hildebrand** has reconnected with **Jane McClelland Sawtell** through the column and has found their email interchanges such fun. Tracking down **Rosemary Mason Hopkins** and **Martha Oxley Darr** is on her agenda, but we lack up-to-date contact information on them. Please contact Gretchen (rhildy@nc.rr.com) if you have such information, and let me or the alumnae office know as well. Gretchen and her husband lived in a suburb north of Chicago when raising their two children; their move to Pinehurst, NC has been deeply satisfying. They live on a lake and, with their neighbors, including **Rosemary O'Donnell Corcoran**, maintain an active schedule of indoor and outdoor activities. A daughter lives with her family an hour away and they see other family members when they vacation in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in July and August.

**Virginia Burke Gannon** sent word of a mid-winter Zoom event organized by **Cathy Michuda Kozak** that involved **Sally O'Connor Fallon**, **Margaret Kelly Davenport**, **Nancy Van Etten Haske**, **Margaret Scanlan Shuff**, **Jo Lehnis Gotham**, **Irene Canny Lange**, **Cathy Ryan Condon**, **Jane McClelland Sawtell**, and **Sue Pavlic McBride**. Virgie was unable to connect "live" for this event because folks had her old address on the class list; her current address is vagannon11@gmail.com. We don't want Virgie left out of anything!

Wonderful letter from **Kathy Miller Dzura**, who reported in to our class column for the first time! She began on a poignant note, recalling **Margo Del Vecchio's** long battle with breast cancer and the wonderful mini-reunion Margo hosted in Virginia the summer before her untimely death in December 1997. When they arrived for this event, **Cecelia McBride Lydon**, **Gretchen Seidensticker Hildebrand**, and Kathy discovered that Margo had landed back in the hospital. Margo lobbied earnestly for her release and doctors realized that the group of friends could be counted on to provide the necessary monitoring and support. Kathy remembers "ice cream cones at Margo's favorite place, a delicious dinner, and a pajama party at Margo's beautiful home." Kathy also accompanied

Margo to her cancer support group the following day and the friends will ever remember her as "courage personified, for sure... a beautiful spirit and gifted artist."

After our graduation from Saint Mary's, Kathy volunteered with the Catholic Lay Mission Corps (CLMC) in Killeen, TX, having been inspired by a presentation the organization's president had given us as freshman. There, Kathy worked with a team of two men and seven women assigned to an elementary school—in her case, a class of 42 second graders—and housed in the barracks of a local church. Kathy noted that "it was a year of joy," and at the end of the day they often joked "another day and another \$1.36!" It was a year of discovering many things about children and the teaching/learning process and experiencing a growing sense that "there had to be a better way of teaching children." The chance discovery of a book about Maria Montessori prompted her to enroll in the year-long AMI Montessori Primary Teacher Training Course when the Texas year concluded.

At the conclusion of her training, Kathy's interview with a protégé of Maria Montessori—Mother Isabel—landed her a position at Ravenhill Academy in the Germantown area of Philadelphia. Kathy spent 11 rich and wonderful years there, teaching and helping Mother Isabel shape a newly started training center at the school and soon becoming head of the lab school.

Years that followed combined mothering with teaching in both private and public schools. Kathy worked in Head Start and several inner-city Montessori classrooms in the Philadelphia school district while pursuing further training in Montessori-based elementary education, laying the foundation that would enable her to found the Philadelphia Montessori Charter School for the City of Philadelphia in 2004, "a dream come true." Today, she is in her ninth year as head of the Little Flower Montessori School in Wilton Manor, FL, where she hopes to "continue as long as God gives me the strength, health, and desire to do it. I simply love it." We'll have more from Kathy in the next issue.

Thank you for sending me news. It makes the column much more interesting and is appreciated by many of our friends. Stay well and safe.

## 1964

Mary Ann Curnes Fuller  
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**Mary Vertin O'Neill** has spent the last 10 months in Napa, CA. She and her husband moved out of their home while her daughter remodeled hers and moved into theirs. During their time in Napa, they have hiked, baked, journaled, played bridge, taken classes, attended meetings online, and played golf—improvement is questionable! The most fun that they had was to adopt a 5-year-old Welsh springer spaniel, who gets them walking and brings them joy. The most significant things which they have learned were: They can do without a lot of the "stuff," how fortunate they are, and how grateful they feel to be able to see their children and grandchildren.

**Pat Malone Nathe** wrote: ENJOY SPRING BUT WEAR YOUR MASKS.

**Kay Christenson Janiszewski** wrote that she thoroughly enjoyed reading the *Scottish Trilogy* by Carla Laureano and *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. Besides books, Kay has been day tripping—up to three days and hopes to gather as a family at Easter plus watching the SMC Zooms.

**Pat Powers Gowdy** and Bob have been in Maine. Pat is working on the Gowdy and Dickerman family genealogy. Bob is fixing up his barn but they hope to return to Boston in April until it is time to go back to Maine.

**Fran Bardello Craig** escaped winter and worked in Palm Desert and San Diego with her technology company Unanet and other associations to help women in STEM. Fran enjoyed being there with her vaccination and being able to play golf.

**Connie Mettler** was happy to report that she sold her ArtFairCalendar.com, which she had owned and run since 1978. Four of her family members died in 2020 and she is planning on getting "away" to Peru in September.

**Jeanne Kozmer Marszalek** was excited to be vaccinated so she could shop and go to church, and she said their lives are "blooming" again. Besides making memory boxes for her sons, she has been baking sourdough bread to share. One of her highlights has been that Elaine Trigiani (**Jean Canizaro Enochs'** daughter) has an Italian art program and cooking course on Saturdays, and Jeanne has enjoyed it thoroughly!

**Patsy Wellman Bove's** husband Jim passed away suddenly November 2020. I sent out a separate email with her address and the obituary. May he rest in peace.

**Linda Camiller Sanderson** sent news of a new "romantic retirement cottage": 404 Cheswick Place, Cottage #10, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. This year she and Mike welcomed a "great" granddaughter: the miracle of birth and the continuation of the cycle of life. They gave thanks for their SMC/ND lives in 1960-64 when they met each other and so many of their dear friends.

**Mary Jo Kircher Huck** isolated for Thanksgiving and Christmas alone. Now, she is vaccinated and has been to Denver to visit her daughter and London to visit her son. This winter, she joined the Northwestern University Oscher program online and appreciated the stimulation and the courses.

Thank you all for your snippets of news. ENJOY our new expanded social space, keep safe. Have a wonderful summer. Peace, hope, pray!

## 1965

Sheila Kelly Ames  
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This is from **Molly Martin Mannino**: "Just a thought for *Courier*. Since most of us haven't had travel adventures in the last nine months, I'm thinking many don't have news to report for you. So, I thought: Why not ask '65 if we have taken up a new hobby, honed an old skill, baked something

awesome, done a big project, etc., during the pandemic. It might show how creative and resilient we are." I can't thank Molly enough for her idea—it has sparked a good number of replies.

**Beverly Senda DeFoe** and husband Cameron plan on a drive west to see their sons and their families now that things are improving with COVID-19 and they have their shots. As far as COVID-19 entertainment, Beverly says: "I have resurrected many of my jigsaw puzzles that were saved for rainy days. Well, after completing about 10, thinking 'things' would get better, I moved to food magazines and recipes. Have enjoyed many new recipes. And we have completed many home projects. Nothing very exciting, but grateful to be well and safe AND vaccinated." And more: "We are going to Phoenix the end of March to see Dean and family. Eleanor (my one princess) turns 6. Will get to see sister Carol and family. Will meet her grandson Martin, now 8 months old. We then go to Seattle to see Patrick and family. Today the boys Cameron, 9, and James, 5½, are in school. As Cameron said, he is excited and nervous! But, like everyone... I hope... we will still mask and social distance."

Nice news from **Mary Delaney Willer**: "I will also extend to you my best Christmas wishes and healthy New Year by email. The pictures with your grandchildren are precious. We had a family reunion in Vail, CO in August. All three families were able to attend and all are healthy. They all are also trying to cope with the various patterns of schooling with their children."

"Here's my response to Molly's suggestion," writes **Jean Barrett Shaw**. Get ready—this is amazing! "My main pandemic project was an extensive study of Baroque opera. When the shutdown came and the public library closed, I happened to have out a couple of books about Handel, one of which had a chronology in its end matter. Even though the library's doors were locked, its website gave access to a tremendous classical music streaming service, so I decided I would listen to all of Handel's operas and oratorios in order. That took two months and we were still shut down, so I added what they had available of Cavalli, Telemann, Vivaldi, and Hasse. That took a couple of months more and we were getting into the second surge, so I went on to lesser-known composers. Between mid-March and December, I listened to over 200 Baroque operas by more than 40 composers and both enjoyed them immensely and learned a lot, and I'm still adding an occasional one. A high point came when, in a booklet accompanying one album, I came upon a reference to an article from the '80s by Hans-Berthold Dietz. That flashed me back to SMC, where I audited his music history survey sophomore year, and I realized how much he had established the foundation for my musical taste throughout my life, especially my abiding love for Renaissance and Baroque vocal music, both religious and secular. It may be one of the most lastingly influential parts of my legacy of my time there."

"Yes, life has changed in so many ways," writes **Helen Reichert Restovich**. "Almost four years ago, I built on to one of my daughter's homes. There is an enclosed bridge between us, and her children, four boys ages 8, 6, 4, and 3, pass back and forth easily. Last March, my daughter and her husband



made the decision to keep their children home in order, primarily, to safeguard my health. As a result, she has taught the older two and I have the 3- and 4- year-old each morning. So many blessings! Reading books, acting out *Peter and the Wolf*, creating stories with Play Doh, singing and dancing to the Jersey Boys, making banana bread, and being loved so beautifully. More time for love, for quiet prayer, for appreciation of wonderful friends and family. I wish the same for all of you dear ones." Looks like Helen has a daughter as thoughtful as she is!

"I'd like to submit some news from **Betty Ann Rice Kaminsky** and me for your next *Courier* article," writes **Regina Parks**. "On March 15, I'll move into the same independent living retirement community in Tucson where Betty Ann moved last September. I'm currently in the throes of preparing for the move—HELP! I'll be in quarantine for several days after moving in, so will plan to talk then (by phone) with Betty Ann to get her content. Will then send you something for both of us. Will appreciate an ongoing remembrance in your prayers as I plod through this monumental (for me) undertaking—pun intended!—of downsizing (sorting, purging, donating)."

**Sara Johnson Walz** writes: "Nothing too much from here. Just trying to stay in touch with friends, doing lots of puzzles, and releasing some creativity by coloring. Nothing spectacular or surprising. Have had both COVID-19 shots and Nick gets his second Thursday! Hope you and your family are doing well! Looking forward to at least some relief from this cabin fever!"

**Terry Miltich Murphy** sends a fun, and so timely, note: "Sorry for my late response to your plea for news. I like Molly's suggestion and wonder if replacing body parts counts as a big project! Hugs and thanks to you, Terry." Yes, it does! Prayers for your healing, Terry!

"Wish I had some juicy news for you but in answering the question you posed, I have no new hobbies, haven't honed any old skills (nor developed any new ones), not sure I remember how to bake much of anything at all let alone something awesome, nor tackled any big projects. So—as should be obvious—I have been living a rather boring existence through the pandemic," writes **Carolyn Clark Foster**. "But, that said, have to say all is basically good and definitely looking forward to that proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. I did retire from my POA job as treasurer—six years was enough and I think they need some new blood. I'm off the finance committee as well but still chairing the investment committee; I don't mind doing it—and maybe it will keep my brain from atrophying, which would be a good thing. Since we've both had our COVID-19 shots (four weeks out from the second ones) we're venturing out carefully these days. At this point, I'm not sure I know how to behave in public, but we'll make the transition gradual. We're still avoiding crowds but have visited with close friends and family in our homes and that has been a really pleasant change. The cathedral in Raleigh does a fabulous job with their broadcast Mass—our local parish is a tad amateurish but they try. However, I usually opt for Raleigh—that cathedral is absolutely gorgeous, the music and voices are magnificent, and the bishop and priests give typically excellent

sermons, so... I'm hooked. Interestingly with our parish here, I asked the pastor one day (ran into him in the grocery store) how the donations were doing through this and he said they were pretty much normal—amazing how quickly folks have picked up on the online giving options. It's great, however, as they still have their physical plant to maintain as well as other expenses that don't stop regardless of a pandemic, so that was good news to hear."

"Thanks so much for the birthday wishes," writes **Cathy Haenn Shannon**. "Even though no one came into the house, friends stopped by throughout the day. Luckily, we had room in the freezer section of the refrigerator and so we can enjoy these treats for a while. We got our second vaccine shot this past week. While it certainly gives some peace of mind, all of us here are still being thoughtfully cautious about getting together. Like so many others, we know people who got very sick or died from COVID-19. We are anxious to get together but are holding off for a bit more time."

From the lady who made this column possible, **Molly Martin Mannino**: "I started quilting in late summer 2020 and have since made four VERY basic quilts with very basic skills. I made a quilt for each of my three children using fabric from their dad's Hawaiian shirts, just for the memories they bring back. Then I made a baby quilt for a new great-nephew, hoping it will make some new memories for him. I took a break in December, but have just shopped for fabric for a quilt of valor for a veteran, also using a very basic pattern. I've found the projects lift my spirits, keep me moving during quarantined days, and give me new things to think about. It's been good for me! P.S. Tell **Carla Aderente** she gave me some inspiration three years ago that I stored in the back of my mind to give me a push in the right direction this year."

Lots of news from **Sheila Flynn Boone**: "Whew, what a year! I think I took family and friends for granted before COVID-19 hit. Now I really appreciate how wonderful it was to be able to hug our kids and grandkids and visit in person with friends. I can hardly wait till we're able to enjoy those things again. I'm so disappointed that our '55 + 1' Reunion couldn't happen in June. But we're working to make a 'more than golden Class of 65 Reunion' happen August 10 to the 13. Some roadblocks to cross, but hope we can make it happen. More and more, I'm thinking that the old adage 'don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today' makes sense! Now the two weeks for antibodies to settle in, and soon hope to get to California for baby Charlotte's christening. Things are opening up a bit here but we, and most of our friends, still want to be careful about group socializing. How are things there? Going to play bridge this Friday, just with three others. None of us has played for a year!"

**Theresa Lyons Brosnan** has actually kept active during the coronavirus. While her prison ministry was halted, she became actively involved in an organization call Homeless not Hopeless on Cape Cod. Because of that, she has received both shots for the COVID-19 vaccine and didn't have to wait on any lines. She is in charge of the educational program and meets with all the 50 residents and managers on a regular basis. She also has now taken over the supervision of all the residents and staff until a new COO takes over in June. Cape Cod actually has a high percentage of homeless, many

living in the woods. "We feel fortunate that we are able to give 50 people a home." She had her mitral valve repair surgery in July and did 12 weeks of rehab. She feels better than ever.

A note from **Sue Sheridan Joyce** that she and husband Joe just returned from East Africa on safari. Waiting for results of COVID-19 test was their biggest worry, but it all panned out. "Great trip on Micato. Only people on it. Truly a private safari. If any of you decide to go in the future, be forewarned. . .our previous safari was to South Africa and Botswana. Ultra-luxe camps. East Africa not so much, so don't expect luxury. But seeing the Serengeti and the Masai villages and Kilimanjaro, incredible. Not to mention the morning balloon ride over Masai Mar."

**Valerie Maracz Perrone** sent me the very sad news of the passing of **Ruth Clement Affeldt**. "Dear Sheila, Ruth's sister Mary told me of Ruth's passing yesterday. It's been five years that she was in a nursing home and hospice. I am relieved that she is at peace now. Thank you again for keeping our class together. I am so grateful for you and **Lil Chard Beshel**. This was just another part of this strange year that I am so ready to put behind me."

I notified the class of Ruth's passing, and also that of **Judy Piers Locher** on March 9. Judy was a very dear friend, and we have had many occasions of wonderful travel together. I will miss her more than I can say. Her family was most appreciative of the prayers from classmates, and Judy told me herself that the many thoughtful notes she received was so heartening. We go on!

## 1966

**Mary Kay Duffy Gott**  
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(847) 902-3759

Hopes of spring are in the air. Daffodils are blooming and the trees are budding out. We have survived the worst year ever. The future for everyone to have the COVID-19 vaccine is a definite truth. Everyone anticipates a return to normal.

Seeing one's family has been a difficult factor of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Pat Hilger Zeigler**, who lives in Florida, traveled to Montgomery, AL to visit her daughter Aileen and her family. Aileen's husband Hunter is a major in the Air Force. This daughter lives in "The Mansion" that was built in 1832 with an addition finished in 1850 and again in 1890. The walls are several feet thick and could withstand a major windstorm with ease. History says that Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald slept here. Her uncle owned the property until 1920. This truly historic home is two blocks from the Civil Rights Trail.

During the down months of COVID-19, Pat reached out to **Barbara McCusker Poole** and **Pam Smith Malone**. Barb lives outside Atlanta and Pam resides in a suburb of Nashville.

**Mary Fran Petricca Gleason** made a major move to be near her children. When her daughter Mary decided to transfer and to join her siblings in the Phoenix area, Mary Fran chose to make the change also. Mary Fran sold her condo in River Forest, IL and bought a beautiful home in Sun Lakes, AZ. She will be within 20 minutes of each of her three adult

children Julia, Mary, and Jim and their families. This move meant that Mary Fran left the town where she was born. She had been an active parishioner of St. Giles Church in Oak Park since her childhood.

I emailed **Carol Senda Damaso** of Mary Fran's move to Phoenix. It is always good to have a Saint Mary's connection when one moves to a new location.

## EXCELSIOR

**Veronica Henahan Hagerty '66** has been reappointed to the OneStar National Service Commission by Governor Greg Abbott.

**Shirley Yancey Kloepper** sent an interesting email describing how the OVO La Casa Amiga of Madison, IN survived the trials of COVID-19. This past year was difficult for Shirley, who is the founder and coordinator since 2002. La Casa is a Hispanic social and educational center for the area. It was located in the back of a drycleaners in Madison. When COVID-19 hit, Shirley and La Casa volunteers struggled to keep their programs going. To add to the pain, the drycleaners went out of business, forcing La Casa to find a new location. Fortunately, a local Baptist church purchased an empty school and invited La Casa to use their facilities. The new location is called the Eggleston Community Center. In addition, funding for La Casa suffered this year. On May 1, La Casa will hold its first "Drive-By Hispanic Dinner."

**Sharon Priester Lewert** welcomed a granddaughter Willa and a grandson. Lucky for Sharon, little Willa and her parents live only a few miles away in Palatine, IL. Her new grandson who 'joins his older sister Eva' live in Golden, CO with his adoring parents.

**Mary Dunn Finneran** moved to Portland to be near her granddaughter Willa. The COVID-19 pandemic kept their visits to FaceTime. Recently, Mary and her husband E.J. were able to visit their son's family in person in the son's backyard.

Best wishes to everyone that this upcoming year brings only joy and happiness.

## 1967

**Alyne Ricker, MD**  
Rickerat67@gmail.com

Well, in February I turned 75! Minimal celebration (COVID-19, y'know), but lots of mail, Zoom, Skype greetings and wishes, for which I am very grateful because this three-quarters of a century thing is pretty weird. Does anyone else feel that way? Looking to the future is better, and it appears that in one year we will be preparing to attend our 55<sup>th</sup> annual Reunion, hopefully in person and vaccine protected.

**Cheryl Smith Hofweber's** "inner hermit" has enjoyed just being at home. She has spent leisure time hiking, biking, or cross-country skiing with John, watching Netflix, and learning to love Sudoku's brain exercises. She Zooms with family and employs Zoom for teaching some adult courses on anxiety, as well as for participating in fitness classes. She enjoyed the SMC Book Club event for the book *Educated* along with several other classmates. Overall, life is good!

**Judie Gabler Tidwell** has found that the isolation related to COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Kenny's Alzheimer's. Judie shares his care with a caregiver who comes three days per week, but she is now requiring home health assistance. Even with help, his care is challenging, but this will allow her to be able to keep him at home much longer. She also reports the happy news that she will be a grandmother soon. Her daughter **Amy Tidwell Bathgate '01** and husband Jarrod are expecting a girl in mid-August and everyone "is beside themselves with excitement." Judie, Kenny, Amy, and Jarrod will all have had their COVID-19 vaccinations by the end of March and are looking forward to getting together soon.

Judie has been in touch with **Ellen Mercantini Conoscenti**, who is now living in the Houston area near grandchildren. Judie looks forward to their getting together when it becomes possible.

Just as I was getting ready to send this, I heard from **Joan Nagy Quenan**. Joan has also been on Zoom and has done online tutoring as well as doing taxes for people through Google Meet and online. She's had both her Moderna shots and had COVID-19 a year ago, so she's "feeling full of antibodies." She writes that she is "putting my stuff in storage, buying a camper van, and hitting the road! First to Wisconsin to my lake home to finish getting it ready for summer renters, then to a granddaughter's graduation in Chicago, probably back to South Bend to visit some relatives and friends, then I'm heading west." She plans to spend most of the summer at national parks in California, Oregon, or Washington, then on to visit cousins in Southern California and Arizona, with other stops planned on the way back to Texas. Joan hopes to connect with some classmates out West also before ending her adventure back in Austin in October. Bon voyage, Joan! And please send a picture for our class report.

**Susan Stout Redmond** wrote about her pandemic experience. The COVID-19 shutdown has created a "new" life. Thankfully, she is still able to work at the community college, though remotely. She reports being surprised that she is able to manage teacher-student engagement in this online mode. Planned travel to Spain has been postponed, but she was able to visit Paris and Provence a few months before COVID-19. In addition, Susan reports that she made her annual gal pal trip to NYC on the first weekend in March 2020! Because they were aware of COVID-19, they took some precautions, but in retrospect wondered if they should have been there at all. While in shutdown she has found reading to be "one of my most productive and satisfying 'stay at home' activities." As are all of us that are in this same boat, she is "praying that this is over and we can return to a life of family gatherings, dinner with friends, long-awaited trips...remembrance of things past."

Picture of a painting done by our classmate **Janet Varga Berry**, titled *RBG* and made when Justice Ginsberg was lying in state in DC.



## 1968

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

Richard and I celebrated our 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 22. Our niece **Elizabeth Christopher Palasky DiPoalo '06** hosted a small gathering at her home. Better than a larger group we might have had at a restaurant before COVID-19.

From **Mary Bartlett Wolf**: "In early March, 11 classmates met for lunch in Estero, FL, sharing personal updates and fond recollections of our days together at Saint Mary's and our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2018. The group included **Mary Bartlett Wolf, Christine Gott Dickemper, Harriett Hillebrand Cronin, Barbara Gibson South, Claire Callahan Johannesen, Roseann Van Gelderen Lyons, Maureen Murphy Sheehan, Kathy Huisking Sullivan, Mary Jo Day Knauf, Ann Reins Fangman, and Muriel Duggan Wolff**.



From left: Mary Bartlett Wolf, Christine Gott Dickemper, Harriett Hillebrand Cronin, Barbara Gibson South, Claire Callahan Johannesen, Roseann Van Gelderen Lyons, Maureen Murphy Sheehan, Kathy Huisking Sullivan, Mary Jo Day Knauf, Ann Reins Fangman, and Muriel Duggan Wolff.

"When asked what we would like our fellow classmates to know, COVID-19 and getting the vaccines were at the top of the list. While fortunate to either live in Southwest Florida or visit the area in the winter, these Saint Mary's 'women' collectively missed seeing their children, grandchildren, and other family members in the states or abroad during 2020. We rejoiced at the benefits of FaceTime, cell phones, and emails. No one at lunch had solved the 'downsizing dilemma' of crystal, china, silver, furs, and other accumulated items which our 'heirs' don't want! Golf and biking were two of the most mentioned forms of exercise. While the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion was three years ago, we expressed disbelief in how that translates into our actual ages. Meanwhile, visit Belles '68 on Facebook and read the quote on



friendships; yes, Class of 1968, we have survived... 'hiatuses, silences, and space, those are the connections that never die.'"



Zip Largey Basile, Dee Sauer Pugliese, Maureen Claire Hunter-Bone, Jan Nienberg Swift, and her 99-year-old mom Ruth Nienberg at a gathering at Jan's home in Alameda, CA.

## 1969

Joyce O'Donnell Bussewitz  
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Hi, Classmates!

As I am writing this column, many of us have been vaccinated or are making appointments to do so. Hopefully, your coming days will be filled with happy reunions with loved ones! I know that Zoom, FaceTime, and other social media platforms have helped us stay connected. In December of 2020, I joined several of our friends via Zoom, which **Nan**

**Raaf** organized. From other Zoom connections I've had, I understand it's like herding cats, but kudos to any of you who have pulled us all together! Nan gathered **Joyce Kenny Young, Kathy Ellis Prescott, Margaret Roberts Richards, Mary Alice Herod Lajoie, Ann Hollander Sedlacek, Katie Garrity Leatherman, and Mary Ann Tavery.**

**Sally Strobel Ladky** wrote that while boredom was problematic, she was glad to have chats with **Diane Hart Knowles and Muggsie Robershaw Shern.** Sally reported that Muggsie and John (ND '69) had had all of their children living in Atlanta, but all have moved out of state.

From Seattle, **Mary Beuerle Magnano** sent her update. "My husband Joe (ND '67) and I recently celebrated 51 years of marriage. We've been in Seattle for most of that time and feel blessed that our three children, their spouses, and six grandchildren live nearby. While my degree from Saint Mary's was in education, there were very few positions open when we returned to Seattle in 1971. While raising my children, I volunteered, tutored, and coached girls' soccer and basketball for 30 seasons. At the age of 49, I returned to school to get my master's in teaching degree and have taught at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Middle School ever since. My school is just beginning to welcome students back to campus, and I hope to return as a substitute teacher soon. Not ready to

retire yet! Two of our children graduated from ND, and we're hoping to have a grandchild there soon!"

**Maralissa Katherine Thomas** emailed me her news. "I'm still in northern California close to my children. Yesterday, I had my usual Skype with dear friend **Helena Siedlecki Daly** (SMC staff student married to NDer Kevin Daly). Their big news is they are moving permanently to Ireland this summer. Congrats to them on selling their phenomenal home that Kevin designed and built in the northern Chicago suburbs. Looking forward to a long visit with them next spring after they settle in to their new home. I will certainly miss riding bikes with Helena around SMC and ND during football season home games, though." Please send us news for our class column, Helena, about your new life in Ireland! Maralissa continued, "**Mary Alice Herod Lajoie** and I also continue to commiserate on how we've been keeping busy during this past year. I'd planned a trip to Colorado last summer. Well, we all know what happened to beloved travel plans then. She's been fortunate to spend plenty of time with her grandkids since moving to Colorado to be close to them. Of course, she sends me photos of the snow, of which I've had enough for a couple of lifetimes. Been there, done that. As for me, I've been hiking, biking, beach combing, picnicking, and restaurant hopping regularly this year with my children and local friends, throughout the pandemic. Being inclined to outdoor activities certainly worked

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out well for us here. I've also recently taken up pickleball and am loving it. I never did get into the swing of tennis lessons in gym class at Saint Mary's. For me, that racket was just too darn long and heavy to grapple with. I've had decades of fun with racquetball, ping pong, badminton, and now crazed over pickleball. All the better that it's an outdoor sport. It's just about replaced golf. I got out to Florida a couple of years ago and spent time with **Babs Bullard**. Had a fantastic time. She gave me a royal tour of Palm Beach, including showing me where she'd attended high school with **Nancy Carlin Figel**. Visited art galleries, great restaurants, met some of her neighbors, worked out at the gym, stayed up late gabbing every night, and loved jumping in her swimming pool in the mornings. I wish everyone well."

**Joanne Tracy Marsh** reported from Illinois. "My husband Ed (ND '68) and I live in a Carillon community in Naperville, IL. We have lived in Naperville for more than 40 years, and this is our third house there. I am active in the Chicago West Alumnae Club. We have been able to stay in touch with each other through our book discussion Zoom calls, but we are all anxious to see each other in person when the weather gets warm. I keep in touch with **Mary Kay Hunckler Gleason**, **Rosy Naphin**, **Janet Krueger**, and **Betsy Mueller Heil**. We all have had our shots and are looking forward to life getting back to some kind of normal. I am very proud of how Saint Mary's handled the COVID-19 virus. My cousin's daughter is a freshman there, and she is very happy with her college experience. I hope everyone in our class is doing well. I am still very sad about the deaths of my good friends and classmates **Sandy Rechtsteiner McKew** and **Mary Noelke Nesius**. Let's appreciate our time together and toast the class of 1969!"

Here in Wilmington, NC, I recently celebrated my first outdoor restaurant trip in over a year with two dear friends who share our history—**Mary Jo Russell Searson '73** and **Toni Benedetto Soule '74**. We met a few years ago here in North Carolina through the ND Club of Wilmington and have volunteered in various projects, attended game watches, and developed a wonderful friendship. **Janet Krueger** did me a huge favor in March by making a special delivery on St. Patrick's Day to a very special person in Grand Rapids. Janet took a case of Starbucks' mini vanilla bean scones to my first "boss" out of Saint Mary's—the principal of Saint Joseph's School in Bay City, MI—Sister Maria Goretti. Sister has remained a dear friend to me and our family since that first year of teaching even though I moved to Virginia after that year. She is now 93 years young!—and lives at Marywood, the motherhouse of her Dominican order. The motherhouse has been sold, and the property will be used for low-income housing as the sisters are placed in various spots around Grand Rapids—some to assisted care facilities, some to apartments. Sister Maria Goretti is dynamic and giving as always, and distributed the scones that evening along with Irish coffees she made for her other sisters. Please join me in praying for that community of nuns who must be experiencing many emotions as Marywood is closed.

Thanks for all of your contributions, friends. Remember that you can write me anytime, and I'll be both glad and grateful to file your news until the next column is due! Don't wait to be contacted! God bless!

## 1970

**Karen Preston McCarty**  
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Our Class of 1970 Reunion Committee has continued to be very engaged in hosting monthly all-class Zoom calls to keep us all connected. We have tried to alternate between lounge calls that give us all a chance to catch up with one another and calls with substantive topics or activities. **Kathy Yuhass Kwinn's** daughter Kari has continued to be our Zoom call guru to ensure our substantive topic calls go smoothly. These have included book discussion of *Last Bus to Wisdom* led by **Kathy Bernard Franzel**, **Pat O'Hara Gable**, a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel led by SMC alumnae **Tiffany McIver De Luca '07**, a virtual tour of an exhibit of women's art at the Atlanta Contemporary—*She is Here*—led by **Veronica Louise Kessenich '01**, executive director of Atlanta Contemporary and daughter of our classmate **Ronnie Henry Kessenich**, and "The Redemptive Power of Suffering" led by **Sara Bateman Koehler**. For me, the last one noted was the most powerful. I was really reluctant to participate because I did not want to revisit the bad times in my life. It turned out to be very comforting and healing to hear the stories of what other classmates have gone through over the years. These are not stories that we are going to share in *Courier*, but the fact that we could share them truthfully and trustfully with one another on this call made a huge impact. We plan to continue these monthly calls and have plans to host another e-Reunion in June 2021 as once again the College has needed to cancel getting together on campus.

By this time, you should have received a Reunion memento from our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee—a Christmas ornament of "The Avenue"—only fitting as our Reunion theme was "Many Roads – One Avenue." If you have not received your ornament, please reach out to me at karen.mccarty@comcast.net with your current mailing address. We want to make sure that all our classmates receive one. We are also sending a commemorative ornament to a family member of each of our deceased classmates so they know they are still in our hearts and our memories.

This past year with COVID-19 has been an interesting time for all of us. We have classmates who have contracted COVID-19 or have family members who have. We have classmates whose families had to share the funeral services of loved ones via Zoom. We have heard from so many classmates who have not been able to meet in person with family and friends—only seeing their children and grandchildren via Zoom or drive-by visits, on the porch, or in their backyards. Our classmates have children pushed to the edge because they are frontline workers who need to be

there and exposed every day, and those who have everyone in the family operating out of their homes and trying to balance their work and overseeing their children's online learning. Our classmates' grandchildren have lost so much this year because their schools were physically shutdown, all activities were cancelled and they were reduced to online learning. Without a doubt, 2020 was a year that none of us will forget. I think I speak for all of us when I say we did not anticipate how dramatically this would affect all our lives in 2020 or the years to come.

All that being said, 2021 is looking a lot more hopeful—the big topics of conversation being, have you been vaccinated, what type of vaccination did you receive, and what were your side effects? After that comes, what are you able to do in public?—grocery shopping, restaurants, hair and nail salons, museums, zoos—everything we always took for granted. This past year has certainly given us a new appreciation for everything that we had come to take for granted. I do think the one big regret we may all share is that we did not buy stock in Zoom before this all began!

We reached out to our classmates living in Texas and those who have family there to make sure they were safe, given the terrible storms and subsequent aftereffects. We heard from several classmates in Texas—**Ginger Updike Daily** and **Tia Barrett Bisignano** and their families were not severely impacted—some family members had some flooding and cleanup needed. Ginger and Tia provided us with recommendations for giving to the victims in Texas, which I have shared on my email blasts. **Sue Gudgeon Reilly** reported that her daughter was in the process of moving to Dallas when the storms hit. They have a number of family members there, some of whom experienced some severe damage due to burst water pipes. **Pat O'Hara Gable** and her husband Steve (ND '70) spent three weeks visiting their daughter Margaret and her family in Dallas—their first trip since COVID-19. They hope to resume the annual tradition of getting the family together for a week in Gloucester, MA.

**Mary Lou Wylie** and her husband have continued to purge their house in Harrisburg, VA in anticipation of moving to Richmond, VA to be close their son Caleb and his family. They have just purchased "the house next door" and will have made that move by the time this column is published!

**Ann Toffanetti Schumacher** and her husband Gil have taken some limited trips to lakeside towns in Michigan, but otherwise have stayed close to home playing bridge via Zoom and continuing to purge. They have now done their garage—an exercise which of course we all dread! They haven't been able to get together in person with their daughter and son-in-law because they both work frontline in health care, but have done drive-by and Zoom visits.

**Pam Carey Batz** is doing great after going through major surgery to relieve her symptoms from Parkinson's. Pam is such a formidable force—you cannot stop her from carrying on with the activities she is so passionate about and just being there for Bill, their daughters, and their families!

**Rosemarie Rinella Stocky** and her husband Tom (ND '70) have taken up bocce ball as their newest activity in their San Jose, CA community. They have



been fortunate in being able to continue to visit with their son Tom and his family throughout this time.

**Sally Bertoldi Lewis** lives in New Zealand—I think the safest country in the world during COVID-19. She is now retired. Her husband passed away several years ago, but she has her children and their families nearby so is just enjoying being a grandparent.

**Mary Bruegge Flood** has shared—"My two oldest daughters are both Saint Mary's graduates.

**Cathleen Flood McManamon '98** got a BSN and is a manager of clinical studies for Astra Zeneca pharmaceutical company in Wilmington, DE. She is also the mother of three children, Patrick, 15, Bridget, 13, and Will, 8. Her husband Bill is at home with them all now, since his job fitting and selling lead aprons to hospitals is more or less unavailable at the moment. **Liz Flood Waddell '98** is married and the mother of two girls, Alice, 5, and Jane, almost 3. She got her MA and is a project manager for Modern Think, also in Wilmington, DE. She is ready to get her normal routine back soon. Ryan Waddell, her husband, is a CFP at Vanguard. My youngest girl Maureen teaches first grade locally and has three children, Maura, 12, Lydia, 10, and John, almost 6. Her husband Richard Keitch works in the medical diagnostics business. My daughters and their families live near me, and I am especially lucky! Life for me is delightful! I'm not happy with

the quarantine going on, but I'm dealing with it and hope to visit my oldest friends in Kokomo, IN as soon as I can get there!"

**Nancy Erdman Coffey** is now retired from her position as a social worker. She writes, "Retiring into COVID-19 is really strange, I find. I had thought that I'd be traveling between California (one of our sons and his partner had a baby about 18 months ago) and New York City (where another son and his 7-year-old daughter live). He teaches philosophy for New York University in Abu Dhabi, so he typically lives part of the year there and part in NYC. We also have a married daughter who lives in Baton Rouge." Nancy's husband is a retired foreign service officer.

As for me, I officially retired as of January 29, 2021, and thought it would take me awhile to adjust. Instead, I took to it like a duck to water—no more 6 a.m. conference calls and logging on to find out the crises of the day! I had grandiose plans for cleaning out all of my cupboards and closets but that has yet to happen. I can, however, report that as of March 1 we did take down the Christmas tree and as of April 3 took down the rest of the Christmas decorations in time for Easter!

We are still working on publishing our Memory Book for the Class of 1970. If you have not contributed already or want to share news, please log on to our class website at [smc1970.org](http://smc1970.org) and to the What's New with You tab. If you are not receiving my Class of 1970 email blasts but would like to be

included, please send me your contact information at [karen.mccarty@comcast.net](mailto:karen.mccarty@comcast.net).

## 1972

**Missy Underman Noyes**  
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Hello, dear classmates!

Many of us are relieved and grateful to have received our COVID-19 shots. I was lucky enough to book an appointment at the Publix Grocery across the street from me. I have heard of others crisscrossing their state to get the vaccine. It was like winning the lottery. Although, if I had won the lottery, there would be a new residential hall at Saint Mary's named after me!

I am fortunate to be Facebook friends with many of you and enjoy your posts. There have been some wonderful ones recently.

**Mary Jo Anderson Coughlin** posted a picture of her two grandsons. The older one is intently feeding a bottle to his new baby brother. Both are dressed in matching onesies with Easter eggs on them—priceless! She also had a photo of her and her son, the babies' dad and a Loyola of Chicago grad—both wishing the team luck in the Sweet Sixteen.

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Joe and **Connie Cistone Creen** vacationed in my part of the world with a trip to Ft. Lauderdale. Lots of fun pictures of dining out on the beach and in the Keys. They then visited their son Michael and their adorable 9-month-old twin grandchildren, who they had not seen since they were 5 weeks old. The priceless picture is of grandma napping with her granddaughter asleep on her shoulder! Connie said she sang her to sleep!

Finally, **Mary Ellen Stolz Bianco** posts amazing photos of Central Park in her #centralparkdiary. Small blue flowers poking out of the leaves, the first daffodils and forsythia beginning to bloom—a real treat especially since we only have spring flowers in pots in Florida!

My remarks about visiting the Kennedy Space Center with my grandchildren Sadie and Finn last year brought a great response from **Jean Gorman**. She was at the Visitors Information Center in 1969 when Apollo 11 was launched and said, "It was like seeing a skyscraper lift off the ground." What a thrill! Her mom was in the spectator seats near the Vertical Assembly Building and her dad was in the building working. Jean watched previous manned flights like Shepherd and Glynn from her school playground. When she arrived at Saint Mary's and met guys who were enthralled with planes, she didn't get it because of what she grew up seeing.

Jean also shared the sad news of **Anne Scheidler McGraw's** death after a short battle with cancer. Anne and husband Jim raised four daughters. When she could, she selflessly dedicated herself to creating and delivering education to severely ill patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. You would think severely ill kids would want a break from school, but the reverse is true. Anne said attending school was their "hope for the future." Rest in Peace, Anne.

Please, please mark your calendars for the first weekend in June 2022—our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion! We will hope and pray that we can meet on campus—unlike this year's Reunion classes.

Sending hugs and good wishes to all of you.

## 1973

Peg FitzGibbons Higgins  
mfhiggins2310@gmail.com

Many of us have been double vaccinated and are beginning to get out and about. It's been a long year of COVID-19! I was happy to hear from a few of our classmates.

From **Judy Tweet Howald**: "**Christine Nardi Diette** and I were roommates in McCandless Hall our junior and senior years. Though always remaining friends, our connection was limited for a while as Chris lived in Connecticut and I was back in Wisconsin. We were in each other's weddings, but barely saw each other. About three years ago, after Chris retired, she decided to make a move to Florida. After a few conversations, I encouraged Chris to look in the area my husband I were living in the winter months—Bonita Springs. Chris made the decision to buy there and we now live a few miles apart. We actually have the opportunity to see each other almost as often as when at SMC."



Christine Nardi Diette on left and Judy Tweet Howald on right.

**Carol Lambka Reimers** has been busy. She wrote me with the following update. "I am enjoying my last year of being president of the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. It has turned out to be a time when voting information and access are more important than ever during the pandemic. The effort to keep people informed and engaged in their government keeps me busy almost full time. Additionally, I spend time volunteering with the town of Killingworth Inland Wetlands Commission and the Lions.

"Our two daughters Laura and Sarah work in the health care arena at Pfizer and NYU Langone Hospital, respectively. Most importantly, we have three lovely granddaughters, who are a delight for both my husband Michael (ND '73) and myself. We are welcoming a 3-month-old Pembroke Welsh corgi to our home this week. So, despite the difficulties of COVID-19, we are blessed to have health, family nearby, and interests that keep us connected to our community."

**Midge Ashen Lusardi** wrote to fill us in on her life. "I've been living in Huntington Woods, MI since 1973 and don't anticipate any changes to that. I retired as a library director in 2016 and I have never had a dull moment since. I sit on the board of directors of the Detroit Metropolitan Book and Author Society and we sponsor two luncheons a year (not now with COVID-19) that bring in close to 1,200 attendees, who come to hear well-respected writers discuss their writing process and their books. The money we raise is given out as literacy grants to libraries and other organizations that promote literacy. My husband Bob (ND '69, '70, '73) is still fully employed—go figure. My two sons live in Chicago and Tulsa and we finally saw our Chicago kids after a 15-month hiatus. We have four beautiful grandkids, three boys and one girl. They grow up too quickly. I miss volunteering at the Detroit Institute of Art, where our group Friends and Flowers designs and installs three huge floral arrangements every week to greet museum visitors. I am eager for life to get back to normal, where we all feel safe and can resume our lives, even if needing a few adjustments. Best regards to our 1973 class."

It was good to hear from **Nan Arkwright**, a new author! She's living in Walnut Creek, CA and working as a pediatric occupational therapist. "I just published my first children's picture book and am excited to share *Mission: CONTROL! A Big Feelings Adventure!* The book models research-informed practices and strategies and is based on my experiences working as a pediatric occupational therapist." Description: When a young boy's outburst turns into an intergalactic tantrum, can he stop the aliens from controlling his reactions? As Joseph escapes to Planet Kelvin 273, he must battle The Green HypnoZoids to save himself from

their hypnotizing powers. Joined by his beloved dog Gretchen, Joseph must gather the self-control to defeat the aliens. But if he can't master his overwhelming emotions, he fears his pesky enemies will always have command over his life. Can he conquer his outbursts and return home with new problem-solving skills? Ages 4-10. Relatable heroes. Inventive journeys. Valuable lessons. For additional information: [www.AHopSkipandaJumpAhead.com](http://www.AHopSkipandaJumpAhead.com) Instagram and Facebook: *missioncontrolthebook*

Here's an update from **Brigid Garvey Edmonds**: "**Cathy Orso Abreu**, **Cassie Baranko Jablonski**, and I have been 'virtually' looking at 50-year-old pictures from our junior year abroad trip to France (Brigid) and Spain (Cathy and Cassie). The pictures of our younger selves brought back wonderful memories and stories. Cassie learned how to update the pictures from slides to digital and share them on a Zoom call. We could never have imagined how technology would change our lives. The three of us have also continued to participate in virtual get-togethers and book discussions with **Kate Mallard**, **Mary Ellen Hayes Schaefer**, and **Beth Lewis Rompf**. We all appreciate the support and encouragement from our friends during this past year. We hope to renew our mini reunions once the pandemic is over so that we can all give each other much needed hugs.



Younger selves from the '70s in Spain, Cathy Orso Abreu and Cassie Baranko Jablonski.



Great photo from the '70s in France, Brigid Garvey Edmonds.

## 1977

Maureen G. Tomshack  
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Hello, fellow 1977 classmates! I hope and pray that you and your families are healthy during this pandemic and that those who want vaccinations have been able to get them.



I received my second vaccination on March 13. A few days later, I celebrated St. Patrick's Day with two of my sisters in Fort Myers Beach. Celebrating this year at 65 years of age was very different from our sophomore year at Saint Mary's when President Ford spoke at Notre Dame. And different from our junior year when some of us celebrated in Daytona or Fort Lauderdale.

**Susan Barbara Blount Robinson** wrote: "Loving my retirement with two pandemic babies, 1-year-olds Lily and Ross and 3-year-old Sydney. So much fun being Grandma. LOVE to all and SMC. What I love the most is we all love the Lord. So comforting to have such beautiful friends. Living in Houston."

From **Mary Jane Anderson Woodward**: "Jeff and I sold our house in Kildeer, IL in January! We did a month-long road trip finally ending in Phoenix, AZ. We are now residents of Anthem, AZ. Moving cross-country was quite an adventure!"

**Melinda Hyde Girardi** wrote: "I keep in touch with **Marijo Rogers Kelly, Annie Cecelia Praught, Patty Nemeastil Strachota, Janet Oxenreiter Donahue '78, and Joanne Oxenreiter Fallon '78,** etc... my SMC GANG! I sold my home of 37 years and moved to the beach. So I have plenty of boxes to unpack and keep me busy! Ha ha. Got my first vaccine; yippee! I am officially retired March 5, 2021; 20 years at Delaware Technical Community College."

**Patsy Jones Mullin** wrote: "COVID-19 changed the way we live and work, but the good news is that we have all learned to 'pivot' and leverage technology to adjust to the 'new norm.' In-person get-togethers are replaced with Zoom sessions with family, friends, and business relationships. I participated in a Zoom session recently with **Leslie Wilson '76** as the featured guest, who provided an update from Thailand. Other updates with my fellow Class of 1977: **Ellen Shalvoy Davis** (sold her family home and now lives between Florida and New York), **Laura Costanzo Davies** (one son in college and the other in high school), **Mary Jo Koenigs Bench** (new grandmother, who splits time between California and Washington) and **Mary Anne Brown Schuster** (she and Ken have three grandsons and split their time between Arizona and Illinois)."



Patsy Jones Mullin and Beth Marzano Fleming share memories!

Peter and I just celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this spring in Florida. We had dinner with **Beth Marzano Fleming** and her husband Greg. They spend half the year in Florida and the other half in Pittsburgh. Great time catching up with **Barb Dodge MacCourtney** while in Florida. Wonderful to share some memories with these two.

I hope this finds everyone in good health and strong spirits! Please continue to share your news; we enjoy reading your updates.

## 1978

**Susan Margiotta Salem**  
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Thankfully, two of our classmates reached out to share their updates. I encourage you all to please do the same. I need your material for our column in *Courier*, please share! We are all wishing for life as normal; perhaps by the time this is published it will be so; we can only pray.

From **Deborah Valentino Leach**: "I am teaching water fitness in Westerville. Although I was off work almost half of 2020 due to the virus, thankfully I am now vaccinated. I am very concerned for the population I work with. I am so pleased that many were vaccinated this week of January 27 and the rest in the next two weeks. My family is doing well. I know some of our group know my brother Paul (ND '79). He has four beautiful children now and they are using a Catholic homeschool program to educate the three younger ones, and the oldest is attending Notre Dame prep in Pontiac, MI. Our middle son Alex is a RN/BSN in Portland, OR. I am happy to say he has been fully vaccinated, so I am not worrying anymore. My oldest is an application developer in Dallas, TX. He is getting married this May and we can't wait for his fiancé to be part of the family. Our youngest is married and lives 15 minutes away. When the weather is good, we visit outside. He works at LabCorp in microbiology. Hubby Craig is working from home. I am in the SMC Club of Columbus and we have a book club that meets (Zooms now) every six weeks. SMC women are the best friends! Wishing everyone well from Ohio!"

It's **Barbara Abell Epps**: "I hope you and your family are well. As soon as I read the Winter *Courier*, I realized I have not sent any updates in for a very long time. My apologies! After nearly 15 years in Waco, my husband Ron and I moved to the country outside of Weatherford, TX. We are blessed to live on 6½ acres of beautiful rolling hills, huge oak trees, and a small fishing pond. We have two sweet dogs, three wonderful horses, and a silly, head-strong donkey. We quit our full-time jobs when we left Waco, intending to retire to the hills of North Texas. But neither of us could sit still very long. Ron started teaching part-time at Weatherford College and working at the Weatherford Animal Shelter doing spays and neuters a couple of days a week. I have gotten back into marketing with my daughter's construction company in Dallas and volunteer my time with a local therapeutic riding center. After running a veteran program at my riding center in Waco, I wanted to start a new equine-assisted program for veterans in Weatherford. Despite the pandemic, our program has slowly grown each week. And speaking of the pandemic, my family and I have been blessed not to be too affected. Living in the country outside a small town, restrictions have been minor and Ron and I have been able to maintain our lives. We have a lot of family in the area and have continued to get together. We are blessed to have three daughters and six grandchildren and cherish every minute we have with them. My

in-laws are 89 and 92 and are, thankfully, healthy enough for us to continue to visit. Although it has been a very strange year, I count my blessings every day for what I have been given.

"I pray the vaccinations are working and people can get back to their lives without fear. I am so glad to see Saint Mary's is having Reunion again in 2021. That means I will get to see all my SMC sisters in 2023! Hard to believe it will be our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion! It was just a few years ago that we were causing mischief on The Avenue and abroad, wasn't it? I hope all my fellow '78ers are happy and healthy. Take care and God bless you!"

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming—"WOW, What a ride!"

## 1979

**Cheri Petride Miller**  
smcosu@earthlink.net

It is very nice that so many of you have submitted news. Let's continue to be in touch and send in your updates.

**Patricia Dahl** says all is good in New York City. She is thankful and blessed that family and friends have been spared the wrath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pat is celebrating 40 years working as a banker; of course, what she meant to say is that she is an eye banker. She is the executive director/CEO of the Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc. She is back working in the office but terribly misses traveling and looks forward to resuming more normal life after getting the vaccine.

Having been married to her husband Sam for 33 years, **Barbara J. McGrath-Irving** is also enjoying life with her two adult children Kellen and Kate along with two grandsons. Barb graduated with a bachelor of fine arts degree, but after leaving Saint Mary's, she became a surgical technologist and eventually earned her master of science degree in health promotion/fitness management from Benedictine University while residing with and caring for nine teenage girls as their resident houseparent. She has also earned certifications in leadership, as well as in strategies and management at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. Barb has been working 31 years for Moose International, a fraternal philanthropic organization located near Batavia, IL, 50 miles west of Chicago, where she holds the position of chief human resource officer. While being the chief human resource officer, she directs the human resource functions at Moose International and acts as consultant for Mooseheart Child City and School, which is a residential home and school for children from low-income/high-risk environments, Moosehaven City of Contentment, Inc., which is a continuing senior care facility, and Lodgic Everyday Living, which provides additional funding for the support of Mooseheart. While not having entered the professional field of art, Barb receives great satisfaction in woodworking and repurposing materials. She feels that she has been blessed with the opportunity to serve others and contribute her

energies to those less fortunate, and she thanks her education from Saint Mary's for making these opportunities possible.

Closing in on the end of her career as an educator is **Jerri Plumb Kelly**. Jerri spent the first 20 years as a high school math teacher while coaching volleyball, basketball, fastpitch, and tennis. For the last 20 years, Jerri has been an athletic administrator for Lake Brantley High School in Central Florida. Jerri and her husband Jeff have been married 36 years, have three adult children, and two grandchildren. They have started to do more snow skiing now that their oldest child lives in Denver, CO. Overall, Jerri feels that Saint Mary's was a very special time in her life and gives priority to returning for Reunions and Notre Dame football games.

**Linda Susan Kawecki** has been living in Dallas, TX for almost 40 years, but hopes to escape when her husband Mike Hellinghausen (ND '78) retires. Linda feels lucky to have enjoyed two fabulous trips to New York City and Big Bend before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her youngest son Adam came home from Notre Dame in the middle of spring break last March 2020, and it was not how he wanted to spend the last few months of his senior year. A backyard graduation party took place for him in May with just family. He stayed at home until September when he moved to St. Louis, MO to start a new job. Linda feels she has experienced a silver lining from COVID-19 and it has come from

prompting her former roommates **Rosemary Serbent Harry, Ann Marie Calacci, Marie Vitali Black**, and **Colleen O'Brien Scheidler** to do a weekly happy hour Zoom call. All of them have remained close since graduation even though they are scattered across the country. It has been great fun to discuss the day-to-day experiences of each of them as they have navigated through this most unusual year. Linda provided an update on her former roommates: Rosemary was in Russia in March 2020 when the news of the pandemic broke. She had been visiting her daughter Nicole, who was studying there. They were able to get back to the United States and remained together in their home in Madison, CT until Nicole began a PhD program in North Carolina in August. Rosemary continues her consulting work assisting medical device companies with the FDA review process but hopes to retire before the end of 2021. Ann Marie has been working from home as a paralegal in Chicago, IL while also keeping tabs on her mother in a nearby suburb. Marie was a Pfizer vaccine trial participant and works as a sonogram technician in Rochester, NY. She and her husband Mark will be welcoming their first grandchild in August. Colleen has been a hero during the pandemic, working as an ER nurse in Indianapolis, IN. She and her husband Bill are looking forward to their seventh grandchild any day now plus the August wedding of their youngest son.

Please continue to share your updates. It is great to hear from you.

# 1983

Sue Poss Harrison  
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I'm writing this column in March of 2021. The vaccine rollout is well underway and I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. For this issue I asked you to share experiences of how the pandemic has affected your lives. Many thanks to the classmates who shared their moving stories.

**Grace Romzick Benedict** writes, "My brother Dan lives three hours away from me and is fairly independent with the daily support of staff for cooking, transportation, household chores, and the like. When the shutdown first happened in Michigan and we were all not sure how this would play out in society, I invited my brother to live with my husband and me for a few weeks. That turned into 10 weeks of living together while I worked from home. And what a blessing for all of us. My brother is a 53-year-old man with Down syndrome. We all had to learn a new flow of daily life and activity. He ended up dropping 15 lbs. by eating our organic diet and walking the 10 acres on a daily basis. He did woodworking and learned to play pool with my

See No Stranger:

A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love

# An Evening with Author Valarie Kaur

October 13, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

Valarie Kaur is a Sikh interfaith leader, American activist, documentary filmmaker, lawyer and educator, and founder of the Revolutionary Love Project. For more information on Kaur's work visit [valariekaur.com](http://valariekaur.com).

This is a free event but registration is required: [saintmarys.edu/events](http://saintmarys.edu/events). You'll receive a link to the event after registration.

*Hosted by Justice Studies, The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, The Dialogue and Civil Discourse Project, the Center for Spirituality, and the Better Together Interfaith Club.*



CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY  
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

photo: Amber Castro





husband. We play lots of games and love to cook in this house; he fit right in with that. Working out our differences and being patient with each other is what we all learned together. I have a greater respect and understanding of my brother that I never had before and could not have gotten any other way."



Grace Romzick Benedict and her brother Dan Romzick spending time together.

**Mary Silvi Croteau** is an administrator at a Catholic grade school in Salem, NH. "Schools were notified on March 13, 2020, that we'd be going remote. Our students were online and learning remotely within a couple of days. Our annual fundraiser launched as a virtual event. We were able to have a small in-person graduation for our eighth-grade class. The summer was spent planning for in-person instruction for the upcoming academic year and working with the local school district for CARES funds to outfit the school with Plexiglas shields, masks, thermometers, gloves, gowns, sanitizing equipment, etc. We opened our doors for students at the beginning of the school year. It has not been easy. Like many other Catholic school administrators, I've been outside every morning with my dedicated staff taking temperatures and screening students, directing new traffic patterns, and welcoming dozens of new families who chose to enroll for in-person learning. Re-enrollment opened last month and we have waitlists at almost every grade level (something the school has not experienced in decades). Things are looking up and we've truly been blessed to remain open this entire year thus far. For this, I thank God daily. On a personal note, my oldest son Jean-Luc lost his job due to the closing of our local K-Mart. He also lost all of his adult programming and activities due to the pandemic. He landed a new job working at the local Goodwill store. My youngest son Blake came home from college for spring break last year and finished his junior year remotely. Since he is studying to be a teacher, the biggest challenge was trying to arrange observations of students and teachers in school; since he is studying in New York state he can only observe remotely."

From **Ceci Telang Manuszak**: "During this past year I feel grateful for my faith, which together with my respect for science, was undoubtedly strengthened by the experiences during my four years of breathing in the good air on campus. The dorm Masses, the dedication of faculty and staff, the sharing of our lives in the mundane dining hall, all helped me grow."

"Recently, I was thinking of when we read *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankel, with Dr. JoAnne Wiederquist in Havican Hall. The rich discussion has stayed with me all these years; it is a timeless book. As I type this entry from Juno Beach, FL, I can hear the hum of the oxygen concentrator that is helping

keep my husband Michael comfortable as he fights stage IV non-small cell lung cancer. It's been a long, difficult rollercoaster journey for a loving man and our four adult children, but it was made easier by moments of kindness from family, friends, and a dedicated hospice team. We know life is precious, and our time together on this earth is meant to be shared for the greater good of others. Keep at it, my friends! Please let me know if you are ever in South Florida."

## EXCELSIOR

**Stacey Weinsheimer Hoin '83** joined Guardian Life Insurance Company and is now the Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.

## 1986

**Kathi Hartweger Mimlitz**  
kathi@mimlitz.com  
**Mary Skelly Malik**  
malikkids@windstream.net

From **Kathi Hartweger Mimlitz**:

I am so sad we are not meeting on campus for Reunion. I would love to have seen many of your faces on The Avenue. I have several mini reunions planned this summer. If you want to reconnect with any classmates, please reach out to me and I can get you the information.

**Cheryl Pilon Meyer's** daughter will be a freshman at Saint Mary's in the fall. They are so excited! Cheryl's brother died in February after a three-week battle with COVID-19. Hugs to Cheryl and any of our classmates who lost a loved one during the pandemic.

**Jane Harless Woodward** and husband live in Virginia Beach. He has two daughters—a senior in college and one in law school. Jane retired from the Air Force and then began her second career working at Legal Aid.

**Anne Marie Kollman Kaes** works in Cincinnati as a nurse and clinical manager at a plastic surgeon's office. Her three daughters graduated from ND. She is looking forward to her second grandchild's arrival in the fall.

**Therese Ryan Rooney** and Michael are now empty nesters in Chicago. Meghan is graduating from OCU and is a talented singer and actor. Nora is a junior at TCU and Michael is in his first year at West Point.

**Beth De Ment Coggeshall** and Tim live in Richmond, VA. Their oldest Matthew works there.

**Catherine Anderson Coggeshall '17** received her undergraduate AND master's in autism studies from SMC! She was the first to graduate from this program. She is now graduating from ND with a master's in nonprofit administration. Their youngest

Michael is a junior at the University of South Carolina.

**Angela La Barbera Mehalek** lives in Chicago and will be a grandma in May!

**Regina Etheredge Freschi** and Steve live outside Washington, DC. Their daughter works in Chicago. Her two sons spent "bonus time" with them during COVID-19. One is in college and the other was just commissioned as an officer in the Army. Regina works in advancement at St. Theresa Catholic School.

**Patty Schneider O'Connor** and Brian live outside Pittsburgh. Their oldest Tricia is engaged. Sean is working in Pittsburgh. Gavin and Meghan are in college in Philadelphia. Her youngest will be a senior in high school in the fall.

**Joyce Murtagh Stengle** had a busy May with Jenna Bartley Stengle graduating from SMC's nursing program and Janet (ND '18) graduating from Loyola Chicago law school. Julia (ND '20) works in Chicago.

**Melinda Norton Greene** gave up retirement and returned to the practice of law. She is a corporate attorney in Tampa, where she lives with husband Tim. Her son Jared is a lawyer in Tampa and will be married in December. Her daughter Morgan is a medical student at the University of Florida.

**Marci Woods Kilpatrick** and Kevin are working for the State Department and living abroad. Their five kids are out of college and scattered around the US. They are looking forward to returning to their home in South Bend sometime in the future!

**Tess Bruns Boldrey** is celebrating 35 years with Force Construction and is a senior project manager. Tess lives in Columbus, IN and has been married for 27 years to John. They have two kids Sarah and Matt. Tess caught up with Anita Linkowski Schuler in October. Anita is living in Pittsburgh, PA with husband Frank. They have two kids Noah and Chloe.

**Sheila Eileen Flood** is in her hometown of Janesville, WI, where she is the event and sales manager at the Rotary Botanical Garden. She is able to flex her hours and help with her mom. She is looking forward to a busy summer with garden weddings.

**Margo Ann Philbin** and Jim are in Duluth, MN. Margo works for the Diocese of Duluth. Their oldest Lucy will be married in July and Rose will start college in the fall.

**Cheryl Bonacci** is in Los Angeles. Her son Cheron just graduated from Indiana University. Cheryl is enjoying empty nesting and working in criminal justice reform.

**Amy Bertucci DeSanti** and her husband own a home care agency in New Castle, PA. Their two oldest sons live in Chicago. They keep young with 13-year-old twin son and daughter. Amy is in regular contact with **Jeanne Grammens Hidalgo**, **Kelly Portolesa Murphy**, and **Anne Karnatz Manno**.

Since our last Reunion we have lost four classmates:

**Erin Gibbons**, July 29, 2017, **Susan Karas Horstman**, June 26, 2018, **Marion Frances Hovorka**, December 30, 2019, and **Katie Schoen Kelly**, February 12, 2019. I still remember those smiling faces from our time at SMC.

Please reach out if you have any updates to share in *Courier*. kathi@mimlitz.com

From **Mary Skelly Malik**:

Hello, fellow members of the Class of '86. I'm happy to begin my term as your new alumnae class reporter. I wrote an update for the spring issue at the desperate request of one of my SMC roommates who shall remain nameless (**Shannon McNamara Prestage**)! That one-time update centered around our Reunion and was a rush job to remind everyone to try and get to the in-person Reunion that never happened. I included several updates on class members but let's face it...only the people I keep in touch with. As I said...a rush job. My solemn promise as your reporter will be to update you on as many of our classmates as possible. But I can't do that without your help. I wasn't that popular back in college! Also, I'm a bit technologically challenged. I tried to send a mass email for this update and failed miserably. So here's my plan. Please feel free to email me at any time when anything you'd like to share with the class happens in your lives. And especially when you see other classmates and friends in your travels. If COVID-19 has taught us anything it's how important our friends are, especially the old ones. I know I treasure my days at SMC and my friendships made there and I suspect many of you feel the same. So here's my contact information. Call me, text me, email me. It's easy and only takes a second to spread the good news, ask for prayers from fellow wives, mothers, grandmothers (gulp), sisters, and friends or simply say hello. I can't wait to hear from you.

## 1987

**Elisa Cullina O'Neill**  
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I am so excited to have a report for our class. Thanks to all who reached out.

Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in moving our lives forward throughout the pandemic no matter what part you played. We see the bright light of hope on the horizon and oh what a gift that is. May we offer up prayers for family, friends, and classmates who are no longer with us.

**Michelle Dorsey Krauklis** writes: "It's been quite a year working in the hospital, from that first patient back in March. **Kathy Bolotin Heniff** and I are currently giving COVID-19 vaccine shots at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL. It is such a rewarding experience helping so many get their COVID-19 vaccines. The patients have shown such true appreciation." THANK YOU, Michelle and Kathy!



Kathy Bolotin Heniff (left) and Michelle Dorsey Krauklis working together at Loyola Medical Center administering the COVID-19 vaccine to eager and grateful patients.

**Kathy Knych Dapper** reports that she has two grandchildren now. Her daughters **Katelyn Dapper Dressing '12** and **Sarah Dapper Cobb '15** both have beautiful boys. She has two nieces **Joan K. Stephens '21** and **Maria Kathryn Ugo '23** currently attending Saint Mary's so she has been kept up-to-date on the great things the school is doing to take care of students during the pandemic. She lives in Indy, where she works as a nurse in an employee health clinic at a manufacturing company. She is looking forward to the time when our class can get back to campus and be together again. Amen, Kathy.

**Elizabeth Hughes Boice** wrote that she is grateful to be coming through the pandemic and that all her family has stayed safe. And she can hardly wait for our next SMC Reunion in 2022!

**Margie Marie Kersten** writes: "I am living in the NW burbs of Chicago and still work for EY. My oldest Patrick is married and living in Sandpoint, ID, where he manages a marina. My daughter Meghan works at a law firm in Chicago. And my youngest Kersten lives near Green Bay and is the site director for the YMCA afterschool program. I am very happy to report that the UW Madison football manager scholarship in my son's name, Kevin Green, is fully funded. I am excited to have this as a part of his legacy." She adds that she cannot wait to see ND football in person this fall. While the WI/ND game will be awesome, she may need to wear a split hat or T-shirt to share her allegiance to both teams. She hopes everyone is staying healthy.

**Jane Akalaitis Falvey** writes: "I've been teaching remotely during the pandemic as 97 percent of families chose remote learning. Pikachus, baby Yodas, cats and dogs make frequent appearances onscreen with the students. It's a brave new world! My son graduated from ND and my daughter is in law school." She has shared on social media some great photos of her remote learning "assistant," her adorable pug!

**Tricia McPartlin Weekly** shares: "Never would have thought I would be living in Nebraska, but almost 25 years later, here I am! I recently retired from owning an Irish dance studio and went back to school to get my master's in school counseling. I have three children and three grandkids. My son, the youngest, was recently accepted to ND. I am so looking forward to returning to campus on a regular basis. Any other '87s have kids attending SMC or ND this fall?"

**Mary Dilenschneider Condon** writes: "January 17, 2021, marks one year since the passing of my mom **Rose-Marie Oppenheim Dilenschneider '54**. With COVID-19 keeping everyone homebound, my husband Tim (ND '86) and I invited my father John Dilenschneider (ND '53) to snowbird with us in Sarasota. He took us up on our offer and we hope to make this a yearly occurrence. Since April 2020, I have had the pleasure of working weekly with my aunt **Sister Ramona Marie Oppenheim, MM '50**, on how to use an iPad. She is a Maryknoll Sister at the motherhouse in Ossining, NY. She says it has opened up a whole new world for her during this pandemic. Let's just say, one is never too old to learn! My aunt is now giving me pointers about using the iPad. This past week, she and I joined a Zoom 'SMC Talk' given by **Amanda Marie Blackwell '09**. She is a speech-language pathologist working in Guatemala. What fun!"

**Christina Klem Jenkins** shared: "We are on the verge of being empty nesters but feel blessed that our kids are all healthy and doing well. Our oldest daughter is a nurse in Cincinnati; our son just graduated with a degree in geology and hopes to find a job out west, and our youngest daughter is a sophomore at OSU. After working 32 years at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, I decided to slow down a little and now work from home as a case manager for the developmentally delayed population. I was planning on having a mini reunion with **Lori Bernat Ward, Deanna McBride Walsh, and Peggy Prosser Brown** before COVID-19 changed our plans. Hopefully, we will be able to get together this year."

**Mary Cole Simms** writes: "My husband worked throughout the pandemic as an essential worker. I do an occasional arbitration for the court but no longer practice law full time. I devote a lot of my time to JDRF because I have a daughter with type 1 diabetes. I was on the board of directors for the Western PA chapter for eight years and was also the advocacy chair (advocating to members of Congress). My oldest daughter Catherine graduated from Penn State in May and is working for AAA. My twins are sophomores in college: Caroline is a finance major at the University of Pittsburgh and Elizabeth is a pre-med major at Davidson College in North Carolina, where she runs D1 track. My youngest Charles is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and will be driving soon. We usually go to Sint Maarten every year but had to cancel twice in 2020. We are hoping for this summer. **Monica Ragley Pare, Therese Ozimek Heinrich, Jolene Runger Hopper, and Jeanne Carroll Flanagan** and I have done the 'Zoom happy hour' thing since we couldn't all get together in 2020 as we had hoped. We still laugh as hard today as we did all those years ago at Saint Mary's. COVID-19 invaded my family in December of 2020 when three of my children and my husband all got it. Somehow (thank God) I did not get it nor did my oldest. All family members recovered fully. I hope everyone has a great 2021!"

From **Elisa Cullina O'Neill**: "I am extremely thankful for our continued health and safety. I'm grateful for the advances in technology that allow so many people to work from home. This past year has given us the opportunity to reevaluate the work/life balance concept and how we want that to look for us. So while hubby is looking forward to getting back to the office, he will go back to the office part time and will continue to work from home part time. I think this is wonderful and is a great transition to retirement when the time comes. We were able to safely gather with all three kids for the holidays after everyone isolated for two weeks prior to us getting together. We had a wonderful two weeks together. My daughter works in marketing at an engineering office. She also directs high school show choir. To keep engaged during the pandemic, she honed her sewing skills to the point of opening an Etsy shop selling a variety of purses, bags, and wallets! One son is living in DC while completing a master's in public policy at the University of Maryland. His focus is renewable energy, climate change, and the environment in general. My youngest lives in Chicago, where he is a community organizer focused on humane immigration reform. Life is good. I'm so excited that 2022 is a Reunion year for our class. Be well, stay safe,



and drop me an update so our classmates can hear what you've been up to!"

## 1988

**MaryKay Scheid**  
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Happy belated Easter!

It's been quite a year. As I write during my duty-free lunch at home, I am preparing to return to in-person instruction with students. If things go as planned, I will be teaching in a "hybrid" model for the last six weeks of the school year. My son Michael will be finishing his graduate degree in May, having spent only about a third of his time in the program on campus. Pandemic life has been strange for all of us.

**Ann Rucker O'Connor** writes from Atlanta, Georgia: "Time has slowed considerably as a result of the pandemic. I have worked at home for the last year. I am thankful I am able to work from home, as so many are not so fortunate. And I am thankful for my husband (Notre Dame grad Timothy O'Connor) and my two sons (ages 18 and 20) and for the ability to stay connected with close friends on Zoom. In the fall of last year, a group of SMC political science majors started a weekly Zoom 'Poly Sci Redux' series featuring our beloved (now retired) professor Pat Pierce. It has been an amazing chance to connect and engage with SMC grads." Working at the CDC this year has been hard, Ann says, "but commitment to our important mission remains."

The world slowed down for **Tricia Hug Schorr** as well, giving her time to reach out to SMC friends. She says: "**Diane Tobin Heimlach** and **Annette Talanda Brennan** and I talked one evening, as well as **Tammye Radke Raster** and **Kristin Fiore Hanahan**." In addition to reconnecting with SMC friends, she has been living more closely with her son. An employee with an investment bank in NYC, he has been home since March 2020 working "crazy hours." Her daughter, who played volleyball in college and is graduating in May 2020, will be "heading to Notre Dame in June" for the MSM program. And their youngest child is a freshman at ND.

**Lisa Marie McPherson** relocated to the DC area last October "to take a position with VW Credit, Inc., as director, VW sales operations." She loves living in Virginia and enjoys spending time with niece Hannah Bruening (ND '18).

**Kara Murphy Richards** is still "serving as a municipal court judge in Renton, WA." She says: "Leading a large court through a pandemic has been no easy task but we have learned so much about access to justice during these challenging times." Looking toward the future, she hopes to plan a trip soon with **Beth Niklas O'Neil**, **Teresa Cozzi Butler**, **Sheila Campbell McClure**, **Jennifer Killian McCloskey**, **Patty Dunlevy Watson**, and **Debbie Borgmann Rubiano**. She explains: "Last year's travel plans were foiled by COVID-19."

**Sherry Green Antonetti** has kept quite busy. She recounts: "Last year, we had five graduations, including **Mary Marta Grace Antonetti '20** from

Saint Mary's College, and we sent our fifth off to college. Now the family life is skewed towards the teens, as the youngest is 10." On a more personal note, she is working hard on a book titled *A Doctor a Day* to be published in September. As she is going through the citations, she is "discovering I'm a great procrastinator in doing research."

Watch for my next request for news. . . and don't procrastinate in responding!

## 1989

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

As I write this, COVID-19 vaccinations are in full swing across the country and by the time you read it, I hope we are looking at the end of the pandemic!

**Lynda Bensaia Peterson** shared the sad news that **Trish Ruth Erickson** experienced the tragic loss of her husband John in early January. John is survived by Trish and their two children JP, 17, and Jackie, 14, in Winnetka, IL. Trish is grateful to all her Saint Mary's friends who traveled for John's funeral, offered their support, and organized meal trains for her family. She feels truly blessed that Saint Mary's allowed her to make such amazing friendships.

After decades of prayers, years of classes and preparation, and 14 months as foster parents, **Beth Kavanaugh Terrell** and her husband Pat (ND '90) officially adopted siblings Javier 'Javi' Christopher, 12, and Michelle 'Elle' Marie, 10, on February 4, 2021. Javi and Elle are the youngest additions to five biological children: Seth, 22, who graduated from Arizona State University in May; **Veronica Brazziel Terrell '22**, 20, a rising senior at Saint Mary's; twins Luke, godson to **Mary Beth Smith Romano**, and Cece, 18, who are May graduates of Hinsdale South High School; and Eli, 17. The Terrells look forward to celebrating this event in person as soon as possible. In the meantime, Javi and Elle have made guest appearances over the past year on regular and frequent Zoom happy hours/mini reunions coordinated by **Becky Jasper Seibert** and attended by **Lori Nader Bartinik**, **Holly Klinkhamer Hensley**, **Mary Anne Goodnow Calzolano**, **Jen Retoske Keller '90**, and **Colleen Murray McGuigan '90**.

**Mimi Tuohy O'Leary** and Mike (ND '89) celebrated their daughter Mary Kate's (ND '20) virtual graduation and continued the celebration when she was named a Fulbright Scholar! Mary Kate is currently in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, teaching English in a high school. She has recently been named as a Fulbright mentor for next year, so she will be in Spain for another academic year. Jack is a rising junior at Notre Dame living in St. Ed's and majoring in international economics. Their oldest son Joe graduated from Auburn in 2019 and is a construction manager with GL Homes. Mike left the *Stuart News* after 23 years in the newspaper industry and joined Mimi at Class 101—a business that guides high school students through the college application process. Lastly, Mimi's 94-year-old dad is doing well and is happy to be vaccinated and able to go out to lunch again.

**Katie Rose Gugle** started a Pampered Chef consultant business while maintaining her law practice. She is looking forward to bringing in some extra cash while building a business that can continue in post-law life. Katie has also been working with **Kara O'Leary** on the required design form and affidavit of approval from Saint Mary's to have a special Ohio Organizational/Collegiate License plate for Saint Mary's College, similar to the one seen in Indiana. If successful, a portion of each plate sale and future renewal is donated to Saint Mary's. Ohio alumnae can expect to hear from Katie to sign the required petition (she needs 150 signatures) and for help in lobbying state representatives to support a bill approving this special plate.

**Marilyn Benchik's** triplets are all doing well. Her daughter **Karen Cecelia 'Cece' Klimek '21** graduated from Saint Mary's in May with a bachelor of science in chemistry. Cece took the MCAT in April after a year of canceled test dates due to COVID-19 and plans to apply to medical school this summer. She thoroughly enjoyed Saint Mary's and was involved in several academic and social clubs as well as played tuba in the Notre Dame Marching Band. Constance Elizabeth "Lizzie" is pursuing a degree from Indiana University, and Kenneth Patrick will graduate from Purdue University in December. He is in Navy ROTC and will be commissioned upon graduation.

From the heart of Texas, **Mary Claire Carmouche Upton** sends news that after practicing law for 10 years, she became a legal recruiter with **Kay Kurtin Egger '90**, where she has worked for the past 20 years. Mary Claire and John have two boys: Tom is a 2021 USMA West Point graduate and Jack is a 2021 graduate of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory. Jack is looking to attend Drake University to study actuarial sciences. Mary Claire's mom **Quita Olsen Carmouche '64** and sister **Catie Carmouche Calderhead '92** are doing well. She stays in touch with **Jennifer Doroff Sedivy**, **Melissa Bailey Cullen**, **Lisa Emlong Lindholm**, and **Lynn Libby Welch**.

This summer finds **Cathy White Renedo** and family on the move as they trade in sea-level in Connecticut for mile-high in the Denver area. Both Cathy and her husband Marco can work remotely now, and their sons will be in middle and high school this fall. The family looks forward to enjoying more outdoor skiing, biking, and all the wonders of nature in the mountains.

**Lisa Marie Boyd-Devers'** family has been hanging together and pushing their WiFi to the limit over the past year with both daughters working remotely out of their bedrooms and her spouse teaching MBA students from home. Lisa feels blessed to spend a year with their grown children, though she isn't sure they feel quite the same way! She volunteers with the Red Cross at her local vaccine hub getting their community vaccinated and is looking forward to a new and more equitable normal soon. Be well, fellow Belles!

NOTE: Please take a moment to update your email address, mailing address, phone number with Saint Mary's or through your class reporter. Keep in touch.

# 1991

Lisa Kosty Dincolo  
smcbelles91@gmail.com

Hi, Belles! Hope this finds you happy and healthy after some crazy times! Here's the scoop on the Class of '91!

Congratulations to proud parent **Ann Brennan Cooper**, whose daughter Una graduated from Notre Dame in May 2021! Ann was able to connect with **Julie Milosch Perenich** and Stephen Perenich (ND '90). Their son Michael also graduated with a BS in engineering!

**Erin Cusack Micklo** and **Anne Elyse Cusack '07** reunited in Solana Beach, CA after 16 months apart due to COVID-19. They played with their dogs on the beach and spent a night away in Temecula, CA, wine tasting and catching up. They are grateful to be both sisters and fellow SMC alums!

**Amy Jones Snyder** lives in St. Charles, IL with her husband Frank. Amy is a senior category marketing manager for the foodservice channel at John B. Sanfilippo & Son. In 2019, they finished a total renovation of their 100-year-old house. When weather permits, Amy enjoys getting outside, biking along the Fox River, and walking her basset Daisy Jane.

Congratulations to Michigan City native **Colleen Mary Brennan**, who, in an effort to prove there's more than corn and basketball in Indiana, started with a friend the podcast *Defending Indiana!* Using humor, love, personal experiences, and more, it was created to "poke fun and pay homage to their home state." I have listened, and it's VERY fun! Way to go, Colleen! Colleen lives in Chicago with her husband and two sons.

Update from the lovely **Kristen Sullivan Lynch**: "Our Roma class got together on Zoom and there were 45 Regazzi gathered. Plans are in the works to do it again and see how many of our 'class' can make it. Some highlights have been talking with **Kristen Ann Gill**, **Becky Ann Ciletti**, and **Toni Olivieri Barton** and having dance parties with them. Also **Kathleen Houlihan Motzenbecker** has been leading a prayer group with **Ann Patske Henry**, **Jill Rene Tomko Caffarelli '89**, and myself. It has been a true blessing during this time to connect with these lovely ladies in prayer.

Sharing news with **Jody Eckrich Julian '92**, **Eileen Whelpley Newmark**, and **Amy Shelly** has kept me going too—all these connections have really been gifts. I also want to congratulate **Kathleen McDonough Mundo** on the publication of her memoir *Badger State*—parts of it were like reading my own story! My daughter is at Saint Mary's (**Ellie Sullivan Lynch '22**) and although it has been a tough year in many ways, she loved being on campus with her friends and we are so happy she could be there attending in-person classes. My oldest son Griffin graduated from Pitt (Hail Pitt!) on May 1, and both Jim and I attended! Can't believe I have a college graduate! Frank our youngest graduated from Notre Dame College Prep (Go Dons!) and will be playing baseball at Kenyon College next year. Can't wait to go to his games! It is going to be great when we can get together again. I miss seeing people in person!"

Thank you all for the updates! Please continue to share your good news with your fellow Belles. You know the first place you look when you get *Courier* is straight to the back, LOL! Keep us all posted on whatever is happening in your life! Reach out to me on Facebook or at smcbelles91@gmail.com.

# 1992

Patsy McGowan Donahue  
Smc92news@yahoo.com

I hope everyone is safe and healthy! We have just a few updates from our class:

Congratulations to Tom and **Alicia Higgins-Kinane** on the birth of their grandchild Sophie Elyse Kinane. Big Brother Griffin, 5, was so excited to meet his sister!

Congratulations to **Chris Ursula Bacon**! She is now the senior vice president, head of digital investment advice at Northern Trust.

Good luck to **Annie Martin Flynn** and John as they relocated from Menomonee Falls, WI to Rehoboth Beach, DE. If anyone is vacationing on the Eastern shore, be sure to look her up.

Hope to hear from more of you soon! Please check out our class Facebook page and keep in touch.

# 2000



**Sarah Magness Cash '00**

was named Woman of the Year by Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Atlanta, GA.

# 2001

Molly Kahn Allen  
mollyallen201@gmail.com

Greetings, Belles of '01!

When we graduated in May of 2001, we surely could not have predicted that we would have a virtual 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion because of a global pandemic.

**Kristy Sutorius Kilfoyle** shared that she has been selected to serve as a member of the 2022 John Newbery Award Committee! She writes, "The committee is charged with selecting the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published during the preceding year and we're celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It's estimated that we'll read somewhere between 600 and 1,000 books this year, which blows any past reading goals out of the water. When I'm not reading this year, I'll still be working as the director of libraries at Canterbury School in Fort Myers, FL, where I get to teach across all divisions, share great literature, and help our students develop research skills. It's so incredibly fulfilling to get to do what I love."

The 2021 Annual Chicago Polar Plunge also went virtual this year. **Colleen Sullivan Schaefer**s captained the Eileen IN Fundraising team with over 42 members raising over \$42,000. Team Eileen finished third place in fundraising efforts behind two corporations. Classmates from SMC '01 joined the team under Colleen Sullivan Schaefer and her husband Scott Schaefer's (ND '99) leadership including **Colleen Carey Passolt**, **Katherine Kelleher**, **Molly Kahn Allen**, **Catherine Schroeder**, **Sherry Desautels Prisco**, **Annie Kearns Davoren '98**, and **Michelle Samreta Stalilonis '00**. Instead of plunging into Lake Michigan as a crew, Colleen and Scott hosted a socially distanced, masked-up event on the actual day for local plungers that included classmates **Brook Hughes Fates** and her husband Tim. Eileen IN raised the funds through a variety of creative, socially distanced events that included icy dunks in backyards, Lake Michigan, snow diving, and other bodies of freezing water. This is the third year for Team Eileen IN, named in honor of Scott and Colleen's youngest daughter Eileen, 5.

Belles of '01, we look forward to virtually connecting for Reunion and can't wait to return to walk down The Avenue together at a later time. Be well, Molly.

# 2003

Meganne Hoffman Brezina  
megannebrezina@gmail.com

Belles, what a year it has been. I hope that this edition of *Courier* finds you in a new state of "normal" and that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and happy. Thanks to all who submitted updates for this edition!

**Val Gillis Brown** and her family welcomed their son Henry William on February 25, 2020. Val writes, "We totally hit the ground running with a toddler when we returned home. I feel like we went to the first five-day pediatrician appointment and we were like, nope, we have no questions on the newborn



but lots of what to do with our toddler, who is now acting out!" Val tells us that her daughter is getting better with him and he's the first thing she asks about every day. Congratulations, Val and husband Scott!

**Elizabeth Stevens Kijowski** had a trip planned with fellow Belle **Erika Borowiak Woodbury** when their planned June 2020 trip to Disneyland had to be cancelled. Liz writes, "One day on a whim, we decided to try and play a board game together, but virtually. Using our Echo Shows for video, we set up our Settlers of Catan board games on our own kitchen tables with the same starting maps, and started to play. Each of us had to mimic the other's moves on the board so our individual boards would match, but we were able to successfully play the game 'together' but from 2,096 miles apart. We played almost every night, for months, and eventually our husbands joined in the games, as well as Erika's dad in Michigan. I would highly recommend it to anyone who would love a game night with a great friend, even if you have to be 2,000+ miles away."

**Concetta Siciliano Johnson** will be starting a new position in mid-April as a financial advisor at SB Financial, a subsidiary of Security Bank, in Springfield, IL. Security Bank is a mutual savings bank with three locations in Springfield. Concetta shares, "I had taken a 10-year break from financial advising so I'm excited to get back into that world again." Way to go, Concetta!

**Monica Cannon Meeker** sent in an update from Nashville: "We are transitioning our children from virtual school to in-person school thanks to the vaccination program in our state. I am finding my footing as an interior decorator with my new firm Meeker Interiors LLC. I hope to host an in-person Student Send-Off for the Nashville Belles in August. God willing, life will feel more normal by the fall 2021." Monica, we share that same sentiment!

**Gabrielle Campo Neal** and her husband Roger welcomed their fifth child, a baby daughter named Stella, in August of 2020. Stella is the only daughter in a gaggle of four boys! Gabby shares that they are all in "seventh heaven."

**Erin Moran Crill** celebrated 10 years at her pediatric practice in her hometown of Dyer, IN in August 2020. She writes, "It's crazy to think that as a physician who only sees kids through age 18, almost all of my patients were born after we graduated from SMC! I live in Valparaiso with husband Ben and daughters Audrey (SMC Class of 2034) and Eleanor (SMC Class of 2038).

"I see **Torie Allison Cox** regularly. It's way more fun when it's for social reasons, especially when Thai food and martinis are involved, but she's also our family dentist!"

In other good news, this *Courier* edition marks the "over halfway point" to our next Reunion in 2023 (our 20<sup>th</sup>, gulp), so that's exciting! The countdown is on.

## 2004

From the *Courier* Office

**Annie Basinski Dubsy** has accepted a new career opportunity as senior vice president, brand marketing at FleishmanHillard.

## EXCELSIOR

**Kathryn Hartman Rosenzweig '04** has been named Chief of Communications for the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USPOC).

## 2005

**Jacqueline Cuisinier Torres**  
jacquelinecuisinier@gmail.com  
**Bridget Gottlieb Roehl**  
gottlieb.b@gmail.com

**Jenna Kartje Gensic** recently published a book: *What Your Child on the Spectrum Really Needs: Advice From 12 Autistic Adults* from AAPC, which is also available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

**Lauren Burke O'Brien** reports that she recently started a new job last year as legislative director for Senator Todd Young of Indiana.

**Lisa Walton Roelle** and her family moved to St. Louis, MO in 2018. She is a physician assistant at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital specializing in pediatric electrophysiology. In addition to her clinical duties, her research focuses on digital health technologies and telemedicine. Her case series *The Impact of Direct to Consumer Wearables in Pediatric Electrophysiology Telehealth Clinics: A Real-World Case Series* was published in the December 2020 edition of the *Cardiovascular Digital Health Journal*. She enjoys spending weekends at the Lake of the Ozarks with her husband Ethan and two kids, Lillian, 9, and Tucker, 7.

**MacKenzie Ulm Ledley**, husband Brian, and big brother Joseph Patrick welcomed their new daughter Lillian Margaret to the family in July 2019.

**Carlye Gibson** was married to Joseph Long on February 29, 2020. She also received her certification as a child passenger safety instructor (CPSI) in October 2020.

**Marianne Rutz Kaleida** states that she is super terrible about keeping in touch. Case in point, she married David Kaleida in Atlanta, GA and this fall will be the couple's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Maria Christine Corso** and **Lisa Christiano** were in attendance. This spring, Marianne is involved with the Saint Mary's College main stage theatrical production *Hope Springs*. She is so excited to be performing

alongside current students. She states, "I hope you are all able to check out the show remotely!"

**Lisa Christiano** and Mike McCormack (ND '05) got engaged on March 6, 2021. They are planning a December wedding.

**Aubrey Anne Szany Shelton** reports: "I married my best friend and high school sweetheart Jason Shelton 14 years ago. We have two amazing children, Landen, 11, and Vivien, 8. I received my master's degree in regulatory and quality compliance from Purdue University. I have been working for Cook Research Incorporated for 10 years and in that time I have become the manager of the quality assurance team. Cook Research is a Cook Medical company that specializes in interventional medical devices."

## 2006

**Ellen Louise Riley-Davis**  
erileydavis@gmail.com

As I write this, Easter is three days away and COVID-19 vaccinations are being given throughout the United States.

**Lynn Margaret Sikora** was promoted to vice president, marketing at Phoenix International Publications, Inc., a Chicago-based global children's publisher. She has been there for almost 13 years and loves being a part of making books that create lifelong readers!

## 2007

**Lisa Victoria Gallagher**  
lgalla01@gmail.com

A little update from your class news writer: I will be attending Loyola University Chicago's Weekend JD Program beginning fall 2021 while continuing to work full time at the University of Notre Dame. I'm very excited for this new journey!

From **Lisa Cozzi Kaczmarczyk**: "I wanted to update you on a life event! My husband Bobby Kaczmarczyk and I welcomed our daughter Ellie Marie Kaczmarczyk on March 15, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20.75 in. long."

**Sarah Mikrut Aker** writes: "My husband Timo, daughter Cordelia, and I welcomed our little boy Lennox William into the world on July 17, 2020. He came nine weeks early but is healthy and happy and growing strong."

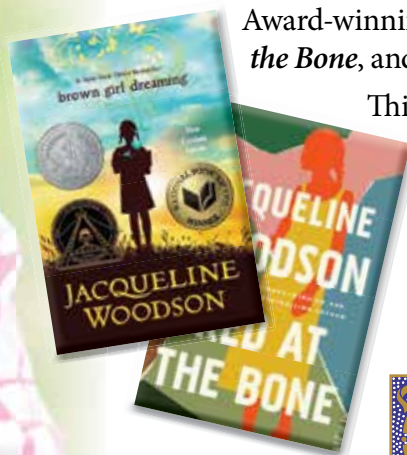
From **Amanda David Herman**: "Hi, fellow '07 alumnae! I had the worst year of my life. It all started at the very end of 2019 when I accepted a new job, which seemed to be bright. I was so happy for a change of pace—then 2020 started. I traveled A LOT the first three months in the new job, which would slow down after the first quarter. Then COVID-19. My company went into an early work-from-home mandate, which was fine at the time but as an extrovert by nature I had some struggles. Then my kindergartener started 'remote learning'... that lasted about two hours then we threw in the towel because I was working full time. Summer quickly



# An Evening with Jacqueline Woodson

## September 28, 2021

Join us for a conversation with Newberry and National Book Award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming*, *Red at the Bone*, and *Each Kindness*.



This is an in-person event. Tickets go on sale August 23 at [saintmarys.edu/Events](https://saintmarys.edu/Events).

This event is part of the Christian Culture Lecture Series from the Department of Humanistic Studies. For more information on the speaker, visit [prhspeakers.com](https://prhspeakers.com).



Christian Culture  
LECTURE  
Saint Mary's College

arrived and I had my first accident—I cut my hand while mowing the lawn and got my first-ever urgent care stitches encounter. The next week I thought getting a second puppy was a good idea. . . NOPE, but we went with it. Two weeks later, I fell down the stairs and broke my foot. That puppy was really not a good idea then, but we went with it. Four weeks later, once my foot was better, the doctor decided I needed surgery on my ankle for unrelated reasons. That puppy was REALLY not a good idea, but we went with it. About a month later, we got the news that my mom was diagnosed with a very aggressive type of leukemia and she went in for in-hospital, intense chemotherapy treatments about two hours away from home. Only my dad and I were able to visit, so I lived in the car or at the hospital for six weeks. That puppy . . . yeah, still went with it. Somewhere in the middle, my youngest was practicing his ninja moves, jumped off the couch, and cracked his head open. . . another urgent care visit and five staples to the head. The chemo treatments were not successful, so my mom was sent home for some rest to get ready for a different form of chemotherapy. Somewhere between her stay in the hospital and coming home, she contracted COVID-19 and was admitted back to the hospital again. My dad and I also tested positive for COVID-19 so you can imagine where we suspect we picked it up from. My mom was admitted on a Monday, my dad was later admitted on that following Wednesday. A week later, it just wasn't good. My mom passed away on November 7, with my dad (still sick) on one side, and my aunt on the other. My son's fourth birthday was on November 9. My dad spent another eight days in

the hospital before he was able to come home. After a very harsh recovery period for my dad, we celebrated my mom's life on December 12, which was also my parent's 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Then it was my birthday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Eve and the New Year. It took a while but that puppy was finally a good idea. Thank you to everyone who reached out, sent flowers, meals, cards, and just listened; you all mean more to me than you will ever know."

## 2008



Fellow Saint Mary's College alumnae and current co-teachers celebrating college day at their Catholic school in Chicago, IL. Left to right, Elizabeth Anne Kraig '13, Gabrielle Marie Tomlinson '18, and Emily Beth Matus '08.

## 2009

Katie Kohler Dalhoff  
Liz Ann Harter  
[smcbelles09@yahoo.com](mailto:smcbelles09@yahoo.com)

For the Class of 2009, 2021 has been full of new beginnings and exciting transitions.

**Jayde Kennedy Ball** and her husband Andy welcomed Huxley (Huck) Lawrence Ball on December 13, 2020. He joins big sister Henley.

**Laura Nicole Halper** and her husband Walter welcomed Eloise Nicole on January 8.

**Elizabeth Alexander Mucha** welcomed twin girls with her husband Kyle on September 11, 2020. Melanie Rose and Madeline Claire join big sister Molly.

**Andrea Krebs Novotney** and her husband Justin welcomed their third son Ezra James on December 17, 2020. He joins big brothers Joe and Matt.

**Kimberley Burkart Bayer** and her husband Matt welcomed Gregory Damien on March 2. He joins big sister Maria and brothers Paul and Stephen.

**Kristin Murphy Burkart '15** is his godmother.

**Katie Comeford Fernandez** and her husband Mike welcomed Olivia Rose on February 27. Katie, Mike, Olivia, and brother MJ also recently bought a house in Chicago.

**Kathleen Quinlan Yager** and her husband Luke welcomed Joseph Leland in January. He joins



older siblings Hannah, Thomas, and Andrew. They also recently moved from Kansas City, MO to Edwardsville, IL.

**Laura Beth Urban** and her husband Sam Pecoraro (ND '10) welcomed their first child Simon John on March 6.

**Ashleigh Telman Hartman** just completed her second nine-month deployment in July 2020, this time to Iraq. She married Captain Garrett (Jack) Hartman on February 13 in Weatherford, TX. Fellow 2009 Belles **Lauren Elizabeth Lassus**, **Laura Cronmiller Kettlehut**, and **Molly Goldsmith Sutton** were in attendance. Ashleigh was also recently promoted to the rank of major in the Army.

**Lindsey Appelquist** married Vernon Fitch on April 17 at the Cincinnati Reds Stadium. She is very excited to become a stepmother of six.

**Caitlin Anne Murphy** continues to work as a nurse practitioner at Rush University Cancer Center. She also teaches NP students and oversees research initiatives. She was recently appointed associate professor at Rush University College of Nursing in the department of community, systems, and mental health nursing.

**Emily Croft Maduzia** is embracing one of the positives the pandemic—working remotely. She works in admissions at the University of Illinois Graduate College and is loving being home.

It has certainly been an interesting year that has challenged our class of frontline workers, teachers, moms, and other essential roles. We look forward to when we can celebrate our next Reunion on campus together. Stay well!

## 2010

Michelle Alyse Giannola  
SaintMarysCollege2010@gmail.com

We have lots of updates for you! But before we dive into them, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and have been able to find normalcy in this chaos. Don't forget to send in your updates—we love catching up with everyone!

Matt DeStefani (ND '11) and **Kathleen Mills DeStefani** welcomed daughter Lily Therese on December 5, 2020.

**Alexandra Eckardt Derec** and husband welcomed their daughter Abigail Lynne Derec on March 25, 2020.

**Camille Gebert Hoover** and husband Steve welcomed their second daughter Ava in January. Their oldest daughter Madeline is 2½ years old! Last July, Camille made a switch in her careers from marketing to real estate and now works as a licensed real estate agent for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Chicago.

**Amanda Wagner Leisure** and Austin married on June 1, 2019. They welcomed their son on February 22, 2020. His name is Emmitt William Leisure, and they are loving their first years with him so much already!

**Brigid Kathleen Diaz** and Ernie Krause welcomed their son Thomas Marcellus Krause on January 20, 2021.

**Kelsey Knoedler Perri** and her husband Dominic bought their first home in Providence, RI this fall! Penny (their rescue dog of one year) loves her new backyard!

**Michele Peterson O'Sullivan** and her husband Patrick welcomed a future Belle on March 6, 2020. Cora Marie weighed in at 9 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21.75 in. **Samantha Peterson Harty '08** was chosen as Cora's godmother.

**Ashley Fontaine Nealon** has some thrilling updates to share. After venturing into real estate and property management with the purchase of a trap house, she has finally met the man of her dreams: Birdie, a six-pound maltipoo. Turns out money CAN buy love! She and Birdie plan to stud their way into a dog-breeding empire. Ashley currently lives at home with her mother.

Watch out, Pat Summit! **Laura Nicole Gill** recently accepted a position as the associate athletic director at the University of Chicago lab schools.



Laura Nicole Gill getting through challenges with the help of a children's reward chart and her SMC sisters.

Additionally, she purchased her first home in 2020. This Belle's path to greatness hasn't always been a bed of roses. A tough breakup knocked her off course but with the help of a children's reward chart and her SMC sisters, she is taking her life back one sticker at a time. There's a torch at the end of this rainbow!

## EXCELSIOR

**Quinlan McGrath O'Grady '10** has won the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in the State of Illinois. The Golden Apple Award is a prestigious award given to only 10 teachers in the state, out of 708 nominated.

## 2011

Christina Kolling Carlson  
cmkolling@gmail.com

Hello, 2011 Belles, I hope this issue finds you and your family in good health. Congratulations to everyone below on your exciting news. As always, if you ever have any news you want to submit, please feel free to contact me anytime.

**Kelsey Castle Dailey** received her PhD in curriculum and instruction in December of 2020 from Andrews University. Kelsey married David Dailey on October 2 in New Carlisle, IN. They had a small ceremony after their destination wedding in Jamaica was cancelled due to COVID-19. The newlyweds are living in New Carlisle, IN.

**Brianna Lamp Wessel**, her husband Drew, and their oldest daughter Clare welcomed their second little girl Natalie Josephine on November 30, 2020, at 6:54 p.m. She weighed 5 lbs. 9 oz. and was 18.5 in. long. Clare is very excited for her little sister and birthday buddy (Clare's birthday is November 29)! They also were proud to baptize her into the Catholic Church on December 20, 2020. They currently reside in Hampshire, IL.

**Kristen Petkevich Hanrath** and her husband Andrew welcomed their first baby into the world on December 1, 2020, at 3:54 p.m. Their son Nathan Thomas weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 in. long. They are currently living as a family of three in Vernon Hills, IL.

**Nikki Taylor Dent** and husband Rick welcomed a baby girl Evelyn Taylor Dent on February 16, 2021. She was 6 lbs. 12 oz. and 20.5 in. long. Evelyn has been a great addition to their family alongside her big brother Jack, 2. They are currently living in Fort Wayne, IN.

**Mary Castle Auber** and husband Ben welcomed their second child Juliette Sophie Cabrini Auber in February. Their son John is thrilled to be a big brother, and Juliette has been a source of incredible joy for the whole family.

**Kara Margaret Joseph, MD**, completed a fellowship in critical care medicine at Northwestern University (Chicago, IL) in July 2020 and will be finishing a cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital-Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA in July. She will then be returning to Northwestern University-Feinberg School of Medicine and begin practice as an assistant professor of anesthesiology.

**Maire Ready DeLand** and her husband Ben welcomed their second son Wilton Bernard into the world on January 20. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.25 in. long. Alden's slowly adjusting to being a big brother!

**Eliscia Filice Turner** and her husband Eric welcomed their second child Elliott Mary Michelle on March 2, 2021. She was 6 lbs. 9 oz. and 18 in. long. She joined big brother Emmett Turner. They are currently living in Cincinnati, OH.

**Kendall Codi Davis** recently became a BCBA (board certified behavior analyst) and relocated to Alabama to work at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind.

## EXCELSIOR

**Michelle Witte Whittenhall '11** was awarded with the "Pursue Your Passion" project by her employer RSM US LLP. The passion project has allowed Michelle to assist NICU families at several Chicagoland hospitals during COVID-19.

## 2012

Kate Kirbie Dubinski  
SMCclass2012@gmail.com

In March of 2021, **Ariel Terpstra Ross** took a job as the administrator for Building Blocks Academy and the family moved to Anchorage, AK. At the end of March, **Danielle Nicole Gannon** began a new job as a corporate actuary at Lincoln Financial Group.

**Christina Girardi Blake** and her husband Patrick welcomed their daughter Giulia Lynn Blake to the world on November 9, 2020 in Arlington, VA. **Katherine Bennett Hyde** and her husband Peter Hyde welcomed their son James Bennett Hyde (aka "Bennett") into the world on December 11, 2020. He joins big sister, Molly, 2.

**Rachel Rebecca Thiel** married Luis Torres in a pandemic-style wedding in her mother's front yard on May 16, 2020. In another small COVID-19-style ceremony, **Elizabeth Caldwell Stockton** and Aaron Stockton were married August 15, 2020. **Taylor Leigh Chamberlain** and **Ariel Terpstra Ross** were bridesmaids. Mr. and Mrs. Stockton reside in the Twin Cities. **Laura Rose Schiraldi** married Vincent Criscenzo in December 2020 in the company of their immediate family members. They are planning a large wedding for December of 2021. Lastly, **Laura Elizabeth Ruiz** married Robert (Bob) Fugiel Pacione (ND '11) on Saturday, January 23, 2021, in Miami, FL. **Alison Jean Beatty**, **Erin Elizabeth Chastain**, **Ellen Nicole Niemiec**, and **Kayla Nichole Valenti** were bridesmaids along with law school classmates Jasmine Prokscha and Prya Murad. Childhood friend Xiomara Martinez was the maid of honor. James Schwarber (ND '11) and Kevin Quigley (ND '11) were groomsmen along with Michael Spytek and Robert Christie. Childhood friend Mark Parilla was the best man. Laura and Bob recently purchased a condo in the Wicker Park neighborhood in Chicago and look forward to welcoming friends and family in their new home once larger gatherings are safe to host.

## 2013

Meghan Kathryn Feasel  
Amy Elizabeth Tiberi  
smcclassnews2013@gmail.com

Hello, '13 Belles,

We have some great updates for you. We are happy to start reporting on awesome events from our class again after so many things being postponed in 2020.

After having to cancel their plans to get married on the Amalfi Coast this October, Andrew and **Abigail Chappell Crotty** got married in an elopement in Boston on September 18, 2020! Though the day was celebrated only with close family due to COVID-19, it was made more special by a video compilation of well wishes from our close friends, including SMC alums **Caroline Gallagher Lynn** and **Taylor Christine Romans**. Congrats, Abigail and Andrew!

In baby news, **Brianne Tepe Roy** and her husband Jordan welcomed a son Bennett in February. **Megan Marie Byorth** and her husband welcomed twin girls Charlotte and Emma in January. **Stephanie Hepinger Avila** and her husband welcomed a little girl Amelia in January. Congratulations to all the new moms!

If you have any life updates you would like to see in *Courier*, please email smcclassnews2013@gmail.com.

## 2014

Kathleen Sullivan Kinasz  
Galia Chantal Guerrero  
belles2014news@gmail.com

Dear Belles,

We hope this update finds you safe and healthy. It is hard to believe as we write this, April 2021, that we have been living this COVID-19 era for over a year. However, we are constantly reminded of what is most important at this time as we find new and creative ways to have virtual and socially distant get-togethers with friends and family. Hopefully by the time you read this, life will have slowly come back to normal and we can gather again for Notre Dame football games and Saint Mary's Reunion trips. :)

We have a few exciting updates to share from our classmates! **Kelsey Teske Rockstroh** and her husband Sam welcomed their first baby girl Madeline Marlene Rockstroh on August 27, 2020. Congratulations, Rockstroh family, we look forward to welcoming Madeline as a future Baby Belle. :)

**Kelly Townsend Courington** was formally accepted to the University of Notre Dame's theology program, where she will obtain a master of arts in theology. Congratulations, Kelly!

**Susie Larson Courtney** married Daniel Courtney (ND '13) at Saint Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Congratulations, Susie and Daniel! We wish you many years of happiness and love!

**Hannah Elizabeth Mudd** has accepted a new job as corporate counsel for Equifax based out of their St. Louis office with the Equifax Workforce Solutions group focusing on government and commercial contracts and negotiations. Great work, Hannah!

We are thrilled to celebrate all of our classmates' exciting milestones! Please continue to share your news with us. Sending love to our favorite Belles.

Yours in Saint Mary's!



## EXCELSIOR

**Susan Head Furber '14**

has published her first novel with a UK press, *The Essence of an Hour*.

## 2015

Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole  
nicoleotoole128@gmail.com

Dear Class of 2015,

We made it to 2021! It's hard to believe it has been six years since we graduated. This may be the longest I have gone in the last decade without stepping foot on our beautiful campus. I pray our class has been staying safe and healthy, and I am looking forward to getting together soon once we are all vaccinated and able to do so! 2020 was a tough year for so many, yet so many of our classmates accomplished wonderful career milestones, expanded their families, and began new and exciting adventures in their lives.

**Sarah Dapper Cobb** and Owen Cobb (ND '15) welcomed their son Leo David Cobb on December 30, 2020, in Indianapolis, IN. Congratulations to the Cobbs!

**Kayle Sexton Leonard** married Robert Leonard Jr. on September 25, 2020, at Notre Dame. **Margaret Elizabeth Faller '16** was a bridesmaid. **Sarah Monte Lancaster '14**, **Mary Catherine Faller Donegan '14**, **Alex del Pilar Pecina '14**, and **Karly Ann Marth '21** celebrated with the happy couple. Congrats, Kayle and Bobby!

**Linsey Paige McMullen** moved to East Lansing, MI to begin her PhD in curriculum, instruction, and teacher education at Michigan State University. Best of luck, Linsey!

**Madeline Elizabeth Havrilla** received her master's of science in education for clinical mental health counseling from Indiana University South Bend. Way to go, Madeline!

**Emily Anne Scanlon** was engaged to Matthew Siegert in December of 2020 in Chicago, IL. Congrats, Emmie and Matt!



**Rachel Ann Sinchak** began a new position as a senior customer service specialist at Talis Biomedical Corporation in their Chicago, IL office. Congrats, Rachel!

**Julia Marie Ritter** started a new position as an email marketing manager with Mailgun Technologies, Inc., located out of Chicago, IL. Way to go, Julia!

**Therese Gorecki Vicory** and her husband Brandon Vicory welcomed their daughter Elizabeth Ann Vicory on December 29, 2020. Baby Elizabeth weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. at birth. Congrats, Therese and Brandon!

**Nicole DelMonte Timas** and Michael Timas were married on June 12, 2020. **Sarah Dapper Cobb** was matron of honor, **Lauren Fox Kwiatkowski** and **Bridget Ann Lyons** were bridesmaids. Other Belles were in attendance to celebrate as well. Congratulations, Nicole and Michael!

**Madison Carroll Bookman** started a new position as global project manager of the chief executive office at The Nature Conservancy. Madison works with Allison Vogt (ND '99) on repositioning The Nature Conservancy's effort to guide the global climate team toward increased clarity on a vision and strategies to more effectively and efficiently tackle climate change as an organization.

Don't forget to send me your exciting life updates: nicoleotoole128@gmail.com. Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

## 2016

Jennifer Anne Vosters  
smc16news@gmail.com

Happy summer, Belles! Just a few updates to report this time:

**Veronica Rose McDowell** welcomed her baby boy Theodore Bryant in August 2020! Congratulations, Veronica! Sending love to you and Theodore!

**Hannah Christine Drinkall '18** had her daughter Tar in August 2019! Hannah and Tara have since moved to Orlando, where Hannah was recently hired as an account executive at Shyft6. Congratulations and best wishes, Hannah!

Don't forget to send your updates on new jobs, graduations, weddings, babies, and other life changes to smc16news@gmail.com! And honestly, let's all just take a moment to be glad and grateful to have made it this far in a pandemic. It's taken a lot out of all of us. And while it stings to not be able to come together for our first SMC Reunion, returning to The Avenue once again will be all the sweeter for having waited so long to get there. :)

## 2017

Margaret Carswell Pohl  
mcarsw02@saintmarys.edu

**Nicole Kimberly Zero** graduated from Clemson with her master's in mechanical engineering and started a job at Raytheon Technologies in the Engineering Leadership Development Program.

**Leah Walsh Soisson** and her husband Joe (ND '17) welcomed the birth of their first son James Donovan Soisson on September 26. Congratulations!

In wedding news, **Jade Johnson Nevarez** married Cole Nevarez on October 10 **Sarah Elizabeth Welch** and **Brenna Cathryn Leahy '18** were bridesmaids.

**Meghan Harris O'Toole '18** married James O'Toole (ND '18) in Palm Beach on November 25. Congratulations!

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