

ENVISION

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SPRING 2019



MOTHER PAULINE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

NORA BARRY FISCHER '73



Nora and Don Fischer, right, on campus with Interim President Nancy Nekvasil, left.

Federal judge & first-gen alumna gives back through study abroad support

Nora Barry Fischer '73 and her husband, Donald R. Fischer, MD, MBA, know a thing or two about the transformative experience of education and study abroad.

Nora was a first-generation college student who had heard about Saint Mary's College from friends and family who had attended Saint Mary's and Notre Dame. She received merit- and need-based scholarships to attend Saint Mary's.

Nora majored in history and humanistic studies, "with a lot of French thrown in." That French focus led her to study abroad in Angers, France as a sophomore. "My year in Angers brought me a new dimension – something I might not have been able to achieve on my own given my family circumstances." Her study abroad friendships have been lifelong — they celebrated their 60th birthdays together in Angers in July 2011.



Nora's school ID for her year in Angers, France.

Nora attended Notre Dame Law School after Saint Mary's and now works as a federal judge in Pennsylvania. Her husband Don attended Notre Dame as a pre-med student and became a pediatric cardiologist; he is now a retired chief medical officer and continues to work as a consultant on health care. The couple's three children attended Notre Dame and studied abroad.



Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students in the fifth year of the Angers program. Nora is seated on the far right in the first row.

Story continued inside

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Spring always heralds new beginnings — our campus is bursting with flowers, and 382 women are poised to graduate from Saint Mary's with degrees that will carry them into their futures as strong leaders and thinkers.

Each year, the College focuses on a different

core value of our mission; this year's core value focus is Faith & Spirituality. I have seen the College truly live out this value with opportunities for spiritual wellness for our students, events that focus on civic engagement and self-knowledge, and inter-faith events that welcome diversity and sharing of faith traditions.

This year Saint Mary's began a new major, Environmental Studies, which includes a strong spiritual component that sets it apart from programs at other institutions. As the earth blooms this spring, I am grateful for the students who will use their Saint Mary's degrees to protect our resources, as well as the thoughtful faculty who make interdisciplinary studies like this possible.

Warmly,

Valerie Sherman, JD
Director of Gift Planning

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To learn more visit
saintmarys.edu/GiftPlanning

IN MEMORIAM

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

Louise W. Berezny

Lois Langford Berry '54

Mary McGahey Dwan '58

Barbara Murphy Lange '71

Elaine Korth Loser '50

Mary Alice O'Laughlin '44

Thayla Britt Scheidler '55

Mary Rose Shaughnessy '52

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



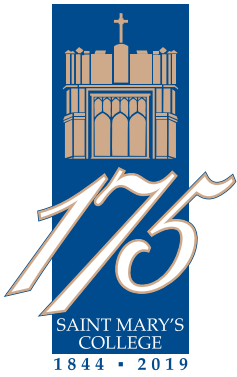
SPOTLIGHT Story continued from front cover

"Don and I talked about where we could give that would reflect our family's passion for study and travel overseas," Nora said. "We put together a fund at Notre Dame for study abroad and thought we should do likewise at Saint Mary's."

Nora and Don established a charitable remainder trust (CRT) at the College in 2018 through an initial gift of mutual funds, a tax-smart way to give. A CRT pays income for life with the remainder of the gift establishing a charitable fund. Nora hopes her children will follow her example in their own future philanthropy.



A re-creation of the photo from the front cover, taken in the same location of those who returned for the 40th reunion of their year abroad in 2011; Nora is again on the far right in the first row.



SAINT MARY'S CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

In January, Saint Mary's College kicked off its celebration of 175 years as a leader in the education of women, welcoming and nourishing the whole person in the Holy Cross tradition.

In the spirit of meeting needs of our community, over 270 Saint Mary's faculty, staff, and students joined the Sisters of the Holy Cross to support local organizations. Those gathered made scarves, fleece blankets, hygiene kits, cards and more for local homeless shelters, hospitals, and other non-profits.

Later, the Opening Liturgy of the 175th Anniversary of Saint Mary's College was celebrated at Church of Our Lady of Loretto, honoring the feast day of Blessed Basil Moreau.

Continuing the celebration, the community enjoyed the Annual Moreau Dinner in the Noble Family Dining Hall. Around 650 community members and students shared the buffet meal, which included an surprise appearance by Mother Angela Gillespie, brought to life by Sister Veronique Wiedower, CSC and President of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

The celebration of service and history will continue throughout 2019. In October, please consider joining us on a trip to Le Mans, France, where participants can explore meaningful sites as they journey back to the namesake of Le Mans Hall and where the Congregation of Holy Cross first began. Sign up at www.saintmarys.edu/travel-le-mans-france.

The College will also host Discover Saint Mary's: A Walk in Time. This on-campus event will allow visitors to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the faith and heritage of the College — past, present, and future. For more information, visit www.saintmarys.edu/175.



During the celebration, students made blankets and other items for local people in need.

REMEMBERING MOTHER PAULINE



In this historic year of celebration, we reflect on the service of Mother Pauline O'Neill, the first president of Saint Mary's College and the namesake of our legacy society.

Mother Pauline was born Bridgid O'Neill in Peoria, Illinois, to an Irish farming family, the middle child out of 12! She entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross in December 1879 and served in missions and schools in Austin, Texas, and, Utah before returning in 1889 to lead Saint Mary's Academy – which would become Saint Mary's College in 1895.

A strong leader in a time of adversity, Mother Pauline raised funds and established her vision of a practical education in the Holy Cross tradition. She oversaw the building of Saint Mary's most iconic structures, including Le Mans Hall. She also nurtured students with kindness; her biographer quoted her that students "have their youth but once, and I would give them more if I could."

We can think of no more fitting honor for Mother Pauline the Builder than to honor Mother Pauline Society members in her tradition of building a strong Saint Mary's for the future. She would be proud of the foresight and leadership our bequest donors have shown in establishing these thoughtful gifts.

Valerie Sherman, JD
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ENVISION

Guest Column

THE TRIPLE-ACTION POWER OF A DONOR-ADVISED FUND



Colleen Evans '86
Cogent Strategic Wealth

When a household cleaner promises “triple-action power,” it’s wise to read the fine print. In wealth planning, too, that can be a tall order to fill. But if you are charitably inclined, you should be aware of three ways in which a donor-advised fund is worth considering as a potent addition to your wealth strategy:

- **Give more** — Maximize the value of your gifting to your charities
- **Pay less** — Minimize or eliminate your capital gains taxes on highly appreciated holdings
- **Live Better** — Harness the staying-power of a donor advised fund to make philanthropy a meaningful and lasting family activity

The National Philanthropic Trust describes donor-advised funds (DAFs) as being “like a charitable savings account.”

- **Donate** — You make charitable contributions into your DAF account, beginning with as little as \$5,000. You can contribute to your DAF once, or repeatedly over time.
- **Receive tax benefit** — You receive immediate tax benefits for your donations in the year that they’re made.
- **Distribute grants** — You can take your time recommending the ultimate distributions to charities.
- **Maintain advisory control** — As the name implies, you or your investment manager can give input on where your DAF custodied assets are held and how they are invested.
- **Build a legacy** — You can bequeath your DAF to a successor as a lasting, family legacy or distribute the remainder to a charity of your choice, such as Saint Mary’s.

Ask your wealth advisor about setting up a DAF and making a recommendation to benefit Saint Mary’s College.