

# Saint Mary's College COURIER

Spring 2022



Alumnae Ironman Ultra-Athletes

# UPON REFLECTION

In the long and ongoing period of our global pandemic, many of us have felt the weight of loneliness. Some people, including many older adults, have suffered being completely alone, while others—living in various familial configurations—have still felt removed from a larger sphere of social interaction. Daily, I read news reports about the negative impact of the pandemic on young people, and I am so grateful that Saint Mary's has been able to continue face-to-face classes and residential life through this period. Of course, it has looked a little different to see classrooms full of masked students, and there certainly have been disappointments: Some students missed their opportunity to study abroad; others lost a year of athletic competition; others were unable to participate in a play or a concert. But overall, there has been a lot of “normalcy” in the college experience here at Saint Mary's.

Lately, I've also been thinking about the impact on faculty and staff, not only their obvious exhaustion from the taxing demands of the past two years, but also what it has meant to be cut off from their research and practice communities as most meetings and conferences moved online. As this spring semester unfolds at Saint Mary's, I think there's reason for renewed optimism. I'm talking to more people who have returned to team meetings and travel. I myself have attended three in-person conferences this semester, and I was struck by the pleasure of learning with and from colleagues—even with masks on! The higher education community thrives on—and depends on—opportunities to share research discoveries, to exchange promising practices, and to reflect on our common purpose and values.

Each of my conferences also offered a remarkable engagement with this unusual moment in history and the lessons we have learned from it. And each left me feeling more confident about the future of our specific kind of undergraduate experience—an experience where individualized attention, intellectual challenge, spiritual vitality, and community engagement are paramount.

In early January, the President's Institute of the Council of Independent Colleges took up the theme of “Recovery, Reckoning, Reinvention” and challenged participants to think about what is durable and desirable from our pandemic practices: Will we reinvent ourselves on the other side of the crisis or return to past ways of teaching, meeting, and decision making? How will these decisions influence public perception about the value of higher education?

More recently, I was in Washington, DC for back-to-back conferences. The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities offered expertise, experience, and fellowship under a resonant theme: “Called Together.” Many of the sessions challenged us to think about our “calling,” about the special ways Catholic colleges and universities remain true to their missions. We had extraordinary opportunities to hear from speakers such as US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy on “The Importance of Human Community in this Moment” and Father James Heft, SM on “The Future of Catholic Higher Education.”

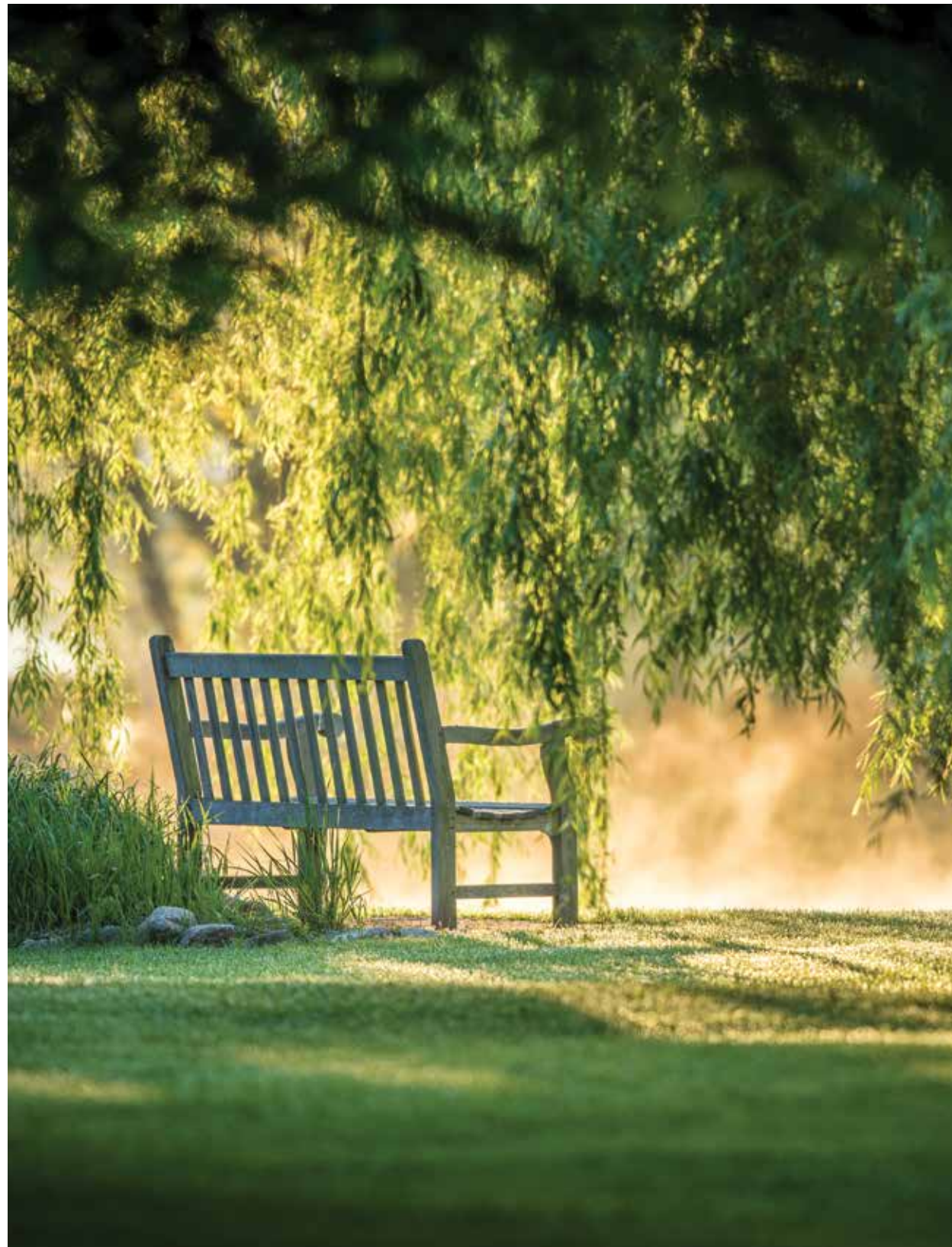
Most of the presidents of Catholic colleges went on to the annual meeting of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, which sponsors the Higher Ed Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. I was pleased to join other leaders from private colleges in Indiana at meetings with our senators and representatives. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank them for the financial support that helped us through the pandemic, to let them know how we had used it, and to share with them some of the outcomes from our institutions that they, as Hoosiers, can be proud of.

Upon reflection, I think all of us in the Saint Mary's community should be proud of how we have managed to thrive during the pandemic. From the very beginning, we've carried the weight of it not alone, but together.

Warm regards,



Katie Conboy, Ph.D.  
*President*



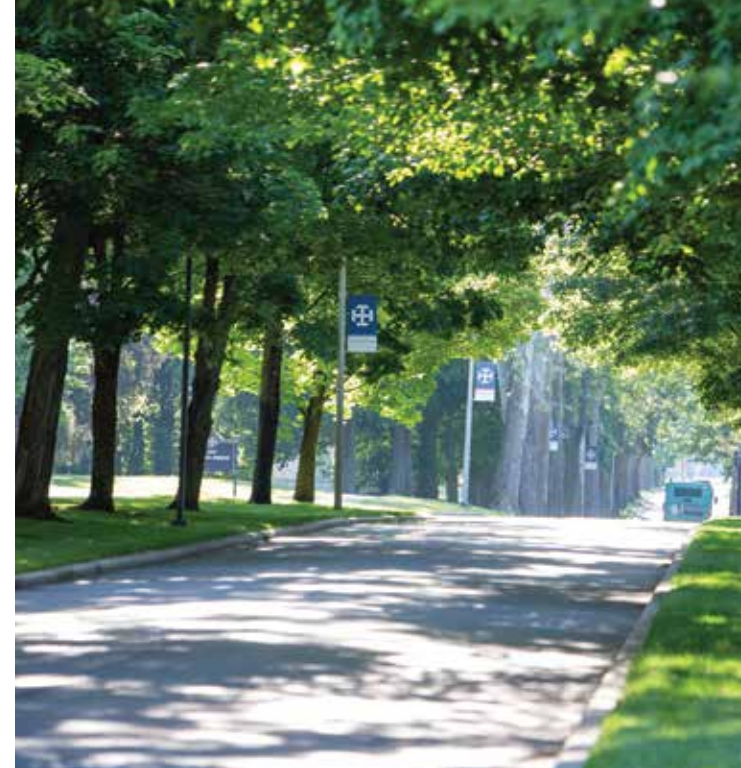


# TABLE of CONTENTS

volume 97, number 1 | Spring 2022



16



14



8



11

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On the Cover: Four-time Ironman finisher Patty Saccone '91 talks about the rewards of competing, in this issue of *Courier*.

### 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.



Kristen Sullivan Lynch '91 crosses the finish line while raising money for Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 Ironwomen—Alumnae Ultra-Athletes Strengthen Others
- 8 Do It Anyway
- 11 For the Historical Record
- 12 Avenue News
- 13 Advancement Update
- 14 Concept to Creation—How the SPARK Program Launches Women in Business
- 16 Passing the Baton—The Past and Future of the Center for Spirituality
- 19 For the Record
- 22 Club News
- 24 Class News





# Ironwomen

## Alumnae Ultra-Athletes Strengthen Others

by Tori Murphy '19

There's only one athletic event in modern history that is considered the most challenging one-day race. Known as the Ironman Triathlon, ultra-athletes complete a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride, and a 26.22 mile run. Completing this race can take up to 17 hours, and our Ironman alumnae are demonstrating their mental and physical strength.

Not only are Saint Mary's alumnae competing in Ironman events for their own sense of achievement, they're doing it to help others—whether it's their families, their communities, their students, or other athletes.

As an avid runner, **Amy Shelly '91**, chief financial officer for The Options Clearing Corporation in Chicago, and member of the Saint Mary's College

Board of Trustees, ran two marathons a year for several years, finding training to be a great way to de-stress. Then she upped her athlete status by trying a half Ironman. Within a few months of training, she was hooked.

Now, in 2022, she is training for her 10<sup>th</sup> Ironman race, which will take place this October in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, the birthplace of the event. Training at this level helps her to be more present for everyone in her life, she says. Throughout the pandemic, she has trained with her teammates, sometimes on a Zoom bike ride, or during long-distance outdoor runs with face coverings. "It gives me the chance to empty my brain and I usually come back to a much better and happier place," she said. "That allows me to be

there for my staff, the College, and to be an overall better human being."

**Jennifer Augustine Tullis '98** participates in races to give back to the community. Tullis started racing triathlons after the birth of her second child 19 years ago, to get back into shape. But with a strong passion for helping others, it wasn't long before she began using her athleticism to get involved with programs such as the Challenge Athlete Foundation and Dare2Tri, both of which provide opportunities for people with physical challenges to compete in athletic events.

In a twist of fate, Tullis' son, Sam, became paralyzed from the waist down in 2014 at the age of 10, and spent a year at Mayo Clinic relearning to walk.

Tullis says it was a major turning point for the whole family.

"Here I was helping others but now I really had to motivate my own son," she said. After preaching to him that he can do anything in a wheelchair, together they did what no one in the world had ever done before: Visit Antarctica in a wheelchair. After sleeping in a tent and then backpacking through Patagonia, Sam says it was his faith first and foremost, then his dreams and hopes that motivated him to walk again. Now the family has come full circle, and all three of Tullis' children, as well as her husband, volunteer as race guides all over the country.

"If you're talented at something and you have a gift, you should share it with others, no matter what it is," Tullis said.

**Professor Patty Saccone '91** teaches Health Information Technology at Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois. She is a four-time Ironman finisher and says her happy place is in the water. She has swam in the cold, in shark-infested waters, and has even swam from Alcatraz Island a



**Patty Saccone '91** completes the 112-mile bicycle portion of the Ironman Triathlon in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2018.

couple of times. Next on her list: swim the English Channel. She uses her athleticism to inspire her students inside and outside the classroom. A swimmer at heart, when not in training Saccone provides swim lessons to children with autism and adults who fear the water. Some of her students have gone on to be a part of their school's swim team and even compete in an Ironman.

Saccone says she aimed to compete in her fifth Ironman last September, but after an ankle surgery she decided to instead help others finish their races. She swam the 2.4 miles shoulder-to-shoulder to motivate an athlete who didn't believe in himself. Then she ran half of the 26.2 miles with a 60-year-old woman who needed Saccone to keep her head in the game to finish. "You don't do this for money, you don't do it because you want to come in first place," she said. "There's so much more of a reward when I help someone."

Aside from her many event successes, Saccone says her most important role is modeling confidence and strength for her daughters. She says it's important to teach them that women are just as strong as men, physically and mentally.

For her daughters and for her students, she wants to give them what she learned while at Saint Mary's. "I love to teach

them to be independent thinkers, to stand up for themselves, and to find their focus," she said.

**Kristen Sullivan Lynch '91**, regional development director at Saint Mary's, has completed seven marathons and is considering an Ironman in the future. She has noticed that her time as a student at the College prepared her for marathons just as much as her training has. "You have to be doing little things every day to build up to success," she said.

Whether she decides to run another Chicago marathon or her first Ironman event, she says her reward isn't only about crossing the finish line. It's about finishing while raising money and awareness for Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, a charity in Chicago, Illinois. "It can be a 16-hour day, but being a Mercy Home Hero is worth every second," Lynch said.

Through their dedication to compete, their communities and those closest to them benefit. Tullis and her family continue to train year-round for their next events. They want to be ready for when they are called to help others cross finish lines. "When you see other people succeed, it's pretty darn cool," Tullis said. †



**Jennifer Augustine Tullis '98** serves as a guide runner for a parathlete during the Boston Marathon, one of the world's most competitive marathons.



# Do It Anyway

by Emily Rose McManus, Ph.D.

*“Be afraid, but do it anyway,” said Nataha Salifyanji Kaoma, M.D., when asked what advice she has for young women working to advance gender equality around the globe.*

When I started as director of the Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) in early 2021, I had just returned from parental leave and was in the thick of juggling work and parenting two small children through a pandemic. If being a working mother in the United States has always been impossible, the pandemic has made it soul-crushing. The impacts of the pandemic on single parents, under-resourced, and minoritized communities have been even more staggering. The pandemic has reminded us what Black, Indigenous, people of color, and transgender people, disabled people, and women have always known: that inequality and injustice are embedded in every fiber of our global community. And that we are, and have always been, a global community.

Our global interconnection was evident at a Women’s Global Leadership panel that I recently attended. Among the panelists was Nataha Salifyanji Kaoma, M.D., founder of a reproductive and menstrual health awareness organization called Copper Rose Zambia. On my Zoom screen were women from around

the world, all selected to participate in the Women’s Leadership Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI), a program that CWIL has participated in since 2012.

In attendance were women I had grown to cherish and admire during the Saint Mary’s 2021 Summer Global Women’s Leadership Institute. During the program, 25 of the most accomplished undergraduate women from Saint Mary’s, the Middle East, and North Africa met daily on Zoom to take classes from Saint Mary’s faculty on topics including gender, feminism, inclusion and intersectionality, racial and social justice, politics, and global human rights. During the institute, they identified and addressed key issues facing women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in their countries. Each day they showed up—not just to our Zoom class, but to *doing the work*.

## Disruption Didn’t Win

Despite the dedication of the women in the SUSI program, it wasn’t always easy. The pandemic upended their lives: educational progress was disrupted; job opportunities vanished; family

obligations increased; government instability and social unrest were boiling over; inflation skyrocketed; rolling blackouts and limited access to Wi-Fi swept through the region; and through it all was the constant worry of COVID-19 in a region of the world with minuscule access to vaccines. When Dr. Kaoma said, “Be afraid, but do it anyway,” the Zoom room lit up with emoji hearts from a group of women already well-versed in having the courage to show up and work hard, not in spite of, but *because* of the ballooning difficulties facing women in our intra-pandemic world.

What does it mean to combat gender inequality in the context of this “new normal” we find ourselves in?

CWIL is a women’s center which specializes in women’s leadership; research on gender, women, and girls; global education; and diversity, inclusion, and equity. In the years since its founding in 2000, CWIL has at various points emphasized one of these specializations over the others, responding to the pressing issues of the time. Our programming is guided by

our “Women’s Intercultural Leadership Model,” which argues that “the problems of the 21st century require leadership that purposefully seeks to be informed by and situated within the experience and lens of gender and culture” (Bazata, et al, 2011). Key tenants of this model are a belief that leadership is inherent in every woman, a commitment to amplifying the voices of women of color and women from underrepresented groups, and a priority on advocating for more equitable, inclusive, and just communities.

## Demanding Equity for Everyone

In my work with CWIL, I am motivated by two additional guiding principles. First, that working toward



Emily Rose McManus, Ph.D. is the director of the Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership and the academic director of the Saint Mary’s College Global Women’s Leadership SUSI. Additionally, she is faculty in the Department of Global Studies, and affiliated faculty in the Department of Gender & Women’s Studies.

gender equity, racial justice, and social justice demands an *inclusive, intersectional, and decidedly global* approach. This requires that we expand our understanding of a women’s center to include the gender identities of all our students, and that we understand gender discrimination within the historical and contemporary context of global conflict, oppression, and colonization. Although the lived experiences of women differ from place to place, our histories and cultures are deeply interconnected and shaped by global systems of power. As feminist scholar Audre Lorde said, “I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.”

My second guiding principle is that working toward more just and equitable communities requires a careful and nuanced knowledge of people and the communities, cultures, and histories that shape them. Here at the Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership, we *learn and lead, research and act*.

## Research First

To support this goal, CWIL has expanded research opportunities. In fall

# For the *Historical Record* by Carrie Rulli

2021, we created the Faculty Research Fellow program to support Saint Mary's faculty who are doing innovative research on gender, women, and/or girls. Our inaugural fellows are a phenomenal group of scholars whose research and teaching span the globe.

Assistant Professor of Gender & Women's Studies Suyun Choi researches South Korean "marriage migration" and gendered labor systems within global migration and economic systems. "My analysis highlights how neoliberal forces and migrant women's desires are woven together into an entrepreneurial ethos that reinterprets nationhood, family, cultural differences, and citizenship in economic terms," she said.

*"Key tenants of (CWIL's) model are a belief that leadership is inherent in every woman."*

Jessica Coblentz, assistant professor of Religious Studies and Theology, examines the limits and affordance of empathy within the context of Christian feminism and social activism. Her project *Love Your Enemies: A Feminist Theology of Love at the Limits of Empathy* is "an interdisciplinary work of Christian feminist theology that explores how recent feminist, philosophical, and psychological perspectives on the relationship between empathy and morality can inform Christian perspectives on divine and human love."

Our third fellow, Nell Haynes, visiting assistant professor of Global Studies, conducts ethnographic research in Bolivia on Indigenous women's performance of *lucha libre* wrestling, examining the ways this celebrity-like platform enables Indigenous women to become advocates against domestic violence, support women's education, and "challenge preconceived notions of

what Indigenous women *should* do and be."

Although geographically and topically diverse, a common thread throughout their research is a dedication to examining how gendered systems inform people's everyday lives.

## From Learning to Action

This April, Saint Mary's College will host its first symposium on sexual violence, organized by the President's Committee on Sexual Violence. The highlight of the symposium will be a virtual lecture by Chanel Miller on Monday, April 11, at 6 p.m. (ET), followed by the annual Take Back the Night event on Wednesday, April 13. As CWIL works to highlight the role of research as the foundation of leadership and action, we are proud to partner with the Department of Gender & Women's Studies and Belles Against Violence Office to host a research panel on Friday, April 8, showcasing the activist research and creative works of our current students and alumnae.

Equally pressing of an issue is the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan and the implications of the Taliban takeover on the lives of women and girls. Saint Mary's commitment to women's education, social justice, and gender equity compels us to act in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. Yet, as Laura Elder, associate professor of Global Studies, urges, we must not "assume that what Afghan women need is the same as what we think is needed." Elder was addressing a group of students, faculty, and alumnae in a virtual CWIL lecture called "Feminist Approaches in Afghanistan & the United States." Instead, Elder says, we must "pay attention to connected histories, ask (don't tell), speak out, and work hard. Accept that the hard work of recognizing and respecting differences—as the products of different, but intimately connected histories—is the vital beginning of working in solidarity." †



Saint Mary's women have been contributing to academic inquiry for more than 175 years.

For most of American history, women have been underrepresented or misrepresented, if represented at all, for their contributions to our country. It was this reason that national leaders designated an annual month to highlight women's achievements. After hundreds of years of exclusion, there is a lot of work to be done.

Recognizing the vital role of women is part of every day at Saint Mary's. Through research across the disciplines, Saint Mary's students have been working to ensure women will be included in historical records going forward. Professor Jamie Wagman's research with her students is one impressive example.

"Honoring women's history is at the heart of Saint Mary's culture," said Wagman, associate professor and chair of the History Department and the Gender & Women's Studies Department. "Recognizing women's and gender history is a year-round endeavor for us through lectures, our student-faculty research, and public history collaborations."

The research is also giving her students valuable experience and professional exposure, from publishing in academic journals, to presenting at national conferences.

Here are some of their projects:

**Alison Tipton '17, Katlynn Dee '17, and Adrienne Whisman '17** co-published an article with Wagman about women stereotypes and their misrepresentation in US history, which was included in peer-reviewed journal *Seneca Falls Dialogues*.

As part of an exhibit for The History Museum in South Bend, students are researching pandemic experiences from gender, class, race, and sexual orientation viewpoints. This work is in conjunction with Professor Julia Dauer's English literature and medicine class.

The exhibit will run from fall 2022 into 2023. The National Endowment for the

Humanities and Indiana Humanities, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, are supporting this research.

Students in the U.S. Women's History class designed an Indiana women's suffrage exhibition for The History Museum in South Bend in 2020 and 2021. This project was supported by Indiana Humanities.

During the 2021 spring term, several students from Wagman's 1970s U.S. Women's History class contributed to a national digital history archive project for the University of Houston about the 1977 National Women's Conference.

**Jordan Lolmaugh '19, Sarah Allen '19, and Megan Temple '19** contributed to a transgender oral history project published in *Women and Social Movements in the United States*.

Several history students presented their research at conferences across the country during the last several years. **Jalyn King '20, Liz Ferry '20, Savannah Jackson '20, Liz Polstra '20, Lillian Cronin '18, Alison Tipton '17, Adrienne Whisman '17, Clare Maher '15, and Lydia Hathaway '15** presented at the 2020 Hoosier Women at Work Conference; labor history research at the 2018 Hoosier Women at Work Conference; gender stereotyping research at the 2016 Seneca Falls Dialogues Conference; and visual culture research at the 2014 Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

This generation of women researchers and historians are not only committed to making sure women are represented in history, they are using forms of media, like digital platforms for exhibits and oral histories, that allow them to work remotely with colleagues and sources, and reach wider audiences. "Their work and the tools they're using will inevitably teach them collaboration skills, as they are building a more solid structure for the representation of women in history in the future." †



### Celebrating Black History

In celebration of Black History Month, the Division for Inclusion and Equity hosted events throughout the month of February. Student workers for the division created posters of influential Black women in history that have been displayed in the student center. The division hosted a screening of *Sunflower: The Fannie Lou Hamer Story* and a conversation with the film's director, Christine Swanson. The Black Student Association partnered with the division for a discussion led by Ashley Gilmore, MS Ed, MFT, LCMHC, NCC to talk about the importance of breaking stigmas and how to merge faith and mental health care in the Black community. To round out the month, students took part in a canvas painting night by painting influential Black people.

### Spirituality 'Pop-Up' Conversations

Campus Ministry serves a vital role by accompanying students as they grow spiritually and academically. Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. students can find Carrie Badertscher in the Student Center offering a space for dialogue, community, or a place to have lunch. Badertscher, a Protestant chaplain who serves part time at a local South Bend church, joined the Campus Ministry team in 2021.

When Badertscher first started in fall 2021, she would sit in the Campus Ministry office during her Thursday pop-up sessions, with an average of seven students stopping by to talk. Now, she's likely to have conversations with 50 students throughout each day and has extended her time on campus to accompany students' needs for one-on-one meetings.

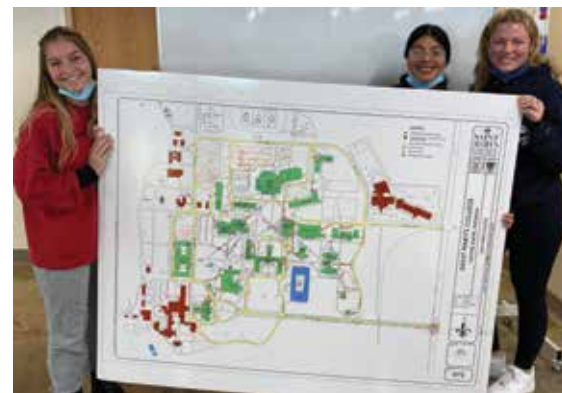


### College Launches MS in Nursing Program

The Department of Nursing Science will begin a new in-person graduate program this fall, the Master of Science in Nursing. A first for the state of Indiana, the Master of Science in Nursing is a direct-entry program, which allows students with an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than nursing to transition into this full-time course of study. The program requires 66 credit hours and is designed to be completed in two full years, totaling six semesters. Kelly Burns, director of Graduate Studies at Saint Mary's, said there is growing evidence that advanced degrees are where the industry is heading. "The nursing profession is in crisis post pandemic," she said. "Technology and evidence-based practice continue to evolve at increasing speeds. Hospitals not only need nurses, they need advanced nurses who can lead." The Master of Science in Nursing program, as are all graduate programs at Saint Mary's, is open to all.

### Students Pin Campus Improvements

Three students working with the Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI) created a hands-on project to help maximize campus safety and the overall Saint Mary's College experience. With a large detailed campus map, they displayed it to students, faculty, staff, and alumnae for their feedback on how the College can improve campus. They presented their findings and suggestions to campus security, maintenance, and student affairs. In a quick turnaround, a campus parking project has already been completed based on the students' efforts, and they're planning other improvements as early as this semester.



Top photo: **Crystal Ramirez '23** with her work from the Black History Month painting session.

Bottom left photo: Nursing students **Rachel Weese '22** (left) and **Madeleine Dyro '22** in the simulation lab at the Center for Integrated Healthcare Education.

Bottom right photo: **Jess Messano '23**, **Damariz Olguin '22**, and **Sophia Fleming '23** (from left) are making campus improvements happen with their pin project.



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### Synod Sessions

Pope Francis has invited every person in the world to let him know what they think of and hope for the Catholic Church, and Saint Mary's is answering with a loud, resounding voice. This spring, Rev. Steve Newton, CSC, campus minister, invited all members of the Saint Mary's community, of any faith, practicing or not, to join the conversation. The Synodal Listening Sessions began in February and will continue through March. Participants can share their experiences and hopes for the Church without judgment or argument. Campus Ministry will send

a summary to the local diocese, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and to Pope Francis himself. The Pope will send everything he receives to bishops around the world, then in 2023, they will work together to discern this information

### Spring Gilman Scholars Announced

Three Saint Mary's students have received the prestigious Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad in the spring of 2022: **Anahy Torres-Vega '23**, psychology and global studies, South Korea program; **Kellie**

**Krohn '23**, biology, Rome program; and **Kylie Henry '24**, Africana studies, South Africa program (deferred to fall 2022). The scholarship allows students to make the most of their studies abroad, said Laura Elder, chair of the Department of Global Studies. "Year after year, our students say that studying abroad is the best experience of their lives regarding self-discovery and independence," she said. "Global Studies and the Gilman award gives them the additional resources they need to venture into the unknown with the confidence to succeed."

# Advancement Update

Every morning, as I drive through the towering sycamores down The Avenue, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have recently joined Saint Mary's College as vice president for Advancement. My career in fundraising spans 23 years, serving most recently as the chief advancement officer for Culver Academies, and before that as vice president for Development at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and founding director of Women's Philanthropy at Indiana University.

In deciding to make this career move, I was drawn to the mission of Saint Mary's College, the bold new strategic plan, *Revere and Revise: Saint Mary's College 2030*, and the opportunity to collaborate with President Katie Conboy.

I have been particularly inspired by the work of the Advancement division and want to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Shari Rodriguez, who led this division with excellence for 20 years. I feel incredibly fortunate to have joined a superb team of colleagues who dedicate themselves tirelessly to the mission of the College.

Saint Mary's College held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Donor Challenge on February 24. I spent the day marveling at the camaraderie and enthusiasm displayed by the entire community. The College held several programmatic offerings that included alumnae, parents, and friends who could not be present for the celebrations on campus.

I am pleased to share that, thanks to the Saint Mary's community, this day was an incredible success. Because of YOU, we exceeded our goal of 4,500 donors! A total of 4,559 donors made gifts, including 3,106 alumnae, 541 parents, 248 students, and 212 faculty/staff. The generosity of this community allowed us to raise \$1.15 million, which included \$200,000 in challenge gifts for the Saint Mary's Fund.

I look forward to seeing many of you on campus soon at one of our two Reunion weekends in June: June 2-5 for our 2s and 7s; and June 9-12 for our 0s, 1s, 5s, and 6s. Reunion is the perfect opportunity for alumnae to reconnect with friends, rediscover the beauty of campus, and explore the exciting changes happening as we look to the future. If you can't make it to Reunion, I hope to connect with you at an Alumnae Club event soon!

With immense appreciation and gratitude,

Holly C. Johnson  
Vice President for Advancement



During Donor Challenge festivities (from left) **Katherine Hopkins '23**, President Katie Conboy, **Adriana Patacsil '23**, and **Isabel Patacsil '23** pause for a photo.



# Concept to Creation

## How the SPARK Program Launches Women in Business

by Lisa Knox

Last summer, 25 women stepped into a college classroom; for many it was the first time in years. One was a farmer, one a photographer, another an artist. On that Tuesday evening in August, others joined, each for different reasons and all from different backgrounds. No one knew each other—and no one felt confident. But they all had an idea for a business.

That week, and for the 13 weeks that followed, they gathered as the latest cohort of the SPARK Program, an entrepreneurship class coordinated by Saint Mary's for the women of the communities around the College.

Since August 2011, 260 women have completed the program, equipped with the skills needed to launch a small business. Over 90 businesses have been successfully launched by SPARK graduates, including bakeries, a bookstore, a children's museum, a non-profit focusing on neighborhood revitalization, growers, even a manufacturer of award-winning hot sauce. Through a series of facilitators, mentors, class coordinators, and sponsors, Saint Mary's has created a legion of successful entrepreneurs within our community.

This past year, the program was conducted online due to the pandemic, allowing women from beyond the region to participate for the first time, including a business owner from Africa.

According to program leaders, SPARK is focused on helping its students create a corporate identity and business plan, implement marketing strategies and promotional materials, and learn skills in time management, bookkeeping, obtaining a business loan, and general success strategies.

Modeled after a San Francisco non-profit called the Women's Initiative, SPARK's mission is "to cultivate an entrepreneurial capacity in women. . .to



SPARK participants attended the Engaging Women Conference at Saint Mary's College in 2019, a program developed by the Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI) at Saint Mary's.

advance them beyond socio-economic boundaries and achieve self sufficiency." This happens not only through education and business training, but also through ongoing professional mentoring. Established business owners in the region lead the SPARK classes and, as mentors, continue to teach best practices to the budding entrepreneurs.

Paula Sours is the lead facilitator of the program, and also a SPARK graduate. She describes her own lack of confidence as she entered the workforce, something she sees as a common thread among participants. In her case, Sours turned to SPARK soon after launching her own company.

"There are countless stories of women who thought they could never do it, but here they learn it's possible," Sours said. "The camaraderie is so great between participants." Sours said the classes meet twice a week and provide lectures and

learning, but also time for classmates to become each others' support system.

Kathy Burnette is the owner of Brain Lair Book in South Bend, Indiana, and a 2017 graduate of the program. She initially joined SPARK seeking community, having heard so much about this camaraderie. A self-proclaimed introvert, Burnette hoped to discover a great network of like-minded women. "I also wanted to open my business," she said with a smile. "I had been *talking* about opening a bookstore, so this would help get me there, and let me take steps to actually *do* it."

Burnette talked about the power of visualization in her decision to finally open her business.

"I didn't believe in this, not really, until I went through SPARK. I saw the power of reminding yourself what you want to do, and taking a step each day."

Sours says the SPARK program is for any woman, at any stage of her life. She credits Saint Mary's for recognizing that education is never-ending, as the women who come through the program range from their early 20s to those well into middle age and beyond.

**Susan Luczek Greutman** is a 2003 alumna of Saint Mary's College, and was among the 2021 SPARK cohort. "Saint Mary's has brought me so much fulfillment as a woman. (As an undergraduate) I started college at Saint Mary's feeling insecure, and left with a feeling of 'Yes! I can do this!' I learned the value of self. I've taken this with me my whole life, using it whenever I need to reevaluate something," Greutman said.

She and her husband, Ryan, set out to establish an urban homestead in South Bend to help educate their homeschooled children. As the farm began to support them nutritionally—and financially—Greutman turned to SPARK to help in areas of business in which she's not naturally strong—for example, profit/loss statements, her break-even point, or the breadth of insurance options. Now she knows exactly what they are.

"It's a little overwhelming at times, the things you don't know. Even those of us who've been in business for a couple of years have a lot to learn. (Through the program) we can be vulnerable and admit things to each other that we might not say otherwise, and grow together," she said.

She highly recommends it. As a homeschooling mom to eight children, ranging in age from 17 years to 20 months, and running a business that's meant to support her family fully, Greutman said the SPARK Program was worth every moment. †



**Susan Luczek Greutman '03**, husband Ryan, and their family on their urban homestead, Sunchoke Farms. SPARK helped refine their business and continue its growth.

Kathy Burnette, 2017 SPARK graduate, poses at the register of her bookstore, Brain Lair Books.



Read more about these SPARK graduates and others by visiting [Courier Online. saintmarys.edu/Courier](https://www.saintmarys.edu/Courier)





# Passing the Baton

## The Past and Future of the Center for Spirituality

by Carrie Rulli

Watching Keith Egan, theology professor and Carmelite scholar, and Daniel Horan, Catholic priest and Franciscan friar, joke about the best term to use for ‘spiritual direction’ is a reminder that the study of spirituality is as everyday as it is serious scholarly work.

Egan is the founder of the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary’s College and was its first director from 1984 through 2002, while Horan is its newest director, appointed in 2021. They recently sat down together to talk about the beginnings of the center and the importance of its work today and going forward.

Although separated by more than five decades of life, Egan, 91, and Horan, 38, approach their academic lives in similar ways. Egan shared memories of the early years of the center, and the inspiration he drew from the history of the Sisters of the Holy Cross: their heroic beginnings in the 19th century; their voluntary nursing duties to soldiers on both sides of the Civil War, the College itself as a pioneer of education for women, and the Graduate School of Theology. Horan’s attentive listening to his predecessor is as laser-focused as is his modern perspective on spiritual concepts. Both are dedicated to the center’s mission to advance the role of women in the Church, within theological conversations, and throughout society.

Given the focus on elevating women, Egan and Horan acknowledge the irony and the weighty responsibility of being men leading a center that was envisioned by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, at a

college for women. Any discomfort they feel is valuable. “The contextual imbalance is refreshing,” Horan said. “It’s deeply inspiring to be here, as a man.” Egan’s conviction is that men should support the aspirations of Saint Mary’s women.

### The Sisters and Studying Spirituality

In 1984 the College established the center upon the traditions of the Sisters. Their guiding spirit and their financial support, as its first generous donors, made it possible. As its first director, Egan ensured that their values were a concentrated part of the center’s work.

Egan said the center seems to be the first one of its kind among Catholic colleges and universities in North America. “When I came to Saint Mary’s, the officers of the College wanted to be faithful to the Second Vatican Council and were saying to me, ‘Help us do what we can to be sure that the College is offering up-to-date instruction and study of Christian spirituality,’” Egan said.

Although nearly 40 years have passed since its first lecture was given by renowned theologian Monica Hellwig, the center remains relevant, both men agree. A Pew Research Center study at UCLA found that attendance at religious services decreases for most undergraduate students, but their overall level of spirituality increases.

Today the center is a place that is deliberately for them, Horan said. It is also upholding the vision that was

part of the original proposal drafted: the study of spirituality in academic settings—in non-denominational, non-religious contexts. The Sisters and Egan exchanged this idea in early letters about the center, and Horan embraces it going forward.

“There is a hunger for meaning right now,” Horan said. “This generation of our students deeply inspires me...they want authenticity and truth, and what’s real. Spirituality at its best is the lens through which people can make sense of the world and themselves.”

He says he is not concerned about the term “spiritual, but not religious,” even though he knows it can be a challenging concept. “Spirituality is the core of our traditions. It’s the very, very beginning of our capacity of human existence to experience the divine or experience transcendence,” Horan said. “From there, our theology is putting voice to, and giving reflection to, that experience of God.”

*“There is a hunger for meaning right now... Spirituality at its best is the lens through which people can make sense of the world and themselves.”*

—Rev. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.

Since its start, the center has reflected the vision of Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, CSC. During her time as the third president of the College she imagined a dedicated place where theology and spirituality meet higher education to lift up women’s voices. She created the School of Sacred Theology in 1943, which was the first Catholic institution in the United States to grant advanced



Copies of the Madeleva Lectures are available in the Center for Spirituality in Room 138 Madeleva Hall.



*Keith J. Egan, Ph.D., is the founder and director of the Center for Spirituality, has been an adjunct professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame from 1983-2017 and is now a guest professor of Theology there. At Saint Mary's he was the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology. Egan is the past president of the North American Carmelite Institute, Washington, DC, and fellow of the Institutum Carmelitanum in Rome, a member of the North American Carmelite Forum and past president of the College Theology Society. He has published widely on Christian and Carmelite spirituality and has lectured throughout North America and Europe.*

*Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M., Ph.D., is professor of philosophy, religious studies and theology, and the director of the Center for Spirituality. He is the author of 14 books, including the award-winning "Catholicity and Emerging Personhood: A Contemporary Theological Anthropology" (2019) and "The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Influence of his Life, Thought, and Writing" (2014). His most recent books are "A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege" (2021) and "The Way of the Franciscans: A Prayer Journey Through Lent" (2021). He is also a columnist for the "National Catholic Reporter" and co-host of "The Francis Effect Podcast."*

degrees in Catholic theology for women. As far as scholars are able to tell, it was also the first of its kind in the world.

Although the school closed in 1969, it perhaps was a preface of the Center for Spirituality.

Egan built on this tradition for the center, where Sister Madeleva's influence is ingrained—from its physical location at 138 Madeleva Hall to its renowned Madeleva Lecture series. For more than three decades the lectures have given wise women from the Catholic tradition a national and international platform from which to speak and be heard. The series continues today. "By my last count, 10 years ago, half a million copies of the lectures have been sold," Egan said. "The lectures are a phenomenal success."

As a poet and contemplative, Sister Madeleva's spirit is also woven into the fabric of education at Saint Mary's. "She wanted every woman who graduates from Saint Mary's to have the imagination of a poet, regardless of her major," Egan said, using the word 'poet' in the broad sense: not limited to those who rhyme or write verse, but rather a person with the ability to express herself, live thoughtfully, and be contemplative.

## Raising More Voices

Today the center continues to support the unique role Saint Mary's has played in elevating women's voices in the Catholic Church. Over the years it began expanding its reach to include other voices that have not been heard. Horan is committed to this extended reach.

The center has partnered with the Division for Inclusion and Equity on events related to racial justice and faith, which Horan calls a highlight of his time at Saint Mary's so far. "We're planning some exciting programming for later in the year; spirituality and inclusivity are a natural combination," he said. Those plans align with the College's greater strategy for dialogue across disciplines, academic excellence, and inclusivity.

Horan's intention is to create robust programming that speaks to the spiritual

needs of the times, whatever they may be. "There is a collective post traumatic stress from the pandemic, especially for those in helping professions," Horan said. To address this, the center will offer lectures on the spirituality of resilience beginning in the fall. "You can't give what you don't have," Egan added with enthusiastic approval.

"It's my hope that when people think of the study and practice of spirituality in higher education, they immediately think of the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College as the leader in the field and a hub for supporting and promoting the work of women in the Church, academy, and society," Horan said.

## Expansive Ideas Ahead

Offering spiritual direction to interested students was one of Egan's ideas for the center years ago. Along with the idea of how to design that, he's passing on to Horan his hope that the center be a place that introduces people to contemplative prayer and living.

Egan didn't have to convince Horan. In tandem with this idea, Horan is working on Spirituality in the Disciplines—a monthly program for faculty and students with majors and minors in fields like mathematics, engineering, history, political science, and business, to discover spirituality in those fields.

Many other ideas are on the table, or even in their early stages, that align with the center's mission to contribute to the intellectual and spiritual life of Saint Mary's students beyond the classroom.

That collaboration is what Egan hoped would come from the foundation he helped build between the center and College departments, including staff and administrators.

Horan is extending its reach far beyond campus, and that happens to be one of his personal goals.

"That will not only bring greater awareness of the center, but it will encourage collaboration and partnership in our local, regional, and world communities," Horan said. †

## ALUMNAE DEATHS

### 1945

Betty Jane Carr Carl October 12, 2021  
Mary Rebel Carroll April 1, 2021  
Shirley Ann Cohn Lucas December 2, 2021

### 1948

Rita Hanley Hupp May 19, 2021  
Mary Hassman Schoepf August 2, 2021  
Sylvia Latkowski Tomcik January 20, 2021

### 1949

Mary Witte Baker April 23, 2021  
Jo Ann Wilkinson Carberry November 16, 2021  
Louise Brady Collins August 22, 2021  
Jean Beck Hofreuter November 7, 2021  
Myrtle Duprier Watkins October 14, 2021

### 1950

Anne Curry Dalton September 13, 2021  
Rosemary Schilling Ferriter November 12, 2021

### 1951

Sarajane George Crave December 12, 2021  
Sister Mary Jean Klene, CSC December 1, 2021  
Theresa Benoit Lautze March 30, 2021

### 1952

Barbara Mitchell Hibner May 2, 2021  
Mary Sydlowski Murray December 4, 2021  
Patricia Cain Murray November 14, 2021

### 1953

Adela Grevas Cudworth August 25, 2021  
Patricia Green Matteson November 19, 2021  
Mary Brennan Schilling December 10, 2021

### 1954

Beverly Ritz Bierbusse September 1, 2021  
Dolores Schneider Kleinrichert November 5, 2021  
Catherine Wilson Oppen October 21, 2021

### 1955

Carol Marion Wick December 22, 2021

### 1956

Paula Rochon Egyed September 8, 2021  
Sister Cathleen Mary Going, OP December 25, 2020  
Josephine Todora LaBarba September 12, 2021  
Mary Jo West Mason September 23, 2021  
Nancy Braud Morgan September 5, 2021

### 1957

Margaret Elaine House Gunning August 25, 2021  
Mary Susky Keil June 20, 2021  
Katherine Adele Perry October 23, 2021

### 1958

Elizabeth Bretz Marston November 23, 2021  
Carol Bauer Miller November 19, 2021

Gabrielle Martens Traxler November 24, 2021  
Carol Daly Vay February 4, 2021

### 1959

Nancy Lavelle Cinti October 23, 2021  
Cathleen Clyne Fitzgerald October 11, 2021  
Jeanette Harris Knight July 30, 2021  
Aurelia McCormick Zimmerman September 24, 2021

### 1960

Ann Dunleavy-Gannon November 25, 2021  
Roberta Hawn Miller July 13, 2021

### 1961

Jane Wiedler Conlon June 12, 2021  
Penny Pence Victor October 29, 2021

### 1962

Martha Fairhurst Bugni October 16, 2021  
Barbara Hipp Fiore August 30, 2021

### 1963

Mary Anne Hermann December 28, 2021

### 1966

Mary Watson Gillan July 1, 2021  
Sister Katherine Kase, CSC September 3, 2021  
Clarice Marcoullier Sinars October 30, 2021

### 1967

Maureen Byrne Gill October 31, 2021  
Robin Knight Karr December 16, 2020  
M. Kathleen Kitzmiller September 18, 2021

### 1969

Amanda Crabtree May August 24, 2021

### 1970

Kathleen Pastore Miller August 31, 2021

### 1971

Karen Gleason Murray November 2, 2021

### 1972

Christine D. Oldani September 24, 2021

### 1978

Mary Hester Norell January 1, 2022

### 1979

Mary Witte Bosch November 24, 2021

### 1984

Ann Mihm Tweedy September 23, 2021

### 1985

Maureen E. Galligan November 30, 2021

### 1989

Karen Krajcir White November 26, 2021

### 1992

Victoria Chudzynski Kegebein May 17, 2021

### 1994

Karen Ann Rolsing August 21, 2021

### 1995

Julie Campbell Moore September 28, 2021

### 2004

Danielle Lemmon Hickey November 12, 2021

### 2007

Anna Sophia Del Fabro November 14, 2021

### 2016

Stephanie Ann Israel September 23, 2021

## FAMILY DEATHS

*Ofelia Aguayo, mother of Beatriz Aguayo Maefield '94, October 29, 2021.*

*Richard Allen, husband of Frances Peterson Allen '69, October 20, 2021.*

*Ryan Allen, son of Frances Peterson Allen '69, September 22, 2021.*

*Alvin Amschler, husband of Norah Kennedy Amschler '63, July 20, 2021.*

*Mark Anderson, husband of Mary Deneffe Anderson '73, October 23, 2021.*

*Geraldine Baecke, mother of Jane Baecke Haedt '84, February 24, 2021.*

*Jordan Bahena, brother of Mandi Bahena Garcia '05 and Arielle Bahena '13, April 18, 2021.*

*William Barnard, father of Ann Barnard Toftness '78, December 9, 2020.*

*Jane Bennett, mother of Carol Bennett Clancy '82, Julie Bennett Bottenhorn '88, and Barbara Bennett Sanderson '91, November 23, 2021.*

*Roland Bernhold, father-in-law of Susan Hopkins Bernhold '79, September 23, 2021.*

*James Black, husband of Janet Higgins Black '63, September 8, 2021.*

*Patricia Bolakowski, mother of Theresa Bolakowski Serry '84, November 16, 2021.*

*Dorothy Boneff, mother of Tina Louise Boneff '89, September 1, 2021.*

*Naomi Graham Burkart, mother of Constance Burkart Leonard '71, Marjorie Burkart Borchers '75, and Susan Burkart Wesley '83, grandmother of Elizabeth Goodwin Johnson '94, Megan Borchers Monahan '97, and Katherine Leonard Cooper '03, August 29, 2021.*

*Peter Butler, husband of Carolyn Manion Butler '61, father of Diana Butler Buxton '84, October 16, 2021.*

*Eiml Cerimele, father of Sandra Cerimele Fralich '89, September 23, 2021.*

*John Clair, father of Kerry Clair Berry '92, October 23, 2021.*

*Brett Coleman, brother of Cathie Coleman Kelly '68, uncle of Margaret Kelly Fuentes '98, December 11, 2020.*

*Steven Corcoran, son of Helenmarie Anderson Corcoran '61, June 11, 2021.*

FOR THE RECORD

James Coryn, brother of Mary Coryn McGee '58, June 3, 2021.

Joan Curis, mother of Catherine A. Curis '83 and Maureen Curis Vanscoy '94, October 15, 2021.

Honorable Robert Edwin Dalton Jr., father of Sarah Elizabeth Dalton '09, November 30, 2021.

Dealio Dainelli, father of Angela Christine Dainelli '16, November 4, 2021.

Charles DelGrande, husband of Patricia Payne DelGrande '79, August 18, 2021.

Margaret Deputy, mother of Bridget Kelly Deputy Sullivan '99, June 21, 2021.

William Devereux, father of Clare Devereux Roche '83 and Elizabeth McGowan Devereux '89, November 20, 2021.

Maxine Difino, mother of Nicole Difino Nugent '94, July 27, 2020.

John Dilenschneider, father of Mary Dilenschneider Condon '87, September 22, 2021.

Michael Dini, father of Mary Frances Dini '98, October 30, 2021.

John Donnelly Sr., father of Judy Donnelly Prosecky '82, September 9, 2021.

Max Dorfmeister, husband of Patricia O'Shea Dorfmeister '58, November 6, 2021.

Terrance Egan, father of Shannon Blair Egan '09, November 20, 2021.

Randolph Feller, father of Christine Marie Feller '96 and Jill Feller Rund '99, June 3, 2021.

Richard Ferguson, father of Hilary Ferguson Crist '12, October 25, 2021.

John Ferrick, father of Jennifer A. Ferrick '86, August 31, 2021.

Robert Fink, father of Deborah Fink Ridenour '73, December 18, 2021.

Richard Finn Sr., father of Elizabeth Finn Tuohey '83, February 2, 2021.

Madelaine Fraleigh, mother of Kelly Fraleigh Stone '92, March 14, 2021.

John Freeman, husband of Nancy Krupnick Freeman '68, October 21, 2021.

Steven Gable, husband of Patricia O'Hara Gable '70, father of Margaret Gable Wroblewski '00, cousin of Rickey Kotte Ackerman '69 and Connie Blue Casale '73, September 25, 2021.

Darlene Galgan, mother of Valerie Jane Galgan '06, June 29, 2021.

Gilles Gallant, father-in-law of Lori Cira Gallant '86, October 26, 2021.

Norbert Ganobisk, father-in-law of Joan Loan Ganobisk '88, November 3, 2021.

Jacqueline Getzin, mother of Kathleen McDonough Mundo '91, October 18, 2021.

Patrick Gilligan, husband of Marilyn T. Gilligan '76, September 8, 2021.

James Gillis, father of Karen Gillis Vesely '73, October 27, 2021.

Carol Goodwin, mother of Elizabeth Goodwin Johnson '94, aunt of Megan Borchers Monahan '97 and Katherine Leonard Cooper '03, sister-in-law of Constance Burkart Leonard '71, Marjorie Burkart Borchers '75, and Susan Burkart Wesley '83, June 25, 2021.

Donald Green, husband of Marion Jacobs Green '56, December 10, 2021.

Richard Greene, husband of Lynda Cannon Greene '68, May 21, 2021.

Katherine Gunn, mother of Margaret M. Hennessey '73 and Betsy Gunn Carlsen '81, grandmother of Laura Kleinschmidt Banks '09, December 6, 2021.

Mark Hackler, husband of Mary E. Murphy '85, August 22, 2021.

James Haemmerle, father of Linda Haemmerle Marth '84 and Lisa Haemmerle Miles '88, grandfather of Kathryn Ann Haemmerle '14, father-in-law of JoAnn Calandra Haemmerle '84, April 17, 2021.

Patricia Hashagen, mother of Smithey Hashagen Wilson '88, April 15, 2021.

David Havrilla, husband of Karen Bush Schneider '73, stepfather of Emily Schneider Mrosz '10, October 29, 2021.

Marilyn Jean Hielscher, mother of Marianne Hielscher Underhill '73, October 11, 2021.

Richard Horner, father of Katherine Horner Schmitt '85, grandfather of Emily Schmitt Baroz '12, October 14, 2021.

Joseph Jackson, father of Heather Jackson Martin '93 and Stephanie Jackson Reitter '95, November 17, 2021.

Carlos Jimenez, father of Cynthia Fe Jimenez '91, December 10, 2021.

Jacob Jirinek, cousin of Lauren Condon Butera '06, Erin Condon Kodman '07, Caitlin Condon Coyne '12, Bridget Grace Condon '15, and Claire Kathleen Condon '17, November 5, 2021.

Molly Ann Johnson, daughter of Jane Kirkhoff Maguire '69, October 29, 2021.

Carole Kavanaugh, mother of Mary Jo Kavanaugh Thornburg '84 and Kathryn Kavanaugh Fetko '90, December 19, 2021.

Joseph Kirasich, father of Kimberly Kirasich McDermott '85, November 1, 2021.

Arlene Koehn, mother of Karen Koehn Deane '89, December 8, 2021.

Burton Lesh, husband of Ann Milnamow Lesh '57, December 7, 2021.

Timothy Lingard, husband of Lisa J. Adornetto '80, February 4, 2021.

Orlando Llenza, husband of Krystyna Kraska Llenza '68, March 11, 2021.

Ronald Lorenzini, husband of Donna Janda Lorenzini '56, father of Nancy Lorenzini Kopec '83, January 1, 2022.

Philip Marin, husband of Selma Michaels Marin '63, November 25, 2021.

Francis Mark, husband of Helga Graf Lake-Mark '56, November 16, 2021.

Lawrence Martin, husband of Mary Jo O'Callaghan Martin '60, father of Maureen Martin Anastasi '84, Megan Martin Galgano '87, and Ann Martin Flynn '92, grandfather of Lauren Maureen Anastasi '15, uncle of Gaylan Gfroerer Ryden '85, brother-in-law of Honey Hurley Gfroerer '58, November 6, 2021.

Barbara McGannon, mother of Kelly Anne McGannon '99, December 10, 2021.

Kathleen McLeod, mother of Heather McLeod Sullivan '92, November 25, 2021.

Edward McMahon, husband of Catherine Herbstritt McMahon '61, father of Shannon C. McMahon '87 and Molly McMahon Kienast '91, grandfather of Catherine Jean McMahon '18, brother-in-law of Stephanie Herbstritt Sabo '60, uncle of Christine O'Connell McAleer '74, Catherine O'Connell '77, Marynell O'Connell Greer '79, Barbara O'Connell Hoyt '81, Anne Clare O'Connell '82, Jennifer Herbstritt Rowland '88, and Tiffany Herbstritt Hanson '91, August 11, 2021.

Robert Minahan, father of Susan Minahan Ruppelt '91, November 10, 2021.

Frank Montalbano, husband of Anne Steinman Montalbano '70, brother-in-law of Patricia Steinman Doyle '73, nephew of Mary Elizabeth Broussard Donovan '38, November 17, 2021.

Joel Montpetit, father of Lisa Montpetit Brabbit '89, October 13, 2021.

Jean Mooney, mother of Tara J. Mooney '98, November 30, 2021.

Dennis Moore, father of Patricia Moore Hands '02, September 22, 2021.

Joseph Morahan Jr., father of Patricia Morahan Bufalino '76, Noel Morahan Verducci '82, and Lois Morahan Sheridan '88, September 3, 2021.

James Moriarity, father of Eileen Moriarity Ferguson '94, November 1, 2021.

Genevieve Morrill, mother of Genevieve Clare Morrill '98, October 18, 2021.

Donald Mulvihill, father of Kathleen Mulvihill Walsh '82, father-in-law of Jill Kane Mulvihill '78, December 8, 2021.

James Murphy, husband of Jean Radovich Murphy '70, November 1, 2021.

Bertha Nungesser, mother of Nancy Nungesser Cieszykowski '84, grandmother of Alana Natalie Cieszykowski '21, September 3, 2021.

Marilyn Overly, mother of Kathleen Overly Steinbach '82 and Karen Overly DeJonckheere '85, November 8, 2021.

Nancy Owens, mother of Tracy Owens Weinberger '97, December 1, 2021.

Stephen Pavela Jr., grandfather of Mary Beth Pavela Matenaer '07 and Molly Pavela Van Hoven '11, November 6, 2021.

Frank Piontek, father of Rachel M. Piontek '10, November 5, 2021.

John Price, father of Staci Lynn Price '93, November 22, 2021.

Robert Ptak, father Michelle Ptak O'Connor '92, October 1, 2021.

Michael Puscas, father of Emily Toole '11, November 7, 2021.

Joseph Rathnau, husband of Lorene Janoski Rathnau '62, father of Claire Helen Rathnau-Minnella '91 and Joy Alexis Rathnau '94, July 1, 2021.

Robert Rauh, father of Jane Rauh Nichols '85 and Sarah Rauh Cole '88, September 29, 2020.

Stan Reifel, husband of Dana Boussard Reifel '66, May 17, 2021.

Robert Rettig, father of Leslie Rettig Bruen '83, February 22, 2021.

Richard Reuscher, father of Julie Ann Reuscher '87, November 13, 2021.

Leo Rolfes, father of Jennifer Ann Rolfes Kaminski '91, October 11, 2021.

Gerald Rutkowski, husband of Kim Webb Rutkowski '77, December 5, 2021.

James Ryan, father of Kathryn Ryan Dehmer '99, father-in-law of Jane R. Ryan '79, uncle of Edith Hill Gibney '70, November 28, 2021.

Albert Schmerge, father of Heide Schmerge Grieb '89 and Meggan Elizabeth Schmerge '93, December 23, 2021.

Kathryn Ann Schultz, mother of Renee Rachele Schultz '92, July 8, 2021.

Joseph Schwartz, husband of Elizabeth Nash Schwartz '61, uncle of Heather Nash Dountas '98, Meghan Nash Cannavan '99, and Anne Elizabeth Kelly '05, July 30, 2021.

FOR THE RECORD

Luis Sequeira, father of Anabel Sequeira '77, July 25, 2021.

G. Curtiss Shaffer, husband of Margaret Orbon Shaffer '73, June 12, 2021.

Gwendolyn Skeoch, mother of Deitre Bergen Hayford '93, May 2, 2021.

Barbara Sorensen, sister of Mary Pat Leyes Nussbaum '75, aunt of Kathryn Ann Nussbaum '07, August 25, 2021.

Parker Spindle, son of Jenell Weiner Spindle '94, November 3, 2021.

Jeffrey Stenberg, husband of Gail Barry Sanders '86, October 9, 2021.

Joe Suhayda, husband of Kathleen Pheny Suhayda '91, May 28, 2021.

Michael Suth, father of Tammy Suth Crowe '89, November 15, 2021.

Michael Tangi, father of Tamara Tangi Iselin '80, October 22, 2021.

Julie Taylor, mother of Julie Taylor Hungeling '96, August 19, 2021.

Glenn Terry, father of Amy Terry Dylewski '82, September 18, 2021.

Linda Ubinger, mother of Megan Ubinger Shelton '06, November 27, 2021.

Ralph Vitiello, husband of Sue Smith Vitiello '60, November 1, 2021.

Eugene Weber, husband of Marilyn Minch Weber '56, September 20, 2021.

Kathleen Wendler, sister of Eileen Flanagan DeJong '76, September 25, 2021.

Ernestina Wenger, mother of Alyssa Marcelina Young '09, December 13, 2021.

Michael Winn, father of Mary Alice Winn Culhane '82, November 27, 2021.

William Wittgen, father of Karen Wittgen Cain '85, January 3, 2021.

Rosemary Wolinski, mother of Kathleen Wolinski LaBarge '79, April 24, 2021.

Denison Young, husband of Adele Schepp Young '59, October 27, 2021.

Margaret Zenk, mother of Amanda M. Stechsulte '90, grandmother of Mary Grace Stechsulte '20, November 1, 2021.

Daniel Zubryd, father-in-law of Tanya Mariellen Molitor Zubryd '92, September 13, 2021.

Rosemary Zukaitis, mother of Patricia Zukaitis Russo '83, September 18, 2021.

**FOR BIRTHS AND WEDDINGS PLEASE VISIT BABY BELLES AND WEDDING BELLES AT ALUMNAE.SAINTMARYS.EDU**

IN MEMORIAM

**Sister Mary Jean Klene '59, CSC**

**Sister Mary Jean Klene '59, CSC**, passed away on December 1, 2021, at Saint Mary's Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana. She was 91 years old.



Sister Jean was born in 1929 in Hannibal, Missouri, and was a renowned and cherished professor of English literature at Saint Mary's. Her passion for art began before she enrolled at Saint Mary's. From 1952 to 1965, she taught art in secondary schools. By 1959, she had entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross, taken on majors in both English and Art, and graduated cum laude from Saint Mary's. She received a master's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame in 1966 and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Toronto in 1970. Sister Jean taught in the English department 1970-2010, served as

department chair for many years, and served on the College's Board of Regents from 1985-1991. "Sister Jean's devotion to literature and the written word influenced her students to love learning and the intellectual life," said President Katie Conboy. "Her zest for life and care for students are legendary at Saint Mary's."

Art and literature were interwoven in Sister Jean's teaching, especially in her courses on Shakespeare. Through trips to the Stratford Festival in Canada and the Shakespeare Repertory Theater in Chicago, she brought Shakespeare's work to life for her students and inspired them to pursue their own interests with the same zeal.

Sister Jean's professional accomplishments illustrate both her enthusiasm for her discipline and her desire to arm her students with a love of learning. She received a year-long National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship at Hofstra University to study comedy in Chaucer, an NEH Summer Seminar with the Royal Shakespeare Company in England, an NEH Summer Seminar at Princeton, and a Lilly Faculty Fellowship.

In 1981, Sister Jean received the Spes Unica Award,

recognizing her eminent service to the College in teaching, scholarship, creative activity and/or service. In 2000, she received the Maria Pieta Award, which recognizes the quality of teaching in courses for first-year students and sophomores. In 2005, she was honored again with the Saint Mary's President's Medal.

Ann Struhs Roberts '82 and her husband, Duane, established the Sister M. Jean Klene, CSC Scholarship at Saint Mary's to honor her enormous influence on their lives. Roberts remembers: "I met Sister Jean in my first week at Saint Mary's. She endeared herself to me with the kindness she showed a homesick, introverted freshman. Later, as my enthusiastic, witty, and incisive guide, she challenged me in the many courses I took from her. We hoped for years to one day endow a scholarship at Saint Mary's, and when we were finally able to make that happen, naming it in honor of Sister Jean was the obvious choice."

On December 9, 2021 a Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Jean was held at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto.

**Chicago East**

The Chicago West Alumnae Club has kicked off 2022 with new books and great gatherings. We enjoyed our first night out at **Julie Murphy's '74** after reading *The Warmth of Other Suns* — our way of staying warm during the cold winter. It was great to see so many friends representing our various classes. We will continue to read books throughout the spring, summer, and fall. In the coming months, we'll be gathering for dinners around town as an- other way to stay connected. Look for an email from smcwcals@smcwcals.com with information on this month's book club and other events. Have a joyous Easter season!

**Cincinnati**



The Cincinnati Alumnae Club launched a three-part event series entitled "SOAP" — Study/Observe, Act, and Pray. Our first gathering was organized in conjunction with Founders' Day and was generously hosted by **Lisa Sampson '86**. Members were joined by representatives from the Cincinnati Union Bethel Off the Streets Program for a dinner and educational discussion about women caught in the cycle of human trafficking. In December, the club followed up by serving a potluck dinner at the Anna Louise Inn for about 20 participants in the Off the Streets program. We were grateful to share a meal and conversation with these women who have shown resilience in their journeys toward recovery in body and spirit from a life of abuse. The club is committed toward continued prayer and support for this impactful program in our community. We look forward to our January Epiphany Party, which will conclude our SOAP series and provide the opportunity to celebrate Mass together. The club ended 2021 by sending student care packages to all Cincinnati area students as they completed fall semester finals.

We have lots of great activities planned for 2022 and hope you'll join us if you live in the area. Visit smccincinnatialumnae.weebly.com for current information on all upcoming meetings, activities, and events.

**Cleveland**

The Alumnae Club of Cleveland would like to thank **Margaret Cushwa Haller '90** for hosting our fall '21 event. Alumnae gathered to put together care packages for the current students during their finals. As always, this is a wonderful event! Everything from candy and snacks to school supplies were donated by our generous alumnae. We are wishing the current students a happy and healthy school year. If you live in the Cleveland/Akron area and would like to get involved with our club activities, please reach out to **Miranda Hoy '16** at moltma01@saintmarys.edu.

**Dallas Fort-Worth**

The SMC DFW Club held its annual Christmas dinner and Mass on December 8 at the home of **Tia Barrett Bisignano '70**. We are so grateful for those who attended.

Follow @smcdfwclub on Facebook and/or email saintmarysdfwclub@gmail.com to get involved. We are looking for volunteers to host book club, networking events, send student gifts, and more!

**Dayton**

For the first time since the pandemic, the Dayton Club was thrilled to be able to gather in December 2021 at the home of **Jennifer Mathile Prikkel '95** to wrap gifts for The Glen at St. Joseph. We are so grateful to be able to get together and to have the help and participation from club members.

**Des Moines**

The Des Moines Club celebrated Founders' Day with a presentation by Sarah Trone Garriott, a state senator who is the director of interfaith engagement at the Des Moines Area Religious Council, which sponsors the largest network of food pantries in Iowa. We learned there is a great deal of hunger in our community and have committed to helping DMARC in the spring as they move to a larger, more efficient building and continue to serve those in need in central Iowa. We'll also host a One Book, One Saint Mary's event in the spring, to be held at the home of **Kelly Cook Lewis '97**. For further information about both projects, contact **Aimee Beckmann-Collier '75** (aimee.beckmann-collier@drake.edu).

**Grand Rapids**

The Grand Rapids Alumnae Club is happy to be back together! Book groups, a Student Send-Off, and the Christmas party have kept us busy this year. Our New Student Send-Off took place in August at the home of **Julie Geisler Burns '94**. We hosted new students and their parents to celebrate their admission to Saint Mary's and to give them a proper "send-off" before they packed their cars, trucks, and SUVs and headed to South Bend for move-in!

Our book group continues to meet, most recently at the home of **Janie Eaton Boeschstein '89**. We meet every other month, and we're always open to new alumnae interested in reading or just socializing.

**Lucinda Staples McCall '78** opened her beautiful home to us for our annual Christmas party. We switched it up this year with an open house-style with appetizers and drinks rather than a sit-down dinner. Quite a few alumnae came through to mingle and help assemble student care packages. Our alumnae provided everything for the student care packages, and **Jennifer Soukup Kalczuk '92** and her mother Kathleen Craig delivered them to SMC the week before finals. We also participated in a service project with food donations to our local food pantry. It felt good to give back to not only our SMC community, but our local community as well, especially this year.

If anyone is looking to get in touch with our club, please contact **Tara Millar '90** at tmillar@comcast.net.

**Los Angeles**



Our two book clubs keep growing and meeting. In the photo, the LA club is enjoying some "in-person" time together! The book clubs are ongoing and a nice way to connect with Saint Mary's women, read books, and have stimulating conversations among smart women!

After five years, the club extended its commitment to the Christmas ornaments; sales keep increasing, which allows us to build our scholarship fund. There are many parts and pieces from design to delivery. This is a great ongoing project for our club. Check out the ornaments at www.saintmaryslaclub.com.

Our service/outreach efforts will continue to support the Brother André Center at St. Agnes in honor of the CSCs. The center and its outreach have moved many of our members and it is a good way for us to connect with people in need. More opportunities for specific help will be on the website and in newsletters.

We continue our new tradition of Advent and Lenten retreats. The Advent retreat was four meetings reflecting on the readings for the following Sunday of Advent. We will have a one-session Lenten retreat by Zoom at the beginning of Lent.

**Nashville**

The Saint Mary's Club of Nashville will host its first book club of 2022 on Sunday, March 22! The book selection is *That Summer* by Jennifer Weiner. On Sunday, May 22, we will host a lawn party for all alumnae and current and incoming students. Details of location and time will be forthcoming. Sunday, June 12, we will also host a Nashville Sounds Baseball outing at 2:05 p.m. Please make sure your contact information is up to date with the Alumnae Office. All invitations and communications will occur online. After a difficult couple of years of postponement and cancellations, we are excited to reconnect with old friends and meet all the new faces that have arrived in Music City. If you have any specific questions, please contact **Monica Cannon Meeker '03** at cannon.monica@gmail.com.

**New York City**

**Ashley Ryan Myers '11** and **Christina Grasso '11**, She-E-Os of the New York City Club, held a virtual martini tasting (shaken not stirred!) among



themselves as omicron continues to make in-person functions unsafe. They are simply practicing for their next event, at which they plan to guest bartend. Jubilant times had by all and extra Castelvetrano olives had by one. Cin cin!

**Pride SMC**

The officers of Pride SMC, the first official affinity group of the Saint Mary's Alumnae Association, introduced themselves and the club with a virtual panel discussion, "The LGBTQ+ Experience at Saint Mary's College: Past and Present" at Reunion 2021. The group convened virtually over the summer, developing goals and priorities, one of which is to support Saint Mary's LGBTQ+ alums, faculty, staff, students, and allies.

Pride SMC achieved one of these objectives by being present at the launch of the campus LGBTQ+ center, with an exhibit table overflowing with rainbow-themed swag including buttons, masks, and stickers. This event debuted the Pride SMC banner, a silhouette of Le Mans tower imposed over the LGBTQ+ flag. Pride SMC President **Mallory Price '10** introduced the new affinity group to those in attendance. Vice President **Jacqueline Leskovec '74** shared the joy she and the other officers felt regarding the safe space and stressed the importance of visibility and acceptance for all Saint Mary's students no matter where they fall on the gender and sexuality spectrum.

**Richmond/Central Virginia**

The Richmond/Central Virginia contact area is pleased to have four current students at Saint Mary's! As of the December deadline, we plan to get together for a wine and cheese event just after Christmas with students and alumnae from around the region.



**Toledo**

Pride SMC Facebook members have expanded by over one-third since the first of November. The Pride SMC Facebook group has been just one communication tool that we are using as we get started with our official membership. Our media debut was in November with "SMC Talks: The Path to Pride SMC," an hour-long virtual presentation that highlighted the history of campus, local, and national events of LGBTQ+ people. Thanks to our moderator **Kristen Lynch '91** for her excellent job keeping us on track.



To finish out the school term, Pride SMC sent a variety of snacks to the LGBTQ+ center to support students during their finals. We hope this will continue to be one of our initiatives moving forward!

Pride SMC began reaching out in January 2022 to confirm memberships and welcome new members. If you have not been contacted yet and/or would like to be part of this new affinity group, email us: [PrideSMCALumGroup@gmail.com](mailto:PrideSMCALumGroup@gmail.com).

Ladies from the Toledo Alumnae Club were so happy to gather in person again in December 2021. We met to celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, starting with Mass together at the historic church of St. Patrick. After Mass, we enjoyed brunch at Manhattan's. This festive morning together included graduates from the 1960s through the 2010s. We hope you can join us for future events! Please contact **Elizabeth Munger '12** and **Toni Marsteller '13** at [SMCclubtoledo@gmail.com](mailto:SMCclubtoledo@gmail.com) to get involved.

JOIN US IN JUNE

We invite you to **REDISCOVER** the beauty of campus and **EXPLORE** the exciting changes taking place as we look to the future.

**RECONNECT** with friends, **REMINISCE** about the great times, and **CREATE NEW MEMORIES**.

2s and 7s:  
**JUNE 2-5, 2022**

0s, 1s, 5s, and 6s:  
**JUNE 9-12, 2022**



Register online at [alumnae.saintmarys.edu](http://alumnae.saintmarys.edu)  
**Registration Now Open!**



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

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It was good to hear from **Helene Preece McCormack**. She has lived alone since Andy died 16 years ago but is blessed to have family living nearby.

She wrote that she was born in Iowa and Andy was from Cleveland. After they married, they moved a lot due to his job. They lived in Des Moines for seven years before moving to Thousand Oaks, CA in 1973 and then to Camarillo in 2000. "It is only 20 minutes from Thousand Oaks but is smaller (about 60,000). I love it here. Since we are close to the coast, it never gets very hot." She keeps in special touch with her SMC roommate **Anne Reynolds Pyron**.

She also told me she used to live in Fairfax, VA, so she understands why I enjoy the DC area. Which I do. I live about 15 minutes from the US Capitol and life here is never boring.

I was sad to see in the last *Courier* that we lost two more of our classmates, **Sister Patricia Brewer, RSM**, in 2020 and **Rita Moliski Goth** on February 25, 2021.

I found Rita's obit online: After graduating SMC, she used her nursing degree at Union Hospital, Tuscarawas County Health Department, and Morning View Care Center, from which she retired after 25 years as director of nursing. She was blessed with 67 years of marriage to John "Jack" Goth, who preceded her in death. She's survived by 11 children (!) and 14 grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Sacred Heart Church in her hometown of New Philadelphia, OH.

As for me, I am doing well at 92. I traveled to Saginaw this summer to visit my last three siblings, including **Rosie Mudd Nickodemus '59**. I've lived alone since Jack died in 2004. I was singing in the choir and reading to kids at the local daycare, but COVID-19 ended those activities. However, I continue to write (since 1976) a neighborhood column for several county weekly newspapers.

My great-granddaughter — also named Mary McHale — attends Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD. The school was founded in 1964 by Holy Cross brothers. It's nice to have Mary be a part of our Holy Cross family.

Email, call, or write before the next 1950 column. We all want to know what's going on in your life.

## 1952

Marilyn Dargis Ambrose  
mambrose2@sbcglobal.net



**Sister M. Emily Demuth, CSC**, says: "I have now transferred and have settled in at Saint Mary's Convent, Notre Dame, IN, closer to Saint Mary's College than when I was in California. I appreciate being close to the College and Notre Dame University. There are many spiritual opportunities here and I reconnected with sisters at Saint Mary's I hadn't seen in many years. Thank you for your efforts in obtaining news from the Class of '52."

Received a long "memories of Class of 1952" from **Vivian Tuerk Markham** — enclosing it all.

"Beloved Classmates of 1952,

"Soon we will celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation. Take a walk with me down Memory Lane. Welcome to Holy Cross Hall — all of us anxiously anticipating our new role as Belles of Saint Mary's — early to rise and no heat until 8:00 a.m., supervised study, flying bats on the third floor, the "tunnel" to walk to Le Mans, Dr. Bruno Schlesinger (a truly remarkable teacher and human being), LOGIC with Sister Miriam Joseph, tea dances.

"Sophomore year — living at Le Mans, it was so easy to walk to class with only two buildings and the old gym — biology class and collecting 100 wildflowers, walking across to Notre Dame football games and victory dances, hats placed in bushes prior to crossing Dixie Highway — bridge games between classes, and after dinner singing state songs and dancing in a circle in the 'Den of Iniquity' — cigarettes in abundance.

"Junior year — the class number is diminishing as many marry, classes in your major dominate — Sister Madeleva's Convocations, the old black suit and golf dresses are showing wear but do not replace, laundry cases coming from home with goodies enclosed, the investiture of cap and gown, checking in by 10:00 p.m. with inspection by a Holy Cross sister, often Sister Sophia, never a sip of wine or beer as penalty involved a six-week suspension at home. Rosie's Spaghetti House and a walk past the Whistle Factory, one phone booth on each floor for outside calls — life-long friendships are made.

"Finally, our senior year — caps and gowns worn for many occasions, romances have grown and engagements are frequent, traditions become precious, student teaching for many of us, Winter Carnival, inspection of formal gowns guaranteeing proper modesty, Friday night movies, January exams right after Christmas, an awareness that our tenure at our beloved Saint Mary's will soon terminate as we have developed a deeper understanding and love of our Catholic faith. We have been educated to take our place in the world as proud graduates of Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana — today still a unique stronghold for the education of Catholic women — long may she continue to give praise to God and country. Spes Unica!

"Now 2021 — life without Bill has taken a long time to learn to live alone — deceased September 14, 2019. We were blessed with 66+ years of a loving marriage. The loving care and dedication of our five

sons to their dad was truly remarkable. I moved to an independent living senior center in February 2020, just before COVID-19 hit, and we were socially isolated in our apartments. Three times daily, a knock at the door and a meal delivered. Those months grieving after Bill were difficult. I survived them with letters to Bill celebrating our life together. Madoline, granddaughter with her master's in journalism and publishing, collected and printed "Dear Bill" as a gift to all the children — three generations.

"Life at the Parc in Duluth is not what I expected — naivety had me thinking it would be like our dorm life at Saint Mary's College. NO, NOT! Our sons and their families are caring, plus one son and his wife serve as my earth angels. Living alone is finally satisfactory, laced with memories of a life filled with a great family and love and laughter.

"Blessings to the survivors of the Class of 1952!"

From **Mary Dvilaitis Blanford** — "Happy Thanksgiving, Lynn. All's quiet on my front. No news here. Slowly getting out more. Mass, dining out, theatre, all with a mask on. Hope you and Gracie are doing well. Enjoy the holidays."

I (Lynn/Marilyn) realize this is somewhat long but it accurately captures our memories and highlights them throughout our four years at SMC. It's good to have them written down given our normal aging lapses. Thanks, Vivian!

Today I'm writing on November 1, All Saints Day feast. My 14.5-year-old golden doodle died today after attending Mass with me — a fitting memorial feast. Caleb was an outstanding therapy dog, even getting "outstanding volunteer of the year" for San Diego County for two years, 2016 and 2018. As his agent and chauffeur, I've been kept busy. He's now in heaven watching out for all of us and waiting for me to join him along with our other family pets.

## 1954

Bernice Boucher Hopp  
jim-bernice@att.net

Greetings to the Class of 1954. It has been over 67 years since graduation. The late **Judy Jones Sullivan** and the late **Ann Korb** kept us in touch through this column. We remain grateful to them.

**Mary Ann Kramer Campbell** continues to live in independent living at Holy Cross Village near Saint Mary's campus. Her husband Tom died on Good Friday 2020. A memorial Mass of the Resurrection was held on October 16, 2021. Tom's wishes were for his Mass to be held on the grounds of Holy Cross College. Tom and Mary Ann's family were all present to celebrate the Mass. Tom kindly arranged to have his body donated to the Anatomical Education Program of IU School of Medicine. His remains will be interred in Arlington Cemetery.

Mary Ann shared that our class had a tree planted honoring **Ann Korb**. It is located near Reidinger House.

**Carol O'Brien Scheller** was hospitalized over Thanksgiving 2021. She and her husband Vince are caring for each other at home. Their children and grandchildren live in Nashville, TN, Cincinnati, OH,

Connecticut, and Indianapolis.

**Sue Hartmann** lives in Indianapolis independently in her home and enjoys driving her car. Five out of her six children live in Indianapolis. She enjoys her six grandchildren. Two are in college. One granddaughter is married to a pilot in the US Air Force. Another granddaughter was awarded a Fulbright scholarship. She is teaching Spanish in Mexico and working to improve the lives of the homeless. Previously, she worked in Chicago to assist the homeless.

**Janell Wenzel O'Barski** resides in Olympia Fields, a suburb of Chicago. She enjoys independent life in a villa in a retirement community.

**Rose Marie Murphy Foley** and her husband Ben lived in their home 40 years. They built a home on a lake. A year later, their daughter and husband located next to them. Their son recently retired. They worship in a little white mission church in the cornfields. Their priest covers three towns. The Foleys winter in Florida. HAPPY 60<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

**Midge Myler Russo** lives in Rhinebeck, NY. Midge enjoys life in her home and keeps up with her family. On Sundays, a weekly Zoom call unites her six children and 17 grandchildren. The wedding of her first grandchild was delayed due to COVID-19. One of her sons buys wine from one of my nephews.

**Jane Flynn Carroll** lives in a townhome in Carpentersville, IL. Jane has five children. In October 2021, she attended a big family wedding in Fontana, OH. In May 2020, Jane flew to San Antonio, TX to welcome her first grandchild. Her favorite volunteer projects closed due to COVID-19.

**Joan Rossi** has been very helpful in gathering news for our column. She arranged for the late **Rody Oppenheim Dilenschneider's** daughter **Mary Dilenschneider Condon '87**, also a Saint Mary's graduate in nursing, to call me. Some of us were very fortunate to meet Mary at a gathering in Rody's room during a Reunion over 10 years ago.

Mary, beautifully, with much loving devotion, described her mother and dad's lifelong dedication to each other, which began in front of Holy Cross Hall, 1950. To mark their 50th anniversary, the family planted a tree on the Notre Dame campus. It is located at the junction of the Administration Building, the Basilica, and Sorin Hall. On the occasion of their 60th anniversary, the family located a bench engraved with their names in front of Holy Cross Hall. Rody died January 17, 2020, at home, surrounded by Jack and her nine children. The song *The Bells of Saint Mary's* was sung. Mary suspects COVID-19 played a role in her death. Jack moved to Sarasota, FL to live with Mary. They shared beautiful days with wonderful memories of Rody. While Jack was hospitalized before his death, he composed love letters to Rody. Jack died August 10, 2021. Prior to his death, he signed a grant to Saint Mary's to honor Rody. It reads the **Rose Marie Oppenheim Dilenschneider** Research and Travel Grant for Education Department Students.

**Pat Gannon Scully** has been living in Arizona outside of Phoenix for 20 years. She retired from teaching high school art and English 12 years ago. She discovered art as a latecomer and has enjoyed it very much. She designs and makes jewelry in

retirement. Reading has become a favorite pastime. Pat has three children living close by and three in California, Montana, and Colorado. Two great-grandchildren have graduated from college. Pat has had two Labs and presently a rescue dog, a 3-year-old Australian shepherd. She proudly celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a sign in her yard!

Marquette Retirement Center in Indianapolis has been my cottage home since 2010. **Carolyn Flynn Fay '56**, my little sister at Saint Mary's, and I volunteer in the Marquette Chapel. Residents are blessed to celebrate Mass six days a week. Another chapel volunteer is Joanne Coquillard. Joanne is a friend of **Jane Flynn Carroll**. My husband Jim died January 2021. He contracted COVID-19 and died from a stroke. My friend at ND Tom Murphy, who later became a priest and served in parishes in Indianapolis, died several years ago.

Let's keep in touch. Please contact me at 2735A Marquette Manor, West Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268, jim-bernice@att.net, phone 317-875-1082.

HAPPY 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY to all.

## 1955

Maureen Sullivan  
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Happy Spring — Blessings at Eastertime. I hope this year has been providing happier, healthier, and holier days than they did the last year or so. I hope we have been able to say goodbye to the pandemic.

As indicated in the last issue, I am now living in downtown South Bend — or at least I will be. My unit is not quite finished as I write this so am in a temporary unit here. Oh my, flexibility at our age is a necessary trait. I will spend Christmas/New Year's holidays in Detroit and Dayton with family and friends and then head to Florida for the winter.

In the midst of the move, I have misplaced my *Courier* material with phone numbers and past information. So, no phone calls for the next issue. I plan to make all the calls from Florida so you can expect lots of news during the summer.

Once again, I send my happy thoughts to one and all.

## 1956

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Thank you to all who responded to my request for news. I'm sending this news on December 1, but you are probably reading it in the Spring issue of *Courier*. You don't need to wait for deadline time (December 1, April 1, August 1) to let me know. Everything is news. For instance, **Barbara Schettig Brennan's** email was short, but much appreciated

by me. "Thank you, Joan. And thanks for taking us on." So, armed by Barb's encouragement, I am going on. (Barbara lives in Midland, MI.)

I hope that many of you are like me and able to bask in the memories of the joys of a recent Thanksgiving gathering. All of our four children were here, along with numerous grandchildren and the star of the event, our lone great-grandchild Charlotte, 13 months.

At our stage in life, many of us are making moves. On the move again is **Barbara Clark**, who emailed me from her home in Naples, FL, where she retired 32 years ago. She is moving to a retirement community in Cincinnati in April 2022. "I have family there and look forward to spending the coming years with them. I will miss my friends and the beautiful Florida weather, but it is a time to make a change."

**Marilyn Minch Weber** had sad news to report. "News here is that my beloved husband of 64 years passed away in September. I'm lost." Our hearts go out to her, but she ends with happy news about the start of a new life experience. "I'm retired now after 35 years as an international travel agent. Being employed for Central Travel gave me the wonderful opportunity of traveling the world. I really miss it and now my husband is no longer here, I'm looking forward to writing about my traveling. I've started on it already and am reliving those great experiences."

**Mary Beth Bohn Koechlin** sent a nice, newsy letter to fill in some of the facts of her life since her long absence from *Courier*. She wrote from her son's home in Hawaii, where she has celebrated the last 20 Thanksgivings — all except last year. A son is retired in Elgin, TX. Two daughters live in Texas and New Mexico. A son lives in Virginia. "So, I've lively places to visit. How I missed the family during the pandemic!" Mary Beth says that "Zoom expanded my world, and I was able to keep up a rich cultural life — as well as travel virtually. I missed in-person travel and lost some of my own confidence in my ability, so we'll see if that returns."

Mary Beth says, "**Pat O'Leary Ring** and I stay in touch. I hope for a short visit in 2022. My Fribourg, Switzerland friends include **Rita Conley Bourjaily**. **Marlene Slavin Fogarty '58** and I spend quality time together." Mary Beth, who lives in Atlantic Beach, FL, continues: "My own health is good. I am grateful for all in my life. I live in a sizable two-story house, so I've moved downstairs, and I rent my upstairs. I've always believed in community housing, so this works for me right now."

**Bertha Leblanc Curley** writes from Alexandria, LA about a growing family — "From three children, we now claim seven grandchildren and 10 'greats' — the latest, a fat and happy 4-month-old girl!" The family is still mourning the death in November of Jim, Bertha's husband. Here is Bertha's advice to her widowed friends. "Like many of you, my widowed friends, I miss Jim terribly, but take each day at a time — less cooking, more praying, and finding 'shiny copper pennies' in the oddest places! Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a joyous year to come."

**Angela Griner Fealy** emailed from Crown Point, IN, where she has long lived. Two daughters live with her, and a son lives down the street. A daughter and son-in-law live in Denver. Angela says that she has several health problems that keep her close to home. However, she still works in the CPA practice of her daughter. Her big pastimes are reading lots of

books and doing games and puzzles. Her last words to you all were: "Wishing you and classmates Happy Holidays. Keep the news coming."

Following Angela's advice, I continue. Over the years, I have continued my friendship with **Carolyn Greives Kelley**. (She was maid of honor at our 1958 wedding.) Because of health issues, Carolyn has been forced to slow down recently. If you remember Carolyn, you know that "slow down" is not an easy gear for her. A couple of years ago, Carolyn donated some things associated with our college days, including her uniform, to SMC. The uniform was displayed in the school library as an historical artifact. She was wondering if the uniform is still on display. Neither of us have been back on campus recently. If any of you have visited the library recently and saw the uniform, would you please let me know.

When I called **Carol Lee Jasper Markley**, she said she was embarrassed that she had no news to report. However, after some discussion, we decided that her report was, "No news to report. Everything is calm around here." However, we hope to see each other at a luncheon get-together of "Saint Mary's Girls" (more mature alumnae) in a couple of weeks.

When we get to our ages, part of reporting the news is the sad duty of writing about death, which is all too common among us nowadays. I know especially about three recent deaths of classmates. The first is the death of **Arleen Kann Battalora**, who had lived in the Houston, TX area for years. Arleen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2010. Her family said, "Mom always reminded us there are seasons of life and she knew she was in her final one these past few years." I was unable to attend the celebration of her life that took place at St. Mary's Chapel in Houston in early October. I am so sorry that I let the friendship slip away. I should have tried harder when her ability to communicate weakened because of her illness. Her daughter said that "she was a wonderful lady to the end."

Although I did not know **Mary Jo West Mason** as well as I knew Arleen, I was able to attend her funeral Mass. (We lived in the same area.) She died on September 23 after a long illness. I was not able to attend the wake, but I learned a lot about Mary Jo at the luncheon after the Mass. **Carol Lee Jasper Markley** was also at the Mass. Recently, Carol Lee told me that she would not have made it as a young wife and mother when she first moved to the Birmingham, MI area without Mary Jo's help and advice. Mary Jo was twice widowed. As her obituary noted, after the death of her husbands, "She continued her unwavering commitment to her faith, children, family, and friends." And we must not forget to mention what the obituary called "her legendary bridge club."

**Paula Rochon Eged** died suddenly on September 8. She lived alone. Her body was found by her daughter, looking for her. The suddenness of the death was a great shock to everyone. But that was exactly the way Paula wanted to die. She often spoke of it. Paula was my roommate at Saint Mary's, and we were quite close. Thanks to my daughter's chauffeuring, I was able to attend the Celebration of Paula's Life event that the family arranged at the beginning of October in Spring Lake, MI. I'm sure that Paula would have loved the Paula-centered party. In my last Class of '56 report, I wrote about

Paula's love of her historical home, which she and her late husband remodeled. I'm sure she is very pleased to know that the family hopes to keep her home in the family.

So, the class news talks about the death of classmates, but it also talks about the joys of life. May your time ahead be filled with joy and contentment. But whatever comes, let your classmates know about it. The next deadline is April 1. Remember; you don't have to wait until then to keep in touch.

## 1957

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I thought by now that our lives would have returned closer to normal (whatever that is?). We are certainly not there yet, but glimmers of hope shine through. I was delighted to hear from **Kay Howard Boyle** that she and Mike attended the August wedding of their grandson Michael Boyle, son of Mark and Kate Shannon Boyle. Kate is the niece of the late **Sheilamae Shannon O'Hara**. After the wedding at Notre Dame's Sacred Heart Basilica, the reception was held at Saint Mary's! Kay raved about the arrangements, starting with drinks on the island in front of the library and complete with a tent with dance floor on the lawn. It was an absolutely perfect setting, impressing all. Most of the family stayed nearby at the Inn or Hilton Gardens, which added to the fun. The only drawback was the 10-hour drive from Pittsburgh, which is a bit daunting but I'm impressed they did it!

**Sallie Costa Ineich** sent a wonderful note following our last class Mass in March. She and Paul celebrated their 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June. While they are still in Jacksonville, IL, their two children, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter all live in Metairie, LA, just outside New Orleans. When she wrote, we were all watching Hurricane Ida's impact on the area. Sallie had an interesting side note on another Louisiana resident, **Connie Krauss Landgrave** in Lafayette. Connie and Paul Ineich are actually related! Paul was from Auburn, NY in the Finger Lakes region and Connie was with us in freshman year.

In July, I attended a memorial for Trinity High School's former president, the late Sister Michelle Germanson, OP, who had served on the board at Saint Mary's. The College was well represented by **Mary Burke '85**, who was included in the program. I was delighted to see her mother **Maryjeanne Ryan Burke '56** also in attendance. Our **Peggy Kearin Carey**, a former Trinity board member, was also in the program.

**Judy Hankes Maus** and daughters **Catherine Maus '81** and Susan Maus Pratts (ND '82) came through Chicago after a Michigan family vacation. They were happy to spend time with the family of the late **Mary Kay Hankes Hogan '56**.

In the For the Record section of the Summer 2021 *Courier*, you may have read of the January 2021 death of John C. Engler (ND '56), husband of **Peggy Maher Engler**. John served as a Navy officer before

joining Merrill Lynch, where he spent the rest of his successful career. In addition to Peggy, John is survived by their children David, **Kathleen Engler Malone '82**, Father Chapin, and Steven and families including eight grandchildren. Father Chapin is the pastor of three parishes in West Virginia, where he also has a highly regarded TV program called *Daily Living with Father Chapin*.

The same issue listed the death of Robert Lee Kerby, husband of **Mary Corbett Kerby**. After Notre Dame graduation, Robert entered the Air Force and served with distinction in the Far East at the beginning of the Vietnam War. Next, he earned his doctorate in American history at Columbia and taught there before returning to Notre Dame as a well-respected faculty member. In 1970, he was ordained a priest of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church and later founded and pastored St. John of Damascus Church in South Bend. He is survived by Mary, their two sons and families, including five grandchildren. My sympathy to Peggy and Mary.

I heard from **Pat Bauervic Leonard** in August just before she expected a visit from old friends. She met their doctor-father 30 years ago when he conducted a seminar on homeopathy. (That has been her lifelong interest, both as a student and teacher.) That night, Pat remembered Sister Sophia's emphasis on manners and kindness, and eased an awkward moment for the doctor, which led to a friendship with him and his wife. Years later, the two families are still close!

John and **Carole Nordengren Suttner** celebrated their 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in August. It was a grand time with just their children and spouses — no grandchildren or great-grandchildren (they now have 19). With eight children, this still represents a sizeable party! They are lucky to have many of the families nearby, except for the grandchildren, who are increasingly studying and working all over.

**Irene O'Leary Van Beckum's** September birthday celebration sounded perfect! She enjoyed a tour of the new exhibit at the Milwaukee Art Museum and dinner with four of her daughters. As Irene said, "I am indeed a lucky woman."

**Jody Donohoe McGoldrick** is happy she has returned to her volunteer work at the gift shop at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. She recently had a nice phone chat with **Maureen Butler O'Malley**.

Even if most of us aren't running marathons these days, it is fun to have grandchildren who do! **Janet O'Connell McCue's** granddaughter Megan Groves completed the Boston Marathon. Megan is the daughter of Janet's daughter Colleen McCue Groves and works in Boston.

Those of you on my email list heard of the August death of **Margaret Elaine (Gretchen) House Gunning**. Gretchen came to Saint Mary's from her hometown of Rome, GA, where she attended Shorter College for her first two college years. During junior year, she met fellow Georgian Tom Gunning (ND '57) at the Mock Political Convention. Tom survives Gretchen as do their four sons (all ND graduates) and one daughter **M. Catherine Lebovitz '82** and families including 13 grandchildren. Thanks to another Atlanta resident **Alice Quinn Kalafut**, who spotted Gretchen's lovely obituary in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

I read in a publication of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of the death in May of **Sister M. Carolita Hart, CSC**. Sister followed her BS in nursing from Saint Mary's with a degree in nursing administration from Catholic University. Sister continued a lifelong mission in health care and supervisory positions and led an exemplary life of service.

Another classmate, **Katherine (Katie) Adele Perry** died October 23. Katie died in her condo in Oak Brook, IL. She had been bedridden for some months but impressed many with her admirable acceptance. Katie applied her degree in education as a long-time kindergarten teacher in suburban Chicago. Many responded to my email about her death with memories of shared travels and the fun she added to any gathering. She especially loved summers in her family home at Dewey Lake, MI and winters in Largo, FL. Katie is survived by several close and caring cousins including **Mary Pat Venn-Guizzetti '77**.

As I was gathering items for this column, due December 1, 2021, I received the first formal information about our upcoming Reunion in June 2022! Astonishing — I had to verify the amazing number with my calculator and I'm reluctant to put it in print. It's hard to know right now what those days will be like for all of us, but let's be positive! **Ann Schultheis Massey** already shared a brilliant idea. She thought of having a Zoom meeting for our class one day during Reunion, including those at Reunion and throughout the country. Ideas welcome!

## 1958

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Hello to all. So glad to hear from you.

Starting with sad news. **Ann Leonard Molenda** passed away on June 17, 2021. I received a wonderful email from her daughter Kate Wilson Voelker. She wrote that the family were all able to be together and to be with her when she died. Kate also said the family misses Ann very much.

**Suzanne Lipetska Cierzniak** also sent memories of Ann. She said, "Ann and her family lived in our neighborhood on South Bend's southeast side. My late husband Jim and I enjoyed the great parties she had as well as her special friendship." Suzanne and her son Mark were able to attend Ann's funeral at St. Matthews.

**Patricia Kennedy Flock** was happy to read I have started painting again. Pat has a painting in a juried show in Naples, FL running till January 26, 2022. Pat's brother and sister were both artists and one of her three daughters is an artist/illustrator and lives in Wilmette, IL.

**Patricia Costello** wishes us all a Happy Thanksgiving 2021. She wrote about enjoying

giving tours of the Monroe Tavern, which was taken over by the British as a field hospital to treat their wounded on April 19, 1776, the first day of the American Revolution. She wears colonial attire and suspects that some people might think she may have been an eyewitness.

A wonderful letter was sent from Fargo, ND by **Barbara Hartmann Russell**. She said COVID-19 has changed all of us. Hopefully for the good and she's more aware of enjoying the moment. She is blessed with a large family and already has six great-grandchildren. They also have their third-generation freshmen at Notre Dame — twin great-nieces.

**Jody Vetter Olson** wrote she had a phone call from **Mary Ann Saxe Hickey**. She also keeps in touch with **Paula Lawton Bevington**. Also, **Jane Eyerly Kozuszek** sends Jody articles from the *National Catholic Reporter* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Carl and Jody are planning a trip to Whitefish, MT for grandson Matthew's wedding. This wedding is the first of that generation for Carl and Jody. Jody and Carl are also looking forward to finally celebrating the holidays with family again.

Talked to **Hannah Grasberger Kreps** in Houston, TX. She is the proud great-grandmother of 1-year-old Finn. Hannah's son Mark Soren (ND) is the grandfather of Finn.

I called **Sue Corcoran Griffin**. She mentioned she regularly meets **Maggie Casey Phillips** for lunch. They meet halfway between LaMont



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and Aurora. She keeps in touch with **Joan Renehan Thompson** at Christmas. Also talks with **Kay O'Meara Walper**.

My other phone call was with **Sally Hultkrans Callahan**. She is grandmother to 13 grandchildren (11 boys and two girls). Sally said 11 live all over the US and the one boy lives in England. She and Jack are getting ready to leave for Naples, FL.

News from **Sally Teppert McKendry** — the Saint Mary's Club of Detroit had their Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 14. **Kara O'Leary '89** attended. The Saint Mary's women planning to attend are **Lurray Pfister Bell '63, Joan Mette Reddy '56, Sue De Ponio Boyer '73, Annette Saylor '59, Julie Skelly Fries '52 Judith Halter Enright '61, Carol Lee Jasper Markley '56,** and Sally.

Just talked to Hannah in Houston again. I was telling her I have been going to physical therapy. I am supposed to do exercises every day at home, too. I was skipping them because it is so hard to do them on the floor. Then my dear sister **Patricia Hilger Zeigler** said her chiropractor told her to do them in bed. It works. Hannah wanted me to give you this great tip for us people in our eighties.

## 1959

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Sadly, we have lost five of our classmates since the last column. **Sue Warneke Collins** passed away May 5, 2020, at home in Hillsdale, MI. She was predeceased by her first husband George Palmer and is survived by her second husband Pastor Benjamin Collins, three children, and four grandchildren. She graduated from Hillsdale College and received a master's in special education from Eastern Michigan University. Before retiring, she taught school and coordinated religious education at St. Anthony Catholic Church. **Marcia Cole Towne** of South Bend passed away following a lengthy battle with dementia on December 7, 2020. Her husband Larry Towne preceded her in death, and she is survived by two children and three grandchildren. Before she married, she worked as a medical technician in Santa Barbara, CA and later in life worked in the admissions office of the University of Notre Dame Law School. Marcia was a self-taught genealogist, an antique collector, and shop owner.

I received an email from Chris Kiefer (ND '87) telling me of his mom's passing. **Marge Liebrich O'Connor** passed away June 26, 2021, in Richmond, VA of heart failure. She was predeceased by her first husband John Kiefer (ND '59) at age 31. She later married Bob O'Connor, who she met at a church function, and became the proud and devoted mother of a large, loving, blended family that included four children with her first husband, four stepchildren with her second husband, plus one child between them for total of nine, and 20

grandchildren. Bob passed away a year ago. Chris said she will always be affectionately remembered for her loving commitment to family, friends, and faith. She has a granddaughter **Caroline Margaret Kiefer '24** attending Saint Mary's College. In the early '60s, Gerry and I ran into Marge and John and **Jayne Colgan Sullivan** and her husband Roger at an LA Saint Mary's Alumnae Gala in Santa Monica and discovered we were all married on the same day, February 20, 1960! Jayne and Roger stayed in Los Angeles as did we, but Marge and John moved elsewhere and he passed away about 10 years later.

**Geraldine Dunn Leinenweber** passed away peacefully on August 11, 2021, at Norwood Crossing in Chicago, succumbing to dementia. She is survived by her former husband the Honorable Harry Leinenweber, five children, and 17 grandchildren. She worked for many years as a child advocate with CASA and in 1966, together with several other Joliet families, helped establish the Joliet Montessori School. She loved entertaining, but except for her floral arrangements, she was not a master of the culinary arts. The contents of her fridge were a frequent target of her children's friends who wondered, "What can you make with mayonnaise, mustard, whole-wheat bread, and Perrier?" The answer was... not much. **Betsy Finneran Kennedy** sent me an obit for **Aurelia (Pucky) McCormick Zimmerman**, who passed away on September 24, 2021, in Lisle, IL. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Jack and is survived by four children and eight grandchildren. She was a talented artist and earned a degree in art from the University of Illinois after transferring from Saint Mary's following her freshman year. She worked for over 20 years in the Sun family of newspapers, starting as paste-up for the *Lisle Sun* and retiring as business editor for the *Naperville Sun*. Pucky's impact was larger than life; her wit and love will be greatly missed by all who knew her. I was in touch with Pucky recently, commiserating over our freshman *transom antics*, but she did not indicate that she was ill, so I was shocked to learn of her death shortly thereafter. May our friends/classmates rest in peace.

**Rosalie Riegle** sent me the obituary for Denison Young, husband of **Adele Schupp Young**, who passed away October 27, 2021, in Wellsboro, PA. He was an oral surgeon in Syracuse, NY for 41 years. Rosalie says that Adele has suffered a stroke and is in the same nursing home where her husband died. As reported in *Courier*, Joseph Weller, husband of **Rosemary Doheny Weller**, died December 30, 2020. Please remember them in your prayers.

Heard from **Teresa Queenan Frei** in August. She lives alone, as she is widowed, in the same house she moved into when she married 65 years ago in Shoreham, Suffolk County, Long Island, NY. She has six children and says she left Saint Mary's early in her second year, to the dismay of her roommate **Annette Saylor**, and never finished her education. She writes that she has been blessed with good health, swims and bikes, but a vision problem keeps her from her first love, tennis. Received a delightful call from **Anne Lindstrom Dahme** also in August just to chat. She said her first husband Ed Broderick (ND '57) died and she married his best friend, who also passed away. She lives alone in Ocean City, NJ. She taught for 40 years and is now retired. She

spends time in Florida every winter at Siesta Key near Sarasota. She has an adopted son and three grandchildren — one at Loyola of Chicago, one a junior in high school, and one in sixth grade. She's in touch with **Blanche Kramer Woolford**, who lives in Harrisburg, PA. Blanche's husband Don is her stepbrother, so he visits from time to time. She said she used to see **Kathy O'Brien Salmon**, who is now in a memory care center not far from Ocean City. Kathy's husband Bob comes by to visit when he's in the area. Anne's home is right on the beach. She said it is large with plenty of room for visitors. She'd love anyone of her classmates to come for a visit. Sorry I live so far away. As a child, I spent many summers at the Jersey Shore. Her email is AnneOClrish@Verizon.net.

I got an email from **Sue Starshak Klemmer**, who lives in Northfield, IL. She was requesting my story about the "The Transom Rebellion" as she calls it. She wrote: "It was one of the fun things that happened while I was at SMC on first floor of Holy Cross. I loved our classmates, but couldn't seem to get along with the nuns." She keeps in touch with **Cornelia (Skip) O'Donnell Revord** and **Nancy Grummell Geary**. She has had to curtail playing tennis because of COVID-19. Her husband died in January 2020 "before they had a name for this virus, but I think it's what he died of. He had been sent to a rehab place to recover from pneumonia, but after a week he was worse and couldn't breathe, so back to the hospital for three weeks on a ventilator." They have two children and six grandchildren. **Betsy Finneran Kennedy** enjoys living in the city of Chicago near many grandchildren. "I go to grade school flag football games and cross-country meets and high school field hockey...once or twice to each sport... that's my limit. I am looking forward to Broadway in Chicago opening up in November."

All is well here in California. COVID-19 restrictions are lifting at our retirement community. I played my first-ever, mixed-double pickleball tournament in early November in Palm Desert, CA. My partner and I didn't win any medals but we sure had a great time. We had to play 70-year-olds as we were the only 80-year-olds registered. There were about 12 of us from Reata Glen who made the trip and we partied hearty. Gerry doesn't play but he cheered us all on.

Thank you for sending me news. It makes the column much more interesting and is appreciated by all. Stay well and safe. My deadlines are: April 1, August 1, and December 1.

## 1961

Wini Tennis Kristufek  
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**Helenmarie Anderson Corcoran** has lived in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, since August 2014, with trips to the States several times a year. However, with the pandemic and the death of her son Steven from melanoma in June 2021, Helenmarie is longing for family and old friends. She will be moving to Annapolis, MD, in January 2022. One of her neighbors will be **Carol Schork Mitola**.

**Susan Fitzgerald Rice** wrote to encourage classmates to attend Reunion, June 9-12, 2022. Unless

there are advisories against traveling, she plans to be there and hug all who attend.

I received a surprise email from **Mary Ahrens Eting**, who was **Jane Gleixner Ryan's** roommate for two years. After transferring to St. Louis University, but marrying before graduating, Mary Ann returned to school when her three children were in their teens and received a degree in elementary education from Maryville University. She taught in the Catholic school system for 22 years. Mary Ann also mentioned her passion for animals — dogs and horses especially, having enjoyed many years with both in the show ring.

In August, **B.J. Sitzberger Gorman** was in Colorado for the Mass and funeral of Ed McMahon, **Katie Herbstritt McMahon's** husband. She also was able to spend quality time with **Marylee Zahner Foley** and husband Howard. **Mary Cotter Fee** and husband Paul also were there for the funeral Mass. B.J. is so appreciative of the special connection our Class of '61 have with each other. It warms her heart and lifts her spirit whenever any of us can connect regardless of the circumstances.

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

## 1962

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It's dismaying not to hear from us in our column in *Courier*. I miss your news because our connections of years together are fraying. I encourage, okay beg, you to send us some updates. Another Reunion approaches and traveling may be difficult for some. This is all the more reason to make an effort to fill us in on how you are, your thoughts — medical reports accepted. OKAY? Did I convince you?

As I write this before Christmas, another birthday looms. That always generates reflection on the past year. It probably does with you, too. A year ago, I moved to an over-55 community in Glenview. It's been positive because I exercise more and have more opportunities for fun! When we thought we were overcoming COVID-19, I ventured on a few trips. In June, I visited friends in Connecticut. In July, I took my three children, spouses, and six grands to a beach vacation. In August, my 14-year-old granddaughter and I ventured to San Francisco to see the sights. I was so happy to introduce her to **Patricia Gallagher** and **Lyn Cosgriff Isbell**. We had a joyful "way too short" lunch. In September, I went on a three-week trip to Croatia. It was strenuous, but I was proud that as the oldest participant I was able to keep the pace! Before COVID-19 set in, I went to Charleston and had a lovely visit with my roomie of senior year **Pat Murphy Sweeney**.

I am delighted to report that often I see **Sheila Higgins Botti, Joan Roddewig Geary, Ginny Lynch Collins, Babs Herbstritt Ward, Mary Irene Scanlan Doran, and Carol Morrissey Showel**. We have very happy noisy lunches every few months.

I had a wonderful summer lunch with **Judy Nelson**

**Burke**, who looks so much the same as, dare I say, 60 years ago?

**Maureen McCafferty** is scheduled to visit next week from New York. She continues working happily with Corcoran Real Estate.

**Mary Anne Balles Bland** wrote recently from Berkeley that she enjoys retirement by doing lots of reading and quilting tops.

Facebook has enabled me to be in contact with **Anna Rose Kearney, Mardi Hack, and Eileen McDermott**, all of whom seem to be doing well.

Stay well, my friends. We'd love to hear from all of you, PLEASE!



Christmas gathering: Sheila Higgins Botti, Babs Herbstritt Ward, Julie Nash Burke (friend), Maureen McCafferty, Ginny Lynch Collins, Maureen Sullivan Sheehy, Mary Irene Scanlan Doran, Carol Morrissey Showel, and Joan Roddewig Geary.

## 1963

Gail M. Donovan  
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News to share! A typically witty piece from **Diane Shalala Fritel** (fritelfarm@gondtc.com) and a heartwarming piece from **Arline Hagan Saturdayborn** (amsaturdayborn@gmail.com).

Since retiring from high school teaching some years back, **Diane Shalala Fritel** and husband Bob — longtime residents of North Dakota — have been wintering in Texas, where there is extended family on the Fritel side. They are reveling in "pickleball outdoors every day, riding bikes, walking, and swimming whenever we want." Diane's description of getting COVID-19 vaccines in Texas is priceless: "In January (2021), we sat in line for an hour to get vouchers for vaccination, and the next day left our RV park at 4:30 a.m. to line up at a fire station in a town 30 minutes away. There were 400 people in vehicles ahead of us, and 2,600 who came after we did, but with six rows and six people in each row giving shots, we were out of there in three hours. Our second shot was due on February 18, but that was the week we had no power for three days, so (those) shot in two days in January were all given on the 21<sup>st</sup> — all 6,000 of us. Of course, we'd been up early and spent another four hours in line but were relieved to be vaccinated. North Dakota was a change for us. No one was wearing masks in Rugby (population 2,500)... (and) when we walked into the drug store in Rugby and asked if we could get booster shots, (we) were done in five minutes!"

**Arline Hagan Saturdayborn** writes: "I have never contributed to our class column. So, here I am! As I look back on my 80 trips around the sun, I still marvel at the mystery of the universe. It is always beckoning us to appreciate its beauty and wonder so it can evoke the mystery of Being in us. Here are a few pieces of my 80 trips, noting that I was both excited and resistant to write this up."

Arline noted that she would start with the tough stuff. "I wrestled with additions — cigarettes, alcohol, and food; scared parts of me that really wanted love. Each has been a great compassion teacher."

Immediately after our college graduation, Arline — with plans to soon join the Peace Corps — accepted a job as governess for Robert Kennedy's children. "When JFK was assassinated, I stayed six more months, met Jamie Whelan (ND '62), married him instead of the Peace Corps, and birthed four children — my greatest teachers." Arline and her husband became more and more active in social and environmental domains and soon moved to the woods of Washington County, Maine, where they lived without electricity and running water and involved friends in their house-building adventure. School-age children gradually spurred a move to South Portland, where Arline earned a BFA at Maine College of Art. In the years that followed, she became a certified yoga teacher, a student of mindfulness with John Kabat-Zinn, and a master's degree recipient in ESOL.

Arline has loved teaching adult immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers enrolled at Portland Adult Education, and her deepening awareness of the stress she observed in them as well as those in the caring professions led her to seek out Sustainable Compassion Training. Now a practitioner and trainer, Arline explains: "I believe (this training) could help bring about peace and reduce stress," and she has introduced the principles even in Bosnia to peacebuilders who survived the Milosevic genocide. For three years prior to the pandemic, she was teaching an academic course of her own design in Sustainable Compassion Training at the University of Southern Maine. As the program was transitioning to Zoom, however, Arline was diagnosed with a rapidly growing cancer. "Without a shadow of doubt, my Sustainable Compassion Training showed up for me; joy, terror, and uncertainty could all live peacefully in me! After 18 months of treatment, the cancer is in remission (as of Halloween 2021). I continue to teach at USM and am daily filled with gratitude that I am doing this work — it is my response to the mystery of the universe. I would love to hear yours!"

We received another kind note of thanks from **Aranza Sabrina Sierra**, recipient of our class scholarship and a member of the Class of 2023. Aranza notes that she is "another step closer to becoming the civil engineer and mathematician I dream of. I can be more at ease about financial needs. I can return to the school I call home."

That's all for now. Hope you enjoy this round and will send me entries for the summer issue of *Courier* in a few months.

## 1964

Mary Ann Curnes Fuller  
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A nostalgic note from **Joan Marks Houck** remembering that it was in July 1960 that she received a picture of **Thelda McDermott Dillon**, who was to be her SMC freshman year roommate and lifelong friend. Joan's first weekend away from campus was with **Sis Reynolds McBride** and it was her first introduction to the "L" and to basements. In eighth grade, she took her first trip to the Rocky Mountains, and it was then that she became aware that she wanted to live in Colorado, be married, have a family, and be a missionary. (At that time, only sisters, brothers, and priests were missionaries.) "Now, turning 80, I am grateful and amazed at Jesus's answers to my deep heart cries in and through the people around me, along with parishes and ministries in Colorado, New Zealand, and elsewhere. Blessings to you all!"

**Becky Laird Ryan** and her husband Phil have moved to an over-50 apartment in Dallas: 11881 Inwood Rd., Apt.141, Dallas, TX 75244. They have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandkids! **Kay Christensen Janiszewski** wrote that **Mary Jane Foley Brisbane** and her husband Gene stopped this summer. Kay accompanied her SMC little sister Sherry Griffin to Sherry's granddaughter's wedding in North Carolina. **Fran Bardello Craig** and her partner Peter enjoyed the USC-ND game. They toured SMC campus and were impressed with the new Health Science Building as well as Angela Athletic Facility #3. (Remember Angela #1??), and the new dorms on the lower floor of Holy Cross.

**Mary Vertin O'Neill** is happy to be back in their Berkeley house after being in their Napa condo for a year while their daughter was living in their main house while hers was being redone. They have also undertaken the care of a 5-year-old Welsh springer spaniel. In August, they visited SMC while attending a family wedding at ND. Mary loved the campus and loves Katie Conboy's energy.

Friday, I hosted a Trinity Christmas luncheon. **Sis Reynolds McBride, Ellen Brown McBride,** and **Maureen Andrew Latimer** attended along with 20 other Trinity ladies. I also lunched last week with **Margie Carroll Flynn** for the Illinois Catholic Women's club. I look forward to hearing from everyone in their Christmas cards. ENJOY the spring!

Love, peace, joy!

## 1965

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Our "55+1" 1965 SMC Reunion took place August 10-13, 2021, at The Inn at Saint Mary's. In spite of high humidity and even higher temperatures, plus thunderstorms, we managed to enjoy one another and our alma mater and have a truly great time! The night we all arrived, we decided to have dinner close by at the Hilton Garden Inn. We were all laughing and talking so much that I'm not sure we even knew what we were eating. Those attending

were: **Anne Harvey Lewis, Patsy Callahan Berry, Sheila Flynn Boone, Connie Jatczak McKee-Pinn, Sheila Kelly Ames, Sara Johnson Walz** and husband, **Carla Aderente, Sue Casey D'Amico, Rosann Gorman Conroy, Margo Lawrence Ludwig,** and **Cille Sorrentino Bucolo.** We so regret that **Jan Batkiewicz Kraniak** was unable to attend due to some water issues in her condo. This was a bit of a "Rogue Reunion" because it was formed by classmates due to missing two Reunions because of COVID-19. We are getting up in years and we felt it important to get together, because... well... who



1965 Rogue Reunion. Back: Sara Johnson Walz, Sue Casey D'Amico, Rosann Gorman Conroy, Patsy Callahan Berry, Carla Aderente, and Sheila Kelly Ames. Front: Cille Sorrentino Bucolo, Margo Lawrence Ludwig, Sheila Flynn Boone, Connie Jatczak McKee-Pinn, and Anne Harvey Lewis.

knows? Our alumnae Director **Kara O'Leary '89** introduced President Katie Conboy, who proceeded to tell us what she has been doing for "the old and the new," and we had so many memories. The Reunion was wonderful, though we all hoped more classmates could have attended. It was four wonderful days where the years fell away.

News from **Pat Hoben Daniels**: "What a wonderful report on what seems to be a spectacular Rogue Reunion! I'm happy to hear it was such a success for all those who were able to attend. You all deserve congratulations and hugs. I visited my son Richard in St. Joe, MI in July, and we did a trip around Notre Dame's campus when he picked me up at the South Bend airport. What changes there! I was relieved to find the grotto just the same as I remembered it from our time at SMC."

**Teffy Lyons Brosnan** has not been able to return to her wonderful project of helping those in prison due to COVID-19, but she is very involved in helping the homeless in Hyannis, MA. There are four beautiful homes, two for men and two for women. They provide "affordable, safe, sober, and supportive homes where respect is given and expected."

"We are safe and well," writes **Beverly Senda DeFoe**. "Heading to Phoenix late October for two weeks. Our grand baby Edison will be 4. Getting too big, too fast. Then we're on to Seattle for two weeks, where our oldest grandson Cameron turns 10. We will be home for all the Christmas festivities. Stay well, be safe. See you at Reunion 2022!"

In October, **Elise Meyer** came to visit me for a few days. She began her journey with an enjoyable visit to **Karin Vanek Headley's** home in Indiana. We had a wonderful time catching up, going to dinner, and enjoyed riding around in the fall countryside. It was a great visit, very special, with lots of laughter and conversation. Old friends are the best!

In August 2021, I received sad news of the loss of **Sue Sheridan Joyce**. This brought three of our

classmates together for her funeral at St. Vincent Ferrer in River Forest, IL. **Cille Sorrentino Bucolo, Barb Brown Matthys,** and **Mary Delaney Willer** attended and spoke of how beautiful and respectful the occasion was, and what an accomplished woman Sue was as an attorney and mother of five sons. Rest in Peace, Sue.

**Cille Sorrentino Bucolo** had a wonderful mini-reunion luncheon in early December at her beautiful home in Oak Park, IL. Attending was **Colleen Leahy, Mary Delaney Willer, Therese McCaffrey McConville,** and myself. Therese and husband John were in town from York, PA and visiting their son. Conversation never lagged and we all had a great time catching up and enjoying the delicious luncheon.



Mary Delaney Willer, Cille Sorrentino Bucolo, Therese McCaffrey McConville, and Sheila Kelly Ames.

Ladies, please consider attending our 2022 June Reunion. Yet another opportunity to get together and celebrate.

## 1966

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**Anne Sheenan Garbarino** responded to my request to what kept you going during COVID-19. Anne wrote that her dog needed a long walk every day. She swam every day in the summer and enjoyed the company of her grandchildren on many days. Anne experienced some lovely visits via Zoom of her Belles friends from Virginia, Maryland, and DC. Anne and some friends made over 100 isolation gowns for a nursing home where her cousin is the director.

**Maureen Rodgers Budetti** drove with Anne to Charlotte, NC for Anne's grandson's graduation. They chatted the whole way without a break or a breath.

**Carolyn Hart Irvine** and her husband Mike (ND '67) made the long trip from San Mateo, CA to South Bend for the Notre Dame-Purdue game. Carolyn's oldest granddaughter is attending Notre Dame. Friday night, Carolyn visited with **Kay Casellini Wasinger**, who was staying at her older sister's home in South Bend. Kay lives in Michigan and drove down just to see Carolyn. Before the game started, Carolyn had a nice chat with **Susie Scanlan Eiben**.

Susie spends a great deal of time negotiating Chicago traffic as she travels from the South Side and Beverly to the North Shore, where all her children and grandchildren live. Following the game, I found Carolyn's family tailgate, so we had a nice talk.

**Mary Dunn Finneran, Jane McCoach McKee, Kathie Donovan Dur, Mary Beth Naes Scofield, Amy Bertorelli, Carolyn Hart Irvine, Sharon Priester Lewert, Dede Cotter Delaney,** and myself spent a few days in Boulder, CO. Mary Beth was our hostess as she lives at the Highland Ranch in Denver. With the help of some great suggestions, Mary Beth made dinner reservations for the three nights in Boulder. Amy found an awesome boutique hotel called Bradley Boulder. It was originally a church that the owners converted into an 11-room hotel.

We walked and shopped on Pearl Street, took a car trip up into the mountains, and chatted for hours on end. Sharon is back teaching art after school at St. Theresa School in Palatine, IL. She has noticed a change in the students' attention span. Jane still works a few days as a receptionist at her church in Connecticut. Mary moved to Portland, OR to be near her son EJ and his family. She helps with baby Willa on Mondays.

Kathie took cooking classes to fill in the many hours at home during COVID-19. Amy continues her day trading, specializing in medical stocks. Mary Beth is spending time on her artwork, which we found fantastic. Dede treasures her trips to Chicago to visit her two grandkids.

**Sharon Bode** sent a note saying that her partner of 40 years Linda Lopez McAlister died on November 9, 2021. We send our deepest condolences to Sharon on her loss.

**Mary Sue Watson Gillan** died on July 1, 2021. Mary Sue will be missed by many, but especially by **Anne Sheehan Garbarino** and **Mary Grieb**. Anne remembered a time when Mary Sue met a fellow at summer school. She began knitting him a sweater. By the time she finished it, Mary Sue had a new boyfriend. We will miss her dearly.



Anne Sheehan Garbarino

On a closing note, we received a letter from our scholarship student Lindsey Herdsman, a senior studying speech language and pathology. Besides her studies, Lindsey plays soccer and lacrosse. After her graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree. Early congratulations to Lindsey.

## 1967

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It is good to hear about friends and family gathering together again after the long months of semi-isolation. From Dallas, TX, **Patty Jo Haggart Turner** writes that **Patti Theisen Moye** and her husband

Craig were in town to see their grandson who attends TCU and "to watch the Frogs beat Baylor." Their visit provided a lovely excuse to gather the Dallas Belles, Patty Jo, **Patty Dalton Caolo,** and **Maureen Broderick Kuntz,** with their spouses, for a gorgeous dinner at the home of **Barbara Neuhoff Schlachter.**

**Mary Lou Bleeg** notes that pre-COVID-19 her "adventures" would have been ordinary. But being able to see her brother for the first time in two years and being hugged at the door by her three grandsons were adventures in themselves. It is also a special treat being able to see her daughter daily when she uses Mary Lou's Wi-Fi to work remotely. Besides involvement in local volunteer opportunities and four book clubs, she has been able to meet people all over the country via Zoom through a group called Braver Angels, which is "trying to teach us all how to engage in conversations without yelling and screaming at each other about our political differences."

**Barb Phelan** brings us up to date on several of our classmates and included a recent photo of several. I'll just quote her report of grands and travels. "I have been in touch with **Mary Nell Hoolihan Reif** and **Karen Haskins Brucks and Mary Euff Coyle.** Mary Nell has 10 grandchildren aged 2-24 years old. She lives in Wausau, WI and has a condo in Scottsdale, AZ and would love to learn of any SMC girls who might be camping there in the winter or all year round. **Karen Haskins Brucks** lives in Arlington Heights, IL and has two girls and three grandchildren. Mary and I see Karen at least once a month for dinner at a cute little place in Wilmette, IL. Karen's daughter lives in London and Karen goes to visit her at least once a year to enjoy the family. Karen is an avid bridge player. **Mary Euff Coyle** lives in Chicago. She has four girls and eight grandchildren. Mary travels widely around the US and heads to Naples, FL every winter, where she visits with **Pat Canary McMahon** and Tom McMahon, **Sara Flecker Nash** and Pat Nash, **Kitty Plunkett Freidheim,** and **Mary Geddes Boehler.** I have two daughters and two grandchildren. I am blessed. I am married to Carl Marinacci, who is 100 percent Italian and has a very charming place in Abruzzo province, Italy. During non-coronavirus season (when is that), we spend much of the summer in the little town of Calascio. I love seeing all the SMC chicks and look forward to our next chance to be together."



Sara Flecker Nash, Pat Canary McMahon, Mary Euff Coyle, with husbands Patrick Nash and John Coyle.

After staying secluded during COVID-19 times, **Loreli Trippel** went about finding activities for every season. Starting in April, she and Frank

returned to cycling (Borrego Springs) and hiking (Red Rocks near Las Vegas and Death Valley). Family visits to Indiana and then Columbia Gorge, WA, and touring in Oregon (Smoky Bend, Crater Lake, and Ashland) occupied the summer months. The fall found them hiking in the Wawona area of Yosemite "just before the big storm that dumped rain and snow." To round out the calendar, she notes outings to Immersive Van Gogh, to the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, and a trip to San Diego for the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion of Frank's research trip to Mt. Everest. While there, Loreli had a brief visit with **Claudia Kent Dixon** and her husband. And yes, there is still time to read. Most recently her book club read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson.

2021 was a difficult year for **Judie Gabler Tidwell** with the loss of her husband Kenny from Alzheimer's in May. She says, however, "When God closes a door, he opens a window." Only two months later, her first grandchild was born, a bit early and weighing only 4 lbs. 11 oz. Now, Finley Jude Bathgate (daughter of **Amy Gabler Bathgate '01**) is thriving, weighs almost 12 lbs., and is the light of her grandmother's eyes. God is good. Judi is looking forward to seeing everyone in June at Reunion.

**Sharon Wilchar** admits that she is not quite ready to travel yet, but in sticking close to home continues to expand her mask collection. She writes, "I was determined that, if at all possible, the annual art exhibition that I've coordinated for the past 35 years would not be a virtual event as was necessary last year. The stars aligned to bring us an enormous 14,000 sq. ft. space with acres of track lighting — plenty of room for the masked visitors to spread out and enjoy the over 200 pieces of artwork. Art sales were brisk, bringing welcome revenue to artists in times that remain challenging for many." Sharon spent time catching up with **Pat Holland** while watching the ND vs. Georgia Tech game at Pat's home in Mill Valley. Sharon is also looking forward to spending time with many friends at our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

Last news came from **Jeanette Samper**, who is hoping to make it to the Reunion "because connecting with each of you on our 50<sup>th</sup> was very significant." Life in Bogotá continues full of good things: good health, busy practice doing couples and family therapy online and recently in the office. When asked her age by a new doctor, she answered, "I think and feel like I'm 40 years old but my birth certificate says I'm 75!" She has been able to travel to the US to visit her son in Boca Raton, FL and her daughter in Weston, MA and their families. She invites anyone near either place to contact her to find a time to get together (jeannettesamper@hotmail.com). Jeanette has five grandchildren, ages 3 to 18, toddler through high school, class of '22. She sends wishes for "a 2022 New Year that will bring you all good things. I have you all in my thoughts and prayers always."

And for me, there's a new member of the family, a standard poodle named Tucker. He came home with us at 10 weeks old in August, weighing 15 lbs. Now at six months, he weighs 40+ and still growing. I've never had a dog, let alone a puppy, so it's a new world. He's a joy and a terror, a toddler entering adolescence.



## 1968

From the *Courier* Office

From **Mary Munsell Abroe**:



Front: Mary Emma Halpin and Cathie Coleman Kelly. Back: Rita Taylor Bambrick '71, Susan Gauer Wohl, and Mary Munsell Abroe.

Five "Staff Student" alumnae of Saint Mary's attended a small reunion in July 2021 in Cary, IL. The occasion was the homecoming of **Cathie Coleman Kelly**, who currently resides in California and was attending a memorial service for her brother, Brett Coleman. Brett passed away in late 2020 as a result of COVID-19. We mourned Cathie's loss and that of her family, but acknowledged that we were blessed and fortunate to be together. The group included **Mary Emma Halpin, Cathie Coleman Kelly, Rita Taylor Bambrick '71, Susan Gauer Wohl, and Mary Munsell Abroe**. I received word from **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie** that Jon Sedlacek, husband of **Ann Hollander Sedlacek**, passed away on July 10 in Blair, NE. Jon was also the brother-in-law of Ann's two sisters **Janet Hollander Ferlic '72** and **Chris Hollander Motto '74**. We send our love and prayers for peace and comfort to Ann and their family.

## 1969

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Hello dear classmates,

We all send our love, support, and prayers of comfort to **Jane Kirkhoff Maguire** and her family on the passing of her precious daughter Molly Ann Johnson. May our Blessed Mother, who herself experienced the heart-wrenching loss of a child, enfold you in her arms, Jane.

Thank you, **Katie Garrity Leatherman**, for sending news plus a photo for a group get-together in Colorado. Katie wrote, "Nine members of our class were able to meet for lunch in Golden, CO. **Ann Hollander Sedlacek** was visiting from Nebraska and **Margaret Roberts Richards** from Ohio. Lunch was filled with lots of catching up. **Mary Ann Tavery** and her husband traveled extensively in the US the last year, but they are dusting off their passports for a trip to Mexico in early '22 to

celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie** and Dick (ND '69) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> in July, and Steve and I will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> over Thanksgiving. Busy year, 1971! **Kathy Ellis Prescott** and her husband just returned from Mexico. She's very busy with family. All four of her girls live in the Denver area, and she's "Lovey" to nine grandchildren under the age of 6! **Joyce Kenny Young** has attended several out of state pandemic-postponed weddings/receptions. Margaret was in good health. She missed our 50<sup>th</sup> for health reasons, but is doing well now. So nice to see her! **Susie Martin** and her husband live in the mountains outside Denver. **Nan Raaf** has been busy with a remodeling project and family trips. Time flew by as we talked about trips, books, food, wine, projects, binge-worthy shows, and mutual classmates. So thankful to be together. Seems like only yesterday..."



Back: Ann Hollander Sedlacek, Kate Garrity Leatherman, Joyce Kenny Young, Kathy Ellis Prescott, Mary Alice Herod Lajoie, Nan Raaf. Seated: Margaret Roberts Richards, Mary Ann Tavery, Susie Martin.

I have another shout-out of gratitude for both news and another photo. **Linda Duncan Davey** sent news from Tallahassee, FL. She reported that a group of classmates met in August at **Mickie Levene Richtsmeier's** home in Cooperstown, NY. Linda, Mickie, **Holly Higgins Redell**, and **Mary Meagher Bradbury** were there. "The four of us along with **Lee Paterson Bodkin** and **Meg Bruckner O'Neil** gather together via text every Saturday during the fall to share commentary and comments during the ND games. Many other conversations and support continue through the rest of the year." Though spread out geographically, they remain close in spirit! Holly is in Tampa, FL; Mary is in Baltimore, MD; Lee is in Houston, TX; and Meg is in LA, CA.

Where would we be without Zoom? Another group of friends has been meeting via that technology since April 2020. **Susie Madden Darrow** reported that they meet at least once a month, but as **Janice Williams** says, "It's like herding cats." Susie said their group includes **Sally Gildea Smith, Barb Crowley Schenck, Kathy Carey Moore, Mary Ragen O'Rourke, Kathy Walsh, Mary Lou Broussard Bartley, Patty Reynolds Walsh**, Janice and herself. "We've shared our family news, what books we've been reading, new family additions and our losses, and the new adventures we are planning. We have been missing our occasional mini-reunions and look forward to seeing each other in person in the coming year. My husband and I have sold our motorhome (after living in it full-time for almost eight years) and are settled in a nice villa in Pinellas Park, FL. We will travel to Bocas del Toros, Panama, over Thanksgiving to visit our son and daughter-in-law, who moved there in July 2021."

**Kathleen Davidson** asked me not to edit this first part... (smiles) – Kathleen (who was not inclined to send an update but who could not

refuse dear **Joyce Bussewitz**, who has done so much to keep us all connected with such dedication and love) wrote, "The highlight of my past year was celebrating my mom's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, which fortunately occurred in the slim window of summertime before we started closing our doors again due to the pandemic. Six of her seven kids and a few others gathered here in Hillsborough, NC for a celebratory week. Mom has just completed a year of writing memories of her life in a project called StoryWorth, and the result is an illustrated book that will make wonderful Christmas gifts. I'm still walking as many miles a day as I can, reading lots of novels, doing some volunteer work, and trying my best to negotiate a workable arrangement with our young rescue dog Lucy Lou. Although I hope to be around for a while, I'm very grateful that a conservation cemetery is under way here in Hillsborough, and I'm doing what I can to support that effort since it's something for which I've long hoped. (I'm eager to be in touch with anyone who shares my interest in green burial or conservation cemeteries.) I enjoy an occasional phone conversation with my dear roomie **Jo Ann Grima MacKenzie** and love seeing what's new in the lives of those of you who post on Facebook. Hoping to cross paths with several of you again."

On a somewhat humorous note, I'll end by saying I practically bumped into Michael Farnum on December 1 as I was leaving a hair appointment here in Wilmington, NC. I had just told my hairdresser I was on my way home to write my class column when I walked Michael, and we both laughed, commenting that we'd last seen one another at Reunion in South Bend!

Please send me your news ANY time, friends!  
God bless!

## 1970

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Sadly, I am starting this column with news of the passing of four of the people near and dear to many of us. Our classmate **Kate Pastore Miller** lost her three-month battle with cancer on August 31. At her husband Hub's (ND '69) suggestion, many of us were able to send texts to share on her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday on August 13 to let her know how much we loved her and have appreciated calling her friend! Kate and Hub had celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in June.

**Shelley Miller Minch's, Pat O'Hara Gable's,** and **Jean Radovich Murphy's** husbands have all passed away unexpectedly in the past several months. **Shelley Miller Minch's** husband Ed passed on July 27. Ed was a fierce advocate of housing for all and was on a job site when he had a heart attack. He was in the process of doing a kidney donation as part of a circular donation program. Shelley has now received her much-needed second kidney transplant — her first lasted 20 years! **Pat O'Hara Gable's** husband Steve (ND '70) passed away on September 25. They had just returned from watching Notre Dame's victory over

Wisconsin at Soldier's Field in Chicago and were visiting with friends when it happened. Pat and Steve had celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June in Chicago and had been able to resume their annual family trips to Gloucester, MA in July. **Jean Radovich Murphy's** husband James passed away on November 1. Jean and Jim had been married for 51 years and they had retired to a farm near Kingston, TN.

**Lucy Salas Riebling** writes, "There is not much to add this year. We have been staying here in PA and watching the COVID-19 news, which has stopped all our travels. Last year, Bill and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it was a very quiet celebration with Danny, our son, and his fiancé and kids. **Dee Martin Huie** and Nick also celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. We expect to have **Sheila Slattery Leete** visit us at the end of this month; it will be so much fun."

**Sandy Merritt Lyons** added to her last update: "My 96-year-old mother, who drove me down the SMC Avenue in 1965, is still with us, but in a nursing home. She was in the US Navy WAVES during WWII. When she enlisted in 1943, she was underage (18), but her mother vouched for her (20). She was stationed in Virginia and Washington, DC and was a chief petty officer when she left the service. That was the highest ranking for an enlisted. She actually took flying lessons while she was in, but bowed out when it came to solo flying. My mother was always the "Chief" of her 10 younger siblings and her only child...me. I took her on an Honor Flight. If you have a relative who is a veteran, I highly recommend it!" Sandy's mom raised her as a single parent from the age of 8 when Sandy's parents divorced, and as an only parent after Sandy's dad passed when she was 16. She received her degree at Avila University in Kansas City, MO after Sandy graduated from SMC. What I love about this story is that we all know the key roles our fathers played in WWII but don't often think about the important roles that our mothers played, be it in active service, working in factories, or supporting the war effort in so many other ways.

The latest update from **Gwen Gill Caranchini** is: "I'm going to northern Illinois for turkey day. My 42-year-old daughter Kelly and her husband Steve bought a lake house, and their two daughters and I are celebrating turkey day on the lake. Nola just entered junior high and Maggie entered high school and is taking junior year classes! Very bright! Haven't seen them for a year or more. Great turkey day!" Gwen also lost her kitty fur child Callie on October 11. Callie had been her constant companion for 15 years.

**Lynne Hauck McKay** shared: "My husband of 43 years and I live in St. Augustine, FL and have been here for over 30 years! I still can't believe it. We moved here from St. Thomas by way of Seattle and Oregon, by way of backpacking through the South Pacific. (We're both from Minnesota.) I still stay in close touch with my big sister and some roommates. We've been retired for several years, enjoying this quasi-tropical life and are looking forward to the next adventure, whatever that may be!"

**Edi Hill Gibney** reports that after retiring and moving to the Denver, CO area where two of their four children and their families live, her husband Richard (ND '68) was offered and accepted a professorship at the University of Texas Health

Science Center at San Antonio. Edi has had a full-time job with all the renovation work on their new home and Richard has been commuting between Denver and San Antonio. This summer, they hosted all of their children and families including their 12 grandchildren at their Crest Butte, CO home for an extended family reunion.

**Becky O'Connor Chandler** and her husband Jim (ND '70) are enjoying a year in Pasadena, CA while Jim is on a fellowship at the Huntington Library. Hopefully, they will have an opportunity to enjoy the best of what California has to offer.

In October, **Judith De Vliegher Weaver** shared: "This past week, I was at Saint Mary's and donated my class ring. I'm sharing this to let you know that these rings are given to students who could not otherwise afford to purchase a class ring. As it turns out, there was a recent request for a ring by a senior and now she will have my ring. They asked if they could match us up, so I'll also get to 'know' the young woman who will be the next to wear the ring. If any of you are interested in donating your class rings, please contact **Christin Kloski '15**, associate director, Office for Student Equity. She can be reached at (574) 284-4723, or by email at ckloski@saintmarys.edu."

**Rosemarie Rinella Stocky** and her husband and Tom (ND '70) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August. Because of the uptick in COVID-19, their son Tom reached out to many of their friends and family to put together a video celebrating this special occasion. Their daughter Melinda and one of her twin daughters were able to come out to California from Massachusetts shortly thereafter to spend time with Rosemarie and Tom. Like it has been for many of us, a way too long time between being able to get together!

**Sue Bracco Gleason** provided this update on the Alisal fire that closed down Highway 101 in the Santa Barbara area for several days: "The fire is just north of us and hopefully will be contained soon. Right now we are fine but the air quality leaves something to be desired. **Mary Beth Tetlow DeNiro** and I get together on a regular basis. Our husbands are from the same class at ND (Gary Gleason and Mike DeNiro – '70) and our daughters both graduated in '98. And we both landed in Santa Barbara years ago. Small world... My husband and I were just back at ND for the Purdue game and a rugby reunion (his), and stayed at The Inn at Saint Mary's. The campus is even more beautiful. It's hard to believe it's been more than 50 years."

**Molly Morell** reports from Maine: "Michael and I are healthy and vaccinated. We moved to a retirement community just before the pandemic hit, so it put a crimp in activities and meeting people, but it's all worked out well. We have a nice 'cottage' here in Falmouth, and in the summer we have our Cliff Island cottage. I've been painting for a number of years and have a little studio in Portland. Lately, I've had a solo show here at OV, have a piece in the local library show, and had a piece auctioned off in a charity auction... all fun. We take yoga together and there's a really nice fitness center when I can maintain my discipline and get there!"

Nine of our classmates were able to attend one or more of the inauguration events for President Katie Conboy the weekend of October 10. Those

who were able to reconnect over this weekend included **Sara Bateman Koehler, Mary Berndt Lovett, Mary Dunleavy Smith, Margie Goodwin Harrison, Kerry Long, Kay Morrin Cochrane, Kathy Ryan Hughes, Addie Stefanac Cashore,** and **Susan Vanek**.



Attending President Conboy's inauguration. Top: Sara Bateman Koehler, Margie Goodwin Harrison, Kay Morrin Cochrane, and Kathy Ryan Hughes. Bottom: Mary Dunleavy Smith, Mary Berndt Lovett, Susan Vanek and Addie Stefanac Cashore.

**Kathy Yuhas Kwinn** and team (**Cathy Collet, Ronnie Henry Kessenich, and Sara Bateman Kohler**) continue to host our monthly class Zoom calls, which are so much fun. If you haven't had a chance to try one out, please do so. It is such a wonderful way to keep us connected. In our November call, we shared favorite recipes, old and new. They are posted on our class web page at [www.smc1970.org](http://www.smc1970.org).

Just a reminder, currently the College has scheduled our 50<sup>th</sup> (+) Reunion for the weekend of June 10, 2022. Hopefully, the third time around will be the charm and many of us will be able to come back to campus to reconnect in person!

My big news is that Megan and I continue on our home food adventures since we have not been doing any travel during the pandemic. To mark the end of Yom Kippur, we ordered bagels and lox from H&H Deli in NYC through GoldBelly. Trust me when I say they do not come any better! In October, we hosted a Feast of Saint Petronius (a little-known Italian saint) dinner as an excuse to share the homemade stuffed zucchini and tomato sauce provided by one of Megan's friends. In November, we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our neighbors and close friends. Since I have never had Russian caviar or Dom Perignon, we decided to add them to the birthday menu so we can cross them off our bucket list! Most likely, these will be our first and only samplings of those delicacies given I am now on a retirement budget! We hosted three good friends for Thanksgiving, making our traditional cranberry nut and pumpkin bread mini-loaves as well as all of the sides, and of course a pumpkin pie. The good news is one of our friends took the responsibility for preparing the "queen of the meal" – the turkey!

As most of you know, this will be my last column as your class reporter. I want to thank you for all of the kind words that I have received from so many. It is hard to believe that I have been writing this column for 15 years. It really has been a gift. I have had the opportunity to get to know so many of you so much better. We have laughed, we have cried, we have shared stories that I could include

in my class columns and stories that we kept just between ourselves. At the end of the day, I always find it amazing how much the bonds that we formed during our years at Saint Mary's continue to prevail and how we are always there to support one another! I now turn the reins over to **Diane Daly McGarry**, dmcgarr1@aol.com, 646.932.0909. I know Diane will do a fantastic job keeping us all connected.

1972

Missy Underman Noyes  
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Greetings, dear classmates!

By the time you read this, Christmas will have passed and Thanksgiving will be a lovely memory. I heard from several classmates about Thanksgiving plans and some wonderful updates from others.

Our big upcoming event is, of course, our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 2-5. Please plan to attend this very special weekend. And if you can, please give a gift to our Class of '72 scholarship fund. **Anne Pryser Leary** says it best: "Give a gift that makes you proud." (Sorry Anne, I think I paraphrased that!)

I had several calls with **Chris Newland Ketterhagen** about Reunion. And then a wonderful email about her family's Thanksgiving plans. Chris and husband Mike (ND '72) live in

beautiful Colorado Springs. Chris shares photos of snow-capped mountains and some of the critters — like bears that show up in her backyard! They entertained a part of their family — 10 people and three dogs for Thanksgiving. Older daughter Jessica came with three children and a significant other. Also attending was daughter Liz, who went to Notre Dame, met a hockey goalie from Canada, and married him. They tried the pro hockey circuit for a while and currently live with appropriately named dog Rudy in Fort Collins. Rounding out the Ketterhagen family are two sons. One lives on Long Island and the other manages a ranch raising cattle and sheep. Talk about different lifestyles! Chris and Mike travel a lot and had a fabulous cruise around Portugal. This was just as the COVID-19 restrictions were being lifted. They boarded in Lisbon and were on a small ship that was only partially full. The larger cruise ships had not arrived yet, so they were very popular among the local residents and businesses. A highlight was cruising on the Douro River while enjoying lots of wine!

Chris has been most diligent in making calls and sending emails about Reunion. She may end up being co-editor of this class news column. Chris provided news on several classmates including **Debbie Chicos Kotas**, who has lived outside of Denver in Evergreen, CO for 30 years. Her three children all live in the Denver area. Debbie retired as a special education teacher. Sadly, Debbie's husband Jerry Kotas passed away in 2017. Jerry had been a member of the Irish Guard and an ordained Catholic deacon.

**Linda Buergler Bodnar** had the same reaction as many of us: "I can't believe it has been almost 50 years since our SMC graduation!" She added that "Life is good." Linda and husband John live outside of Detroit. They have four daughters, who also live in Michigan, and seven grandchildren. Linda said that watching the grandchildren grow up is amazing and added, "Up is the operative word. I feel shorter every time I see them!" They are busy in their retirement. John is a member of the parish pastoral council. Linda serves on the bereavement ministry and heads up the lectors. She helps with arts and entertainment as a worker bee, leaving designing to more creative volunteers. However, she has resumed knitting, something she had not done in a while, as a creative outlet. She has Reunion on her calendar and hopes to attend.

**Kathleen Barlow Soldati** was another classmate Chris contacted. Kathleen and husband Lincoln (ND '74) live in Linc's hometown of Portsmouth, NH. They are caretakers at a historic site — the 1784 Governor John Langdon House — and live on site. Kathleen says they are the "eyes and ears" for the nonprofit owner, Historic New England. Linc is recovering from stage four prostate cancer diagnosed in 2019 and is doing well. They work part time, he for the US census and Kathleen for a communications firm. Linc also produces delicious honey! They have four children. Pacifico, an ND grad, lives in Phoenix and works for a nonprofit as well as co-parenting two sons. Second son Michael just moved to Portland, OR after years in LA of being a rigger on productions

like the Oscars and Grammys. Emmett, their third son, lives north of them in Concord. He is getting ready to open his second restaurant. Rounding out the family is daughter Gemma, who is a comic. She was flying home in November from a three-month artist-in-residence program in Amsterdam. Kathy ended her email with Linda's thoughts: "Life is good!"

Sending hugs to all and prayers to those in need. And a very hopeful "See you in June."

1973

Peg FitzGibbons Higgins  
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I have often noted that one of the greatest treasures of a Saint Mary's education are the lifelong friendships developed and maintained over the years. These columns are proof that so many of us are keeping in touch with one another.

My sister **Ann FitzGibbons '75** and I were fortunate to have our entire family together for Thanksgiving. We rented a couple of houses on the Isle of Palms, SC and 30 of us, from three generations of FitzGibbons, gathered to celebrate a family reunion. We know we are very lucky indeed.

I was pleased to hear from **Mary Anne Madden Hoffman**. "In the space of 10 weeks this past fall, my husband Howard (ND '72) and I welcomed three grandchildren and celebrated our younger daughter's wedding (**Jenny Elise Hoffman '10**). We now have eight grandchildren ages 5 and under so it is great fun. Five of them are in Indianapolis, as are we. The other three live in Switzerland, where our son is doing an expatriate assignment. We were able to be with them in November for a few weeks and then went on to Rome. The city is very special to us as we met as students on the SMC Rome Program and we enjoy going there as often as possible. We are both recently retired; I was vice president, human resources, for Allison Transmission in Indianapolis. I'll stay busy having joined the boards of two companies, one in London and one in the US."

**Jane McCormick Carney** (Chicago, IL) visited **Mary Brelowski Zicafoose** (Cedar Bluffs, IA) this past August in rural Nebraska. Jane helped christen the beautiful new Pahuk Studio, where Mary creates her internationally acclaimed tapestries. The just-completed space has magnificent views



Mary Brelowski Zicafoose (left) and Jane McCormick Carney.

overlooking the tall grass prairie of the Great Plains. It was a fun visit and planning session for their upcoming exhibition at Moreau Galleries. Mary and

Jane were roommates and fellow art majors at SMC and will be presenting a two-person show, "Double Vision," opening April 21 and running through alumni weekend, June 4. Mary, a textile artist, and Jane, a painter, are very excited to show their work together for the first time since their senior year thesis exhibit.

**Mary Ann Hornback Egan** dashed off a quick note to me: "I've been busy in Evanston, IL with five grandchildren. All of my kids live in the area so I'm very lucky to see them often. Jamie (ND '73) and I help out with watching the grandkids quite often. The oldest two are in second grade and the youngest is 2. As you might imagine, family gatherings are pretty chaotic but lots of fun! Since the start of COVID-19, I have been Zooming once a week with roommates **Mary Ann Chory, Kathy Gibboney, Vicki Fornicola-Jones, and Maureen Selzer Tenkman**. **Mary Ann Chory** has one grandchild and she lives in Manhattan Beach, CA. **Vicki Fornicola-Jones** has two grandchildren and lives in New Hampshire. **Maureen Selzer Tenkman** and **Kathy Gibboney** both live in Cincinnati and get together often for Xavier University basketball games. We had planned a get-together around Labor Day in New Buffalo, MI but we were sabotaged by COVID-19 and Vicki's knee surgery. We hope to reschedule our reunion in the spring. It's been great 'seeing' them every week and catching up on life."

**Betsy Mohan Kain** has plenty of interesting news to share. "How can we possibly be so old and wise?!? Dear LORD! Especially at this time of year, we count our blessings! I have been meaning to write you a note. In October, seven IRISH BELLES (our tag) gathered at **Debbie Schaul's** Door County, WI wonderful Pine Lodge for a few days of laughter and reminiscing. **Catherine Moran** visited with us briefly in Chicago before we departed. At the same time we were gathered, we received an email from our former ND class president and friend Jim Hunt (ND '73), sending us a copy of the September ND *Scholastic Magazine*, featuring 50 Years of Women at ND. Such fun to flash back to our time under the DOME when we were together. "Tender, Strong and True"... yes, our Go Irish charge forever warms our hearts and lights our paths."

"Those gathering in Door County included **Becky Bartzten Leader** (Norfolk, VA), **Pat McCracken** (Franklin, TN), **Betsy Mohan Kain** (Redondo Beach, CA), **Mary Beth Mulcahy Greiwe McNeil** (Tampa, FL), **Debbie Schaul** (Northbrook, IL), **Beth Lombardi Oliva** (Wheaton, IL), and **Connie Smith Barker** (Middleburg, VA).



Becky Bartzten Leader, Pat McCracken, Betsy Mohan Kain, Mary Beth Mulcahy Greiwe, Debbie Schaul, Beth Lombardi Oliva, and Connie Smith Barker.

"I was fortunate to visit with **Phyllis Collelo Whiting** (and Ken) earlier this summer when their darling daughter Tracy enlisted their help with granddaughter Francis (Frankie) while she was directing a photo shoot in LA. **Beth Lombardi Oliva** also traveled to California earlier in the summer with her family for invincible grandson Luke Oliva's successful ear surgery. We celebrated our big birthdays together. I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. God bless and keep us all the days of life."



Betsy Mohan Kain (sixth from left) and Phyllis Collelo Whiting (eighth from left).

Mark Anderson, the husband of **Mary Beth Deneffe Anderson**, passed away on October 23 after a brief battle with ALS. Mark graduated from Duke University and met Mary Beth at DePaul University College of Law, where they graduated in 1976. They raised their family in Glenview, IL. Mark is survived by his children Emily (ND '05), Michael, and Christopher (ND '12), his daughter-in-law **Stefanni Joyce Cerven '12**, and his precious grandson Theo, who just turned 1. Known for his kindness and generosity, Mark will be missed by so many of us, including his sister Therese Anderson (ND '74) and his large extended family.

1974

Jill Fahey Birkett  
jbirkettct@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays to all my 1974 classmates and all the alumnae! Just a few updates. **Julie Griffin Murphy** enjoyed a visit with **Natalie Dwyer-Haller** this October while on her way to a wedding in Martha's Vineyard, a stop in Erie, PA. Julie also enjoyed some holiday festivities at **Peggy Scanlan Brown's** lovely Chicago home.



Julie Griffin Murphy (left) and Peggy Scanlan Brown.

**Jacqueline Leskovec** participated in a wonderful program at Saint Mary's to honor and welcome our diverse community of LGBTQ+ students in the October launch of the Office of Student Equity.

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She sent me a lovely note; JL, please forgive me, I cannot find it and I'm on deadline! New College President Conboy participated in the launch of the program, which included a new center, which was created as a space for LGBTQ+ students and allies to gather safely and create community.

Many of us have been busy attending weddings of nieces, nephews, and even grandchildren. Send photos to share with your old friends.

Here's to 2022!

## 1978

Susan Margiotta Salem  
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Dear friends, nearly two years amid the COVID-19 struggle has been taxing on everyone, young and old.

Worried about our parents' and families' health as well as our own. A good time for reflection, inspiration, and prayer. I have turned to prayer much more than in the past and I feel closer to God than ever before. As we age, we must accept our mortality, plan for our future, and pray that we will see our children's children and loved ones grow up. I am now a grandmother, and George and I are over the moon in love with our little 15-month-old granddaughter Francesca. Frankie is the light of our lives and I cannot get enough of her. I know that many of you can relate. This age is just priceless. She is talking, walking, and everything is brand new. From the falling leaves and now the snow... incredible reactions to it all. Priceless. I love sharing photos of her with my best friends from SMC. I speak with **Suzy Plavac Heidkamp** and **Lisa Maglio Brown** weekly. I hear from several other friends monthly, all my sisters from SMC. Facebook and Instagram surely help. We are very fortunate to remain so close. Our 65<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations vanished but there are more opportunities ahead to celebrate.

Career-wise, I have been very happy working for Progressive Insurance in Mayfield Village, OH for the past two years. My job is a culmination of all my experiences in the printing, paper, and packaging industries. I work with a great team that is young and keeps me young, too. We have a substantial digital printshop that produces nearly all of Progressive's marketing material. I do the purchasing, quoting, job preparation, and invoicing for the operation. I am busy and I love every minute of it. Thankfully, it has been stress-free except for the supply chain issues this year...so that is a blessing. Speaking of supply chain, **Elizabeth Hassert** has spent her career working in the shipping business. She is with Maersk Shipping Solutions, a Danish shipping company active in ocean and inland freight transportation and supply chain management and port operations. One can only imagine how tough her job is now. She is incredible at remembering every holiday with a minimum of a text and a card. She is amazing at staying in touch. I am very blessed to stay so close to her.

Please, as always, I request that you send me career or family updates. Photos are appreciated as well. I write the article two to three months in advance of

publication. It is never too soon to send me an article.

**Maureen Sajbel Wallenfang** wrote: "I was inspired by **Barb Abell Epps'** update in the most recent *Courier*. Remember graduation day in 1978 when we were doused by a passing rainstorm? We scattered to all parts of campus in our wet caps and gowns. Fate, families, and careers then scattered us all over the country as we commenced our lives after Saint Mary's. Now, more than four decades later, many of us are going through a different kind of commencement. This time we're figuring out what to do with the rest of our lives as we wrap up full-time careers. After 42 years in journalism, I took a buyout from my employer, USA Today/Gannett. I went out with a bang, being named best business reporter in Wisconsin in 2020 by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. It's hard to quit the working world cold turkey, however, especially when you have a husband who continues to work. Joint retirement plans are on hold. I have to admit I missed the working world. It's tough to match the social and intellectual stimulation, the routines and satisfaction of a job well done. And newspaper reporters are adrenaline junkies. You can't just skid to a stop. Volunteering filled the gap to some extent. I pitched in at a food bank while pandemic needs soared. I mentored a young Hmong woman who wanted to start her own business. I volunteered to write newsletter stories for a nonprofit that helps women and girls. Ultimately, I chose to go back to work and decided on education as my late-in-life second career. I took a summer job tutoring underprivileged children in reading, and have now trained to be a substitute teacher in a low-income elementary school. Kudos to all of you who've spent your careers in education. Even from my limited perspective, I see the both the challenges of the profession and the positive impact on young lives. It's exhilarating and a little scary at the same time. I'm interested in what others did to make a transition at this pivotal time of our lives, from staying in the workplace to second careers to volunteering in retirement. Send Susan an update so we can all hear your story. I enjoyed reading **Barbara Abell Epps'** update in the last *Courier*. She and husband Ron were not able to sit still in retirement, and boy could I relate to that! She went back into marketing and started a therapeutic riding program for veterans. It would be inspiring to hear how more classmates found ways to approach this phase of our lives."

**Ophelia Flegle Camina** wrote: "I just saw the SMC *Courier* summer 2021 issue and I thought I would dash off an update. I have been living and practicing law in Dallas, TX since 1982, after I graduated from Notre Dame Law School. I am a senior partner in the law firm of Susman Godfrey, LLP and my practice focuses exclusively on complex commercial litigation. My husband (Jim Flegle) and I have twins who just graduated from college: daughter Alexandra from Smith College and son James from the University of Chicago. I know, I know, I failed at convincing my kids to attend SMC or UND but at least I got close :) Watching their commencements this spring filled me with so many emotions, but it also allowed me to reminisce about my own college days and our own commencement. I have learned a very important lesson in life: Don't put off sharing your thoughts and feelings. So, to SMC, I just want to say how grateful I am that you took a chance on this first-gen applicant. To my

professors, please know how much I value the investment you made in me. And to the Class of '78, thank you for being there to support, advise, and guide. I send my best wishes to all of you; stay safe, sane, and I look forward to seeing you at our next Reunion."

## 1979

Cheri Petride Miller  
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It is a couple of days before Thanksgiving 2021 as I am writing this column. I hope everyone is healthy and praying that the pandemic comes to an end. My husband Mark and I, along with my cousin **Jeannine Senft Julian '80** and her husband Mark, attended the ND game against Navy on November 6. It was so good to be back on both campuses.

Still living in Houston, TX is **Julie Reifenrath**. She relocated there after graduation along with classmates **Melissa Mehall** and **Ellen Spollen Kacic**. Julie retired from a 30-year elementary teaching career in 2009, followed by working for an oil and gas company for eight years, and then returned to her career roots. She is currently working half time in the CyFair Independent School District as an elementary science tutor, as well as assisting the technology department with their LTE 1:1 Learning Together Everywhere program. This program provides every student in the massively large school district with a Chromebook device to support learning, both online and face to face. Julie also travels to visit her family in Wisconsin several times a year and says she loves cruising!

**Barbara Klein O'Connell** and her husband Jim live in Potomac, MD. Last June they celebrated their 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary. They have five children, three of whom are married. Jimmy has two boys, ages 9 and 7; Kelly has two boys, ages 7 and 5. Maureen is engaged but there are no solid plans yet as her fiancé was diagnosed with a brain tumor and they are busy with treatments. Patrick has two girls, ages 9 and 7, one son, age 8, who was adopted at birth and is a real blessing for the family. They lost a twin son with their oldest daughter after just six weeks. Quinn is engaged to be married in April 2022. Barbara says her husband celebrated 34 years with Koons Automotive and is still looking forward to several more years with the company. As for Barbara, she is enjoying all the activity that her life brings with this crazy crew. She sends her best to all our classmates and looks forward to reading all the news about our classmates in *Courier*. She further asks for prayers for her daughter Maureen's fiancé.

Her BFA degree from Saint Mary's College has launched **Nancy Murphy Spicer** on a long and exciting trajectory as an artist. Nancy has been making and exhibiting her work for the past 23 years in the United States and in Europe. The work has taken the form of drawing, installation, performance, and most recently, painting. While Nancy and her family were living in England, she became a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach (CPCC) and created a business coaching women artists and entrepreneurs. Nancy says it is heaven to work with all these creative, powerful women and supports them in taking big leaps to fulfill their dreams.

In 2018, she earned a mid-career MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and began teaching art there and at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The pandemic shifted everything online and once VCU returned to classes, Nancy decided to pause on the commute and create her own online education platform. The inaugural course, BUILD Your Studio Practice, has been very well received. She says it is so rewarding to see the community that is created in the course and the inspiring growth each artist experiences over the 10-week course. Since returning from England seven years ago, Nancy has been living in Charlottesville, VA, where her husband David is a professor of education. They will be married 35 years in 2022 and have two adult daughters who live in Vermont. Nora is an educator, writer/poet, and translator. Anastasia is an artist/weaver, writer, and translator. Nancy would love to hear from any Saint Mary's College artists and share art stories and Instagram links. Nancy has her own website where she can be contacted: [www.murphyspicer.com](http://www.murphyspicer.com).

From **Barbara "Bunny" Blankenburg Kiep**: "So many years have gone by since I attended Saint Mary's College, and yet, to this day, I feel I am still reaping the rewards of having chosen it as my home away from home for four life-changing years. The rewards have far exceeded the excellent education received there, however, as I have gained tremendous blessings in having met a wonderful group of women while there (**Maria Tan Mitchell**, **Mary Anne Dempsey Poinsette**, **Mary Beth Higgins Williams**, **Pam Eisenlohr Moul**, and **Susan McKinney**) who are now lifelong friends I hold dear to my heart. These special and close-knit friendships started 46 years ago while we were all freshmen in Holy Cross Hall. As we would learn and grow as individuals with each passing year, so, too, would our friendships blossom. Sadly, another of these endearing friends, **Jean Kyle Fulcher**, has passed away now, yet she is always close at heart and in spirit as our memories of her are most special and loving.



Front: **Maria Tan Mitchell** and **Bunny Blankenburg Kiep**. Back: **Mary Beth Higgins Williams**, **Mary Anne Dempsey Poinsette**, and **Pam Eisenlohr Moul**.

"As of around 2010, we have been holding annual get-togethers each year at different locations throughout the country. We have held them in Cincinnati, OH, Louisville, KY, Nashville, TN, Nashville, IN, Michigan City, IN, Savannah, GA, as well as Traverse City, MI, and, of course, Saint Mary's College! It is always so fun to reconnect and reminisce wherever we are, and for this most recent gathering

(September 2021) we had the pleasure of having it here in our new 'home sweet home' of Colorado Springs! The laughter, sharing of memories, cool adventures, delicious food and drink were wonderful and were surpassed in pleasure only in the company sharing them. We greatly missed having Sue with us this year, but are already busy planning our next year's get-together where hopefully everyone can be there to share in the fun, storytelling, and laughter! Our most recent gathering was in Colorado Springs. The other one was the mini-reunion we had in Mt. Adams, OH in 2016, whereby we last saw Jean before she passed away later that year. We all treasure the time we had with her, and are so very grateful God gave us that opportunity to do so that year we were last all together.

"As I reflect on the beauty of these very special friendships, these words by Anna Taylor come to life and echo in my heart: 'Some people arrive and make such a beautiful impact on your life, you can barely remember what life was like without them.'

"All I know is that my life is so much better and happier with these special friends in it, and I thank God and SMC for the blessing of them in my life."

Thank you for sending in your news and please continue to do so. Stay healthy, happy, and hopeful for an end to the pandemic.

## 1980



### EXCELSIOR

#### Lucia Anna Trigiani '80

was named to the *Virginia Business Magazine* Power 500 List as a living legend.

## 1983

Sue Poss Harrison  
susanpharrison@gmail.com

Hi, classmates! I send out an email three times a year requesting submissions for this column, and some of the emails get kicked back as undeliverable. So, if you're not getting my emails but want to get on my mailing list, or if your email ever changes, just send me a note at [susanpharrison@gmail.com](mailto:susanpharrison@gmail.com) and I'll update my list. As always, thanks to everyone who sends in submissions! And here's the latest from our classmates:

**Grace Romzick Benedict** retired at the end of last year from her work as an insurance field representative for MESSA Insurance in Michigan. Before working in insurance, Grace was an elementary teacher for 13 years. Grace writes: "I'm not sure what is next. I'm just happy to have my health so I can spend lots of time with my grandchildren and my family."

**Lucy Hanahan DaGiau** reports that last fall, after a long pandemic quarantine, she reunited with her lifetime Saint Mary's roommates. Lucy writes: "The occasion was an Indian wedding: blending tradition with modern design. The mehndi ceremony (henna party), splendid saris, and lots of the color red were just some of the highlights of the weekend. As the weekend closed, I reflected on all the changes the pandemic has brought to each and everyone's life."



**Lucy Hanahan DaGiau**, **Melissa Weis Riegel**, **Kathleen M. Byrne**, and **Nancy Lorenzini Kopec**.

**Sarah Clarke Madigan** writes: "My husband David (ND '83) and I hosted eight Saint Mary's friends this September at our home in Duxbury, MA. We visited Plymouth for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower, which was delayed a year due to COVID-19. We were all vaccinated and got tested pre- and post-visit. This is our second gathering since 2019 and we hope to make it an annual event. Our Saint Mary's ties are strong and the love and support we share with each other is like none other."

**Mary Jo Gill Lynch** recently met up with a few classmates and she has this update: "**Karla Keim Kimler** has four grown children and lives between Florida and Texas. **Livie Marie Carducci** also has four grown children and lives and teaches in Pennsylvania. **Mary Catherine Siems** lives and teaches in Colorado. **Susan Spear Rajkovich** has two children and lives in Illinois, and **Marcia Schian Woodbridge** has three grown children and lives in Michigan. Kellen and I have four children, the youngest of whom **Colleen Mary Lynch '21** just graduated from Saint Mary's with a degree in nursing. In my family we've had five straight generations at Saint Mary's, spanning three centuries. When I am on campus, these are the strong connections I feel with my Saint Mary's mother **Josephine Sullivan Gill '46**, grandmother **Rose McCullough Sullivan 1911**, great-grandmother **Josephine Mitchell McCullough 1882**, and now daughter."



**Peggy Pieschel Van Hoomissen**, **Sarah Clarke Madigan**, **Jeanann Georgas Freier**, **Monique Fedor Bongartz**, **Mary Beth O'Brien**, **Maribeth Blackburn Canent**, **Pat Zanolli Tulauskus**, **Chris Lenyo '84**, and **Beth Johnson Holod**.

1985

Elaine Suess  
laineysisnow@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates! I hope you are all healthy and well, and hope to see you at our upcoming Reunion!

**Celeste Alleva Milne** wrote in to give us an update on a very special reunion with SMC friends in early August in Cheboygan, MI: "**Ellen Schleicher Campbell, MaryAnn Whalen Petrosky, Nancy Sibbing Shreve, and Lori Wills Walker** made the long trip to the top of Michigan. We spent four days together talking and laughing and sightseeing. What surprised me most was we only spent a very short time reminiscing. The vast majority of the time we talked about our current lives. We renewed our friendships and were very blessed by the time we spent together. I'm really grateful to them for coming. Celeste shared more about the traveling Belles.



In Cheboygan, Michigan: Celeste Alleva Milne, Ellen Schleicher Campbell, Nancy Sibbing Shreve, MaryAnn Whalen Petrosky, and Lori Wills Walker.

"Ellen is happy and enjoying her family in the Kansas City area. Nancy is keeping busy with her nurse practitioner position in Kansas City, and she recently added a daughter-in-law to her family of boys — four sons and her husband John (ND '87). MaryAnn is a retired health care executive living in the Durham area and downsized to a newly renovated home, enjoying spending time with her husband before grandchildren come along. Lori is currently the full-time babysitter for her oldest daughter Caroline's children, Cecilia and John Paul. Her second daughter Allison (ND '17) will be getting married at Notre Dame in July 2022. When they have free time, she and Greg (ND '85) travel, visiting their third daughter Meredith in North Carolina, watching their son Andrew play baseball for Xavier University, and going to golf tournaments with their high school junior Connor. They live in Pittsburgh. Celeste and husband Bob split their time between Flint, MI (very near Elaine's childhood home) and Cheboygan, MI up by the Mackinac Bridge. Celeste stays busy taking care of her 92-year-old dad, playing with her two grandchildren, and enjoying her sons and daughters-in-law. She also helps with husband Bob's driving school. She loves to play flute in the community band and volunteers at Flint's Eastside mission."

**Trisha Glomb Ladner** shared that she and her husband and children celebrated the wedding of her daughter Jenna and husband JD on November 27.

**Patti Buchanan Barniskis** shared that for over 15 years, "A group of us '85 grads have gathered at Debbie Hickey's beautiful Outer Banks, NC home for

2021



2005



2021: Darlene Wojda Evans, Maryellen May-Darnall, Patti Buchanan Barniskis, Debbie Hickey Leavitt; 2005: Maryellen May-Darnall, Darlene Wojda Evans, Patti Buchanan Barniskis, the late Theresa Biondo Flick, Debbie Hickey Leavitt, and Anne Gilmore Feith.

quality SMC time! It's a long weekend of laughter, sometimes tears, a time to connect, unwind, reminisce, and share the sisterhood, support, and love we discovered all those years ago. 2021's group of Belles included **Darlene Wojda Evans**, me, and of course **Debbie Hickey Leavitt** and **Maryellen May-Darnall**. Debbie and her husband Bob served as our official grill master and bartender. **Anne Gilmore Feith** was unable to join us. In the past, our group has also included **Trisha Glomb Ladner, Mary Ann Potter Ruthmeyer, Meg Rowley, and Theresa Biondo Flick**, who passed away in 2008 and is deeply missed. May she rest in peace."

Please reach out soon to share your news with us, too! As poet Mary Oliver says: "Pay attention. Be astounded. Tell about it." Laineysisnow@gmail.com

1986

Kathi Hartweg Mimitz  
kathi@mimitz.com

Although we did not gather at Saint Mary's June 2021, I am looking forward to June 2022! Hope to see many of you on The Avenue to celebrate our Reunion!

**Elizabeth Spraul Rogers** hosted a crew at her Harbor Springs home as a mini-reunion. We laughed, danced, reminisced, partied, treaded in the cold lake, and are very thankful social media was NOT around in the 1980s!

**Elizabeth Spraul Rogers** and Patrick will be first-time grandparents by the time this goes to print. They are based in Cincinnati but spend their summers in beautiful Harbor Springs.

**Sheila Burke Menn** is always on the move from her residence in the Ocean Reef Club on Key Largo to summers in Michigan, enjoying the view from her condo in Georgetown, skiing in Park City with her old roomies, and Chicago, where her daughter is working.

**Mary Frances Wilkin Grote** made me laugh the entire time we were together. She and Tim are also in Cincinnati with summers spent in beautiful Michigan.

**Joanie McKenna Dowdle** and Jim are first-time grandparents in Chicago. McKenna Kelly arrived in November.

**Mary Beth Proost** is officially an empty-nester as Vincent went off to college in the fall. She is working in St. Louis.

**Sheila Smiggen** lives and works in South Carolina near her sister and nieces. True to her Michigan roots, she jumped in the cold lake every night of our reunion weekend!

**Beth Kallmyer** continues to do great work with the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago. Her bloody Mary's every morning were awesome!

**Therese Ryan Rooney** and Michael are enjoying the empty nest with golf and traveling. Their youngest is a junior at West Point and their oldest Meg is pursuing her acting passion in NYC. Nora will graduate from TCU in May.

**Anne Marie Kollman Kaes** and Ron welcomed their second granddaughter this fall. Anne Marie lives and work in Cincinnati.



In Harbor Springs, MI: Elizabeth Spraul Rogers, Sheila Burke Menn, Mary Frances Wilkin Grote, Joanie McKenna Dowdle, Mary Beth Proost, Sheila Smiggen, Beth Kallmyer, Therese Ryan Rooney, Connie Martin (ND '86), Anne Marie Kollman Kaes, and Kathi Hartweg Mimitz.

I made it to campus this fall and Saint Mary's is as beautiful as ever. I ran into **Shannon McNamara Prestage**. Her youngest is a senior at Saint Mary's. I spotted **Julie Lackner Ryan's** smiling face at the ND Class of 1986 tailgate. She and Paul (ND '86) were pregaming with their adult kids. Unfortunately, I saw but was unable to chat with **Marci Woods Kilpatrick** and **Susie Miller Schilling**. Hoping to see you ladies in June.

Congratulations to **Cheryl Bonacci** for the Humanitas Award from Saint Mary's. Unfortunately, we were not in person to watch you receive your award but are amazed by all you do for social and restorative justice issues.

I was in Southern California this fall and spent a glorious afternoon with **Cami Traffcanda Hurlbut** and her parents. **Barbara Benford Traffcanda '59** hosted us at her amazing retirement community. Cami and Phil had a busy 2021 becoming grandparents, watching their oldest son marry, and celebrating another son's engagement.

**Mollie O'Sullivan Grojean** and Bill joined the southern migration and now call Bonita Beach, FL their home. They are closer to Mollie's mom and two of their daughters. I enjoy Mollie's beach sunset cocktail photos. Their oldest daughter will be married in Beaver Creek, CO this summer and we are looking forward to celebrating with them.

**Mary Beth Lavezzorio** was unable to join us in Northern Michigan. Lav is working for her alma mater Trinity High School and taking care of her 90-year-old dad.

**Jean Sofranko Reinhold** is an OB with the Cleveland Clinic and has been helping set up

their new location in London! She seems to enjoy the trips across the pond! Her daughter Sarah is recently engaged.

Many of us are now helping our parents navigate the next chapter of their lives. Please send me updates on your lives and hope to see you in June 2022.

1987

Elisa Cullina O'Neill  
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**Karen Killilea Wuszke** shared that she began her 15<sup>th</sup> year (fall 2021) of teaching Catholic school in the South Bend area. This is her second career after staying home for many years with her children. She added, "Every day presents a new and different experience and I've been blessed to teach wonderful families. The past few years have been quite a challenge. We have continued to teach in person, masked, through the long haul. Last year, I also managed to remote teach at the same time. Who said we can't learn new things?! Through it all, my family and I have remained safe and healthy. Thank God. My husband Greg and I live in Granger, have two children and one grandchild. Our daughter Libby is an autism teacher in Michigan, while our son Michael graduated in May from Valparaiso University with a degree in civil engineering and is working in the South Bend area. We are so proud of both! We love being grandparents to Libby's 2-year-old Caroline. She keeps us young and on our toes. I was able to catch up with two former roommates, **Trish Sullivan Maher** and **Mary-Theresa Daher Watson**, for a wonderful Angela Athletic facility parking lot chat last May. We had a few drinks and shared many laughs while socially distanced in the parking lot! Mary-Theresa was on campus retrieving her daughter after her freshman year at SMC."

**Lori Metro Alexander** shared that her daughter Mallory Alexander married her high school sweetheart Dan Rowbottom on July 24, 2021, in Rocky Bottom, OH. Lori said it was a beautiful summer day with the ceremony at St. Christopher Church in Rocky River, and a reception at The Old Courthouse in downtown Cleveland. Among the 275 guests was Kevin Maddock (ND '87). Mallory is practicing dentistry in the Cleveland area.

**Mary Dilenschneider Condon** gave me permission to share the great gift that her late father created to remember his beloved wife **Rose Marie Oppenheim Dilenschneider '54**, a Saint Mary's alumna. He created the Rose Marie "Rody" Oppenheim Dilenschneider Travel and Research Grant. The education majors at Saint Mary's will have access to funds to help further their studies and foster their love of teaching to others. John "Jack" Dilenschneider graduated from ND but had always been a most ardent believer in the value and quality of Saint Mary's women and the education they receive at our fine alma mater. Therefore, he had chosen to honor his beloved Rody in support of her love of lifelong learning and Saint Mary's College women of the future with this remarkable gift.

**Liza Wheeland Luhmann** writes: "Greetings from Wildwood, MO. I'm still working part time as

a telephone triage nurse for a pediatric practice. COVID-19 has really made my job much more challenging, though rewarding as well. My husband Mark retired this past summer, and it is truly wonderful having him home full time. My older two children have graduated from college and my youngest is a sophomore in college. They have somehow grown up on me! I'm so looking forward to coming to our 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion and seeing my dear friends!"

As for me, **Elisa Cullina O'Neill**, I wholeheartedly agree with Liza about looking forward to our 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion! My daughter Melissa recently took a position teaching show choir at her alma mater. What a full circle moment it was seeing her name on the outside of the Prism holiday concert program as a director after seeing it inside the program as a performer throughout high school! My son John recently earned his master's in public policy from the University of Maryland. His focus is on energy and the environment. He works at the Department of Energy. And my youngest James is a political organizer at a nonprofit (ABIC) fighting for immigration rights. Hubby and I marvel at the passion they have for their work!

Be safe. Be well. Be kind. I hope we can all journey back to Saint Mary's to celebrate 35 years of friendship at the place where it all started. GO BELLES!

1988

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, even as the sun shines brightly here in Southern California. I don't know how it is possible, but the 2021-2022 school year has been even crazier than the last. And change is still a constant. I have a new teaching schedule, which I love. For the first time ever, I am teaching eighth-grade history all day long. My son Michael moved to Oregon to take a teaching job, but is still looking for work in his field of forensic science. I am looking forward to seeing what changes 2022 brings.

**Rachel Bir Stroop** is looking toward 2022 as well. She and husband Andy will celebrate their 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in June 2022. She adds: "Our oldest daughter Beka will graduate in May from IUPUI with English and special ed degree. And our youngest daughter Beth is a sophomore at IUSB majoring in elementary education and special education." Rachel is still counseling at Lakeland Jr./Sr. High in LaGrange, IN and also serves as Education Association co-president.

**Heather Miller Moriconi** was recognized for a different kind of anniversary. She writes: "I celebrated my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary working for the University of Notre Dame this October. I was the assistant director of admissions in the Notre Dame Law School for 14 years and have been a program director in stewardship and donor relations in development for 11 years. Time sure flies when you are having fun!" Heather's family is having fun as well: "Our son is

a sophomore in the International Baccalaureate program at John Adams High School in South Bend. He just passed his driver's test and will be on the road solo next August!" After connecting virtually over the past two years, a group from the Ireland Program and the Rome Program in 1985 have planned an in-person reunion in Chicago in the spring.



Heather Miller Moriconi, husband Mike, and son Wren from the ND football field.



Lisa McPherson and Heather Miller Moriconi connecting this past spring.

Travel in general and to Europe in particular may be in the future for **Gwen Schratz Bender**. She explains: "The holiday season will be spent on planes and moving vans getting my sons off to their new locations. My oldest son Jack is moving to Paris, France and my youngest son Brent is moving to Denver. I plan to spend the next year flying off to their destinations to visit!"



Barbara Wolfston Urrutia '74, Amanda Falvey Conny, Brigid Eileen Conny, Gretchen Flicker '93, Susan Scherer Calandra '72, and Karen Schultz Goodyear '71.

Of course, it is also great to come back home. **Amanda Falvey Conny** says: "I was very happy to be back in South Bend this fall on numerous occasions to spend time attending Notre Dame football games and cheering on the Belles XC team. Our daughter Brigid Eileen Conny is an SMC senior, studying nursing and on the XC team. The renovation of Regina Hall is a sight to behold. We met up with old friends **Francesca (Checka) Trigianna Noone** and **Cathleen Siegel** for a couple of tailgates. We attended the inauguration of our new President Katie Conboy, and attended the

Stanford Game in California, and tailgated with alumnae from various classes — **Susan Scherer Calandra '72, Barbara Wolfston Urrutia '74, and Gretchen Flicker '93.**



Barbara Wolfston Urrutia '74 and Amanda Falvey Conmy.

Also involved in meet-ups was **Debbie Byrnes Murray**. She writes: "In September, I met up with **Michele Jablonski Meader, Kris Saracini Shay, and Betsy Patko McCarthy** at the Rutgers vs. Michigan football game in Ann Arbor, MI." As a New Jersey native, Debbie has followed Rutgers for years. Michele and Kris have daughters at Michigan but Debbie was able to convince Betsy to root for Rutgers. She ends: "A good time had by all!"



Debbie Byrnes Murray with family and friends at the Rutgers vs. Michigan football game in Ann Arbor, MI in September.

All who shared news continue to express gratitude for the friendships made at SMC. Until our 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion, which will be here before we know it, let's stay connected virtually!

## 1989

Karen E. Crespy  
kcrespy@yahoo.com

Dear Classmates,

It is with great sadness that I share the news of **Karen Krajcir White's** death. As many of you are already aware, Karen was diagnosed with locally advanced pancreatic cancer in spring 2021. She lost her valiant battle on the morning of November 26, 2021. Thank you for all your prayers and support. We miss you, Karen.

In November 2021, **Kristin Burtzloff Bodey, Mary DeLany Lowe, Tera Sternitzke, and Mary Carol Buhrfiend Honquest** got together for a weekend at Mary Carol's beautiful lake house in Wisconsin. Everyone had a great time catching up and taking a break from "real life."

**Margo McMahon Fochler** and **Lynn Uritis Smith** shared photos and updates from their reunion with

12 other Saint Mary's classmates at Margo's home in Naples, FL in mid-October 2021. After many months of pandemic lockdown, they shared the simple joy in being able to gather with their SMC sisters. Naples did not disappoint, and the group felt blessed to appreciate their friendships and share some amazing moments. They look forward to their next getaway.



Gathering at Margo McMahon Fochler's home in Naples, FL: Colleen Cary McMahon, Linda Arce Cosgrove, Susie Smith Turner, Cecile Gehring Lewis, Frances Burke Phillips, Mariellen Barry Roeder, and Tracy Horn Siciliano.



Cecile Gehring Lewis, Colleen Cary McMahon, Margo McMahon Fochler, Megan O'Hara Fetter, Linda Arce Cosgrove, Lisa Berens, Andrea Crowley Attisani, Mariellen Barry Roeder, Frances Burke Phillips, Michelle Conrard Brinker, Lynn Uritis Smith, Susie Smith Turner, and Kelly Styra Collins.

**Karen Crespy** enjoyed an Irish win over Purdue and spent time tailgating with **Barb Moorhead Vedders, Kara O'Leary, and Kathy Conte Prokopius**. A couple of weeks later, she attended the Cincinnati game with **Katy Burns** (Katy blames herself for the loss), where they tailgated again with **Kara O'Leary** and **Kathy Conte Prokopius**, as well as **Melissa Howe Miller** and Brian (ND '89).

Chemistry majors from classes 1989 and 1990, **Barb Bolla Kopko** asks that you please keep **Karen Walker '90** in your thoughts and prayers. After not hearing from Karen for several months, Barb and **Peggy Halloran** reached out to Karen's family and received news that she had a stroke in January 2021 and is currently in a rehabilitation facility in Boca Rotan, FL. Karen would love to hear from SMC alumna. Please contact Barb (barbarakopko@yahoo.com) for information. Barb was fortunate to have wonderful visits with many Saint Mary's friends in 2021 despite the pandemic — each filled with fun college memories.

Over July 4 weekend, **Lynne Lauer Kasperan** and her family hosted Barb and her husband Tom and **Peggy Halloran** and Peggy's eldest son Shane at their Knootz Lake cottage in Indiana. They enjoyed "catching some rays," taking in water activities, and laughing with great friends.

In September, Barb, Peggy, and **Holly Loux** picked up their annual tradition (after a 2020 cancellation) by celebrating belated birthdays at Oakbrook.

Barb and Tom went to the Notre Dame vs. Purdue game and spent pre-game at a great tailgate

hosted by **Carolyn Hawathorne Slandzicki** and her husband Jamie. The fun continued when the Kopkos and Slandzickis discovered that their seats were right next to each other. Top it off with an Irish win, and it was a fabulous day!

While visiting family in Munster, IN in November, **Deanne Wachel Sabatino** had dinner with Barb and Lynne. The last-minute plans turned into a fun night of catching up on recent events and reminiscing. Deanne's daughter lives in Chicago, so they hope to see each other more often. Barb looks forward to more SMC friend adventures in 2022!

**Barb Tull Dwyer** shares great news that she was promoted to system director of patient financial services for Norton Healthcare in Louisville, KY. Congratulations, Barb!

The Klimek triplets are on the move! **Marilyn Benchik** shared news that **Karen Cecelia 'Cece' Klimek '21** graduated from Saint Mary's in May with a bachelor of science in chemistry; after earning a degree at Indiana University, Constance Elizabeth "Lizzie" is a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis earning a bio-medical master's degree and plans to pursue medical school; and Kenneth Patrick celebrated a December graduation from Purdue University, where he served four years in their Navy ROTC program, at which time he was commissioned as an ensign in the US Navy. His first assignment is as a surface warfare officer on the newly constructed Frank E. Petersen Jr. missile destroyer, stationed in Pearl Harbor, Oahu, HI.

**Rozel Gatmaitan Moore** is grateful that she was finally able to see all her siblings at her niece's wedding after not being together in two years thanks to COVID-19! Rozel works as a registered behavior technician with children with autism in a private clinic, and her husband David is a pilot for Amazon with Atlas Airlines. Their son Ethan is a rising high school senior and daughter Maggie is a rising junior at Oklahoma State University. In 2021, the Moores celebrated OSU's homecoming, which is known to be the biggest homecoming celebration in the country! They had a great time experiencing the Greek life, but it made them miss the game day experience only Notre Dame can provide. Assuming the January 1, 2022, Fiesta Bowl matchup divided Moore loyalties!

Since last summer, **Kellen Brugman** has called Petoskey, MI home. She gives holistic wellness and ayurvedic lifestyle consultations and treatments at wellness spas and teaches classes, and holds events at local businesses, North Central Michigan College, and yoga studios. A fall highlight was giving a talk for Saint Mary's College's Spirituality Hour titled "Faith & Three Hail Mary's." Kellen shared the story of how Saint Mary's, a woman named Faith, and three other Marys helped her grieve her mother's death and receive healing and encouragement from the Holy Spirit. Kellen offers this talk for churches and spiritual groups.

**Mimi Tuohy O'Leary** and her husband (Mike ND '89), continue to run their business: Class 101 of the Treasure Coast. In 2021, they helped 51 high school seniors apply to college and manage scholarships. The O'Learys find it very rewarding to help a young person with their future plans. Mimi and Mike enjoyed a beautiful day and lots of laughs as they

attended the Notre Dame vs. Purdue game with Tim and **Rose Popovich Shanahan '90**. The O'Learys' youngest son Jack is a rising senior at Notre Dame and lives in St. Ed's. Their daughter Mary Kate hopes to celebrate her Notre Dame 2020 graduation on Memorial Day weekend of 2022!

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



**EXCELSIOR**  
**Julie Wagner Feasel '89**  
has been named the Delaware  
County Foundation's Volunteer of the  
Year.

## 1991

Lisa Kosty Dincolo  
smcbelles91@gmail.com



Hello, friends! Hope this finds you happy and healthy! Like so many, not much travel for us lately, with the exception of traveling to my niece's beautiful wedding at the Jersey Shore. We did make it to "The Bend" for the ND/USC game in October, where we were able to see friends like **Michelle Poepe Egan '93** and husband Steve (ND '93), as well as my buddy and our class president **Lowell Lehmann**, who was in from Cincinnati. Lowe also had a trip to Napa Valley this fall, where she caught up with my roommate **Anne Parker Baker**. I also had a short visit with one of my other roommates **Anne McCullough Day**, who was in Chicago briefly for a college tour with her youngest son. Fingers crossed, I will have him nearby, as it means I get to see my buddies more on parents' weekends. Anne's middle son Finn began his studies in engineering this year at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland!

Wonderful to hear from **Penelope Adams Moon, PhD**. Our classmate was recently appointed to serve as director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Washington. In this role, she will be leading a team that is responsible for helping strengthen the university's instructional support landscape and developing opportunities for faculty growth in their teaching practice. Very impressive,

indeed! She and her daughter Katie love living in the Seattle area! To quote Pen, "The natural surroundings are stunning, the coffee is fantastic, and I absolutely love exploring the area's wonderful craft beer culture!" Sounds great to me, girl! Congratulations!

Keep us all posted on whatever is happening in your life! Reach out to me via text, on Facebook or at smcbelles91@gmail.com.

## 1993

From the *Courier* Office

**Libby Gray Koultourides** was recently promoted to serve Saint Mary's as associate vice president for advancement. In this role, she will continue to lead the College's fundraising efforts to support future generations of Saint Mary's students.

From **Michele Englehart**: "I just produced my first feature film. The film *Maysville* is a coming-of-age thriller set in the 1920s. *Maysville* was made on a small budget, and it's the first film I've produced. That said, the feedback we're getting from distributors is that it looks like a studio film, ambitiously set back in time, with beautiful cinematography, a unique story, and very solid acting. *Maysville* just had its theatrical premiere, and it just released on Amazon. It will be on other platforms as well over the next few months.

## 1994

**EXCELSIOR**

**Stacy Bogataj Lynett '94**  
was appointed Vice President of  
Digital Business Software for General  
Motors.

## 1997

From the *Courier* Office  
From Janet Kelley:



I'm writing with news about my new book *Taint: A Novel* (Atmosphere Press), which will be published on December 3.

It would make me extremely happy to let the Saint Mary's community know about my work. In many ways, my book grew out of the Catholic education I received from Saint Mary's. I was a humanistic studies and religious studies major at SMC, and my love of books and social justice are the foundation for my fiction.

I want to let you know that the book can be ordered now from most places where books are sold. You can order directly from your local bookstore, or from Amazon and other online retailers. If Saint Mary's has an alumna author's shelf in the bookstore, I would be happy to have my book on display.

At this time, I can provide you with a digital copy of the book or an advance copy if you prefer. You can also check out my website for my information (including a plot preview). <https://writenowjanetkelley.com/>

Thank you for being a part of this journey with me!

## 1999

**Bridget Kelly Deputy Sullivan**  
mgawoman@gmail.com

Greetings, Class of '99! It has been a while since we have had an update, so I am excited to say I have a few to share.

My family and I moved to West Point, NY in August 2021, where my husband will be the director of the Modern War Institute at West Point. My oldest Abigail is loving her sophomore year at Purdue University, while the rest of us settle into our new home. In July 2021, **Amber Fraiser Stefanski** and **Molly Donnellon Simpson** traveled from Illinois and Ohio, respectively, to attend my mother's funeral in Indianapolis. It was such a blessing to me to have them there for support.

Molly and her family are living in Cincinnati. She works for the University of Cincinnati health system as an audiologist and enjoys working with adults to diagnose and manage hearing and balance issues. When not working, she enjoys traveling and was able to visit Massachusetts and Maine in the fall of 2021 for an anniversary trip that had previously been postponed due to COVID-19.

I received a nice note from **Lisa Maxbauer Price**. Lisa has accepted the position of senior nutrition writer at the national best-selling magazine *First For Women*, where she is responsible for cover stories. For the second year in a row, one of Lisa's articles on women's health was named a finalist for a Folio Award in the category of best single article in a women's consumer lifestyle publication. Lisa is a journalist living in Traverse City, MI with her husband and three sons.

Please contact me with any future updates via my email: mgawoman@aol.com or you can find me on Facebook and send a message that way as well. I love hearing and sharing everyone's news.

## 2001

**Alyson Leatherman**  
alysonleatherman@gmail.com



Hello, Class of 2001! Hope you and your families are enjoying the holiday season. Just a few updates for this edition.

**Kristy Sutorius Kilfoyle** shared, "I'm honored to be serving on the 2022 John C. Newbery Award Committee, which is an award given to the most distinguished contribution to children's literature in the United States! We're celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award this year. It's been a career-long goal to be chosen for the committee, and currently I'm buried under all of the amazing

submissions." Congratulations! **Molly Gast Holzrichter** also checked in: "On October 1, I was promoted to a new role at Barry-Wehmiller as the global director of training and talent development for the BW Papersystems division. I am loving the new role and look forward to some global travel, hopefully in the near future. I am also returning to the SMC campus for the first time in two years to take my daughter McKenna, who is a junior, on an SMC campus visit and meeting with admissions. I am beyond excited to show her the campus!" Yay! Future Belle alert. And **Kimberly Hansen Petrina** added, "I was named head of North American Casualty Claims for AXIS Insurance." Congratulations!

All is well in the PNW. I started my 16<sup>th</sup> year as a school counselor this fall, and it's great to be back in school with students and staff — lots of new learning, flexibility, care, and compassion. I am still on my journey toward a PhD in counselor education and supervision at Oregon State University. I am officially a doctoral candidate, which is a small but mighty detail as I'm no longer a doctoral student. I successfully completed all my coursework and passed my written and oral comprehensive exams. Onward to internship and dissertation! Until next time, my best. Take good care.

## 2002

Jaime Dineen Gleason  
IrishLass12@hotmail.com



**Ann Marie Dennany Keeler:** "After nearly two decades in news media, I changed industries in August. I am now leading digital marketing, social media, and digital product development as the vice president of digital transformation at Lake Michigan Credit Union (in Michigan and Florida). I'm thrilled to be working with an amazing team and an organization so committed to the local community. It's been a fun career change that keeps me innovating and learning as a forever student. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Reunion in June!"

**Melissa Marie Whalen:** "My daughter Juniper was baptized in May 2021 at St. Raphael the Archangel Parish in Pittsburgh, PA, with **Gina Caponi Parnaby** as her godmother. It was a wonderful day, though Juniper wanted to splash and play in the baptismal font!"

**Annie Knish Mitchell:** "My family and I moved to Lakewood Ranch, FL a little over a year ago for a job transfer for my husband Jason Mitchell (Purdue '03). Jason and I have been married for 10 years. The move from NW Indiana to Florida's west coast has been a big adjustment, but we are doing great. I am a speech-language pathologist at the same elementary school that my own children attend. I have a daughter Gracie (second grade) and a son David (kindergarten). Hope everyone is doing well. Go Belles!"

## 2003

Amy Greene Smith  
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Hello, Class of 2003! I hope you, your families, and loved ones are well. I was so glad to hear from some of our classmates with exciting updates, announcements, and experiences. Thanks for writing, and for those who have not written in a while, please provide your class reporters with an update sometime soon. We miss you and the SMC campus, and wish you all the best in the upcoming year!

**Meganne Hoffman Brezina** and husband Chuck are excited to announce the birth of Stella Francesca Brezina, who was born on October 4, 2021. Meganne writes, "Siblings Sam and Sofia are over the moon and we are embracing the chaos that comes with a 'party of five' reality. Stella would also be a candidate for the SMC Class of 2043, which means she would share a Reunion class with the 2003 Belles, what joy!"

"I continue to pursue a career in enablement, most recently taking a role as senior director of enablement at Seismic, a global SaaS company. My husband Chuck and I still own and operate a restaurant in downtown Indianapolis and recently moved to Zionsville, IN, just north of Indianapolis.

"I was very fortunate to welcome **Cathy Canetti Ginter** to our new home in October for a few days. It was an incredible reunion. It had been over two and half years since our last get-together and we made the most of every minute! It was during the same weekend that my sister **Jenny Hoffman Haggard '10** was married (shout-out to several Belles in attendance, including **Clare Albright Hyde '10** and **Allie Greene Steiner '10**, **Mary Anne Madden Hoffman '73**, and **Nancy Weber-Curth '73**, among others!)"

**Ann Hoover Sinclair** shares, "In May 2021, I visited **Emily Hemberger Dennison** in Nashville. We hadn't seen each other since graduation and I also got to meet her daughters, which was a lot of fun. An employee of mine is a college student considering medicine, and Emily, a pathologist and medical examiner, was gracious enough to let her shadow her at the morgue. My employee said 'Dr. Emily' was the best teacher she's ever had and took the time to teach her a lot of anatomy and chemistry. While my employee fared much better than I did (it was a very short visit for me!), I was so grateful that Emily took the time to educate and inspire a young woman. Emily also told me she is a chair for the Davidson County Child Fatality Review, a board that studies the death of every child in Tennessee and helps institute product recalls and community outreach to prevent further tragedies. I learned how instrumental she and other medical examiners are in community health and ensuring the safety of the living. It was a fascinating trip and so great to see Emily."

**Margo Klosterman** recently accepted a new job with the Fiorentino Group, a small lobby shop in Jacksonville, FL. Margo shared that her two Newfoundlands, Waffles and Kona, will be moving with her from Washington, DC to Florida at the beginning of 2022.

**Kelly Long Jackson** is now a senior director at The Standard. In her role, she leads all aspects of the Change Management Office, offering subject-matter expertise and collaborating with business leaders across the company to ensure that the change management practice and capability evolve to meet the needs of the company. Kelly joined The Standard in October 2021 from Xcel Energy, where she led enterprise change management. Kelly is a Prosci ADKAR-certified change practitioner and got her start in change management after business school as a consultant. She then contracted with Molson Coors and Western Union to lead change on a global scale and worked as an in-house change manager at DaVita. Kelly lives in Denver with her husband Chris and their two children as well as two dogs.

**Emily Miller Klump** and family welcomed Gannon Gabriel Klump to the world on August 27, 2021. He joins four older brothers, who love him dearly ("a little too dearly at times," shares Emily).

**Adrienne Potoma Brummet's** company By The Board Games & Entertainment (www.bytheboardgames.com based in Lowell, IN) just celebrated five years in business as of August 2021.

**Shaun Russell Rooney** and her husband relocated from Texas to West Lafayette, IN, where Shaun's husband is the baseball recruiting coordinator at Purdue University. Shaun is excited to only be a couple of hours from SMC/ND!

**Heidi Wilberschied Klosterman** shares the following update: "A month before the world went into COVID-19 lockdown and elective surgeries came to a halt (including many organ transplant surgeries), I was able to donate a kidney to an amazing woman I connected with through Facebook. Almost one year to the day later, we welcomed baby number four Isla into our family. She was quite the surprise during my 40<sup>th</sup> year. My dear friends **Galia Chantal Guerrero '14** and **Mary Loux (ND '16)** are godmothers. I was thrilled to be able to take our first girls' trip to meet up with my SMC 2003 besties **Anne Klinkhammer Dobie** and **Kristi Butman Brandon** this past summer. Excited for our 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion!"

## EXCELSIOR

**Renee Nicole Salas '03** was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in October 2021.

## 2007

Lisa Victoria Gallagher  
lgalla01@gmail.com



From **Lisa:** Don't forget, SMC Reunion is coming up this summer 2022! Mark your calendars for June 2-5. It's hard to believe it's been 15 years! I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to staying in dorms without air conditioning, wearing shower sandals, and ruining some shoes on the sticky floors of Finnie's!

On March 17, 2021, **Kristen Serna** and her husband Greg Dworjan (ND '07), welcomed their son Rudy Dworjan. He is doted upon by his godmother **Sara Marie Otto**. Kristen is also a founding partner in the family law firm of Hammer Serna & Quinn, LLC in Chicago, IL.

**Kelly Barnett Backscheider** and her husband Mark continue to reside in Indiana with their two boys Barrett Austin, 4, and Kasen David, 1.5. They are the fourth (and the boys are the fifth) generation living on the farm that Kelly's family has lived on and farmed for over a century. Kelly is currently a North America biology leader for herbicides at Corteva Agriscience, where she leads the field development program for row crops and specialty crops in the US and Canada.

Last but not least, from our faithful updater, **Jessica Marie Binhack:**

"Whatcha been doin'? Nothing? A little bit of something? Yeah, me, too. Last time I updated you all, the world was on fire. It still is. Is this a sign? Nah. I don't know what to tell you. COVID-19 has really impacted the amount of 'spice' in my life. Sharon (my dog) and I didn't leave the neighborhood for over a year aside from a road trip with my pod down to an *MTV Spring Break: Sarasota Edition* featuring 30-somethings on ridiculous pool floats, napping, and heartburn medication. Sharon is more famous at my neighborhood watering hole than I am. I asked the owner if I could work there, and he told me he'd rather strap a tray to her back than let

me work. Rude, but I get it. She's popular. I also went on a road trip in July out east to meet long-lost family that my mom found through a 23andMe test. I secretly hope that our DNA will help track down a serial killer. A murder podcast aficionado can dream, right?"

"I'm back in the home rehab game. My brother and I took one of the downstairs units down to the studs in April. The likelihood that I inhaled lead paint chips and asbestos is very high. The unit is still down to the studs. I'm not sure why we had to rush that demo activity before getting proper PPE, but it's going super well 8+ months later.

"I got to go to the Indy 500! Oh, it was so great. I even enjoyed sitting in the stands instead of the infield. To be honest, I kind of felt fancy walking in when the race activities started and not at the crack of dawn to find our spot on the hill by the turkey leg stand. It was nice to not have to fight for space on the hill with dueling tarps and blankets.

"Career-wise, I left my job at my school district in October. My new role wasn't filling me with joy and light. It was sucking the life out of me, filling me with despair, and creating a black hole for what little serotonin I produce to get sucked into. We all know that we can't waste that stuff! We're still in a Panorama (pandemic)! I now work for a resource network that consults with the Indiana Department of Education. I'm trusted to lead professional development on behavior (and other stuff). Hilarious, right? 2007 Jessica would be in disbelief

and impressed. I'm also entertaining the idea of being a Peloton-like influencer. I have an off-brand stationary bike and an iPad. I think I could host those workouts from my guest room. If you're interested in joining one of my subpar classes and listening to me use colorful words of encouragement, DM me. I'll set up a Zoom (sick of that yet?). That's about all I've got. No injuries and no big events aside from being vaccinated and boosted. Stay safe out there, Belles, and hopefully I'll see you at Reunion!"

## 2008

From the *Courier* Office

On February 24, 2021, **Kelly Tighe Montee** and her husband Mark welcomed their second child Callaghan Michael Montee. Cal's older brother Tighe loves showing him the ropes! Kelly and her family reside in Columbus, OH, where she teaches middle school art.

## 2009

Kathleen Kohler Dalhoff  
katedalhoff@gmail.com

The Class of 2009 continues to amaze with family and career endeavors that span all over the country.



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**Anna Fredericka Hoefer**, now **Sister M. Karon Ann**, professed her perpetual vows as a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration on August 2. She lives in Mishawaka at the motherhouse and is working on an MBA through Franciscan University of Steubenville. She continues to work with Franciscan Alliance, the health system sponsored by her community. Congratulations, Sister!

The 2009 Belles have several birth announcements to share! **Mandi Stirono Mansfield** and her husband Alex welcomed their first child Peter on September 8. **Alex Meckes Heckert** and her husband Michael also welcomed their first child Mason on November 3. They live in Lexington, KY. **Caitlin Stevenson Nemeth** and her husband welcomed their first son Leonard on August 23. **Anna Lisbeth Kramer** and her husband Nolan welcomed twins Alexandra and Elisabeth on February 3. They live in Atlanta, GA. **Michelle O'Dea Vijay** and husband Nithin welcomed their first child, a girl, in May. **Gracie Deery Oakley** and her husband Nick welcomed their second son John on September 1. They also have a son William.

There have also been exciting professional updates for many of our classmates. **Gracie Deery Oakley** was nominated by her NICU colleagues to be the chair of the Unit Practice Council, a group that identifies and promotes improvements in patient care. **Rachel Scott McMillan** works as the fire marshal of her city and also recently welcomed son Hugh with her husband Keith in March. **Major Leah Bocinsky Godwin** is an Air Force element flight commander stationed outside Washington, DC. She served on a COVID-19 vaccination FEMA mission this past spring. A team of 256 stood up a community vaccination center in Greenbelt, MD and immunized more than 125,000 Americans. She was recently selected for the Nurse Corps Career Management Fellowship and will be moving to San Antonio, TX soon. Her husband Zachary is active-duty Army and she has three children William, James, and Elise. **Ashley Dawn Recupito** discerned out of the convent after eight years. In the fall of 2019, after leaving the convent, she moved to Salt Lake City, UT to teach middle school science at a Catholic school. She is now engaged and lives in Naples, FL, where she is a high school science teacher. She and fiancé Tim are getting married in March. **Emily Croft Maduzia** and her husband Matt recently moved to Rantoul, IL, outside of Champaign.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you soon and are sending best wishes to our Belles near and far.

## 2010

Michelle Alyse Giannola  
SaintMarysCollege2010@gmail.com



We made it to 2022! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and hopefully some time off from work and other responsibilities. Let's start this new year with some news from our friends and classmates!

**Katy Durkin Zix** and husband welcomed their beautiful baby boy Timothy Edward Zix on October 16.

**Claire DiPiero** and fiancé Ian Frost got engaged on her rose-covered DC rooftop in August! They will marry in Virginia wine country next September.

**Theresa McLoughlin** and husband Brennan (ND '10) welcomed their daughter Liesel Marie on May 2, 2020. She was baptized this past July with **Kate Ortigara** as her godmother and **Molly Donner '07** in attendance. Theresa and Brennan currently live in northwest Indiana with their daughter and two rescue dogs. Theresa just started her seventh year of teaching middle school math, her 12<sup>th</sup> year overall.

**Kelly Deranek**, husband Adam Steinbach (ND '10), big sister Naomi Belle, 3, and big brother Louis Alexander, 1, welcomed their third child Penelope Rose on November 1. Penelope's godmothers are Belles **Emily Cook King** and **Mallory Glass Thornton**. Kelly currently manages operations of three female-owned and -run businesses based in Columbia, SC, where their family resides.

**Jenny Hoffman** married Gabriel Haggard on October 23, 2021, in Indianapolis, IN. **Meganne Hoffman Brezina '03** and **Clare Albright Hyde** were bridesmaids, and other Belles in attendance included Jenny's mom **Mary Anne Madden Hoffman '73**, Jenny's godmother **Nancy Weber-Curth '73**, and classmates **Allie Greene Steiner**, **Megan Meade Tennant**, and **Christina Smotherman Crush**. While dating, the bride learned that Gabe's grandmother **Nona Linton Aguilar '38** also graduated from Saint Mary's.

Jenny resides in Los Angeles, CA, and is a senior global creative strategist at Spotify. She is also in her second year of a three-year program to become a certified spiritual director through Mount St. Mary's University. The couple is happily settling into their new home.

And lastly, feel free to send in life adventures and achievements to me (saintmaryscollege2010@gmail.com) throughout the year! I also try to send out announcements for submission deadlines via my personal social media accounts, i.e., Facebook and Instagram.

I hope 2022 brings everyone joy and laughter and great memories!

## 2011

Christina Kolling Carlson  
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Hello, 2011 Belles,

As I am writing this spring issue class news, it is December in Michigan and COVID-19 cases are on the rise. I truly hope this issue finds you and your loved ones in good health. Congratulations to everyone below on your exciting news, job promotions, marriages, births, and milestones. As always, if you ever have any news you want to submit, please feel free to contact me anytime. I love chatting with all of you, and getting your life updates always makes me smile.

**Mary Agnes Willkom** and husband Jonathon Roberts welcomed the birth of their baby girl Rose Elizabeth Roberts, who was born on August 26, 2021, at 11:55 p.m. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz.

**Maggie Leigh Williams** and her husband Michael Gratson welcomed their first child Eulyla (Lyla) Leigh Gratson on September 30, 2021. The future SMC chick weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. Maggie graduated anesthesia school in 2019 and is working as a CRNA in Detroit, MI. Maggie and Michael live in Troy, MI.

**Emily Treat Fox** and her husband Nathan welcomed the birth of their son Elijah James Fox on March 6, 2021. Elijah was 9 lbs. 10 oz., 21.25 inches long, and joins big brother Liam, 3. The Fox family of four is living in Brownsburg, IN.

**Anne Elizabeth Kasey** and Bradyn Bennett celebrated the birth of their first child Sloan Elizabeth Bennett on October 20, 2021. She weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 inches. They reside in Indianapolis, IN.

**Stephanie Smiy Miller** and her husband Adam welcomed the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Kate Miller on August 19, 2021. She was 8 lbs. 11 oz. and her big brother Jack adores her! They moved back to the Lexington area because Stephanie accepted a job offer as a physician assistant with Baptist Health Lexington. It's been a big season for their family, and they feel very thankful and blessed!

**Anna Kastelic Florencki** and her husband Tim (ND '11) welcomed their baby boy Noah Rhys on November 6, 2021. Big sister Ryan Belle is so excited that "her baby" is finally here.

**Karolyn Wojtowicz Gore** and Matt Gore (ND '10's) daughter Mary Rose Gore was baptized in Fremont, OH on September 18, 2021. Her godfather is Rob Wettach (ND '10).

**Hanna Rae Vicary** and her husband Daniel Adams welcomed the birth of their daughter Penny Mae Adams on August 4, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz., and 20.75 in. long. Penny joins big sister Piper, both hopefully future Belles.

**Jeannie Michael Hughes** married Alejandro Hughes on August 28, 2021, in Chicago, IL. Belles in attendance were **Francesca Marie Johnson '09**, **Colleen Rose Maus '17**, **Taryn Pabst Keller '09**, **Casey Maus Serritella '09**, **Molly Segó Lucas**, **Kaitlin Feller Bacher**, **Mary Therese Lee**, **Elsa Victoria Summerville '09**, **Colleen Michael True '16**, **Lindsay Marie Leliaert**, **Emily Toole**, **Ashlee Rose Girard**, **Katy Lynch Mellott**, **Terri Rensberger Alexander**, **Kathleen Elizabeth Maus**, and **Tracy Anne Pierret**.

**Celina Tolson Frankland** and husband Alex welcomed their second daughter Eloise James on July 21, 2021. Lulu weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 in. long. Proud 4-year-old sister Bella loves holding and playing with her baby. The Frankland family recently moved to a new home in Gurnee, IL.

**Emily Gregerson** married Matthew Saines on October 9, 2021, at St. Gaspar del Bufalo in Rome City, IN. Two of her bridesmaids, **Mary Teresa Souder** and **Rachel Vicki Roszka**, are 2011 Belles. Emily and Matthew recently moved from Pennsylvania to Indiana.

**Elizabeth McDonald Desmarais** married Matthew Desmarais on September 21, 2018, at Pine Knob Mansion in Clarkston, MI. On April 7, 2021, Elizabeth and Matthew welcomed the birth of their daughter Kaylee Desmarais, who was 7 lbs. 14 oz. and 20 in. long. They are living in Algonac, MI.

**Kendall Anteiker Shadley** and her husband Alex Shadley (ND '10) welcomed a baby girl Nora Elizabeth Shadley on July 25, 2021. She was 8 lbs. 4.8 oz. and 20 in. long. Nora joins big brother Theodore. Their family of four lives in Cincinnati, OH.

**Colleen Lake Reuvers** and husband Zach Reuvers (ND '11) welcomed their third child on November 30, 2021. Remy Jeanette Reuvers was born weighing 9 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 20 in. long. She is healthy and happy to join big brother Ryan, 4, and big sister Reagan, 2!

**Emily Sauer Rossauer** married Sean Rossauer on July 10, 2021, in Key West, FL on the *Jolly II Rover* sailing ship. They are currently living in South Bend, IN.

**Christina Robakowski Vaughan** was recently promoted. She is now the manager of the Cell Immunotherapy and Transduction facilities at the Indiana University School of Medicine, and manages both the manufacturing cleanroom and testing facilities.

**Lisa Jaworski Scully** and her husband Tim, along with their daughter Haley, welcomed their second daughter Samantha Mary Scully on October 28, 2021. Samantha weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and they are all smitten.

After nearly a decade of dating after meeting during Senior Week, including a one-year COVID-19 delay, **Franca Peluso** and Patrick Mulhern (ND '11) were married on June 26, 2021, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, PA. Saint Mary's was well

represented, with bridesmaids **Mary Therese Lee** and **Janine Anne Kingsbury**, along with fellow alumnae **Laurie Kielbasa Casazza '80**, **Kathy Wolinski LaBarge '79**, and **Patty Shannon LaBarge '78** joining in the celebrations. The summer of 2021 brought professional news as well, as Franca was chosen to be the assistant to the principal at Walt Disney Elementary School in Mishawaka, IN, and began her PhD studies in educational leadership at Purdue University. Franca and Patrick currently reside in Granger, IN.

**Claire Schaffner Watson** and her husband Matthew welcomed their daughter Mary Najwa on February 22, 2021. Her big brother Bobby, 2, was overjoyed to meet her. The Watson family lives in Denver, CO.

**Ally Drake Bernstein** and her husband James welcomed their daughter, Emma Dugan, on November 22, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19 in. long. Her big brother Eli, 2, is proud of his baby sister. They are currently living in Roswell, GA.

**Colleen Trausch Quinn** and her husband Mike (ND '11) welcomed their daughter Devereux Christine on September 2, 2021. She was 6 lbs. 15 oz. and 19.5 in. long. Their oldest Seamus, 2, is excited to be a big brother! They are in Chicago, IL.

**Rachel Newkirk Barsella** and her husband Adam Barsella (ND '12) welcomed their first baby Leo Anthony on May 27, 2021. They are currently living in Darien, IL.

## 2012

Kate Kirbie Dubinski  
SMClass2012@gmail.com



We had a number of babies born this last year! Congratulations to those with additions to their families. **Kerri Doherty Betley** gave birth to her baby boy Liam Betley on January 27, 2021. **Margaret Otten** and her husband Jordan Jurinjak welcomed the birth of their first child Benjamin in February 2021 in Shanghai, China. They look forward to hopefully bringing Benjamin home to visit and meet family and friends by summer. **Jamie Schmidt** and Gregory Dock (ND '10) welcomed their second child Henry Edward Dock on April 22, 2021. Jamie continues to balance motherhood and a career in health care as a speech language pathologist. **Bridget Gartenmayer Leavens** and her husband Chris Leavens of Denver, CO welcomed their first son Charles "Charlie" William Leavens on July 23, 2021. **Elizabeth Bramanti Feldpausch** and her husband Nathan (ND '12) welcomed the birth of their daughter Anne Catherine on August 18, 2021. She joins her siblings Mary Claire, 5, Nate, 4, Eleanor, 2.5, and John Paul, 17 months. **Kerriann Dooley Pettaway** and her husband Greg welcomed their son Gregory James Pettaway III on September 9, 2021. Their daughter Audrianna, 2, is a loving big sister! **Kelley Murphy Enzweiler** shares news of the birth of her daughter Mary Michael Louise Enzweiler born September 30, 2021. Big brother, Peter, 18 months, is so excited! **Maggie**



# Summer Camps at Saint Mary's

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

**Stewart Zurliene** and her husband welcomed the birth of their son John Alexander Zurliene on October 21, 2021. Lastly, on November 1, 2021, James Hartley Usher, 8 lbs. 13 oz., 20 inches long, was born to **Maura Diamond Usher** and Thomas Usher (ND '12).

On to marriages: **Kamara Umbaugh Russo** married Mark Russo (ND '10) on October 2, 2021, in Cape May, NJ. The wedding party included **Emily Schmitt Baroz**, **Katherine Kummeth Hollkamp**, Allison Baranick Stevenson (ND '12), Courtney Vargas (ND '12), James Mitchell (ND '10), Michael Maslowski (ND '10), and James Waris (ND '10). Then, on December 17, 2021, **Julie McGrail Beard** married Chris Beard with a ceremony in their hometown of Cape Cod, MA. By her side included SMC bridesmaids **Cassie Palmer Gohn** and **Katelynd Park Webb**.

Lastly, we have some relocations and job changes: **Sarah Capaldi Kakenmaster** recently moved from Chicago to Libertyville, IL. **Kimberly Jordan** started a new job on November 3 at Accenture in Philadelphia. **Lauren Toth Vassar** began a new job at Wellthy, a startup company providing virtual health care concierge services, as a care coordinator. Additionally, **Danae Jimenez** recently earned her Indiana cosmetology licenses and began a new job as the hair, makeup and wardrobe swing for *The Lion King Musical – Rafiki Tour* (North American tour).

Looking forward to seeing a number of you at our 10-year Reunion. How time flies!

## 2013

Silvia Melissa Cuevas  
cuevas90@gmail.com

So many wonderful life updates to share with the Class of 2013!

**Kathryn Grace Kellogg** married Ross Giangrossi on August 28, 2021, in her hometown of Columbus, OH.

**Megan Kloc Rawdin** married Joshua Rawdin on November 13, 2021, in Indianapolis, IN. Bridesmaids included **Danielle Piscal** (MOH), **Danielle Marie Haydell Mason** (senior-year roommate), and **Ciara O'Halloran**. Also in attendance were mother of the bride **Cynthia Janus Kloc '86**, aunts of the bride, **Nancy Kloc Genovese '88** and **Carol Kloc Browning '92**, family friend **Jeanne Carroll Flanagan '87**, and friends **Alison Reka Meagher**, **Lindsay Ellis Tschida**, and **Emma Baker Warner**.

**Katelyn Michelle Kozinski** married her husband Paul on December 21, 2021.

**Kari McClowry Kraft** married Michael Kraft on September 11, 2021, at Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chicago, IL.

**Julie Ann Novak** married John Bailey (ND '13) on October 16, 2021, in Door County, WI. They met in 2010 when they were both members of the Notre Dame Marching Band.

Congratulations to the newlyweds and may the years ahead be filled with love and joy!

**Annie Doyle Clohisy** and her husband John (ND '13) welcomed their third son William James on November 15, 2021.

**Caroline Gallagher Lynn** and her husband welcomed their son Thomas Francis on July 3, 2021. Little Keira is a proud big sister!

**Rebekah Kohn Dettmann** and her husband Sam (ND '13) welcomed their second daughter Natalie Joan on September 20, 2021. Little Margot is loving her new role as big sister. Bekah is a social worker for the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

**Sophia Rose Korson** and her husband welcomed their son Oliver Peter Wells on November 3, 2021 (8 lbs. 11 oz., 21.5 inches). Big brother James is adjusting very nicely to his little brother.

**Erin Masko Leugs** and her husband Duncan welcomed their second child Rowan David on September 30, 2021. Little Finnegan is a proud big brother!

**Helen Julia Feist** and her husband welcomed their third child and first boy Daniel on September 16, 2021.

**Kathryn Schultheis Mitchell** and her husband Tyler welcomed their baby boy Calvin James on June 2, 2021.

**Chelsea Young O'Hayer** and her husband Pat (ND '13) welcomed baby boy John Francis (Jack) on May 22, 2021.

Blessings to all these beautiful newborns and their families!

Finally, please keep **Sarah Montague Korbonits** and her family in your thoughts and prayers as her mother Susan suddenly passed away this past year.

As always, please keep us updated on any news you would like to share with our class.

## 2015

Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole  
nicoleotoole128@gmail.com

Dear Class of 2015,

2021 was a busy year! So many of our incredible classmates accomplished and celebrated so many wonderful things this past year. To name a few...

**Emily Haskins McNally** and her husband Andrew McNally (ND '17) welcomed their second baby girl Mary Ann on August 9, 2021.

**Sarah Hossfeld Dancu** and her husband Justin Dancu (ND '15) welcomed their son Theodore "Theo" David Dancu on September 14, 2021. Sarah also recently graduated from Simmons University with a family nurse practitioner degree. Congratulations, Sarah and Justin!

**Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole** got engaged to Bradley Peterson on September 24, 2021, in Chicago, IL and celebrated with family and friends.

**Teresa Hauer Daniels** married Cameron Daniels on October 23, 2021, at Sweetest Heart of Mary

Catholic Church in Detroit, MI. **Christine Hauer Dalton '08** was matron of honor and **Jenna Troppman** was a bridesmaid. Other Belles were in attendance as well to celebrate with the happy couple. Congratulations, Teresa and Cameron!

**Emily Scanlon Siegert** married Matthew Siegert in Western Springs, IL on October 30, 2021. Her sister **Abigail Scanlon '19** was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids included **Meghan Roder**, **Karly Surman**, **Rachel Sinchak**, and **Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole**. Many other Belles were in attendance to celebrate. Congrats, Emmie and Matt!

**Elizabeth Stoecklein Liapis** recently married Zach Liapis. Congratulations, Elizabeth and Zach!

Here's to a happy and healthy 2022! Don't forget to send me your exciting life updates to: nicoleotoole128@gmail.com. Wishing you all a wonderful New Year.

## 2016

Jennifer Anne Vosters  
smc16news@gmail.com

Baby Belles!

**Anna Cronin Lacey** and her husband Justin, along with proud big brother AJ, welcomed Callan Jon Lacey in May! The family soon after relocated to Anna's hometown of Gettysburg, SD. Congratulations to the Laceys!

Wedding Belles!

**Taylor Ellerbrock** married Aaron DiGenova in May 2021. We're so happy for you, Taylor!

**Kelly Lyden** married Christopher Wilbar (ND '16) at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on July 10, 2021. 2016 alumnae **Sarah Kathryn Kalal**, **Theresa Albert Kreeger**, and **Mairead Delaney** were bridesmaids, and many other Belles were in attendance. Congratulations, Kelly!

**Meghan Flanagan** married Michael Loftus (ND '15) on August 28, 2021, at St. Joe Farm in Granger, IN. **Madison Ann Overly** was maid of honor, and **Krista Elizabeth Knapke**, **Aileen Kernan Schwab**, and **Bernie Marie Jordan** also stood in the wedding. The couple now lives in Arlington, VA, where Meghan works as a CPA for the Siegfried Group and Michael works for the US Department of State. Best wishes to you, Meghan!

New cities!

**Olivia Mary Beck** moved from NWI/Chicago South suburbs to the Tampa, FL area at the end of October. She now works remotely full-time in the customer quality department for a food ingredient manufacturing company and loves being in her new area! Fantastic news, Olivia!

Don't forget to update *Courier* with births, weddings, graduations, new jobs, new cities, and other life events! smc16news@gmail.com

## 2017

Kate FitzMaurice  
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Hello, Class of 2017 Belles! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that 2022 is off to a great start.

As part of my ongoing New Year's resolution, I have been looking for ways to expand and try new things. With that, I am excited to serve as our new class reporter and look forward to hearing all your news, updates, and anything else you would like to share!

Please send your updates to kfitzm01@saintmarys.edu to be included in the next edition.

## 2018

Catherine Anne Bruno  
catherine.bruno9@gmail.com

Counting our Belles' blessings this spring, including these announcements from the Class of 2018!

**Taylor Noelle Thomas** had an eventful year with many updates. First, she published her first creative nonfiction piece in an international literary magazine, "The Angry, Black Girl at a Party" in *Bayou Magazine*. Second, she was accepted into Hampton University's PhD program for counselor education and supervision, and lastly, she was hired as a therapist at the University of Notre Dame.

**Kate Maeve Ryan** married Sam DeTrempe (ND '18) on August 28, 2021, in South Bend, IN. Bridesmaids included: **Lillian Corbett Freund**, **Theresa Bernadette McSorley**, **Mary Claire Mordini**, and **Christina Marie McGuire '19**. Many of Kate and Sam's family and friends from Saint Mary's and Notre

Dame attended including Saint Mary's alumnae: **Fran DeTrempe Solomon '77**, **Eileen Ryan '79**, **Sarah Adam Ellsworth '83**, **Kate O'Keefe Flores '83**, **Deirdre Grant Gehant '83**, **Mary Lynn Mulcahy Doyle '85**, **Corinne Flores DeTrempe '86**, **Mary Fran Gisch Kitz '86**, **Maura Barille Crooks '87**, **Daphne Kosse Crooks '89**, **Marijane Grant Brangle '90**, **Colleen Flores McLaughlin '91**, **Diane Grant Nevin '97**, **Colleen Crooks Gorman '17**, **Sarah Elizabeth Connaughton**, **Colleen Margaret Drolet**, **Molly Ann Grimes**, **Kelaine Elizabeth Huth**, **Elizabeth Margaret Rahal**, **Collette MariAnna Shannon**, **Rose Marie Vicenzi**, and **Mary Clare Vicenzi**.

**Lauren Nicole Caracciolo** married Christian Moore on October 23, 2021, in Dripping Springs, TX. **Kayse McGough Morton**, **Emily Suzanne Baert**, and **Harlee Renee Ruth** were bridesmaids, and **Emily Lenahan Wert** and **Allie Marie Royce** were in attendance.

**Gabriela Anne LaMontagna** married John Travisano (ND '18) in Nashville, TN on November 6, 2021. **Catherine Ridgely Lauerman**, **Kathleen Mary Barry**, **Colleen Allare**, **Meghan Katherine McMahan**, **Meagan Amelia Armenta**, and **Catherine (Cat) Margaret Murad** were all in attendance.

**Jamie Moran** married Stephen Monn on Saturday, December 4, 2021, in Celebration, FL. Jamie's best friend from Notre Dame Molly Yang Judge ('18) was her maid of honor. Congratulations, Jamie and Stephen!

Please continue to share your wedding announcements, professional accomplishments, and life updates with me at catherine.bruno9@gmail.com.

Saint Mary's Forever!

## 2019

From the *Courier* Office

**Macie Elizabeth Martin** married Steven Leathers on August 7, 2021, at Holy Spirit Chapel in Le Mans Hall. **Morgan Louise Martin '23** was the maid of honor along with **Anna Marie Byrnes**, **Anna Perry**, and **Kasey Lynn Bounds** as bridesmaids. Other Belles in attendance included her mom **Carrie Rogalski Martin '94**, **Christine Fleischman Michalik '94**, **Sara Brumbaugh Lutz**, **Gabby Zaremba Vilker**, and **Krystal Marie Harris**.

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**Catherine Menge '24**, an environmental studies major, uses her art to represent the negative effects of overfishing and microplastics on fish populations. In Professor Julie Tourtillotte's Sustainable Textiles class, Menge created the piece by making 93 origami fish suspended by wire. She made the paper for the fish from a denim-flax blend with different rations of fiber to create gradients.