

Thank You!

First, I would like to thank the Sisters of the Holy Cross. For if it wasn't for these amazing women of God there would be no Saint Mary's. They are our founders and their rich history embodies the spirit of this College. I, as an alumna, am indebted for their sacrifice and humbled by their vision set forth almost 170 years ago.

I want to especially thank Carol Mooney and the Board of Trustees. Your bold leadership and unwavering faith in Saint Mary's has ensured that the College will continue to be respected as an Excellent Institution of Higher Education for many years to come.

I want to thank the faculty. You tirelessly devote yourselves to your students because you believe in them. You see the gifts God has given each of them as individuals and you work to help

them find that gift within themselves. That is just one reason why Saint Mary's is so unique. I was a student who required a little extra devotion. Right Dr. Kaminski?

So, I want to especially thank you, the faculty, because in your classrooms I learned to think with my heart and my mind!

And, I wouldn't be standing here today if you hadn't taught me that my intellect is not just my mind. It is my whole being.

The Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau said, "We shall always place education side by side with instruction.

The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart"

Please know as a former student and Trustee that if it wasn't for your support of Carol, the Board of Trustees and the

Mission of the College, we would not have these amazing

women standing before us today. Well prepared, confident

and proud Saint Mary's women who, in a few moments, will

begin their journey to change the world. I am humbled

beyond words that I have been chosen for this honor today.

Lastly, I want to thank my mom and my dad. You taught me to follow my dreams, be myself and to always put God first.

Thank you!

To my husband Pat and my three children Nathan, Paige and Jacob. Thank you for sharing me with Saint Mary's. We always say that in our home it is God and family first....but I know you all know that Saint Mary's comes in as a really close 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Now to you ....the class of 2013.

I want to speak to you as an Alumna to an alumna.

Don't change who you are to fit into the world! And what I mean by that is...over the past four years you have learned about who you are and what you have passions for in life. It is your time to go out and make a difference. It is time for you to go out and share your God given talents with the world. Your time here at Saint Mary's has prepared you well and we are

proud of you! I have witnessed Dr. Mooney traveling this entire country proclaiming to all that “ the world needs Saint Mary’s women, and that Saint Mary’s women will change the world and make it a better place.” So go out there and change the world, but not by conforming to someone else’s mold, but by being you! I am standing here today receiving this honor simply because I was me. Saint Mary’s women are multi-faceted! That is what makes us great doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, mothers or what ever title we choose to take on in our life. If you hide just one talent or gift you cheat the world of you. And the world needs each and every one of you!

Second thing I want to tell you is...don’t be stranger! 18 years ago I was sitting right where you are today. Feeling sad because my time at Saint Mary’s was over. But it wasn’t. I stayed connected through the years and became more involved as time in my life allowed. And, I can tell you for certain that I

am the woman I am today primarily because I remained a Saint Mary's Woman.

Remember Saint Mary's is not just a College you attended. It is far more than that. Saint Mary's is our home where a piece of our selves will reside for all eternity. Saint Mary's is a mother. And, her arms are always open to welcome us home. She longs for your next return. So, I ask all of you to return often. Return through thought, through prayer, through reunion weekends, your local alumnae clubs, College committees, guest speakers, plays in Moreau, a friend's wedding and one of my favorite the Madeleva Lecture Series.

And when you return I promise there will be someone so happy to see you. Maybe it will be a current student or one of our beloved sisters of the Holy Cross. A professor or the Rock Star we all know and love Carol Ann Mooney herself!!!!!!

But come back, and when you do reflect upon the time you spent here and figure out how you can help give back what it is in your heart you have to give.....Your time, your talent or your treasure..... but give back and support her. Many of these women sitting up here with me today have done just that. And you have received the blessings from their love and devotion to Saint Mary's. I am speaking for these women and myself when I say, As an older Alumna to the class of 2013. I ask you to pay your blessings forward to the younger generations of Saint Mary's women, because when you do you will find that once again you will leave with far more you came with!

Remember Saint Mary's women will change the world. It isn't a question. It is a fact! It is who we are! It is what we have been taught! **And it is your destiny to become!**

Thank you!

