How Libraries Stack Up in a Virtual World
Lillian Reeves ’10 has already helped make it possible
and she’s just getting started.

**as a first-year**
Explored chemistry and business classes, volunteered across campus, and found her place at Saint Mary’s

**as a sophomore**
Declared a business administration major to prepare her to operate her own dental practice specializing in treatment for special needs patients

**as a junior**
Served as president of Toastmasters and tutored at-risk youth

**as a senior**
Applying to dental schools while exploring first-hand the specialty options in the dental field

Saint Mary’s students are dynamic women determined to change the world. Saint Mary’s provides the academic foundation and spiritual focus they need to build a better tomorrow.

Read more about Lillian at saintmarys.edu/lillian-reeves.

You can give them the scholarships and financial aid that sets it all in motion, just like you did for Lillian.

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The research area of the Cushwa-Leighton Library at Saint Mary’s is the center of activity. Left to right: Janet S. Fore, director of the Cushwa-Leighton Library; Maddie Meckes ’13; Jingqiu Guan ’11; Tatum O’Brien ’12; Sunee Fleshman ’12. Foreground: Ashley Morfin ’13

Photo by John Tirotta
College Library has Rich History and Bright Future

by Janet S. Fore, MLS
director of the Cushwa-Leighton Library

Welcome to the Fall 2009 issue of Courier celebrating the history and contributions of the Cushwa-Leighton Library, the College’s libraries preceding it, and the many students who have passed through their doors.

This past summer, I was invited to help the Courier editors develop articles featuring the Cushwa-Leighton Library. Needless to say, I was delighted. I love to talk about the library, its collections and services, and our goals for supporting the curriculum and the Mission of the College.

I have only been at Saint Mary’s College for six years, but have enjoyed hearing stories about the College and its library history. The faculty and staff at Saint Mary’s have been generous in sharing their history and heritage with me, just as they are with the young women who come here as first-year students and leave four years later, having lived and added their own special story to that heritage.

It is a joy to be in the library and see students come in fresh from their first days and weeks of classes, excited about the tremendous journey they are undertaking as they begin their four years here. I see them tentatively undertaking their first assignments and finding their way around the library. Then, as they grow in confidence in using a wider range of research skills, I see them helping each other. And finally, in their junior and senior years, developing their senior comprehensive projects, they become more confident in their ability to analyze their own research needs and effectively use information resources appropriate to their context and assignments.

The learning and research needs of our students are changing as the curriculum and assignments change. The ways in which our students communicate with each other and how they search for information have changed dramatically in the past twenty years. Libraries are changing to meet those needs. Information technology has altered the way we collect, access, and present information for our users. In this issue, you will read a small preview of the future we hope to shape for the library for our current and future students.

Through these pages, it is my hope that you will learn more about how the Cushwa-Leighton Library continues to shape the academic success of our students.
The library occupied a simple wooden shelf at Saint Mary's Academy in Bertrand, Mich. At the request of Father Edward Sorin, four Holy Cross sisters traveled to the area to “look after the laundry and the infirmary . . . and also conduct a school, perhaps even a boarding school.” There, the sisters established the first school and novitiate.

Saint Mary’s Academy, later renamed Saint Mary’s College, moved to Notre Dame, Ind.

The library was located in Bertrand Hall.

An entire room was designated as the library in Ladies Hall, part of Musical Hall (which is no longer standing).

The library was located on the first floor, down the corridor off the main hall in the basement of Collegiate Hall (now Holy Cross Hall).

The library moved to Le Mans Hall where it occupied the entire second floor of the chapel wing (now known as “Queen’s Court”).

The library moved to a new building—Alumna Centennial Library (now Haggar College Center). The new library was a gift from Saint Mary’s alumnae and named in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the College in 1844.

The library moved to its present location, the Cushwa-Leighton Library, and was named for its two benefactors, Margaret Hall Cushwa ’30 and Mary Lou Morris Leighton. Cushwa was the president of the Youngstown (Ohio) Alumnae Club, a member of the College’s Board of Lay Trustees and Board of Regents, and the chairwoman of The Madeleva Society. Leighton was a friend of Saint Mary’s College who devoted her time, talent, and resources to the College through her work on the Board of Regents. She also helped establish The Madeleva Society.
The idea of libraries as only stately brick and mortar building containing aisles of books and desks may belong in the sepia-toned past. “One of the biggest changes is that we’ve moved more into the electronic world,” says Janet Fore, director of the Cushwa-Leighton Library. With more than 20 years of experience as a librarian and educator, she has experienced first-hand the library’s coming of age in the technological sense. “Even just three years ago, we saw more students coming in, studying independently. Now, they’re with their laptops or at one of the library computers, studying in groups, or working together on projects,” says Fore.

The College’s Cushwa-Leighton Library opened its doors in 1982, replacing earlier library quarters on Saint Mary’s campus. Home to a full-scale library collection, the College Archives, Trumper Computer Center, and the Huisking Family Instructional Information Technology Center (ITRC), the library offers an array of resources and services for users in person and online. There, users receive assistance from a professional library staff dedicated to supporting the students’ learning.

**Moving Beyond the “Caretaker” Role**

The librarians are part of the College faculty, helping to teach students information literacy skills. It is a process, Fore says, that requires critical thinking, using skills that are best learned when they are integrated in classroom teaching, rather than in isolation, she says. Librarians often collaborate with professors to integrate information literacy skills into their courses and visit classrooms to discuss techniques for conducting successful research.

The instruction and training today’s librarians provide, Fore says, “is in support of what [students] are doing in their coursework as a way of preparing them for living in the world and working in their careers. That’s where the focus is now.” The relatively small size of Saint Mary’s campus facilitates adjusting services to more individual needs. Students can schedule appointments to work one-on-one with librarians.

Librarians are moving beyond the “caretaker” role, says Fore. “There was much more focus in the past, especially in small colleges, on ‘Sit down with me and I will help you find the answer,’ and it’s evolved into much more of a ‘Sit down with me and I will show you, so you can learn how to find the answer.’”

Today’s users can phone in and email requests for resources such as interlibrary loans. Using Library Express, students can request materials online and receive them in PDF format. They can access some journals online as well. Faculty use the assistance of librarians to post electronic reserve material to Blackboard, an online course management system, that provides students access to reserve material at any time, on any day. In the past, students had to go to the library and sometimes wait for the materials to become available to photocopy them.

Fore is quick to support the continuing need for “brick and mortar” library facilities. The library remains a safe place for late-night studies or work in a quiet environment. It is centrally located, a place to hosts events, and a place of cultural exchange for students, she says. Students can access the Trumper Computer Center, and use its computers all day or night or work on multimedia projects in the ITRC.

There will always be a need for books. “The need for the collections hasn’t gone away,” says Fore. “We don’t have a large collection in remote storage someplace where we can send you everything electronically. We still have need of those print resources. Some people like being able to come and spread out on the table in the building and study that way.” In some cases, the electronic medium may actually prompt the student to visit the library, as might be the case in using the online, user-edited resource, Wikipedia. However, free, non-academic, online resources offer students only limited benefits. “The best thing you can learn about Wikipedia is not to avoid it, but how to use it effectively; maybe as a starting point,” says Fore. If students reach a dead end in their research, a reference librarian can point them to additional electronic or print resources.

As the campus library considers its next steps toward improving the space and resources for students, Fore’s goal for the library is for students
“There was much more focus in the past, especially in small colleges, on ‘Sit down with me and I will help you find the answer,’ and it’s evolved into much more of a ‘Sit down with me and I will show you, so you can learn how to find the answer.’”

to “leave Saint Mary’s feeling confident that they have the information world at their fingertips and they know how to use it.”

Brick and mortar libraries remain centers for resources in an increasingly virtual information world. They provide space for collaboration and research. It is within their walls that students develop the skills needed to traverse the information landscape now and in the future.

Elaine Szarmach ’10
Major: Psychology and Communicative Disorders
I often use the library as a meeting place for group projects . . . I have had several professors bring in a librarian during class in order to show us how to search online library resources for articles.

Meagan Drone ’12
Major: Undeclared
The library is the only place where I can guarantee that I will be able to completely focus on my studies. I have used the library many times to meet with other students on group projects, which has proven to be very effective.

Martha Walter ’11
Major: Humanistic Studies
Since I don’t have a computer, I use Trumper (a computer lab in the library) everyday. It is where I go to check email, do online research, and type and print my class work and papers.
Somewhere in the future, College biochemistry major Alanis McDorn reclines on an eco-friendly, flax-pulp fiber lounge in a section of her college’s library into which pure oxygen is pumped. This allows for efficient mental transfer of the latest research data regarding, in Alanis’s case, furtherance in nanotechnology. She receives the data subliminally, easily retrievable at a later time of her choosing, by means of a tiny, wireless transdermal conductor she places effortlessly against her right temple. As she conducts research, Alanis simultaneously taps a short code into a wrist-worn device that prompts a robot elsewhere in the library to prepare her tapioca flour-crust pizza. This fare she will enjoy while she remains comfortably reclined, gleaning research within the spaces of the library of the future.

This farfetched science fiction scenario is not one likely to be witnessed at any library in the near future. However, the reality is that the contemporary library and its future role are being carefully considered by librarians worldwide. In part, this is because as with many traditional institutions, rapidly changing technology has posed new challenges and opportunities for libraries. Also, students and their needs inside and outside the classroom and beyond, even into the workplace, continue to evolve.

Astute librarians are taking an active role in responding to the changing needs of the library’s user base in a quest to retain and attract users. The library on the Saint Mary’s College campus is no exception. In fact, it is an active, ongoing process, notes the director of the Cushwa-Leighton Library, Janet Fore. “People are asking what the library will
look like in the future, what it will be,” and most importantly, says Fore, “what our students will need.”

As workplace trends head toward more collaborative, team-oriented strategies for conducting daily business, so has the learning process, says Fore. In turn, progressive libraries like Saint Mary’s, are responding by providing more flexible, strategically placed spaces in the library that promote collaborative study. These are places that will easily accommodate student group study by offering amenities like additional rolling chairs and “whiteboards” (having replaced traditional blackboards), that can serve as partitions. These are also places in which once-discouraged chatter is now allowed and encouraged, while still allowing areas for quiet, individual study, she says.

Built in the 1980s, the College’s modern library architecture features a wide-open floor plan with few limitations for creating more “group friendly” workspaces. “We want to maintain the current spirit of the building, but build on it and make it more supportive of the ways students learn,” says Fore. One can think in terms of the popular bookstore chain Barnes & Noble Booksellers to envision some of the ongoing changes in the College library, Fore says. Like the chain store, it already sports flexible seating options in areas spotted with bright-colored sofas, club chairs, and ottomans for putting up one’s feet. Plus, there are the contemporary rocking chairs paired with coordinating low side tables. However, there are not enough of these areas to support the needs of today’s students, she says.

A coffee bar would be another amenity intended to support student research and collaboration. The library has a vending machine area “but, we hope to add in a coffee bar on the first floor,” says Fore, who acknowledges that “students have always snuck in food. We discourage pizza deliveries though,” she laughs.

On a more serious note, Fore says the library currently lacks the extent of information resources needed to support advanced classroom activities. She envisions greater student access to more information resources: new titles, licensing, and subscriptions to more digital resources and journal titles for users. Students often have to go to neighboring universities and colleges in an attempt to tap into advanced research, says Fore. The information is not easy to obtain once they do find it. Saint Mary’s students cannot log onto nearby university databases, which can severely limit their access to much-needed data, Fore says. “Professors will say to students ‘When you’re working on your assignments, you’ll have to go to Notre Dame because we don’t have the materials here.’ We don’t want that to be the first line students hear,” says Fore.

“We want to expand our resources. Having all of the resources the student needs—here—is the goal.” For Saint Mary’s to increase its national recognition, it has to provide student resources equal to its peers.

The Internet’s best offerings for students come with a price tag. Project MUSE offers online access to current articles from prestigious humanities and social sciences journals and is thought to be the most reliable source of titles from many of the world’s leading university presses and scholarly societies. Due to current budgetary restraints, the library only subscribes to the smallest collection in the suite. “We want to subscribe to the comprehensive collection, which would more than double the number of journals to which students would have access,” she says. Expanding the functions of the library’s online catalog is a major goal. More multimedia-equipped presentation practice rooms are also hoped for in the future, which will support classroom trends toward more multimedia presentations, says Fore.

Finding new ways to retain and attract new users in the vein of offering better service to its user base, is a primary focus because like customers, “students can take their business elsewhere,” she admits. “Students can settle for Google™, but we want them to know that we can offer them more scholarly information than just a straight Google™ search. We have to listen to their needs and we need to be selective about it.”

As for the “library of the future,” Fore sums it like this: “The library of the future is a physical space where people can feel comfortable coming and spending time in a cultural and social setting. . . . a place where students can continue learning outside of classroom walls. It is also a virtual space where information can be obtained and it is a set of services that can meet those needs.”
If you aren’t familiar with the Dunkle scrapbooks, Sister Madeleva’s walking sticks, or the Dympna Balbach photograph collection, pay a visit to the Saint Mary’s College Archives. You’ll find these collections, plus an entire living history of the College and the surrounding communities. Recent alumna Brianna Collins ’09 knows the ins-and-outs of the Archives housed on the basement floor of the Cushwa-Leighton Library. Collins worked there throughout her four years at Saint Mary’s, helping to catalog and digitize major collections. “The Archives are a great source of historical information and artifacts,” she says. “Without them, we would lose all sense of the history of Saint Mary’s, from which we can always learn something to help us out in the present.”

During her time in the Archives, Collins created databases for a number of collections, fielded genealogy requests from alumnae, and also made an unexpected connection. “My biggest project was working on the scrapbooks of William W. Dunkle, a South Bend newspaperman who wrote articles about the circus and theatre life of South Bend in the early 20th Century. I read through his articles for four years to establish a database for them,” says Collins. “Dunkle is almost a personal friend after that.” The Archives received a grant from the Indiana State Library that was used to digitize the Dunkle collection of photos, programs, articles, and letters.

College Archivist John Kovach says the value of digitization can be summed up in two words: “preservation and accessibility. When you are given charge of records, your first job is to make sure they are preserved, but if you preserve them and very few have access to those records, that is very limiting,” Kovach explains. In fact, once complete, the digitized Dunkle collection will be accessible to any vaudeville or circus buff anywhere in the world.

According to Kovach, use of the Saint Mary’s Archives is on the rise. The archivist tracks usage based on how many times archives staff access the collection. “This past academic year, we consulted 1,903 materials, up from 1,785 in 2007–08.” The collections are a resource for Saint Mary’s alumnae, students, professors, staff, and other community members. “The areas that students seem to use the most are the photographic collection, yearbooks, student newspaper, and Chimes,” reports Kovach. “I’ve had students over the years research quite a number of projects in the Archives, including one of my former students who used the Archives collection for her ‘senior comp,’ as to what was going on at Saint Mary’s during World War I.”

While working in the Archives, Collins says she learned the stories of the Saint Mary’s community, including details that would not necessarily make it into an official history of the College. “My work also taught me that the material we have in the Archives can show you a lot about national history and Saint Mary’s place in it,” she says. Collins’ work at the Archives also set a course for her future in the field of information science. She is attending Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., to pursue a master’s degree in library science, with a specialization in archival and records management.

The Archives collections are scheduled for a move this academic year, from the library to the lower level of Madeleva Hall, where there is more space to store the collections and allow for future growth. However, the collections will remain under the auspices of the library. Kovach explains, “It will offer a long-awaited, and needed, expansion of storage space and will be approximately, two-and-a-half-to-three times the area we now occupy.”
It may seem logical for an English literature major and book lover to carry out her life’s work in a library setting. For alumna Claire Stewart ’93, pursuit of knowledge and an interest in evolving technologies led to a career, not only in library science, but on the cutting edge of digital media. Stewart now works as the Head of Digital Collections at Northwestern University Evanston in Evanston, Ill.

Stewart says her foray into digital media was a logical progression. As an English literature major and humanistic studies minor at Saint Mary’s, she rolled her love of reading into a course of study that fed her intellect and creativity. “There was never any question that we [students] would be thinking, creative leaders, and the Saint Mary’s education was designed to get us there,” Stewart says. “The classroom environment was always very free and open, discussion and respectful debate were encouraged. That set the tone for living my adult life.”

Stewart’s Saint Mary’s education prepared her for a career in which solid analytical skills were required. She left Saint Mary’s an adult who could think critically and creatively, and who could communicate well. Stewart attributes her development to the Saint Mary’s education in general and to several campus mentors, including Professors Phil Hicks, Gail Mandell, and John Shinners in the humanistic studies department. She still fondly recalls Professor Shinners’ class, “Myth, Legends, and History.”

“I loved every moment in their classes. . . . That was also the first time I felt my teachers were my colleagues and that we were learning from each other,” Stewart reflects. “That was the perfect experience to have right before graduating and it helped solidify my decision to serve in academic libraries.” Ultimately, Stewart says she came out of Saint Mary’s with confidence in herself and her ability to write and communicate effectively. Stewart completed a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) at Dominican University, River Forest, Ill., while working in the library, helping to set up a brand new service called Electronic Reserve. She completed her degree during an exciting time in technological history, as the Internet was getting ready to take off. “It was quite challenging, but being on the leading edge, having to learn technology on my own and figure things out without a lot of guidance, and being one of the first institutions in the country to do it, was very exciting,” says Stewart.

Now Stewart’s work involves digitizing and sharing library collections. The head of a department of 14 people, she splits her time between managerial duties and broader project planning for the library’s digital repository. “The repository work is fascinating, and involves a lot of complex problem-solving. We are trying to make sure that the digital objects we create are of the highest possible quality, and that we describe them and care for them well enough that they’ll be safe and usable forever.”

While her love of books and reading spurred Stewart on the path to librarianship, she sees the field as a dynamic one with evolving needs for which there are technological solutions. She finds her job at Northwestern to be a “satisfying mix” of technical work, policy development, user needs assessment, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. “I think it was really the love of reading that was the great motivator for me. I suspect a lot of people, particularly those who go into it young like I did, choose librarianship for this reason, and then the horizons really open when we get to library school or work in a library and find out what it’s all really about,” Stewart says. “But the love of reading is, at its core, about love of knowledge and information, and that’s a very deep part of being a librarian, no matter what kind we end up being.”
Seventy-five years after their graduation, Marian Eckenrode ’34, CSC, and Mary Cunningham Deitle ’34, attended the Saint Mary’s College Reunion ’09 in June. The two were among more than one thousand alumnae and guests—a record number of attendees—at the annual alumnae event.

The Class of ’04 boasted 110 alumnae at the reunion, the largest number attending its five-year reunion. Also notable was the Class of ’84, with 112 alumnae in attendance—the largest number for this year’s reunion.

Adding to the events, which included lectures, dinners, and a picnic, was an art exhibit in the Moreau Center for the Arts featuring works by five members of the Class of ’64.
scenes from Reunion

“I had the absolute best time,” says Mary E. Maloney ’84. “This was by far the most fun at any reunion. I really enjoyed the seminars too. Thank you for such a magnificent blend of reconnecting, learning, and spiritual growth. The entire time I kept saying, ‘I’m living the dream being back here.’”
ALUMNA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Joan T. Richtsmeier ’77

The Alumna Achievement Award was presented to Joan T. Richtsmeier ’77 in recognition of her lifelong personal and professional accomplishments. Richtsmeier graduated from Saint Mary’s College with a Bachelor of Art degree in sociology, earned her master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and earned her doctorate in anthropology from Northwestern University.

Today, she works in the Department of Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University, but also collaborates on projects with researchers at other universities, including Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Mount Sinai Medical School. She is currently engaged with six research projects, including a project through the National Institute of Dental Research of the National Institute of Health, studying the development of the skull and brain in a disorder called craniosynostosis. Other projects with which she is currently involved, include a study through the National Science Foundation, which examines the evolution of the face of human ancestors, and a Down syndrome project funded by the National Institute of Health.

Richtsmeier is a visiting professor at the Center for Functional Anatomy and Evolution at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and she is an associate editor for the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

Kathy Malone Beeler ’69

The Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Kathy Malone Beeler ’69, who exemplifies the College mission to make a difference in the world. A lifelong volunteer, Beeler is respected and admired for her strong dedication to helping individuals in need and for her guidance of local organizations toward financial and operational health. She has spent more than four decades in volunteer service to nearly 20 organizations.

In 2002, Beeler was named the first female chair of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, and with her leadership, helped to raise more than $5 million. She graduated from Saint Mary’s College with a Bachelor of Science degree in English, then went on to earn her master’s in English from the University of Chicago in 1971. She became an English and language arts educator in both Catholic and public grade schools.

Beeler often hosts events as a member of the South Bend Alumnae Club and is a past member of The Madeleva Steering Committee. She raises funds for the College’s Office for Civic and Social Engagement. She plunges into these pursuits with the same passion she holds for her service activities and has provided leadership in her commitment of time, talent, and treasure to Saint Mary’s. Beeler currently serves as chairman of the board at Beeler Industries in Elkhart, Ind.
OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA AWARD

Gayla Spenney ’97

The 2009 Outstanding Young Alumna Award was presented to Gayla Spenney ’97 for her dedication to and support of the Arizona Club, the Alumnae Association, and Saint Mary’s College and its students, and for her many professional accomplishments.

Spenney’s interest in serving her community motivated her to pursue a Master’s in Social Work degree. While in school, she worked as an adoption assistant with Aid for Adoption of Special Kids. She later worked as a United Way coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, where she has been a dedicated Big Sister to three children, and for which she currently consults.

After earning her master’s in 2003, she went on to work for Catholic Charities, holding the position of shelter supervisor at My Sister’s Place, a domestic violence shelter for women and their children in Arizona, for the last five years. In 2006, she was honored for her dedication to helping victims of domestic violence by the Catholic Charities organization, which presented her with an exceptional service award in recognition of her leadership and contribution in advancing the Catholic Charities’ mission.

Spenney continues to volunteer as Special Friend through Parents Anonymous and has devoted time and talent to the College as an Arizona Alumnae Club board member.

HUMANITAS AWARD

Rose-Marie Oppenheim Dilenschneider ’54

The Humanitas Award was presented to Rose-Marie “Rody” Oppenheim Dilenschneider ’54 in recognition of her devotion and service in the areas of literacy and teaching. The Coldwater, Ohio, native graduated with a major in history and a minor in secondary education. She is the mother of 10 children, including Saint Mary’s alumna, Mary Dilenschneider Condon ’87.

Dilenschneider taught school in Baltimore and later Ohio in the 1950s, and Sunday school at a local parish in the latter for 25 years. An active member of the Parish Council, she was the first laywoman on the Diocesan Board of Education.

Dilenschneider founded the Junior Great Books Program in Upper Arlington, Ohio, in 1968, and directed it for 25 years. She started a religious education program for children of graduate students and professors at St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University. She was certified in basic literacy and English as a Second Language in the 1980s. As a longtime member and boardmember of the Columbus Literary Council, she trained more than 6,000 tutors.

She developed and oversaw training program workshops for the Laubach Literacy Action for 16 states and three Canadian provinces.
When Saint Thomas Aquinas said, “Beware the man of one book,” he suggested that one so well-versed in a singular subject would make a formidable adversary to anyone opposed to him. Some scholars say Aquinas may also have been cautioning us not to limit our intellectual horizons. But what if “one book” makes such an impact on the way we think, feel, and view the world, that without limiting us, it determines the course of our lives? Here, some students, faculty, staff, and alumnae share the volumes that have inspired them.

**The Book That Changed My Life**

by Shannon E. Brewer ’03

**A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose**

by Eckhart Tolle

As a self-proclaimed perfectionist and over-achiever, this book really helped me to “get out of my head” and be present in the moments of my life. The concepts seemed a little far reaching at first, however, once I understood, I’ve been able to apply them to all areas of my life with delightful results. My favorite quote from the book is this: “Knowing yourself deeply has nothing to do with whatever ideas are floating around in your mind. Knowing yourself is to be rooted in Being (or God, a higher power), instead of lost in your mind.”

—Vanessa Indriolo ’99
BBA Business Administration
director of private equity
Fifth Third Bancorp, Cincinnati, Ohio

**A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**

by Ishmael Beah

After watching a documentary produced by Invisible Children about the child soldiers in Uganda, I knew that I needed to learn more, read more, hear more. This book was the first of many that I have read on the war in the Uganda and Sudan regions. After reading Beah’s story, I was inspired and driven to use my voice as an American citizen to create awareness for the children of Uganda and Sudan. Through Resolve Uganda, a non-profit organization, I teamed up with a fellow student and participated in Operation Knock-Knock. We met with Michigan Senator Carl Levin’s representative and discussed the issue in Uganda.

—Jessica Bodenberg ’10
biology major
member, Africa Faith and Justice Network

**A Series of Unfortunate Events**

by Lemony Snicket

The series was a major influence on my life because it opened my eyes to reading books outside of school—meaning every book I previously read was on a classroom reading list! To end this, my mom took me to the bookstore and forced me to pick a book. I reluctantly chose the book that had the most interesting cover. The cover of The Bad Beginning, the first book in the series, shows the villain planning his plot on the three Baudelaire orphans while they remain unphased. The series impacted my life because it taught me to know my strengths. The Baudelaire orphans were in trying and exaggerated conditions, but they overcame each of them because they relied on each other and they knew their strengths.

—Kendall Davis ’11
communicative disorders major
The Lorax

BY DR. SEUSS RANDOM HOUSE

... I was thinking all the way back to my childhood, and it struck me that Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax (his story about stewardship of resources, particularly environmental) was an important book for me. I would insist on checking it out of the library every time my parents would take me, and I had it memorized so that I could “read” it to myself before I was able to read on my own. Perhaps this is wishful, retrospective thinking, but it seems to me that it was one of the earliest books that helped me to realize that our actions have repercussions beyond ourselves, on the lives of others and the world. I remember wondering intently where the Brown Barbaloots would end up once their food source was destroyed, and feeling the weight of the Onceler’s lesson that each of us is responsible for what we do or don’t do to fix the problems we see in the world. It’s probably not a coincidence that these are the same kinds of philosophical issues I am most drawn to teaching about now.

—Megan Zwart, professor of philosophy

Shoeless Joe AND The Iowa Baseball Confederacy

BY W.P. KINSELLA HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

They’re both about baseball, mysticism, redemption, love, and Iowa. Shoeless Joe was made into the movie Field of Dreams. I read them in high school and fell in love with Iowa, going to Grinnell College, and meeting my future wife there.

—Kurt Bahring
professor of religious studies

Morirás Lejos (You Will Die in a Distant Land)

BY JOSE EMILIO PACHECO

It was the first experimental novel I ever read and is still considered by many as inaccessible as a result of its complexity. What I really enjoy is how this novel engages the reader. It is almost like the author is playing a game, laying out a puzzle, and the reader needs to put together all the pieces in order to construct a whole and accurate picture of the narrative and its characters. In terms of time and space, the reader travels from Jerusalem (First Century, after Christ) to the present day in Mexico (written in the 1960s). This story is about the unspeakable horror acts humans commit upon each other by using the Holocaust as an example of this. It’s a novel committed to speak the truth through fiction. For me, it is a reminder that we humans need to fight injustice in this world.

—Larisa Olin Ortiz
director of Multicultural Services and Student Programs
Conservators with The Chicago Conservation Center have painstakingly restored the 14 frescoes that have draped the entrance of O’Laughlin Auditorium since the building’s dedication in 1956. The mural panels, which symbolize the fine arts, are by acclaimed French muralist Jean Charlot (1898–1979), a famous figure in the Mexican Mural Renaissance of the 1920s. Over the years, harsh sun and winters had weathered the paintings, but the restoration performed during the summer has brought back their original vibrancy.

In 1955, when the auditorium was under construction, then-College President Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, CSC, commissioned Charlot to paint the murals. The artist was teaching a summer course at the University of Notre Dame at the time. It is College history that Marcia Rickard, associate professor of art, knows well. She is passionate about the murals and has been committed to seeing the restoration come to fruition. “Having taught art history in this building for 30 years, I’ve watched the murals fade under the onslaught of weather and sun. It’s wonderful to see the frescoes again stand out against the facade of the building as Charlot and Sister Madeleva had intended,” Rickard says.

The professor has taught a course on Charlot’s mural projects and has presented several papers at professional conferences about the Saint Mary’s murals. “I begin every fall semester’s Introduction to Art History course in front of the frescoes so that students can see the hand of a master artist who practiced an ancient technique in the 20th Century, who was a fine designer, and who felt that mural art should be accessible to everyone. I want current students to understand Saint Mary’s historical commitment to the fine arts and that the arts and the frescoes are an important part of their heritage,” she says.

Kathryn Campbell, assistant conservator of paintings (left), and Amber Smith, associate conservator of paintings (right photo), The Chicago Conservation Center, worked over the summer to restore the frescoes.

Photos by Zara Osterman, Courier staff.
Charlot painted the murals in portable frames so they could be inserted into the building's front exterior before the building's dedication. The College honored Charlot with an honorary doctorate at its 1956 Commencement.

The murals make specific references to the arts and/or the College's Catholic heritage. For instance, one panel is a painting of the ancient Greek playwright Sophocles, depicting drama. Another mural is of St. Teresa of Avila holding the tambourine she played for nuns to dance to during recreation time. Then, there is one of Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English literature, holding his rosary. A short article in the Summer 1956 Holy Cross Courier, forerunner to the Courier, stated of the murals: The frescoes complement the building so beautifully that one cannot picture it without them, nor can the frescoes be imagined in any other setting.


See the restored frescoes in person while experiencing an extraordinary sampling of the fine arts. For a list of the upcoming event season, visit MoreauCenter.com.
The Class of 2013 descended upon the campus on an August day that saw both rain and sunshine. With mixed feelings of pride in their young students and the sad realization that they would soon be leaving them, parents busied themselves unloading the essential accoutrements of their new college students.

Here, some first-year Belles talk about why they chose Saint Mary’s.

meghan casey ’13
Future nurse Meghan Casey of Frankfort, Ill. (pictured right, above), found Saint Mary’s at a college fair when she noticed that the recruiter had the same first name as hers. “I’m a little superstitious and I think things like that are cool, so I stopped and talked to her. She got me really excited about the school, so I decided to do the early action application. The day after I found out that I was accepted into Saint Mary’s College, I visited the campus for the first time. I fell in love at first sight. I’ve never seen a more beautiful campus. I knew I was at home as I stepped along the campus. Everything felt right.”

griselda maria palma ’13
This first-year student from Ft. Wayne, Ind., is looking forward to meeting new people from all over the country, with an eye to broadening her perspective while looking at other’s views of the world. She says she chose Saint Mary’s because of the Catholic environment. “My Faith has been something that has been really dear to me, and in high school it was one of those things that got me by,” says Palma. “I’m hoping I can live my faith here and even grow deeper in it.”

taylor romens ’13
Taylor Romens of Minneapolis, Minn. (pictured left, above), volunteered at the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery twice a month during her senior year of high school and is a cousin to Allison Gordon Clements ’06. “I think that having religion so closely tied with school is an awesome thing. I am a very religious person and am so excited to be able to have classes and attend Mass right on my campus.”

lindsey mcdonald ’13
Homewood, Illinois-native Lindsey McDonald chose Saint Mary’s because the classes are smaller and more personal. With a penchant for math and physics, McDonald is interested in the Saint Mary’s/Notre Dame Dual Degree in Engineering program.

london lamar ’13
London Lamar of Memphis, Tenn., recounts how she chose Saint Mary’s: “One day I was walking to class at my former high school, when a teacher asked me what school was I interested in applying to. I told her about a select few and included the University of Notre Dame. She responded by telling me about a teacher who went to Notre Dame, and she suggested that I should go talk to her. Well, I did the next day and surprisingly, she said it was not Notre Dame—it was Saint Mary’s. At first I was slightly disappointed, but after our ten-minute conversation, I became really interested in the school, which led me to apply. After my acceptance to Saint Mary’s and the Meet Me at the Avenue visit, I fell in love with Saint Mary’s. I knew this was where I wanted to attend. Although I was a little nervous about it being all girls and being so far from home, I couldn’t think of a better choice for college.”
Meet the Exceptional Class of 2013

This fall, Saint Mary’s welcomed its most diverse class in the College’s history. Comprised of 438 enrolled students, the Class of 2013 boasts ten class and student body presidents, 96 team sports captains, and a U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award recipient among its achievers.

It is a class already on the track to a successful College career, according to Dan Meyer, vice president for enrollment management. “The Class of 2013 possesses exceptional academic credentials by every indicator,” says Meyer. “Especially noteworthy is the fact that nearly 40 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class and nearly 60 percent, in the top 20 percent.”

The most diverse class to ever enroll at Saint Mary’s, 14.5 percent of students are from traditionally underrepresented populations.

- Overall geographical diversity of Saint Mary’s students: from 45 states and eight countries; 85 percent of students live on campus with guaranteed housing for all four years.

Class of 2013:
- Maintained solid “A” grade-point average throughout high school career: 77
- Named high school valedictorian: 16
- Named high school salutatorian: 5
- Graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class: 39.5 percent
- Earned distinguished Girl Scouts Gold Award: 6
- Earned distinguished Girl Scouts Silver or Bronze awards: 4

**High School Grade-point Averages**
- 3.91–4.00: 33.1 percent
- 3.81–3.90: 10.1 percent
- 3.61–3.80: 18.3 percent
As we look toward a recovery from the U.S. economic recession, Saint Mary’s College Professor Jill Lynn Vihtelic has a bit of advice for those of us who have tightened our belts, but are still budgeting for a few of life’s extras. That includes our desire to help others, to contribute to the common good, and to support the causes in which we believe.

Vihtelic lends her financial expertise to students through the Department of Business Administration and Economics. As an expert on all money matters, including financial planning and investment, Vihtelic offers advice on how we can contribute to our favorite causes in ways that support our budgets and help make the world a better place.

How would you advise individuals who are concerned about their budgets to include donations to the organizations they believe in?

Monthly budgeting provides spending discipline during both bad and good times. Causes that people believe in and want to support should be incorporated into the monthly budget. For example, for most of us it’s easier to give $84 a month to our favorite cause than to come up with a lump sum payment of $1,000.

How should individuals who support several organizations or causes determine which to continue supporting?

One idea is to ask for financial reports and compare administrative expense ratios. Most donors prefer to give their money to the organization that gets the biggest bang for their buck. Another idea is to direct giving to particular projects and activities.

Is there a rule of thumb for how much people should contribute to a cause?

I don’t believe in rules of thumb. Individuals need to prioritize their spending and saving within the context of their personal circumstances.

What do you recommend for people who feel they can’t afford to support an organization financially, but who still want to make a difference?

Most organizations have volunteer opportunities that require donor time rather than money. Volunteering is a meaningful way to stay connected with a cause.

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**Make a Plan of Action**

**Support organizations that reflect your passion**

Here’s how:

- Gain an understanding of your giving history. Which organizations have you supported in the past and how did your giving reflect your goals, values, and financial considerations at the time?
- Determine what inspires you now. Is there a specific cause or issue that you feel passionate about, or a problem you’d like to help resolve?
- Research and review several organizations that do the work you feel makes a positive difference in the world.
- Choose organizations that not only reflect your fervor for a certain cause, but those that accept the level of involvement you prefer. For example, do you wish to simply make monthly donations via check, or are you willing to serve as a board member?
- Establish your budget for giving. What kind of contribution will make a difference to the cause you support while keeping your finances safely in the black?
**Saint Mary’s Hosts First O’Brien Golf Tournament**

Saint Mary’s hosted the first O’Brien Golf Tournament at Notre Dame’s Warren Golf Course in September. The two-round, 36-hole competition was made possible by the generosity of Tim, Diane, and Katie O’Brien ’08. The tournament attracted some of the nation’s elite Division III golf programs, including 10-time NCAA Division III Champion, Methodist University, who also won this tournament.

**Toni Kuschel New Head Volleyball Coach**

Toni Kuschel took over the reins as the head coach of the varsity volleyball program at the College this year. The Minnesota native most recently served as the Junior Olympic volleyball coach for the North Country Region as well as the assistant volleyball coach at Mesabi Community College in Virginia, Minn. She replaces former head coach Julie Schroeder-Biek ’88, who stepped up last fall to the position of College athletic director.

Kuschel brings to Saint Mary’s more than eight years of coaching experience at the high school, Junior Olympic, and collegiate levels as well as a wealth of sports management and administration experience. She has spent the past two-and-a-half years as the sports director at the Mesabi Family YMCA in Virginia, Minn. and has served in various administrative capacities in her career.

“We are very excited for Toni to come on board and become a part of our department,” says Schroeder-Biek. “She has a true passion for coaching and will bring great energy to the program.” Kuschel is a 2002 graduate of Central Lakes College where she competed in both volleyball and softball while earning an associate’s degree. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in recreation and sports management from St. Cloud State University in 2005.

**Spring 2009 Sports Round-Up**

**Golf**

Spring 2009 proved to be the perfect opportunity to overtake fall MIAA Champion Olivet and earn the conference’s automatic qualifying bid to the Division III National Championships by 11 strokes over the Comets.

At the Championships, the Belles took a 10th place finish. Emily Gore ’11 finished off a stellar spring season with a 17th place individual finish, which included two rounds of 77 and one round of 79. Meanwhile, fall MIAA Medalist Rosie O’Connor was one of 10 golfers named to the Great Lakes All-Region Team.

**Softball**

For the fourth straight season under head coach Erin Sullivan ’04, the Saint Mary’s softball team earned more than 20 wins on the year while boasting better than a .400 team slugging percentage.

Junior Ashley Peterson repeated as a First-Team, All-MIAA and First-Team, All-Region honoree after her second straight season with a .500 batting average. Peterson, junior Maureen Healy, and freshman Angela Gillis all earned MIAA Player of the Week honors throughout the season.

**Tennis**

Under the guidance of first-year head coach Dale Campbell, the Saint Mary’s tennis team earned their fourth consecutive 10-plus win season while earning a fifth-place finish at the season-ending MIAA Tournament.

The Belles had honorees on both the First and Second Teams. Sophomore Jillian Hurley, who played #1 singles this season, was tabbed as a First-Team, All-MIAA honoree while junior Camille Gebert was a Second-Team, All-MIAA honoree at #2 singles.
New Program Steers Students’ Direction for Each College Year

Students will address life’s big questions through Saint Mary’s new advising program, Cross Currents. The program, which kicked off this fall, integrates new and existing programs offered by the College’s Academic, Mission, and Student Affairs divisions. “Our students have always enjoyed a multitude of resources available to them from the three divisions, and the programs often flow into each other,” says Dr. Patricia Fleming, senior vice president and dean of faculty. “Cross Currents recognizes the interconnection of these resources and delivers them with a more systematic approach.”

Cross Currents will expand the opportunities available to each student over four years, helping each to identify her calling, her course of study, and finally, her career path. The new advising system encourages the student to explore her vocation or calling in life by considering four central questions: “Who am I?” “What is my passion?” and “To what am I called?” In their senior year, students will prepare to leave the College with answers to the question, “How can I make a positive difference in the world?”

Through Cross Currents, first-year students will be paired with seniors who will act as mentors throughout the entire school year. “I believe that this program will help first-year students because they will always have an upperclassman they can talk to and not feel intimidated,” says senior biology major and Cross Currents mentor Jessica Bodenberg. “I would have loved to have an upperclassman to go to with questions about what to do on campus, study tips, how to better organize myself, or how to deal with dorm life. I think that we will make a difference in the first-year students’ transition to college and in developing who they are.”

Diane M. Fox Joins College to Direct New Student Success Program

The College recently established the Office for Student Success to further ensure every student’s opportunity to succeed. Diane M. Fox has joined the College as its new director. The program supports first-year students in their academic success during their critical, first-semester adjustment to collegiate life.

Under the Division of Academic Affairs, the Student Success program focuses on student empowerment and motivation, and development of skills and strategies needed for academic success, on an individual-need basis or by professor referral. A lunchtime lecture series for all students is planned for this fall, which addresses issues such as time management and goal setting, reading, listening, note taking strategies, and battling concentration, stress, and procrastination issues.

Fox comes to Saint Mary’s with several years of experience working with students at the college and high school levels. Here, she will also teach a first-year course called “Strategies for Academic Success.” She previously worked at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind., in various roles over several years, including assistant professor of English, director of advising, and as director of Holy Cross’s College Success program.

“The old saying, ‘[W]ith freedom comes responsibility,’ is the theme for the first-year student. How this newfound freedom is handled may very well determine the success of their collegiate career,” Fox says.

Linda Paskiewicz is New Director of Department of Nursing

Linda Paskiewicz PhD, RN, CNM, has joined the College as the director of the Department of Nursing. She brings a wealth of nursing, teaching, and research experience to the program. Her career spans four decades and includes more than 12 years of service at the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago. She has researched and published extensively in the areas of obesity, pregnancy, perinatal loss, and mothering.

At Saint Mary’s College, Paskiewicz will lead the nursing department’s traditional undergraduate baccalaureate program and the accelerated baccalaureate program. “The nursing department faculty have embraced Linda whole-heartedly, and she them,” says Senior Vice President and Dean of Faculty Patricia Ann Fleming. “I expect she will help lead our department in many important initiatives including accreditation; curriculum review and assessment; expansion of our clinical sites; possible expansion of our degree programs, and preservation of the integrity of the nursing faculty through equitable course loads.”

Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, CSC, president of the College from 1934–1961, had a vision to make Saint Mary's College the premier Catholic, women's liberal arts college. That goal is unchanged even today and is a core principle of President Carol Ann Mooney's strategic plan. The Madeleva Society, celebrating 30 years of dedication to the College, was established to perpetuate Sister Madeleva’s dream and to carry on her work.

We celebrate and thank the members of The Madeleva Society for their passion and commitment to Saint Mary’s. And, we invite you to take a journey with us through the history of the society in the upcoming issues of the *Courier*.

**ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

In 1979, Mary Lou Morris Leighton had the idea to create an individual donor group in honor of Sister Madeleva. Mary Lou and her husband Judd, who were loyal friends of Saint Mary's, issued a challenge: establish a donor society, seek charter members, and achieve $350,000 in gifts during the challenge period. If the College was successful, the Leightons would match that amount.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT.**

During the initial charter membership period, 209 alumnae, parents, and friends joined The Madeleva Society with unrestricted annual gifts of $1,000 or more. So, the Leightons generously wrote that $350,000 check. The inauguration of The Madeleva Society was an overwhelming success as alumnae and friends recognized the value of their gift to the College and the importance to students of their day and those of tomorrow.

- In its first year, 80 members contributed more than $200,000.
- During the charter or challenge period (1979–1982), contributions totaled more than $963,000 from 209 members.
- The Madeleva Steering Committee was formed in 1979, chaired by Joyce McMahon Hank ’52, who currently serves on the College Board of Trustees. Today, the steering committee works to ensure the Leightons’ vision for generations to come.

For more information about The Madeleva Society, please visit saintmarys.edu/annual-societies or contact The Annual Fund Office at 800-SMC-8871.
Alumnae Deaths

Elizabeth Roark ’30, aunt of Martha Roark Higgins ’69, May 18, 2009.
Elizabeth Barry Botzum ’31, April 13, 2009.
Helen Webster Sweeterman ’36, April 19, 2009.
Mary Schu Ahles ’40, April 4, 2009.
Carol Remington Madden ’47, May 14, 2009.
Rita Grundy Cook ’48, aunt of Karien Cook Goodwin ’96, July 19, 2008.
Maryanne O’Hara Guitariep ’48, August 8, 2008.
Mary Frances Hardin Wolf ’49, mother of Mary Wolf Conaty ’76, Carol Wolf Gubbins ’83, grandmother of Colleen Conaty Bowen ’03, Julio Conaty ’05, Caitlin Conaty ’07 and Meghan Conaty ’09, March 24, 2009.
Penelope “Penny” George Donovan ’50, September 1, 2008.
Florence Wit Cairns ’51, June 27, 2008.
Sister M. Clarita Waner, CSJ ’52, June 6, 2009.
Mary Kate Connolly ’53, March 28, 2009.
Family Deaths

Joseph M. Bajo, father of Kathleen Bajo ’70, June 13, 2009.
Francis Bracken, father of Patricia Bracken ’90, April 4, 2009.
George James Chiames, father of Karen Chiames Ashby ’78, April 23, 2009.
Mary R. Chmielewski, grandmother of Robyn Chmielewski Albert ’00 and Kristi Gale Chmielewski ’97, April 26, 2009.
Wayne H. De Neff, father of Stephanie De Neff Tremme ’77 and Therese De Neff Rieger ’84, and grandfather of Ann Spiess Clark ’97, April 9, 2009.
J. Patrick “Patt” Dugan ND ’58, father of Nicole Dugan May ’92, November 27, 2008.
Harold V. Howe, grandfather of Melissa Gibson Ryker ’91, May 1, 2009.
Mariana Hussey, mother of Maureen Hussey Key ’76 and Mariana Hussey O’Rear ’85 and grandmother of Jennifer Parrish Ewing ’96, April 29, 2009.
Geraldine M. Kozak, mother of Susan Kozak Knight ’68 and Jean Kozak Vencel ’72, April 20, 2009.
Betty Jean Ludwig, mother of Wendy Lou Ludwig ’90, April 15, 2009.
Ellen McElney, mother of Anne McElney Hargrave ’76 and grandmother of Meghan Hargrave ’05, December 18, 2008.
Robert L. Milford, Sr., husband of Lila ChenalMilford ’48, father of Esta Milford Seach ’86 and Kari Milford Persinger ’90, brother-in-law of Marguerite Chenal Jans ’48, and grandfather of Marguerite Ritcheys’05, April 6, 2009.
Murlan J. “Jerry” Murphy, mother of Rita Murphy Carfagna ’75, April 18, 2009.
Alban M. Norris, father of Louise Norris Drapek ’60, June 20, 2009.
Margaret Mary “Maggie” Buckley Pearl, mother of Kathleen Pearl Hughes ’87, Margaret Pearl Mundy ’90, mother-in-law of Patricia Sheehan Pearl ’83 and Mary Julie Michelotti Pearl ’83, grandmother of Christine Pearl ’07, Laura Freehette ’09, Margaret Freehette ’09 and Lynda Pearl ’09, April 11, 2009.
Andrea Marie Pilger, daughter of Patricia McAndrews Pilger ’54 (retired faculty-social work), May 29, 2009.
Dr. Thomas E. Talaga, father of Ellen Talaga Mikolay ’92, December 6, 2009.
William M. Vander Hagen, grandfather of Dana Bogaert Livegood ’05, Lindsey Stillson Roth ’06 and Emily Stillson ’09, May 29, 2009.

Marriages

Elizabeth Rollins Orton ’89 and Michael, November 15, 2008.
Melissa Peters Christaldi ’95 and Joe, July 7, 2008.
Laura Nowicki Lutterbeck ’96 and Jeff, February 13, 2009.
Corinne Hanrahan Mieszczak ’97 and Michael, December 6, 2008.
Breeyan Creevey Antontiglovani ’02 and Matt, May 2, 2009.
Francesca Casaccio Rabchuk ’02 and Ben, March 28, 2009.
Katherine “Katie” Best ’03 and Joe Genzel, December 30, 2008.
Emily Horner Batton ’04 and Adam, October 25, 2008.
Michele Firmstone Butwin ’05 and Benjamin ND ’05, July 17, 2009.
Births & Adoptions


Patricia Weed Bennett ’90 and Michael: Jenna, August 24, 2007.


Annie Martin Flynn ’92 and John ND ’92: Ryan Christopher, May 9, 2009.


Kelly O’Connell Mangel ’92 and David: Chloe Alexandra, January 5, 2009.

Sharon Zint Marts ’92 and Bruce: Coole, September 19, 2007.


Nicole Dugan May ’92 and Philip: Brenda James, May 28, 2008.


Leslie Schneider Krueger ’93 and Steve: Caroline, December 10, 2008.


Heather Heller Seckinger ’93 and John: Ruby Gayle, June 4, 2005 and Jeta Marie, June 24, 2008.


Susanne Treloar Simmerano ’94 and Rocco ND ’95: Lauren Marie, April 2, 2009.


Tara Krull Poteraj ’95 and Matt: Emily Alexis, March 9, 2009.

Jennifer Puplava ’95 and James Goodstall: Beatrice Diana, January 13, 2009.


Aubrey Clute Kellerman ’96 and Marcus: Max, February 18, 2009.

Kristen Ross O’Connor ’96 and James: Lucy, May 11, 2009.

Stephanie Krimimanich Webber ’96 and Tad: Cash Donnelly, September 4, 2008.


Laura Meyers Malec ’98 and Jeff: Connor Jeffrey, February 17, 2009.


Britta Totte Ewald ’00 and Mark: Caroline, July 25, 2008.

Kathleen Barger Klaber ’00 and Shane: Simon Elijah, August 21, 2008.

Annette Snyder Kurrus ’00 and Ryan: Patrick, July 15, 2008.

Christine Peterson Schrom ’00 and Joseph: Molly, March 17, 2007.

Jesse Hilton Simmons ’00 and John ND MBA ’99: John Matthew, September 14, 2008.

Stephanie Per Due Sumulong ’00 and Solito: Owen Solito, May 5, 2009.


Mary Wald Duncan ’01 and Randy: James, January 16, 2009.


Stefanie Kitta Bent ’02 and Daniel: Sophie, September 23, 2008.


Meredith Jolly ’02 and James ND ’02: Jackson, March 11, 2009.

Quinn Sherm Nolan ’02 and Dayne ND ’07: Riley Jean, January 24, 2009.

Lauren Macchia Solberg ’02 and Brian: Lillian Claire, May 22, 2009.

Krisen Eve Janiczek ’03 and Randall ND ’02: Samuel James, September 18, 2008.


Laura Merry Prill ’03 and Matthew: Oliver James, December 26, 2008.

Jessica Ramirez McCracken ’04 and Brock: Quinten Thomas, October 15, 2008.

Sarah Hanward Haywood ’05 and Christopher: Brian Matthew, February 9, 2009.

Mary Cain Seitz ’05 and Jim: James, January 16, 2009.

Austin

The Austin club has a new contact—Meg Hood ’04. If you’re interested in getting involved with the club please e-mail Meg at margaret.hood@gmail.com.

Carolina

The Carolina Club in the Charlotte area met at the end of May for a spring luncheon at 300 East Restaurant, a renovated house in historic Dilworth. The Saint Mary’s Carolina Scrapbook was kicked off at this luncheon, where each alumna created her own page of memories from college. A page in the scrapbook will be dedicated for each event starting with this luncheon and we are excited to continue this tradition.

Stories were shared by all from our favorite moments in South Bend and each person walked away leaving their mark in the scrapbook and some fun giveaways. We had a great time and look forward to meeting again soon.

Chicago East

The Chicago Board of Directors has been meeting monthly downtown to re-energize participation and foster event planning. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the club, please contact Genevieve Morrill ’98 at gcmorrill@yahoo.com or 773-315-1316.

Please note: in order to maximize donations to the Chicago Endowed Scholarship and to keep the cost of club events affordable for all alumnae during these difficult economic times, printed invitations will only be mailed for the Spring Tea and Founders’ Day, all other events will be publicized via the Chicago East Listserv and the Club’s webpage http://www.saintmarys.edu/~alumnae/clubpages/ILINOIS/chicago.html.

The Chicago East Alumnae Club will be hosting a Founders’ Day Celebration on Sunday, November 15th, 2009, to remember the College’s 165th anniversary. Morning mass in Chicago’s Lincoln Park neighborhood will be followed by a plated lunch at Mon Ami Gabi, 2300 N. Lincoln Park W, Chicago. Guest Speakers will include Saint Mary’s own Sister Louisita, the Honorable Jeanne M. Reynolds ’83, Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, and a SMC Chicago Endowment scholarship fund recipient. Various raffle items will also be part of the luncheon events. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Chicago Endowed Scholarship. If you have questions about the event or you are interested in hosting a table or donating to the event, raffle, or a monetary gift, please contact Trish Melchert ’04 at patricia.melchert@yahoo.com or (312) 208-2464.

Chicago Northwest

On Saturday, August 8th, the Chicago Northwest club co-sponsored our 2009 Send-Off with the Chicago East club. The beautiful home of Matt and Barbara Cockrell ’78 in Glenview was the setting on the first truly sweltering day of the summer. Britanny Degres and Kate Treder of the East club co-chaired with Julie Deischer for the event.

The East and Northwest clubs sent a total of 25 young women off from our areas this year. We were lucky to have many of these women and their families with us. Both current and newly graduated parents, the Hansens, Temchucks, Fantoms, and Trausches all came to talk to the incoming parents during our "panel" discussion. Many of our young alum and current students came from both the city and the burbs to talk to the newest Belles. Among them were Shannon Hansen, Meredith Fantom, Missy Alich, Lynn Sikora, Maggie Seifert, and Maureen Temchuk. Congrats! If you are interested in finding out more about the artist of the piece, Sharon Marlin, email her at smartini612@aol.com or call 847-657-7633.

The Membership drive continues. We sent out over 500 letters to all the alums living within the borders of the Northwest club area. Many have responded, but there is always room for more. We extend from Antioch to Roselle to Carpentersville to Inverness. Ideas for the club range from increasing our young alum events to regionalizing others. For example offering a book club in Algonquin during the day for those who tend to have smaller kids in the far west regions and a book club in the evening around the Arlington Heights far east region. We are open to all ideas, we just need hostesses and members to come! If you want to join the club, please contact Julie Deischer at juliedeischer@smc.edu.
organized a Lunch Bunch at the upcoming books and hostesses. The Club's website for the listing of Alison Spohn Kavulich '93. Check out birth of a baby girl to club president her family back to Ohio and the joyful Carrie Mueller '92 who has moved with events like a farewell to our friend also allow us to celebrate milestone and lively discussions. The gatherings to draw a good group of Alumnae Our monthly book clubs continue Chicago West campus!

Madeleva and Spes Unica buildings on nothing else, come check out the new more enjoyable ND football season! If communication as well as emails. Proctor at petrina.proctor@yahoo.com to friend us! This tool will be used increasingly as our method of communication as well as emails.

Enjoy the Fall, and hopefully a more enjoyable ND football season! If nothing else, come check out the new Madeleva and Spes Unica buildings on campus!

Chicago West

The Chicago West Club kept the events rolling throughout the summer. Our monthly book clubs continue to draw a good group of Alumnae and lively discussions. The gatherings sometimes bring new participants and also allow us to celebrate milestone events like a farewell to our friend Carrie Mueller '92 who has moved with her family back to Ohio and the joyful birth of a baby girl to club president Alison Spohn Kavulich '93. Check out the Club’s website for the listing of upcoming books and hostesses.

In July, Joanne Tracy Marsh '69 organized a Lunch Bunch at the restaurant Ivy in Wheaton. Our mild summer weather supported a beautiful day on the restaurant’s patio with great food and friends. The next Lunch Bunch was scheduled for Saturday, October 10th, at Holy Mackerel at the Westin Hotel in Yorktown.

In August, a small group of current students and alumnae represented the Club at our annual send-off party at the Naperville home of Patty Piercy Cushin ‘90. While the students shared tips with seven area freshmen, the parents eased each other’s concerns. In the words of one mother, the parents “all came away with a much higher comfort level about the decision to attend Saint Mary’s.” The Club presented each student with a SMC academic planner to ensure their success at Saint Mary’s College!

The Club will be having another Service Day on Saturday, November 14th, at the People’s Resource Center in Wheaton. Volunteers will help in the food pantry sorting through food donations, stocking shelves, and assisting clients as they shop. For details on these and other upcoming events, visit the club’s Web site. If you wish to be added to the email list or have any questions or suggestions, please contact Alison Kavulich at irishannie93@yahoo.com.

Cleveland

On July 26 the Club hosted a gathering to welcome the Class of 2013. The event was held at the home of Christen Yesnik Fairchild ‘04. Current SMC students had the opportunity to answer questions and provide information about adjusting to college life.

The Club participated in a service project at Womankind by either volunteering or by donating. Donna DeCrane Panzica ‘78 organized this very worthwhile service project on July 29. It was agreed by Club members that future events like this should be repeated.

The Club is going “green” and future mailings will be sent via e-mail to those alumnae with e-mail addresses. Any alumna who does have an e-mail address, but is not receiving information from the Club, should forward her e-mail address to cimiller8457@earthlink.net. Also, if an alumna does not have an e-mail address but would like to receive future mailings, she should contact Cheri Petride Miller ‘79 at 440-526-8966.

Columbus

On August 2, 2009, the Columbus Club hosted a First Year Send-Off at the home of Julie Feasel ‘89, whose own daughter Meghan will be a proud member of the Class of 2013. The new and incoming students enjoyed a wonderful discussion, and the incoming students received a wealth of information. We wish them the best of luck! (Julie is going to be forwarding pictures of the event to the Courier.)

The next event will be Founders Day in October. Start saving your travel-size toiletries to donate to Choices, a battered women’s shelter in Columbus.

Dallas/Fort Worth

Dallas/Fort Worth alumnae met August 9th to send off our Saint Mary’s students for the new school year. We have 16 students from the area attending and those who came to the Send-Off were so excited by the end of the party that they were ready to leave for campus immediately.

Over the summer our book club enjoyed reading Girls in Trucks by Katie Crouch and A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini.

If you live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and would like to receive information on our events, e-mail smcdfwclub@gmail.com.

Des Moines

The Des Moines Club enjoyed conversation with current students at a gathering at the home of Aimee Beckmann-Collier, ’75, on August 10. The club looks forward to a Founders
**Detroit**

The Saint Mary’s College Detroit Alumnae Club is BACK! After a small hiatus we are back in action and more energized than ever to renew the spirit of the Belles in the Detroit Area. Our region covers Flint, Detroit, and Ann Arbor so if you are in the area and would like to join please call or e-mail Lisa (Walton) Roelle ’05 at 810-287-4832 or lisamroelle@gmail.com. Recent events included a tailgate area and would like to join please call or e-mail Lisa (Walton) Roelle ’05 at 810-287-4832 or lisamroelle@gmail.com. Recent events included a tailgate

**Houston**

A wonderful group assembled on Aug. 12 at the home of Bronwyn McAuliffe Azzarello ’97 for the annual student send-off. On Saturday, October 3rd, a group of alumnae joined Melissa Christaldi and her team “Melissa’s Miracle” for the Komen Houston Race for the Cure. Members of the Saint Mary’s Club plan to join the Notre Dame Club of Houston in San Antonio on Oct. 31st, to cheer on the Notre Dame Football Team. The Houston Club is also looking forward to the Annual Christmas Mass and Dinner, which will be held at the home of Jim and Jennifer (Mooney) Stevens on Sunday, December 6th. Anyone interested in attending this event or getting involved in the club can contact Jennifer Kincaid jenniferkincaid@hotmail.com or 713-868-5392 to find out more.

**Idaho**

Greeting from Idaho. This fall the Notre Dame Club of Idaho, along with any Saint Mary’s women, will be participating in various game watches throughout the Treasure Valley. Please e-mail me at jfhalge@msn.com for more information. We also will participate in Rake Up Boise once the leaves start falling. Our summer picnic was once again a huge success. Even though we did not have any incoming students, all those ND/SMC fans in attendance had a great time.

**Kansas City**

The Kansas City Club welcomed a new student, new alumns, and new babies to the KC-SMC family this summer. We’re excited about all of them! The Student Send-Off was held at Mary Jo Coughlin’s (Class of 1972) home—again! We’re so lucky to have Mary Jo’s warm hospitality every year! This year, we collected donations for a non-profit which takes care of children in the Kansas City area and held a drawing among those who donated. Beth McGlinn made a gorgeous rosary for the drawing—thanks, Beth! As the holidays arrive, if you’re in need of a beautiful rosary, made with high-quality beads, please consider purchasing one from Beth (dearerezabethanne@yahoo.com). The KC Club has several activities coming up: the ND v. USC ticket raffle, game watches, and the Christmas tea party (mark your calendars for December 6th for the tea). All are welcome! There are open board positions as well. To get in touch with the club, please visit our web page http://www.saintmarys.edu/~alumnae/clubpages/KansasCity.html or contact Kelly Tyler ’87 at Kelly@KellyTylerTrainingServices.com.

**Knoxville/East Tennessee**

Knoxville/East Tennessee alumnae met for a luncheon April 25th to discuss the possibility of starting an alumnae club in the area. Eight alumnae attended and all were ready to organize a local club. The first newsletter was sent out early summer. In late July members met for lunch with two returning students and their mothers. The club plans on a fall luncheon hopefully with a book discussion and a Christmas Party. Please contact Deanna Gomochak Pickel ’99 at deannapickel@gmail.com or 865-806-9492 for further information.

**New York City**

On Thursday, June 4th, the Saint Mary’s Alumnae Clubs of New York City, Northern New Jersey, and the ND Club of New York City celebrated the fifth annual “Sisters on the Sail” cocktail reception outside the 79th Street Boat Basin along the Hudson River in Manhattan. Twenty-five alumnae and close friends enjoyed the Tall Ship Unicorn along with delicious food, drinks, and great conversation. A big thank you go Dawn Parker Santamaria ’81 for hosting the event. If anyone is interested in joining the NYC Alumnae Club please contact Club President Carey O’Neill ’99 via email at careyoneil@gmail.com.

**Philadelphia**

The club held its annual New Student Send-Off party in August at Katie Smith’s ’93 home.
Three new students will be heading to South Bend from the Philadelphia area.

If you have any suggestions for club activities, please contact Katie Smith (ksmith1014@yahoo.com) with your ideas. Also, please get in touch with Katie if you are new to the area and would like to participate in the club events.

Quad Cities

The Quad Cities Club represented the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities towns and surrounding areas. Some 60+ members strong, we are proud to have six Saint Mary’s women as current students.

If you would like to learn more about the Club and/or the College, please contact Debbie Johnson Schwiebert ’74 at 309-786-2958.

San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay Area Club, in conjunction with the San Jose Club, had a picnic on Saturday, July 18th, at the home of Barbara Wolston Urrutia ’74. About 10 alumnae and current student Casey Larson enjoyed a relaxing afternoon beside the water. On Tuesday, August 25th, the Club had a Happy Hour at RN74 in downtown San Francisco. The Club also kicked off its book club on Tuesday, September 15th, at the home of Tina Alley DiSanto ’99. They read alumna Adriana Trigiani’s new book Very Valentine. Watch your email for future Book Club meetings. If you’d like to get involved in the Club, please email Michelle Eggers Lagos ’05 at sanfransmc@gmail.com

South Bend

Members of the South Bend Alumnae Club celebrated their student send-off with a dessert reception held on campus on Sunday, August 9th. Alumnae from the 1940’s up to 2008 were present to host incoming students and their parents and a great time was had by all.

Our annual Founder’s Day dinner was on October 15th in the Stapleton Lounge.

We are still looking for a Ways and Means chair and would also welcome any other volunteers that might be interested in events or community service.

Book Club in October read Left to Tell by Immaculee Ilibagiza at Marissa Runkle’s home and in November they will read My Life in France by Julia Child and Alex Prud’homme. A site has yet to be determined for November. For further information about the club or to get involved, please contact Wendy Betz Chapman at betzchap@netzero.net.

St. Louis

The St Louis alumnae club held a freshmen send-off for the St Louise area freshmen at the home of Angela Zylka. The event was a great opportunity for the SMC women to meet before the start of school. For upcoming club information or if you are interested in becoming a club officer, contact Kara Kezios ’01 at klk9906@yahoo.com.

Twin Cities

Through our dedication and support of each other and the college, the SMC TC alumnae club was named Alumnae Club of the Year! About twenty of us gathered on March 24th at The Lexington in Saint Paul, while Shari Rodriguez, Vice President for College Relations, was on hand to present the award. We were also thrilled to be joined by Linda Timm, Director of Major Gifts, as we plan for the future of the club and our ultimate goal of starting an endowed scholarship over the next five years. Thank you to the Alumnae Board of Directors and the college for this honor.

The Club is proud of its seven Twin Cities graduates from the Class of 2009: Kristen Anderson, Jessica Billings, Jennifer Bulmer, Michelle Couri, Elizabeth D’Aurora, Lisa Ficker, and Elizabeth Sonsalla. Through the generosity of club members, we were able to gift each graduate with a lovely Christmas ornament as congratulations for their campus success. We wish them well as they go out into the world and hope that if their futures find them back in the Twin Cities they will feel welcomed joining our club.

Our fabulous book club kicked off the club year on Tuesday, August 18 at the beautiful home of Marilou Eldred. We enjoyed wonderful food and drink as we discussed Cokie Roberts’ Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation. This September, at the home of Kelly Roles, the Club will be reading fellow alumna Adriana Trigiani’s latest novel, Very Valentine, in honor of Founders’ Day. Adriana, herself, will be answering our questions live through Skype!

The SMC TC Young (at Heart) Alumnae club kicked off on September 17 with some lawn bowling fun at Brit’s Pub in downtown Minneapolis! As always, please contact the club via email at smctcalumnaeclub@gmail.com with questions, news, or ideas for future events!
When our small class of 70 students entered Saint Mary’s in 1936, Sister Madeleva Wolff, CSC ’1909, said, “Either you will become one of the best classes in Saint Mary’s history or one of the worst. The result rests with you.” Looking back today, through the nearly 70 years that have elapsed, we have faced surprising challenges. I think Sr. Madeleva is pleased.

Our roll call count has dwindled down now to a precious few. Our loved ones note that we have begun to pack our mementos and that many of us have become more serious about prayers. Will God whistle or wiggle His finger when He summons us to His Kingdom? Some of us wonder. At any rate, we have had wonderful guidance along the way. We have had adventure rides beyond those provided by any life theme park. We pray and we laugh our way through the decades. As the most joy.

Great joy came to me this May when I received an invitation to attend the Golden Jubilee of Fr. William Melody, CSC. We became friends when he was the director of Holy Cross House, where Fr. John Cavanaugh, CSC, was a patient. Impressed by the service there, in 1981, I wrote an article for Courier titled “The Spirit of Holy Cross House.”

Prior to the death of Fr. Ned Joyce, CSC, Holy Cross House became my second home. Many of us SMC alumnae have found second homes that have sprung up from our SMC-ND network. The term “networking” is popular at present. Our sister schools have been using this life strategy for decades. The rest of our American culture is just catching up with what we have done, naturally, for generations.

My son, David Meekison ’69 and ’72 drove me to Notre Dame for Fr. Melody’s 50th at the Sacred Heart Basilica. We saw the smiles of joy on the dedicated priests being honored. My son whispered, “This is the real Notre Dame.” After the Mass, we dined with the honored priests at South Dining Hall. We enjoyed volleys of Irish wit. One couple had flown over from Ireland for the event.

Wistfully and with prayers, I recalled attending Fr. Joyce’s 50th just a decade before at the Basilica. At that special event, along with Pat Roth, Fr. Ned’s secretary of 50 years, we enjoyed the company of Fr. Hesburgh, the Hammes, and the Bill Volls. At that time, I was able to express my appreciation for the Helen Holland Voll trophy Bill’s mother had presented to me in 1938. What treasured memories from two Jubilee events!

In the past, I have tried to write about my classmates. I prefer to write about those loyalists who still readclassnews and wrote the most appreciative notes.

May, our younger daughter drove me to the Cleveland Clinic for a routine appointment. Even though we live three hours away, I have sought the support of the Cleveland Clinic for 60 years. Over that period, their doctors have saved my life at least five times. While in Cleveland, we had dinner with Carrie Powell ’48 and her daughter, Margaret. Carrie was awarded the SMC Distinguished Alumna Award in 2003. When Carrie and I met for dinner in Cleveland at a jazz pub, our two daughters bonded over dinner. Carrie is recovering from back surgery. She trusts the Cleveland Clinic and God with her recovery. While I was at my check-up, my doctor passed on some happy Saint Mary’s news. Rene Salas ’03 has just graduated from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Doctors at the clinic say that they appreciated her work. Rene has chosen emergency medicine as her specialty.

Also from the Cleveland Clinic staff, I heard that Clevelanders smile broadly these days as they see Dr. Gordon Bell and his wife, Kathleen Roeder Bell.

‘72, wheeling around with a large SMC-ND license plate. There are lots of ways we advertise our college loyalties…

At the moment, I am sitting in Ken’s Country Club. I’m using Ken’s scooter because my back has been hurting very badly. I recently had an MRI and learned that there is a cracked vertebra in my back, which is causing me considerable pain.

During the winter months, I belonged to several groups of bridge players. The first Thursday was a game at Coach Gate for the benefit of the Deaf Oral School. The second Wednesday was a bridge marathon at Holy Spirit. My partner and I won this game last year, so we were champions this year. (We won again this year, but now the by-laws say the couple who came in second must take over—so we get a breather!)

With the help of her caregiver, Floy Tersteeg Meagher ’43 invites 10 or more ladies to a luncheon at Big Spring every second Thursday. This is her one outing a month. We all enjoy the conversation. The first Sunday of the month I play in a two-table duplicate; all female players are Kappas, except me. It is a very pleasant group.

In March, Betty Ann Broecker and I joined a Woman’s Club trip to Philadelphia to see the famous Flower Show, titled “Bella Italia.” It was a fabulous display of flowers, decorating many of the well-known cities of Italy. Milan even had show of mannequins wearing dresses made of flowers! There were 11 acres of fabulous floral decorations. Added to the flower show were visits to several museums. The one to Dale Chihuly’s “River of Glass” was magnificent. We ate in some delightful restaurants and enjoyed marvelous cuisine. I bought DVDs of many intriguing things we saw. Shortly after our return home, I invited the group who went on the trip to my house for supper and a showing of the DVDs. All enjoyed the evening and wrote the most appreciative notes after the event. I had the pleasure of showing the DVD of the flower show to some of my nun friends and my bridge clubs.

April and May were dedicated to planting over 3000 annuals. My daughter, Madonna, and grandson Shane did a great job of weeding and planting. My helpful gardener, Jerold, was a wonderful supervisor. My back began to trouble me halfway through the month of May, so I had to oversee from inside. The garden really looks beautiful now!

In early spring, I learned that our classmate, Ann Sheets Butler, had passed away. She had prearranged her plans for burial so that her grandchildren would not have to miss school—wasn’t that thoughtful!

In May, Gert Daley Moran lost her husband of 62 happy years. They have six children: one son in Florida, one son in Washington, and four girls in the Illinois area, one near Gert.

Marg Kotte O’Hara is going to Chicago in June with her daughter and will have lunch with Gert. Pat Rogers, Tyrell, and Lorraine Cahill Greenock recently talked with Mary Lucia Wolff Stevenson recently. “Pinkie” has a ladies six days a week who cares for her. Miriam has two greatgrandchildren in Oregon. Her two grandsons live in Oregon, and each has a baby son. One son met Miriam in Apachealicia at a beach house. One couple stayed with her at the beach for a week at St. George Island. Her brother lives in Apachealicia in the house where all her family was born. Miriam is going to visit another brother in Michigan this summer at his vacation house. She is also going to her daughter’s home in New Mexico. She is playing bridge regularly.

Pat Nolan McLaughlin is still playing bridge on Fridays. She drives her own car during the day, but not at night. She hasn’t traveled much this year. She did talk with “Sis” Griffin ’41 on her birthday, May 22. Pat has a sister, Kaye Nolan Nugent (Mrs. Jack) who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she frequently sees Bob ND ’40 and Kay Houser Sanford at Mass. Pat’s brother, Tom Nolan, a graduate of Notre Dame, died this past year. He had married a girl who graduated from Saint Mary’s.

Mary Koehnemann ’54 and Kay Houser Sanford ’41 are in the news. They do crossword puzzles. She can’t do any more needlepoint, because of her carpal tunnel syndrome.

I talked with Amy Nardine Ryan, who lives in Hamilton, Ohio. She plays bridge, and is active in the garden club in Hamilton.

I received a lovely card from Kay (Catherine) Moran Lee. She reports that she is still living in a condo in Wilmette, after selling her house in Winnetka. Her three married children live nearby with their families. Her youngest son lives at Lake Geneva, Wis., and she visits him often, especially in the summertime. She has nine grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren, so she keeps busy with them. She recently played in a piano recital along with two grandsons. With her arthritic fingers, she made a few mistakes, but no one seemed to notice. A few of the parents played, but she was the only grandmother to
Perpetuate the legacy,
remember Saint Mary’s.

Alana Moynahan Rosshirt is one of several alumnae who remembered Saint Mary’s College in her will. A theology major with a minor in journalism, Alana was a vibrant presence during her student days and she loved her alma mater. From 1980-1988 Alana served the College through membership on the National Alumnae Board, including a term as Board president.

Alana’s son, Tom, writes this about his mother: “She cherished the many gifts she received from Saint Mary’s—from the Catholic social teaching that formed her political conscience, to the theological instruction that enriched her lifelong spiritual quest, and the friendships that formed the core of her social life for more than fifty years.”

Saint Mary’s College is grateful for Alana’s planned gift and for the many gifts she shared so generously all of her life.

Alana Moynahan Rosshirt ’55
October 1933 - January 2009

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Jo Ann MacKenzie, Director, Planned and Special Gifts
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110 Le Mans Hall, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN 46556
play. It was great fun! She had two leg fractures in the last two years, but she is finally walking without a cane after much therapy.

I do wish that I could report more news about others in our class but no one else has sent me any news. If you would like to see your name in print, please write, call, or e-mail me. I hope you all had a great summer!

Jennifer Akers

**REUNION**

June 3–6, 2010

50

Joanne Morris O’Brien
32865 Faircrest Drive
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
(248) 647-1654

For the second year in a row, Johnny and I traveled to South Bend for graduation festivities. Last year our granddaughter, Honore O’Brien ’08, graduated from Saint Mary’s. This year our grandson, Patrick MacKenzie, graduated with honors from Notre Dam. The campus was beautiful with the sun shining every day and some rain at night. The ND graduation was a three-day event with each department conducting its own ceremony. Patrick will be working in Hartford, Conn.

Alice Flynn Osberger’s grandson, Tom Osberger, also graduated. Of course, all her family from near and far gathered to celebrate.

We had a wonderful visit with John and Katie Scott O’Hara. Their home in Granger is lovely and very near the campus of Notre Dame. Katie and John are both retired but keep very busy. Most of their seven children and their families live in the Midwest and get together often. One son lives in Massachusetts.

Sister Ramona Oppenheim sent me a great letter full of her news. If more of you would do this once a year we would have a very interesting news column! Moines lives in San Ysidro—a part of San Diego right on the U.S./Mexican border. Her news is so interesting that I’ll include it in her own words: “After returning to the States from Guatemala in 2004 and realizing that the immigration issue was emerging as a ‘biggie,’ I thought that since I was still in good health and could speak Spanish perhaps I could help out somewhere on the border. There were endless opportunities, but the Spirit (in 2005) led me to San Diego, where I work with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in a parish right on the Border. All the meetings are in Spanish, and 95% of the members are of Mexican background—first or second generation. I love San Diego and this particular ministry! I also work with a group of Maryknoll Affiliates in the San Diego area who are very proactive on issues such as immigration and peace building.

“Two other things related to Saint Mary’s have just occurred. First, my sister, Rose Marie (Rodly) Oppenheim Dinlesnchneider ’54, received the Saint Mary’s College Humanitas Award at Reunion this year! I’m so proud of her! Second, I received a notice from Sandy Parry ’07 that the San Diego Alumnae Club is becoming active again and that we will be having a ‘meet and greet’ reunion. I intend to look up Louise Amati Riddle, who now lives about 40 miles ‘up the road’ in Oceanside. Maybe she’ll be able to come to the San Diego alumnae meeting”

Joe and Mary Cucci Depman have a busy summer planned. All the family will gather in Toledo for granddaughter Nora Kuhn’s wedding in July. Son David will be home from Prague for almost a month. After the wedding festivities, the whole family will gather up north in Gaylord, Mich., for their annual family reunion.

Judie Jones Sullivan
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Our sympathy and prayers are with Gloria Bird Olney and Mary Wieland Scheetz. Only in May, I learned that Gloria’s husband, Bill, had died in November ’06, and I do regret our late condolences, Birdie. Mary’s daughter Suzie J. Killion, died Jan. 23 in the Phoenix area, where she lived near her mother’s winter home.

"Meet the Serenos" was the front-page headline on the Chicago Tribune’s April 24 issue above a color photo of Renia Bianucci Sereno and her two sons and four daughters—everyone smiling broadly. The news feature reported that on April 23, Northern Illinois University in DeKalb had presented the entire family with its 2000 Outstanding College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Award. With her art degree from Saint Mary’s, Rena taught elementary-school art, to which she returned when their youngest began kindergarten. She started her master’s degree in fine arts at NIU in 1972, and the following year, Martin, their eldest, enrolled at the same school—with the rest of the family following. The subhead of the extensive article stated that Martin and his four sisters are neurological researchers at universities in England, Scotland, Oregon, Texas, and Kansas. Brother Paul is affectionately known as the “black sheep”—the one who chose paleontology and has made important new dinosaur finds in Africa, Asia, and North and South America. In presenting the award, the alumni association president stated that a countrywide search of NIU alumni found no other record of six siblings with doctorates...and each became a research leader in his or her field—an incredible accomplishment...needs to be recognized in its totality...Together they demonstrate the value and potential of a liberal arts education.”

Before Reunion 2009, four classmates who were not able to attend sent news. Mary Lee Bladel Walter (sister-in-law of classmate Melitta Walter Hnatczuk if my failing memory is correct) wrote from Lima, Ohio, that she is a retired corporate executive, a widow, and regretted being unable to attend reunion but would be thinking of all of us. Marg Keller Howells for the past three years has been at Riderwood, a retirement community in Silver Spring, Md., near son Bill’s family. She also visits family in Virginia, Maine, and Wisconsin. Of her 12 grandchildren, some are post-college and working, some in college, and some still in grade school. Marg was involved for two years with the Ignatius Volunteer Corps, which focuses on the poor and is “a wonderful organization” that she highly recommends. Also, she’s doing the Just Faith program in her parish, which she also recommends. Dolores Schneider Kleinrichert wrote from Rome City, Ind., that she is a widow and “still the organist for two local churches.” And Christa Czydzynier Pichler wrote from Salzburg, Austria, with “hello and best wishes.” She said she was writing from “my sick-bed (not being able to walk without sticks at the moment, and also with ‘catacrac’), but I join you all in memory and prayers at the Reunion!”

Twenty-eight of us attended between June 4 and June 7—almost a third of the 89 graduates and not a bad percentage after 55 years. However...we missed all of you not with us, of course. (As you can imagine, not only we, but other classes on our cycle, sorely missed our own. Sister Madeleva, Aggie Majewski Kinnucan. Our reunions will never be the same without her. Patt Gunson Scully brought a video from our last reunion of Aggie’s “convocation,” which was hilarious, of course.) Attending besides Patt and myself were Mary Schmitz Bartley, Marilyn Beck, Lois Langford Berry, Bev Ritz Campbell, Mary Ann Kramer Campbell, Jane Flynn Carroll, Rodly Oppenheim Dinlesnchneider, Terese Fabbri, Rose Marie Murphy Foley, Sue Hartmann, Sue Whalen Heyer, Suzanne Mulvihil Higdon, Bernice Boucher Hopp, Anne Feldpausch Hubert, Eileen Cox Karp, Ann Korb, Jo Lucken, Pat Byrne Lyren, Marlene Gaubinger McGinn, Joan Rossi, Midge Myler Russo, Rene Bianucci Sereno, Peg Tiernan Sheehan, Rosie Gohnam Szumilas, Liz Kiley Wilson, and Jean Zimmerer Thomas.

The Alumnae Office staff, as always, did an amazing job of planning and entertaining us royally—their three-day marvelous party for over 1,000 alumnae and their guests. They even arranged for very nice weather! (Each alumna attending receives a current roster of her class; there was an omission from ours, so I’ll provide it here. Josephine Lucken, Maryknoll Mission Border Team, 1500 East Yandell, El Paso, TX 79902.)

Our hospitality room was in the lovely Inn at Saint Mary’s, as were those of the 50-year Class of ’59 and the other “Older than Golden” classes, to which we now belong! Believe it—allumnae of the Classes of 1934, 1944, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, and 1958 attended! A $50 Mass honoring the 50-year Class of ’59 and the Older than Goldens was celebrated in Le Mans Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Following the Mass, all of us Older than Goldens were feted at a cocktail reception and dinner in Haggar Parlor (in the building that was the library in our day), hosted by Shari Rodriguez, vice president for college relations.

Most of us know that Jo Lucken grew up in El Paso, Texas (founded by one of her ancestors), and that she has returned there after 30-plus years as a Maryknoll Missioner in Africa and El Salvador. She and two friends (Maryknoll Lorraine Beineke and Daughter of Charity Phyllis Nolan) returned from their remote assignments to volunteer at El Paso’s Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, where they assist immigrant women in abusive relationships seeking legal residence. Each year the center helps about 200 women with children.

From the pre-reunion surveys I quote some info that I’m not sure we’ve known or I’ve reported...?? My memory is really failing, so forgive if I repeat. Before retiring, Jean Zimmerer Thomas was director of continuing education at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Kokomo, Ind. History major Liz Kiley Wilson first was a teacher,
then a nurse (College of DuPage, Ill.), and finally a hospital chaplain (Catholic Theological Union). And—Marilyn Beck often writes me, so appears in our column for appearances with Brooklyn Heights (N.Y.) Players, and other theatre projects. I’m not sure, though, I knew that she earned her master’s in theatre at Columbia University, and as we stood together for our class picture, she told me that currently she’s performing in Show Boat and loving the music.

Early this year I received a note from Erin White Schaefer’s daughter, Kathleen, on behalf of herself and brother Mark. As you may recall, they live not far from me, he north and she south. Kathleen’s note mentioned that in an Erin White Schaefer Scholarship fund in Erin’s name, and that we live not far from me, he north and she south. Kathleen’s note mentioned that in an Erin White Schaefer Scholarship fund in Erin’s name, and that she earned her master’s in theatre without you...of course! (Send your news to the editor, it will get in.)

In mid-June Nancy Gibbon Ross phoned to ask about Reunion (couldn’t attend, due to a grandchild’s graduation) and to report on her April visit to Mary Wieland Schaeetz in Sun City, Ariz. Besides visiting the Grand Canyon, Sedona, and Flagstaff, they were able to connect for lunch in the Phoenix area with Margaret Griffith Howe and Barbara DiSalle Lindsdol. Barbara visited the Botanical Gardens with Mary and Nancy, then had them for dinner at her house afterward. Nancy also reported that Mary’s home is lovely, and that a granddaughter is a flight attendant based in London, a good travel contact for Mary.

As for us Sullivans, travel has slowed down, though Dick in May–early June did a 19-day walk in Scotland, from Glasgow to Inverness, with the same two hiking buddies with whom he walked in ’07 across England and last year up Otta’s Dyke, the border between Wales and England. Each was under 200 miles, this year “weather quite good for Scotland.” Our grandchildren Anthony, 16, and Chloe, 5, are doing well.

As I mentioned to classmates at Reunion, this column is my “Fare Thee Well!” to quote Sister Madeleva. I have enjoyed the past 30 years reporting, and appreciate you all and your loving support...never could have done it without you...of course! (Send your news to the editor, it will get in.)

To the Class of ’54
Like the breath of a butterfly
Your lives brushed mine,
Leaving a trace of beauty and love
That lingers like pipes being played,
Returning again and again,
Echoing not “farewell”
But “later, my friend.”
—Patt Gannon Scully

Let me lean once again (third time) on our talented Patt Gunnolly Scully, who first wrote this poem before our 25th Reunion (which she couldn’t attend). I repeated it once since then—and yet again it seems so perfect for us all. Thank you, Patt. Love you all. JJS

Mary is on the Board of Trustees of the College. We are blessed to have such young, energetic, and bright women at the helm of our alma mater.

Please don’t forget our Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund. This is a perfect way to pay tribute to family, classmates, and friends, and, at the same time, help deserving young women become part of the Saint Mary’s experience.

From Maureen: Winter finally ended in May, and the Chicago chapter of our class had lunch in Oakbrook. Marilyn Morrissey Sparacino, Peggy Hock Cahill, Arlene Lagona Feldmeier, Diane Zarantoneillo Sullivan, Jane Simpson Kiep, Nancy Prawdzik Kidder, and Maureen Hogan Lang. As we ate a great big lunch, we talked about how much we had to diet before reunion. Marilyn caught up with Kathleen Mckeever Catanzaro and Pat Bruce Stalter at a Saint Mary’s gathering in Vero Beach and again at the Vero Beach ND Club meeting, where they enjoyed hearing a presentation by Dr. Thomas Bunish, provost of the University of Notre Dame.

Maureen Madigan had a great visit with Rita Scuderi Winrow when she was in Chicago.

That’s all folks! That’s all I know…unless I make it up. I guess we really need reunion to reenergize, reconnoiter, regroup. Get your bag packed early! In the meantime, let’s pray for each other...for the many blessings we have received and for the harsh times that have fallen upon many of us.

—Rita Scuderi Winrow

Maryjanne Ryan Burke ’85

Five members of the Class of ’56 gathered near Detroit in July to celebrate their 75th birthdays this year. Here, (left to right) Paula Rochon Egyed, Carolyn Greves Kelley, Charlotte Keefe Bresch, Joan Mette Reddy, and Arleen Kann Battalora prepare to board Detroit’s People Mover monorail.

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Dear Classmates:
In the past I have heard disappointment expressed from some of you regarding the lack of a column in the Courier. Well, my friends, I am not into fiction, but if I find myself with my back to the wall, I probably could concoct some rather implausible scenarios which could make for good reading! Considering our age, my friends, this could tax my journalistic talents (meager), but I would be willing to give it a try. So what shall it be? Have mercy on me and call, write, or e-mail—or remain silent and hope for the best.

A true blue fellow history major, Mary Dahm Kearney, answered the call. She sent a lengthy travelogue describing the wanderings of the Kearney family in the past year. Some of the destinations were Croatia, Slovenia, and Montenegro in Europe, and Machu Picchu and the Galapagos in South America. On the family scene, Mary and Paul ND ’56 journeyed to Boulder, Col., for the graduation of a grandchild. Then they moved on to Seattle for the First Communion of another grandchild. Then they moved on to Seattle for the First Communion of another grandchild. I would imagine this scene is being repeated by many of you now—why not let me know?

Maryjeanne Ryan Burke had successful spinal surgery upon her return from Palm Springs at the beginning of May. I talked to her last week, and she is pain free and very relieved and thankful that this is behind her. I was kept up to date on her condition by Mary Alice Parsons, who stayed in touch with Mary Burke ’85.
involved in Cornzappopini, a gourmet popcorn retail store with their son. Daughter Lynn Van Herset Hemans ’90 lives in California and works at Taco Bell headquarters. She has two daughters: Joan Van Herset Ellledge ’93 also lives in Colorado. She has a daughter and a son. Soccer games, birthday parties, etc. keep them busy! Phyliss has been actively involved in building a new Catholic community, St. Mark, in Highlands Ranch, Colo. Much of their social and spiritual life revolves around their church. They are also involved in the local Chamber of Commerce. Phyliss is so happy to be on the Alumnae Board of Directors of Saint Mary’s! She sees Carol Holtmeier Erb, Joan Brickman Palazolo, and Lorene Janoski Rathnau when they get together annually for their GGG (Golden Girls Gathering). They have great fun with tears of laughter rolling down their faces. They take turns hosting the event. Her special memory of SMC is the walk along the Avenue toward Saint Mary’s. Still to this day, it gives her a warm, cozy feeling as her mind says, “I’m home.”

Mary Elizabeth McClure Reavis only attended Saint Mary’s for one year, and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. She and her husband David have two married daughters and six grandchildren—two in Oklahoma and four in Colorado. They live in Airdmore, Okla., but spend time every month at a home in Colorado. Mary Elizabeth is very active in the church in Airdmore, having served on parish council, Women’s Club, and choir. “It’s great to be retired, able to sit back for awhile,” she says.

Nancy Rockenstein Roth has five grandchildren—two in Atlanta, three in Savannah. Her husband, John, is a retired Major General in the U.S. Army. She is a substitute teacher in a Catholic school in Savannah and takes classes in Bible study. She met with Mary McCarthy Brooks and husband for breakfast when they were on their way from Chicago to Florida to escape “winter.” Nancy really loved going to Catholic school in Savannah and takes pride in her occupation as “domestic engineer and wedding consultant.”

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What a great turnout for the Reunion picture! For all those who made the effort to come, it was a joyous, memorable weekend. For those who did not come, please, be there for our 50th!

Five Classmates/45 Years: A Celebration in Art: This exhibit hung in the Moreau Center and was the site of our class opening party. Mary Ann Roach Butkovich, Mary Jo Kircher Huck, Maria Mazza Kompare, Maureen O’Hara Pesta, and Karen Mortimer Williams (all Class of ’64) collaborated for two years on this project. What diverse and talented artists!

Kay Christenson Janiszewski, author, told us her story of writing, researching, and publishing her father’s war story: Only One Returned (www.onlyoneroomed.com).

Marty Thompson Coe has written and published: Decision to Love: A Marriage Enrichment Handbook (www.decide2love.com) and has recovered from spinal meningitis.

From the surveys, many of our class listed parish work: Kathy Cullinan Seggerson organizes Pre-Cana, is a Eucharistic minister, and is thrilled with her adopted Chinese granddaughter. Roberta Blake Nesbit lives in Malaysia and Bath, England. She is very involved in parish catechism and charity relief, especially after the Tsunami.

Joan Bukovic Wess is an Eucharistic minister and writes scientific articles. Julie DeJager Ward completed her Ph.D. in religious education at the University of Chicago, is involved with Misericordia, where her daughter, Kristen, has lived for 14 years. Julie also is a writer. Anne Froning Laboe is a lector, Eucharistic minister, and President of the Christian Women group. She shared that her greatest accomplishment since leaving Saint Mary’s was to be as faithful and conscientious as she could be as wife, mother, teacher, and community citizen.

Nan Tomshack Tulchinsky’s husband died in 2008. She is involved at the ND crypt parish, runs an educational foundation for Camps 4 Champs, and has a passion for Ireland and its music and culture.

Susan Shalgos Wolsfeld recently retired and now volunteers with the Innocence Project in Minnesota and with grant writing. Maria Mazza Kompare is an artist, grandmother, and president of the board of directors of Catholic Charities in Gallup, N.M. Thelda “T” McDermott Dillon is in semiretirement and works with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Ohio.

Joan Marks Houck spends four months in New Zealand, where she organizes parish retreats. The rest of the year, she lives in Colorado. Joan and her sister are involved in Glory Ministries (www.gloryministries.net) in the USA. Dottie Vara Lamps taught 23 years in Catholic schools and English as a Second Language for the Catholic Church. Her most “surprising” thing: her son, Chris, was paralyzed and yet graduated from ND with a B.S. and from Vanderbilt with a M.D. Vicki Lynn Ostrander Friedman wrote that she works with a soup kitchen, belongs to the Methodist Church, and has been cancer-free for 15 years. Barbara Koch Dumit from Washington State has an MBA in Information Systems, leads Bible Study, chairs the Stewardship Commission, and experienced the nearness of God in Antarctica—a sense of eternity.

Other clips from the surveys: Angie Braunstein Maher is on the
boards of FISA Foundation, American Chronic Pain Association, PA Biotech, and the Veterans Leadership Program. Jinx Hack Ring is a board member of Special Olympics of Southern California and active with Women in Leadership, a political action committee. Kathy Roeder is an emergency department physician. She raised two adopted girls who have their own children. Now, she has time to give her vacation days to travel and to help people in places like Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Kenya. Mary Kay Brady Turner is back in Wyoming after 19 years in Washington, D.C. but is still involved with the Holy Land Christian Society, peace efforts, and an alternative high school for students at risk. Bobbye Borchers Flecker retired after 29 years as an elementary school librarian and now travels to visit her seven children and eight grandchildren. She is in her second year of Bible study. Mary Sharon Carmody Bradley lives in San Diego and is a docent at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park. Louise Habeeb Anella is a certified financial planner in South Bend and lunches weekly with Mary Ann Roach Butkovich. Laurie Susfalk Andrews’ husband died in 2008. She retired from social services after 30 years, visited the Holy Land, and leads a Bible study group.

Jean Canizaro Enochs brought her handpicked, roasted, salted pecans from her own trees. She grows pecan, pine, chestnut, peach, and plum trees! Sue Prendergast Burtenshaw began an adult religious education program in her parish. Her most “surprising” thing is that after 20 years of being single, she married a former Irish Catholic priest from Dublin who is now an Episcopal priest.

To be included in future columns, please send me your completed survey and your “news.” Please pray for Linda Camiller Sanderson and Maureen Andrew Latimer, as well as all those needs you heard about over the weekend. As you read about our classmates, think of someone who was not at reunion. They are all welcome, whether they graduated or not. Contact them and begin to make plans for our 50th.

For all those who attended but not mentioned, I apologize. I listened and took pictures, but I just didn’t write everything down. Peace, Joy, and Enjoy… Mary Ann.

From the Courier Office: Kay Christenson Janiszewski has three children, including one son who teaches in the Secret Service, another son who is a youth minister, and a daughter who is the director of scholarships for a community college. She faced the difficult task of caring for her dying husband at age 41. She has taught from pre-K to college level. Among her memories of St. Mary’s is Mrs. Rockne working in the freshman dorms in 1961, Marion McCandless’ daily presence on the campus, and the feeling that campus was such a peaceful setting.

Kay considers her senior-year roommate Janet Walton Gisleson a wonderful influence on her spiritual life, her common-sense approach to life, and her approach to family.

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After the last column, I received some nice notes. I deeply appreciated the kind words.

Pat Hilger Ziegler wrote with some news about the growth of her family. Son Jim and wife Vicki had a baby boy on Jan. 12, 2009. Both parents are professors of English and film at the University of Oklahoma. Pat’s first grandson, Joshua, lives in Atlanta with his parents, Sara and Phil. Sara, Pat’s daughter, works for CDC’s Public Policy Office. Youngest daughter Aileen also lives in Atlanta, where she is a Spanish teacher at Druid Hills High School specializing in the International Baccalaureate Diploma program.

Pat and her husband, John, sold their home in Columbus, Ind., to permanently reside in The Villages of Florida. They are about 50 miles from Mickey and Orlando, Fla. Pat and her fellow 70,000 residents ride around in golf carts—playing golf, pickleball, and generally enjoying life to the fullest.

Last season, Pat had lunch with Rose Mirabito Weed. Rose’s brother, Tom, also lives at The Villages.

I would love to hear from other classmates who have made the move to a retirement locations. After this winter in Chicago, I may move permanently to an island with lots of shade for my fair Irish skin. As I write this, it is the first of June and still freezing in Chicago. … bah humbug.

Recently, Judith Spinner Johns sent an e-mail about the upcoming meeting commemorating the Sacred School of Theology. (The Sacred School of Theology began in 1952 to offer women, religious or lay, the opportunity to study in this field. Sister Madeleva again proved that she was a woman before her time.) Judith is the executive director of the Holy Cross Service Corporation. In the note, Judith added two pictures of Sister Madeleva Wolff, CSC ’1909, and the founders of the Sacred School of Theology. In one photo, Dede Cotter Delaney’s grandmother, Evarista Brady Cotter ’11, sat next to Sister Madeleva. According to Dede, her grandmother and Sister Madeleva were classmates and life-long friends.

A second photo showed the priest who helped develop this program for women to study Sacred Theology. One was Father Thomas Heath, O.P., who said the Masses at Holy Cross Chapel. Personally, I found him enlightening and wonderful in saying the early morning Masses during Lent.

Sister Rose Anne Schultz, CSC, received the prestigious Presidential Award from President Carol Ann Mooney ’72 at the Saint Mary’s graduation ceremony on May 18, 2009. President Mooney recognized Sister Rose Anne as a faithful servant of the College. Sister was Vice President for Mission and is presently retiring from service at the college. Sister was the youngest person to serve on the General Council of the Congregation of the Holy Cross Sisters. In 1990, she was the director of admissions and active at the Mission for Spirituality. Finally, Sister served on the Board of Regents.

In the last issue of Courier, Nancy Harris Funches was mentioned for being honored as Teacher of the Year for Hefner Middle School in Oklahoma, Okla.

This year is the year that the government recognizes our birth date. I know everyone is overwhelmed with mail from someone named “Social Security.” I also know that many fellow classmates plan to gather with friends to celebrate and to commiserate on our recognition from the Federal Government. Please take a moment to share notes on your group gatherings. Personally, I know that no one has aged a moment since 1966, at least on the inside. I will be waiting to hear from the Young and The Beautiful of 1966.

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In our last class news column, there were reports of classmates who celebrated their 60th birthdays with travel; however, there were other ways that we celebrated. Many alumnae had a special dinner to celebrate the milestone. Molly Morell, who is associate director...
of the University of South Maine Center for Continuing Education, and her husband, Michael Beaudoin, celebrated at their cottage on Cliff Island, Maine, on a brilliant summer day. “We ate lobsters (purchased from our lobsterman neighbor) and drank champagne on the deck...and phone calls from my mother and brothers who are all far away made me feel connected to them. Turning 60 really made me think about a lot of things—past, present, and future! Best wishes to all!”

Barbara Morrin Cook describes her surprise celebration dinner. “With the economy where it is, I had no expectations for a memorable 60th birthday, so I was quite surprised when my husband threw a surprise party for me in a local steak house. This particular eatery, Fleming’s, had been a disappointment when we’d first dined there because they didn’t serve bread and olive oil, a must to earn a positive rating from me! So, my first ‘gift’ at my party was two baguettes to enjoy with the delicious olive oil my husband requested. The evening was beautiful as we watched a gentle snowfall out the floor-to-ceiling windows and warm because only our closest family members were present. By the way, the theme of the evening was ‘Happy 30th!’”

Sandy Merritt Lyons also had a surprise celebration, consisting of a golf outing and catered dinner at home with friends and family—all arranged by her husband, John ND ’69. Sandy continues to work for the Stepan Company (yes, Stepan Center and Stepan Chemistry Building). She and John celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in June, as well as a son’s wedding (last of three sons...ND ’97) and the birth of a fourth grandchild (three girls/one boy). As Sandy says, “Life is good!”

Jackie Pinson Cunningham’s birthday celebration lasted an entire weekend. On Friday, her daughter took her to see Art Garfunkel. On Saturday, an intimate family dinner turned into a surprise party with 20 friends attending. The night included a cake with a pink flamingo on it, balloons, and a very tacky tiara. Jackie ended the celebration on Sunday, by going out to dinner with her husband of one year—he was also her high school sweetheart. They reconnected at their 40th high school reunion in Beaumont, Texas, back in 2006, and married Aug. 11, 2007. “We’re both retired and really enjoying each other’s company and the freedom of choice that retirement brings.”

Some class members have been too busy to have a big celebration. Ellen Nesbit West didn’t have a special event but enjoyed greetings and wishes from family and friends. Anne Kalvin Klein was spending time and energy in the midst of wedding preparations for her son and hosting a wedding shower for her future daughter-in-law. As she describes it, “So, all in all, I spent the time as I wanted to...preparing for a wonderful three-day celebration of my first-born’s upcoming nuptials. The celebration included an Asian wedding ceremony and luncheon on Friday afternoon; a wonderful rehearsal dinner with great food, drink, and much singing that Friday night; a special church ceremony at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, D.C.‘s Georgetown (the same church where my husband and I were married 33 years ago); an evening reception at the Capitol Ballroom overlooking a beautifully lit vista of the Washington monuments across town; and, finally, a farewell luncheon for JB and his new bride on Sunday.”

Patricia McCusker Allgood was too busy celebrating three other major events that happened within six weeks of her birthday: her youngest graduated college, Phi Beta Kappa; her son married; and her oldest daughter had her first child. As Patricia says, “All major wonderful life events...now I still love my consulting work, however it must balance with my new love of being a grandmother!”

Mary Berndt Lovett and several other South Bend members of our class discussed the possibility of gathering together to celebrate but had trouble finding a time, since most are still working full-time, and many have grandchildren or aging parents who require time and attention. Mary lost her son in 1994 and was divorced in 1999. She has had the same job since 1991, working for InSource, which is Indiana’s Parent Training and Information Center. They help parents through the special education process—providing trainings, presentations, and attending case conferences with parents. In 2003, she was trained as an Orton-Gillingham reading tutor, was certified as such in 2004, and has accumulated 800 hours tutoring students. Mary also has enjoyed traveling—to Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, and planned to go back to Europe in the spring for her first trip to Italy. Mary is in contact with Vickie Derda Quinlan, Ellen Nesbit West, Barb Kolvas Bohs, Sue Horvath Mazurkiewicz, and Anne Poinsette Wall.

Gwen Gill Caranchini “turned 60 without a hitch” and lost 25 pounds. She had been practicing law and working in retail, both on a part-time basis, but she is now full-time in real estate. However, her favorite activity is spoiling her granddaughter, Maggie.

Ginger Updike Daily reports on a group birthday celebration hosted by Diane Daly McGarry in New York City. Sue Bourdin Roffmann, Linda Holland Trauth, Mary T. Dunleavy Smith, and Ginger joined Diane in her beautiful 47th-floor condo overlooking Central Park. “We had a wonderful weekend of fun including black leather boots, lots of champagne, dinners at neighborhood bistros, a play, and hiking in Central Park. Going over the hill is definitely more fun when you go with friends!”

Janie Blanchard Weirich and her sisters have had a tradition of getting together (sisters only) for their 50th -birthday weekend. They have never lived near each other, and these sister weekends were always special. As they started turning 60, they decided to invite their husbands along and have the party at their homes. Since five of the sisters went to SMC (Mary Jo Blanchard Milbank ’68, Janie ’70, Connie Blanchard Sullivan ’72, Jeanne Blanchard Hanlon ’77, and Pattie Blanchard Martin ’80), it is like a mini SMC reunion. (Barbara graduated from Villanova and Denise from Notre Dame in 1977.) Janie celebrated her 60th in Jupiter, Fla., and had the added treat of having a couple of our classmates attend: Kim Sullivan Ryan and her husband, Jim, and Cathy Downey White and her husband, Dave ND ’69. “Being with sisters, husbands, and friends was the best 60th birthday present.”

Elaine Zimpleman Maimone and her husband, John ND ’70, celebrated their joint 60th with a trip to St. Kitts in the Caribbean, where they stayed in an 18th-century former sugar plantation. It was located on the rain forest side of the island, so they were able to observe monkeys in their habitat.

For a long time, Judith DeVliegher Weaver and her husband discussed moving closer to her family. Late last year, they accomplished that by moving to Covington, Ga, a small town about 40 minutes from Atlanta, where her mother is in care and where her sister and family reside. “It’s really been a blessing—the community is great and we’re busy trying to contribute as we can. We are both court-appointed special advocates for children in the state’s custody, and I also volunteer at the hospital as a patient representative.”
I have also been fortunate enough to associate with the ProBono Project, which gives me an opportunity to use my legal training to assist nonprofit organizations. To celebrate both my 60th birthday and our 25th anniversary, we took a 72-day cruise on Seabourn, which is a small ship with fewer than 200 passengers. We sailed west out of Fort Lauderdale and circumnavigated South America after a stop in Costa Rica and a sail through the Panama Canal. We sailed up (and back down) the Amazon and stopped at some of the Caribbean Islands before returning to Fort Lauderdale. It was an awesome experience and one that we will always remember fondly.

Pam Carey Batz reports that her youngest daughter, Catherine, is a science major at Saint Mary’s and is just finishing her first year. “She is so enthusiastic about her school—I can’t begin to express it! She has wonderful relationships with many of her teachers and lab instructors. She is eagerly looking forward to going to Rome for both semesters but also feels very sad that she will not be on campus next year.” Daughter Carolyn Carey Batz ’05, who goes by “Carey,” graduated top of her class in law school 2006 and is a clerk for federal judge Nora Barry Fischer ’73 in Pittsburgh. “Although extremely busy, Nora serves on the Alumnae Board of Directors, and she has been a fabulous mentor to Carey,” Pam and her husband currently serve on the Parents’ Council and relish the opportunity that it gives them to “be in the know” about what is currently going on at the College. Pam continues to think that Saint Mary’s is blessed to have Carol Ann Mooney ’72 as president.

Nano Padon Cox sells residential real estate in Houston and spends her free time traveling, exercising, and enjoying movies with her husband. She has three grown daughters, all very successful in their careers.

Addie Stefancashore’s first grandchild was born on April 19 in Honduras, where her daughter, Annie Cashore ’04, and her husband, Henry Borjas, welcomed Henry Thomas (Tommy). Annie has been in Honduras for three years and is principal of a Catholic bilingual elementary school. This summer, Addie marked 20 years as a member of the College Relations division at Saint Mary’s.

Ellen (Heineman) Colemire is the CEO of a consulting firm, Executive Consulting, Inc., that works with organizations in many industries making major strategic changes. She and husband Larry live on a ranch in Arizona with four dogs, 67 horses, and cattle and buffalo. “We have five children and 11 grandchildren, but none live in Arizona. We have lots of room for visitors (eight guest rooms), and I would love to renew friendships from ‘back in the day.’”

Ann Pacelli Goras writes from Seattle: “Since I graduated from SMC in 1970, my life has had many ups and downs. Haven’t we all? I would have to say the low point was getting breast cancer in 2002, but as I have always found, there is a silver lining to every dark cloud. My cancer is in remission and what it did for me was this...I have become focused on what’s most important in my life—and that is my family and friends and then my passion for oil painting. I was an art major at SMC, and if you recall, we had a woman artist from New York City, Margo Hoff, stay for a year to teach painting. My ceramics went out the window, and I did my senior comp in painting. I have never looked back. I enjoyed painting still lifes and the figure, but recently I have learned the joys of plein air painting (painting outdoors). I have painted in wonderful places in Europe—in Giverny in Monet’s garden, in Tuscany, in Provence, in Greece, and all over the United States. I have a studio in Seattle, where I teach oil painting classes and paint still lifes or work from photos. I have a Web site if you are interested in seeing my work: http://anngores.com/”

A personal note to all class members from Mary Lou Wylie: I have enjoyed reconnecting with so many of you as I served as interim class reporter until we had someone in the position permanently. I am happy that Karen Preston McCarty will now be the class reporter. If you haven’t received e-mails from me recently, be sure to send your e-mail address to me (wylieml@jmu.edu) or to Karen (karen.mccarty@comcast.net).

From the Courier Office: Kingston Temple writes: “I live in Knoxville, Tenn., and am the director of the public library in Gatlinburg. If anyone is visiting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, please come for a visit! [My e-mail is kw1997@bellsouth.net.] We are opening a new building this spring. It may be the first in the country to be designed and built as a ‘bookstore’-style library.

“On the personal side, I’m trying to hike the Appalachian Trail by backpacking it in sections and plan to have completed all of Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee in May. Both my daughters, Derry and Erin O’Kane live in Seattle, Wash. I’ve been married to Walt Tunnell for 10 years. We went to Disney World on our honeymoon and again for my sixtieth birthday. We love Disney World! Quite a stretch for two people who met while whitewater kayaking and camping!”

“My brother, Kenny Temple ND ’74, lives in South Bend, so I get back occasionally for a visit.

“It’s hard to grasp that 1970 news is moving toward the beginning of the class news section in Courier. I feel that I have lived sequential multiple lives since graduating from Saint Mary’s. Still, there is always a reminder of the possibilities of personal discoveries to be made each time I return to campus. I hope to see many of y’all in 2010!”

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Remember the saying about “spring showers bring spring flowers?” How about a week-plus of downpours here in Florida? The vegetation is so thick and wild—it reminds me of what Prince Charming had to hack his way through to get to Sleeping Beauty! And in other parts of the country, it is hot one day and cold the next—and THAT reminds me of life as a middle-age woman! It seems that many of us are experiencing changes on our life. I heard from Janet Hollander Ferlic (ferlic@cox.net), who asked for an e-mail address of a classmate. I prevailed on her to give me any news about herself—which she did. Janet and husband Tom ND ’71 live in Omaha, where he has an orthopedic practice specializing in hand surgery. They have raised four daughters—all living now in Omaha—so Janet says they “have” to travel a lot. She has retired from the volunteer activities associated with her children’s school and is concentrating her volunteer time on service dogs for the handicapped. She has a 50% success rate so far—the first dog was released from the program and became their pet, and the second is a therapy dog in a classroom for behaviorally disturbed children. She mentioned keeping in touch with Robyn Olson Kinkopf...and the next day, I had an e-mail from Robyn! Guess MY success rate is 100%, Janet!

Robyn (robynmaryolson@yahoo.net) is living in the hinterlands of northern New Hampshire—a small town called Littleton, which is about a half hour north of Hanover (home— but says that the cold weather is getting to her. She works as an analyst for Fairpoint Communications. She can walk to work—but doesn’t because it would mess her hair! Although the shopping is limited to TI Maxx and Walmart, there aren’t any traffic jams or noise, and the mountains are beautiful. Robyn saw a lot of Ed and Maureen Walsh Fender when their older daughter, Jessica, was at Dartmouth. Maureen and I exchange grandbaby pictures on Facebook—her Jessica has a little boy, and daughter Courtney just had a baby girl.

Suzanne Duggan McGinnis and Maura Carroll spent part of February in Ireland with 20 other friends and family on the annual McGinnis Pub Tour. They stayed in manor hotels and visited churches, castles, and archeological sites in Dingle, Kinsale, Kilkenny, and Dun Laoghaire. And, of course, they had a lot of fun in the Irish pubs with the very friendly Irish people. Plans are under way for next year’s tour, and all are welcome to join the group. (maureete@optonline.net)

Beth Culligan hosted the Saint Mary’s Club of New Jersey at her home in Spring Lake, N.J. for a book signing with Saint Mary’s graduate Adriana Trigiani, who has written the very popular Big Stone Gap novels.

Claire Mignelli Hughes and Heather Tripucka Carr attended and were entertained by Adriana’s stories of growing up in a large Italian family.

In early May, a group of us met in Boston for a few fast-paced, history-filled days. We walked the Freedom Trail, toured USS Constitution and Paul Revere’s home, ate cannolis at Mike’s, saw the Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall, ate cannolis and drank wine, strolled down Newbury Street and ate...you get the picture! Claire Mignelli Hughes, Heather Tripucka Carr, Maura Carroll, Chris Newland Ketterhagen, and I took the Metroliner from New York to Boston and got the fun off to an early start! Kate Berney Werring met Martha Coyne in Chicago, and they flew in together.

On the train back to New York, Chris received a text message that she had a new granddaughter born to son Kevin and his wife, who live right outside of New York City. Baby Olivia arrived a few weeks early and weighed just 4lbs, 15 oz. Lucky Chris was able to get off the train and go straight to the hospital to see hours-old Olivia! Chris and husband Mike ND ’71 are awaiting the arrival of a their third grandchild, who will be born to Morgan ND ’05 and Lizzie Ketterhagen Cey ND ’05 in Colorado.
I am back and forth to New York just about every month to see children and grandchildren—what fun! My son, Rip, will be married in August to a beautiful young woman, Jennifer Koo. As I said, there is lots happening in all of our lives—I would love to hear from any of you! I do have a new email address - mnuojes@comcast.net
Please keep in touch! As always, I send my love to all of you.

'74
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Here’s hoping it was a great reunion event for everyone. If you didn’t hear Mary Ellen Raphael’s story about the quicksand during her vacation with husband Rob, you missed the best story of the year! She and Rob were busy enjoying their retirement when they wandered into some quicksand in Utah and, thankfully, managed to make it back out. But how it all happened is the great story.

Toni Benedetto Soule, who is the U.S. representative for the American Schools in Europe/Switzerland, is based in Washington D.C. She is married to Gregory Soule, and they have four sons. Their oldest son was just married and is a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security. Son #2, Mike, received his master’s in accounting and works in Maryland. Toni notes that the faith that was enriched at Saint Mary’s is one of the anchors that has helped her in facing life and raising four sons.

Patricia McNamie Cherry, who owns a Curve’s franchise in Evanston, Ill., writes that she and Byron are proud of their oldest daughter, Shayna, who is working in the White House now. That pride extends also to son Jacob, who recently sold his business so that he could volunteer in Ecuador for an orphanage. By the time you read this their daughter, Jessica, will have graduated from the University of Wisconsin and will be working in Washington, D.C. Pat gets together with Joan Broderick Grumley, who is in real estate, and Tricia Atlas Locklin, who is an operating room nurse.

From Pittsburgh, we received an update from Anchen Lechner Harmon. Anne noted that life is good and she’s come to realize that things she has often taken for granted are such blessings. Amen to that. Two daughters keep life busy for Anne and John. Their oldest, Marjorie, is at Davidson College in North Carolina, and the youngest, Emily, is at Princeton. When she can find the time, Anne enjoys gardening, book club, Bible study, and bike rides. A business owner of Carol’s Couture, Carol Purcell Gilling writes that she and husband Kenneth ND ’73 enjoy golf and travel. They live in Lake Forest, Ill.

Terri Phillips Arnold writes from Houston, Texas, to tell us that she enjoys work at The Phillips Agency (advertising), and she and husband John enjoy travel, skiing, and gardening, as well as spending time with friends and family. From Petaluma, Calif., Mary Romer FitzGerald writes that she teaches English in high school and that she and her husband, Ed ND ’74, have five children ages 23-31. The two oldest are teachers, and the two youngest are still in high school. Middle child: graduating from college this year. Mary writes that she and husband Ed met the FIRST WEEK of freshman year at SMC/ND, when they were standing in line to get football tickets… and the best part is… the love is stronger than ever. How blessed you must feel, Mary. I’m happy for you! Mary and Ed left Cincinnati for Petaluma, and although they miss the Midwest, they love their life in Petaluma, where they manage to read, garden and travel.

Martha Sant Amour Kapur and husband Anil keep busy in Washington, D.C. with golf and travel. I need more stories, Martha. Send them to me at jibkettct@yahoo.com.

Within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) there resides a judge, Teresa Sarmina Trantenberg. Although widowed previously, she is happily married and has been blessed with four wonderful grandchildren.

Katie Weger Dabbert and husband David enjoy spending their time visiting family since they have three adult children—a bit spread out. Katie, who teaches music in Ohio, has a married son, Peter (and a granddaughter); daughter Liz will be married at the end of 2009; and son Nick lives in Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, Diane Lo Guidice Highland, who (if my memory serves me correctly) raised a little hell with Katie back in the day, writes from Monument, Col., where she is a recruiter for The Highland Source. With her husband, David, she enjoys skiing, cooking, reading, and hiking. They have two teenagers, Michael and Claire. She notes that in some ways, in 2009, we have come full circle back to 1974, when the economy and culture were similar to what we have now. …but some of the good things are missing. Charlotte, N.C. is lucky to have one special volunteer, Suzy Schaefer Garvey (since I remember her great sense of energy). She and Denis have opened their home to guardianship for abused and neglected children over the years. Their nine-year-old basset hound helps them show the love to these children.

Alicia Purcell, whom I remember as immensely talented, is the resident artist in Voice for Indiana University South Bend. With her master’s from the prestigious Indiana University School of Music, what a perfect fit! She enjoys gardening in her free time. She noted that raising twins is perhaps what most changed her outlook in the past 35 years.

The University of Maryland has Lillian Doherty Lukensburg as its professor of classics. Husband Harvey enjoys photography, reading, traveling, and cooking with her. She noted that she was really pleased when SMC started having women as college president again. (What a concept, eh?)

Debbie Schwarz-Pierry writes from Colorado Springs, where she is assistant superintendent of Schools. (Oh, Debbie, there are some very amusing stories I could share with those high schoolers, starring their beloved assistant superintendent!) She and husband Glenn are blessed with daughters Danielle, who is currently living in Japan to further her international studies after graduation from the University of Richmond, and Nicole, who graduated from Villanova and is a nurse in Arlington, Va.

Kathy Reeves O’Donnell, who is an accounting professor/assistant chair at the University of Buffalo, says that she and Mark ND ’74 enjoy travel, reading and golf. Their son Kevin works for Lakeshore Savings, and son Ryan works for Ingram Micro, both in the Buffalo area. Kathy notes that the opportunity to teach international students and travel extensively in Europe and Asia has really given her a more global view of life.

Chicago is home to Linda Jean Blackburn, a surgical nurse clinician/RN at Northwestern Memorial. She went back to school and received her BSN in 1983. She enjoys teaching and mentoring the younger nurses and tries to find time to enjoy travel. too.

Mary Kathryn Conaty Leicht (KK), and her husband, John (Jack), both spend time going to their son’s baseball games in high school and enjoy time with their daughter, Katie ND ’01, son Kevin ND ’05, and daughter Amy, SMC Class of 2010.

Amherst, Mass., is home to Gretchen Blumer Gaul, a high school teacher. She and husband Thomas, ND ’72, have two sons, TJ and Michael.

Class Clips

Four generations, three of whom are Saint Mary’s graduates, attended graduation ceremonies in May to honor their newest Saint Mary’s graduate, Erin Michelle Smith ’09. Pictured with Erin is her mom (standing, left in photo), Catherine Gilmore Smith ’82, and Erin’s grandmother, Marianne Belmont Gilmore ’58, Erin’s great-grandmother, Mary Jane Belton, who turned 95 in July, is seated.
Peggy Scanlan Brown, who spends her time as a mom, volunteer, and independent religious institutions professional, obtained her J.D. from Loyola University in 1977. Although her recent divorce has been difficult, she knows she is blessed with three children in college and graduate school in Denver, Missoula, and Santa Clara. She manages to find some time to ski, travel, and to enjoy theatre and music. More in the next issue—I've run out of space! Write me at jbirkettct@yahoo.com.

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Greetings from LaGrasse, France, where I am taking a break after six-plus years with Save the Children in Afghanistan. I ended my assignment there on May 1 and traveled here via Istanbul, Chisinau (Moldova), Vienna, and Villette (Malta). I will travel further along to Paris and the west of Ireland 'til July 4, when I will return to the U.S. to decide on next career/life steps.

I do not have any news to report for the Class of ’76, though I am in ongoing touch with Marianne McCabe Brehl, Cely Michel, and Kat Beaulieu, all three of whom are fine and busy with life.

From the Courier Office: Cecilia Michel Villalta writes: After a career in teaching followed by practicing law for 20 years, I am enjoying my best job, "Mom in Chief," to borrow a phrase. My husband, Rick, and I live with our sons, Matt, now a teenager, and Will, 9, an avid baseball player, in Minneapolis. Volunteering as a hospitality minister at church and as a Site Council member at school, as well as writing occasionally for community newspapers keeps me busy. We get to campus almost biannually to visit relatives at graduation, football games, reunions, and, most notably, to see my aunt, Sister M. Cecilia Ann Kelly CSC '51, who resides at Lourdes Hall and graciously entertains her nephews when they arrive.

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After serving as your class reporter for more than 30 years, I have to apologize for missing a few deadlines, which of course, results in no class report! I'm finding that my best-laid plans have been going awry for the last few months and want to offer this position to anyone else in the class who might be interested! Please let me know—maybe we can share the duties.

Meanwhile, I don’t have much news to report except for hearing one of our fellow ’78 alums, Maureen Sajbel Wallenfang, on the national radio show A Prairie Home Companion a few weeks ago—talking about the joys of living in a small town. She was terrific, especially about the mayonnaise on sushi! Maureen wrote: “It was a real honor to be asked. I read for Garrison Keillor at 4 p.m. and was on the air at 5:20. They really do things well but are so relaxed that they switch things around as the show is on the air. It was surprising and very impressive to watch the inner workings. They’re such accomplished professionals. Hope to see you at a future reunion. It was lovely to so many Rome classmates at the last one, the 30th. We all need to put 2013 on our calendars for the 35th.”

Let me know, please, if anyone would like to join me in this reporter spot. And take care of yourselves!

From the Courier Office: Kathleen O’Donnell is currently manager of Loyola University Chicago’s Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage (www.luc.edu/cich/). Beginning as the Hank Center administrative assistant in 2006, she was promoted to Center manager in 2008. In her work, she manages nine major programs involving many distinct events and projects, such as lectures, panels, luncheons, reading groups, film screenings, and research funding. The purpose of this programming is to help students, faculty, and the public at large come to greater knowledge of Roman Catholic thought in all its interdisciplinary dimensions. In addition to overseeing these multiple activities, Kathleen manages the Hank Center budget, which is part of a generous $10-million dollar donation to Loyola University from Joan and Bill Hank. She was nominated for Loyola University’s Staff Member of the Year Award in 2008.

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Greetings, everyone!

Thanks to all of you who came to Saint Mary’s for our Silver Jubilee Reunion! It was great to have such a large turnout. I enjoyed every minute of it! Here are the Class updates:

Sharon Flucus Zain is living in Naperville, Ill. She and husband Alex have two sons, Nathaniel, 9, and Andrew, 8. Sharon is an oncology nurse clinician.

Eileen O’Hagan Stotzer is a sales rep for Azur Pharma. She and husband Bill ND ’84 are living in Elmhurst, Ill., with their three children: Michael, 17, Margaret, 14, and Thomas, 11.

Patricia Quinn Murnane is living in Chatham, N.J., with husband Don. She is a risk manager for AIG in NYC.

Lisa Cerneka Burns is a physician living in Town and Country, Mo., with husband Timothy and their two children: Casey, 17, and Sarah, 14. Her favorite memory of SMC is partying on the roof of Holy Cross dorm!

Eileen Ryan Seafarth is living in Hinsdale, Ill., with husband Scott and four children: Bill, 20, Alison, 18, Michele, 15, and Emily, 9.

Ann Marie Oberheu is a physician and the associate medical director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. She is married to Tom Plouff ND ’76. They have two children: Lauren, 15, and Caroline, 14.

Mary Ann Kovach Thorpe is a teacher in the South Bend school district. She is currently the curriculum leader at McKinley Primary Center, where she works with struggling first graders. Mary Ann and husband Thomas have three sons. Chad, 22, graduated summa cum laude from Western Michigan University. He will continue his education at Ohio State School of Dentistry. Travis, 21, is a junior engineering major at Western Michigan University. Brandon is a sophomore at St. Joseph High School in South Bend. Mary’s best memories of SMC are the beautiful campus and sitting by the lake.

Rita DeLaRosa White Bush is living in Sturgis, Mich., with husband John and son Andrew. She is working for Kendrick’s Stationers in Sturgis. Andrew will be attending Xavier University this fall to study political science. Her personal triumph was raising a son with religious and moral beliefs, strong in his faith and very goal-oriented. He is an excellent student and kind-hearted. Her favorite memories of SMC are going to ND games, being an RA, making life-long friends, and the ice cream and yogurt machine in SAGA.

Kristine Kelly Doder is living in St. Louis, Mo., with husband Vincent and three children: Connine, 19, Jennifer, 16, and Kathryn, 13. She is a part-time early childhood educator with the Glendale Lutheran Early Learning Center. She also helps with a family business leasing light industrial property in Kirkwood, Mo. Kristine shares her personal triumph—being married for 21 years to a wonderful man, being a mother to three special girls, and being a daughter to a sweet father who had dementia for several years. She credits a faith-filled life with helping her to do all of this and more. Her favorite memory of Saint Mary’s is meeting fellow transfer students, many of whom have become life-long friends. She loved the summer Ireland, Scotland, and France trips!

Barb ter Haar is living in Richmond, Va. She is a licensed clinical social worker in her own private practice. Last summer, she completed training as a collaborative law coach and child specialist in Denver. She has three children: Ryan, 21, Bailey, 18, and George, 15. Barb’s favorite memory of SMC is dancing on the Queen’s Court windowsills to the Gap Band and eating brownies before going over to ND!

Cathy Conway Metzler is a financial consultant for Goble and Associates in Chicago. She and husband Kurt live in Downer’s Grove, Ill. They are the parents of Matthew, 12, and Michael, 8. Cathy’s favorite memory at SMC: her first night in Regina. One student started popping popcorn, and they all started gathering in a circle in the hall—introducing themselves and getting to know each other. Many of these women are still her closest friends.

Pam Cabbage was definitely a way to meet new friends or an excuse for a late-night chat session with old friends. That is Carol Dillon Berglund favorite memory of SMC 25 years later! She lives in Palos Heights, Ill., and is an accountant with Schwaller Insurance. Carol is married to James, and they have three children: Sarah, 19, Joseph, 17, and Maureen, 13.

Janet Shafer Sabo is living in Madrid, Spain. She is a special agent with the U.S. Department of State. In July of 2008, she completed three years as the regional security officer at the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Besides work in Turkey, Janet and husband John were able to do some traveling in that beautiful country. She enjoyed visiting some areas mentioned in the Bible. Now, she has reached a goal set 24 years ago: to live in Spain! She has visited Valencia, where she studied as a sophomore, with Mary Weil Angelucci and plans to do...
more traveling. She was sorry to miss Reunion but had returned to South Bend in April to surprise her father on his 90th birthday! I was thrilled to have Diana Butler Buxton’s update in my envelope from SMC. I have lost touch with her since graduation. She is living in NYC with husband, Douglas, a physician. Diana is a marketer with Bearing Point in NYC. Her favorite memories of Saint Mary’s are tailgating and ND football, being at school with two of her siblings (both at ND), and hanging out with all her SMC and ND friends!

Trish Sigler, it was great to see you at Reunion! Trish is living in Mechanicsville, Va., with husband Michael Valacer. They have two children: Michael, 14, and Mercedes, 12. She is an independent HR Consultant. Trish is in training to run a half marathon this summer.

Anne Archibald Deutsch completed the Chicago Marathon in 2008! Anne is living in Naperville, Ill., with husband Doug and their six children: Jessica, 12, Joshua, 11, Joel, 9, Therese, 8, Doug, Jr., 6, and Gracie, 3! Anne is working for the Deutsch Group, doing medical and legal transcription, proofreading, and abstracting services. Her favorite memory at Saint Mary’s was sophomore year. I can attest to that since I was her roommate!

Here are a couple e-mails I received this spring:

From Ellen Ryan: “I have had SMC on my mind lately. I was planning on attending our reunion but now will not be able to make the trip. I just returned last month from China with my daughter, Clare. While things are going very well (almost too well, as my daughter, Tess, is LOVING having a sister, and together they are quite the dynamic duo), I think that arranging a trip away now would be a bit tough. I hope that you all have a fantastic time!”

From Bridget Gary Jackson: “My husband, Bill, and I have been living in Rockford, Mich., with our two boys: Connor, 12, and Patrick, 10. I have enjoyed a wonderful nursing career in critical care and nursing education. I am now working part-time in a pre-procedure planning department and love my lower-stress job. Our hospital is in the process of obtaining nursing magnet status, and that has been very rewarding. Bill is the policy director for the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and spends a lot of time at the State Capitol. I keep busy chauffeuring my boys around—Connor in travel baseball and Patrick in local theater. I won’t be able to make the reunion, as my son will be performing in a production of Willy Wonka. I hope everyone attending has a great time!”

I had the pleasure of being roommates at Reunion with Janice Dwyer Wiggins, Karen Wagner Lewis, and Ann Von Walde Fink in the lovely Opus Hall. Janice continues to work at Deloitte as a communications consultant in the Global Office of Information Management, where she balances diverse cultural and time zone challenges to provide internal communications services to Deloitte’s member firms. She is involved in many community service projects, including serving on the Board of Directors (fundraising arm) of the Proviso Children’s Advocacy Center, and fundraising efforts for the Peace Officers Memorial Foundation of Cook County and the Illinois Police Association. This past March, Janice was a volunteer at the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and spent 10 days in Alaska collecting samples as part of the canine drug testing team. Janice and her husband, Roger, recently attended the Chicago premiere of Public Enemies. Roger played a Chicago Police detective in the movie.

Karen is living in Lawton, Okla., with husband Brett and two sons: Ryan and Garrett. Brett is a Colonel with the US Army and travels quite extensively around the world. Garrett will be a freshman at Texas A&M this fall. Ryan is still in middle school and playing baseball. Karen keeps active with community theatre, volunteering, and keeping a busy household organized!

It was a pleasure having Ann Von Wahide Fink as a roommate. Ann was our “Martha Stewart” of the weekend. She decorated our apartment, and provided delicious nibbles and some fine wine! Ann is a decorative painter, turning ordinary pieces into "treasures." She lives in a beautiful pre-Civil War home in Saint Louis, Mo., with her husband and two lively dogs. Her talents also extend to gardening and landscaping. Thanks to Kathleen Murphy for talking Ann into coming to Reunion! It was great to have a new friend.

Angie Sleeper Helmstetter had a great time at Reunion. She looks great and enjoys her three daughters with Tom, ND ’83. Angie, you were a star on stage, dancing to “Sweet Home Alabama”!

Kathleen “Murph” Murphy: You looked great! Great job on your welcoming speech at our class dinner on Friday night and on organizing our Silver Jubilee Reunion. I think I can say everyone had a great time! Murph has started her own business as a life coach—helping transitional workers find their place in the job market. All the best to you!

Elaine Hocter Moore is living in Hinsdale, Ill. She and husband Scott have three children: Doug, 18, Sander, 15, and Meaghan, 12. Doug just competed in the Illinois state track meet and did a great job! Elaine, you look fabulous, too. Thanks for all the hard work you put in to this Reunion!

Cindy Short did a seminar on Saturday morning about the death penalty. She is an advocate against the death penalty and works as an attorney for numerous clients.

Lydia Locker was at Reunion with her beautiful daughters. They drove from Northern Alabama.

Colleen Dwyer Kennedy came from Houston, Texas. Colleen, you never change! All the best to you and your family recovering from last year’s hurricane in Houston!

Diane Turley Grich came from Franklin, Tenn. I had not seen Diane in a long time. It was great to catch up with her!

I loved seeing the Weil twins, Martha and Mary!

Kelly Cambron Fretwell, Maria Lopez Honan, Moira Taylor Castro, Katie Keenan Chelsky, Carolin Cronin Mannion, Barb Rafalko Reo,
Betsy Quinn, Ann Shiedy Seidel, Maureen Phillips-Stanley, Mary Feider: Thanks for being at Reunion!

Thanks to Marianne Camenzind Woods for her hard work on our Silver Jubilee Mass on Saturday afternoon. She did a great job organizing the Eucharistic ministers and creating a special Mass. Also thanks to Victoria McBrien for her work on the Reunion Gift Campaign! She did a great job with her team of Judy Tripp Geaslen, Victoria Gutschenritter, Mary McEnery Harding, and Mary Kiefer Thayer. Saint Mary’s and her students are grateful for your hard work! Thanks to all of you who donated so we can pass along a Saint Mary’s education and experience to our future students and tomorrow’s leaders in the world!

It was great to see so many of you! I have great pictures from Reunion on my Facebook page. Just friend me and you’ll be able to see all of them.

Mary Fran Gisch Kitz 4931 Lee Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515 630.541.3886 mkitz62@aol.com

Laura McPherson Bruening e-mailed that she is getting her daughters ready for Fine Arts Camp at Saint Mary’s. Hannah’s, 13, is returning for her third year, and Gretchen, 10, is looking forward to her first year of camp. Laura writes, “We have a bit of a trek to get there from our home in Chesapeake, Va., but I know both girls will love it!” Her husband, John, has been in the Navy for 25 years. “We moved last summer from the Washington, D.C., area to our new duty station in Norfolk, Va. It’s great here; the girls have done really well getting settled and meeting new friends. I work part-time as the production manager for an agency that does direct mail for non-profit political watchdog groups. I work from home, so the schedule couldn’t be any better!”

Laura mentioned that last year when she was on campus for camp, she was able to meet up with Corinne Flores DeTrempe and Janice Bradley Gisalson at Corinne’s home in Granger, Ind. “It was great to see them and catch up,” Laura says. “I also meet up pretty regularly with Mary-Alice O’Grady Sullivan, who lives about an hour away from here.” Thanks for the update, Laura!

Cathy Ann Reynolds Collette is doing well in Washington, DC. Our family had a four-day visit to our nation’s capital, and we thoroughly enjoyed the sites. We met Cathy Ann, her husband, Graham, and their two darling daughters, Eileen Rose, 9, and Ana Lee, 4, for dinner and an evening walk to the Washington Monument—beautiful! Cathy Ann has worked as an attorney in the Law Office of David Garfield for the last five years. She has been practicing immigration law for 13 years. Graham is a chef and manager at Sodexo! Cathy Ann writes that she is “still enjoying D.C. after 14 years. It is wonderful raising my kids here. I do miss seeing college friends.” We caught up on news of some of our fellow Ireland Program friends. It was a great visit!

Jeanne Grammens Hidalgo was a presenter and facilitator at the Frank J. Lewis Institute for Campus Ministry held at Notre Dame in June. Jeanne, who enjoyed the conference, gave a workshop for new campus ministers. Jeanne is busy with her own position at Marian University in Indianapolis as campus minister. She is also getting her oldest, Nicholas, ready for Indiana University for the fall, and parenting her three younger children.

Mike and I attended his ND ’84 Reunion last weekend, and we sure had a blast! It was great to catch with so many ND and SMC friends from all over the country. It got me thinking of our 25-year reunion, which is only two years away! When did that sneak up on us? Let’s plan to attend. A weekend like that is so renewing to mind and spirit!

Our girls are heading to the Fine Arts Camp at Saint Mary’s for another week of creative fun! We will have two at Montini Catholic High School this fall, and only one at St. Joseph Grade School. Everyone is healthy—thank you, God!

“We’d love to hear from you! Please send me a note! God bless.”

I shared stories of traveling to Egypt with my son, Jamie, talked fondly of her girls-only trip to Hawaii with Clare VanHecke Korte. We agreed that the adventures were vastly different.

Katy Kronenberg Penna shares that Molly Stanton Witt was able to enjoy a different climate when she traveled from Ohio to southern California. Katy and Molly spent a day together in Carlsbad—eating, shopping, and having fun. It was a welcome break for Katy, who is finishing her two-year term as PTA president. While she is “happy to be moving on,” Katy will continue to work for improved schools in her new role with the Education for Children Committee.

Working and parenting three small children, Heidi Traxler has been finding fun closer to home. I spoke with her recently, and her young daughter, Molly, was ecstatic about having had her nails painted for the first time.

You don’t have to be a toddler to enjoy new experiences. Rachel Bir Stroop writes: “A new thing that has happened to me is that after a 10-year hiatus, I have rejoined the coaching world. I coached the varsity girls tennis program this past spring at Lakeland High School. (I had coached JV basketball at Lakeland for 10 years after graduating from SMC.) Although the season wasn’t a winning one, we had a lot of fun and made a ton of progress! Looking forward to next season already! Our girls (Beka, 10, and Beth, 8) enjoyed coming with me to practices and meets. They help keep my summer busy with tennis, softball, and basketball camps—as well as swimming lessons. Good thing I have summers off from school!”

Another educator, Meghan Farley Astrachan recently started her own theater company, Reaching Andromeda Theatre (RAT) NYC. Meghan is currently producing and directing Shakespeare’s Taming of the Shrew for the 2009 New York International Fringe Festival, in New York City August 14-19. Check out FringeNYC.com.

Always up for adventure, Anne Borgman (who didn’t get enough of reunion last summer) was back in South Bend to celebrate her grandmother’s 90th birthday. She writes: “I had a splendid time crashing grandmother’s 90th birthday. She couldn’t be any better!”

Laura writes: “I had a splendid time crashing grandmother’s 90th birthday. She couldn’t be any better!”

Thanks for the many e-mails and for letting me get in touch with so many of you via Facebook. I hope that this will be an easier way to keep in touch. As we approach our 40th birthdays—gulp—so much news to share.

Heather Pflanz has had a busy year. In April 2008, while boarding a bus that accelerated rapidly, she fell and shattered two bones in her lower leg. After a week in the hospital and out of work for a month, she spent the summer with crutches, a black boot, and lots of physical therapy. She moved into a new condo in the Chicago West Loop in August 2008. Heather is in the eighth year of her HR career at Oracle. She keeps in touch with Kelly O’Connell Mangel. Kelly and David welcomed their third child, Chloe Alexandra, into the family on Jan. 5, 2009.

When not on Facebook or working on her blog/Web site (www. SandraKeros.com), Sandra Keros teaches cooking classes in private homes and to the public at the San Francisco farmers’ market, Williams-Sonoma, and Bay Area Whole Foods stores. She is also working on putting together a radio show that connects family farmers, restaurant chefs, home cooks, home gardeners, and community leaders—all who want a healthier America and delicious meals at home by choosing foods grown with love either locally or in their backyard.

Wendy Kemp Molotky and Myron are enjoying life in Spring Lake, Mich.
She has two boys, 8 and 5, plus a stepson who is graduating high school and stepdaughter who is turning 16 this summer. Wendy is a stay-at-home mom, as well as a hockey-mom during hockey season. Myron is the general manager at the Honda store nearby. 

Michelle Filar Turk and Doug live in Santa Monica, Calif., with their growing family. While they miss their Midwest families, they are going on 12 years in California in fall 2009. Michelle left her job as a brand manager a few years ago and enjoys her days at home with her two boys: Ryan, 4, and Nathan 2. Doug works for Aon.

After her husband, Tim, was briefly laid off, Dawn Disbro Burke returned to work full-time in February 2008. She is now working for the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in their accounting department. In her limited spare time, Dawn continues to build her impressive photography business.

Heidi Finniff Edwards recently moved to Cleveland. She is still in the banking field and is now with National City/PNC. Heidi ran her first 31-mile field and is now with National and journalism teacher, and coaches Patrick, 6. She is a high school English program in learning and instruction in the University of San Francisco’s doctoral course.

Sharon began her first year at the school of education. This time, they are being joined by Colleen Conley and her family, (husband Matt, Tommy, Daniel, and Evelyn). Daniel Vondruska, one of Ryan and Moira’s godchildren, served as a gift bearer. The Dargis clan now makes its home in the Jefferson Park neighborhood in Chicago. Moira is busy volunteering at Jonas’s school. Nellie will join him there come September.

Susan Donalds O’Brian and their son, Patrick, 6, and Lydia, 2. Claire works at Notre Dame for two philosophy professors and administers a department called computer applications.

Liz Graner Jotz lives in central New Jersey with Jeff ND ’92 and their son, Brennan, 5. Lori sees her roommate from freshman year, Colleen Boyle Smith, and her family, (husband Matt, three beautiful children: Matthew, Miriam, 4. Sarah and Josh are very busy with their five children: Abigail, 13, Grace, 11, Frank, 8, Lucy, 6, and Liam, 2. They just celebrated their 15-year anniversary on Mackinac Island, Mich., with Colleen’s twin sister, Sarah Boyle Powell, her husband, Josh Powell, and their four children: Elijah, 11, Naomi, 8, Eva, 1, and Miriam, 4. Sarah and Josh are very busy with their catalog clothing business: J.L. Powell—The Sporting Life. All are doing well in their families.

Please keep Betsy Zeller Weier ND ’92 and her family in your prayers. Many of you will remember Betsy from our freshman year at Saint Mary’s. She transferred to Notre Dame in our sophomore year. Betsy’s husband, Chris, passed away suddenly on May 30, 2009. He was a wonderful friend, husband, and father, and I was lucky to have known him. He and Betsy have three beautiful children: Matthew, Megan, and Hannah.

From Rachel: I continue to live in Louisville, Ky, with my husband, Shep, and three boys (twin Jack and Joey, 5, and Tommy, 5). Days are busy with school, church, and community volunteer work. I’d love to hear from classmates with submissions for Courier. Please contact me at
Jane Murphy Fitzgerald 598 Washington Street Elmhurst, IL 60126 630.993.0777 janemfitzgerald@hotmail.com

Fifteen years and counting! After our class reunion this past summer, we have many updates to include in Courier. My husband, Kevin, and I had our fourth baby, Maura Murphy Fitzgerald, on June 5, 2009. Maura joins siblings Elly, 7, Martin, 6, and Sean, 4, at home.


Susanne Trelor Sunderman and Rocco ND ‘95 welcomed their daughter, Lauren Marie, on April 2, 2009. She joins big brothers Joey, 6, and Tommy, 4.

Tamaras Lukes Fehm and her husband, Bill, welcomed their third child, Emily “Emmie” Ann on Feb. 28, 2009. Older siblings are Will, 5, and Nora, 1. S. Tamara is still teaching part-time in Park Ridge, Ill., along with Megan Morrison.

Jennifer Too Campbell gave birth to her third baby on May 20, 2009. Cameron James joins two older brothers at home. Jennifer loves her work as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Jennifer McGinnis Neville and husband Kevin are doing well and celebrated the first birthday of their twin daughters, Shannon Nicole and Holly Lynn, on June 5. “The twins were born at 37 weeks and came home two days later. They are getting lots of love from big sisters Megan, 6, and Allison, 3. I continue to work full-time at Experian as a project consultant but am now a full-time telecommuter. I keep in touch with Jennifer Hughes Vartabedian. Jen and her husband, Matt, live in Lemont, Ill., and Jen works as an ICU/Recovery room nurse at Shinner’s Children’s Hospital in Chicago. Jen is godmother to my Holly…. Thanks to Facebook, I have caught up with many SMC friends. Katy Seuntjens Fries, Megan Hurley Nadzam, Erin Peter Wolf, Catie Linehan, Kate Curran, Lisa Rania Ganser, Katherine Klimisch Arst, Christine Juras Rozmanich, Julie Semrow Sullivan, Megan Morrison, Beth Goodwin Johnson, Katie Baal, to name a few… and everyone is doing really well! It is so good to reconnect with old friends!”

Kim Anderson and husband Dave DiFranco are living in Seattle and welcomed their third child into the family this past spring. Daniel Lee DiFranco, born March 12, 2009, joins sister Kate, 4, and brother Jack, 2.

Anne Homan sent word that she is working for the same company she started with after graduating from SMC. William Vaughan Company is a local accounting firm in Maumee, Ohio (near Toledo). “I am a senior manager in the firm. I specialize in tax and business valuations. I have both my CPA and CVA designations. My husband, Greg Smith, and I married in May of 2001. We have three children: Ian, 5, and twin girls Emma and Olivia, 2. My husband works as an engineer for General Motors.”

Jill Hotek Lewis and husband Pete welcomed a baby girl, Sarah Anne, on Jan. 7, 2009. She joins big brother, George, 4, at home.

Meredith Allsop writes: “My husband, Brad, and I have been married for 10 years this August. We have twins, Maia and Quinn, 4. I became a realtor four years ago in order to support Brad’s real estate investments while still having the flexibility to stay home with the kids. I am one of 18 realtors certified by the City of South Bend on the history and culture of the city…so my education continues.”

Tricia Wallace Moore writes that she married John Moore in December 2007 and currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. She recently
Hello again! As always, I hope this update finds everyone doing well! I'm writing this at the beginning of summer and hoping that everyone has a chance to relax and enjoy themselves a bit. It seems as if we all had a busy winter and could use the break! Here's what a few of our classmates were up to in the last few months.

Michelle Limb has finished 13 years of teaching kindergarten at Peabody Charter School in Santa Barbara and is moving on to be the school principal at Saint Anthony Catholic School in Oxnard, Calif., as of August. She writes that she is excited to be back at a Catholic school. Kelly Kilmer Mullagh and husband are happy to announce that they are moving back to the states—Colorado Springs, to be exact! Kelly is happy about the move, though not necessarily happy about moving across borders! Everything across borders!

Susan Osinski Weems provided a synopsis of the past few years of her life, including grad school for her master's degree in physical therapy from Columbia University and marrying Nathan Weems in St. Helena in the Napa Valley in 2003. The couple currently lives in San Francisco. Likewise, Kelly Kowalski has some catching up to do with everyone. Kelly and her husband relocated to Reno, Nev., for a year while Kelly was employed at Microsoft. In November 2008, they returned to Wisconsin just in time for the delivery of Sophia Susan on Dec. 4. Sophia arrived about two months early, but she and family are all doing just fine. Currently (as of June), Kelly is as busy as always working on another project in Houston.

Jennifer Embry Flory earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Rush University in Chicago. After grad school, she went to law school at Loyola University Chicago and is currently a patent attorney with Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP in Chicago. She married her husband, Jonathan Flory, in 2004. Their first son, Gavin Philip, was born on April 4, 2007, and their twins, Eliza Grace and Henry James, were born this past Dec. 23, 2008. They live in Chicago on the South side. Things are crazy with three under two, but they love it!

Sara Leavitt-Turner and her husband, Aaron L. Turner, welcomed Victoria Catherine Turner on June 11, 2007. Older brother Trenton (born April 11, 2003) welcomed home her! Sadly, I have to pass along the news that the mother of Ann Pilger ’95 passed away on March 25 from cancer. Ann is spending time in Florida for now. Anyone who knew Ann’s mom would certainly attest to how amazing and brave she was, along with being one of the best hostesses around when it came to visiting Ann in her hometown! She will most certainly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ann and her family.

On a brighter note, many of our classmates wrote of upcoming news to celebrate, so pay attention to future updates for more information! In the meantime, feel free to send me your news—or, for those of you who are Facebook fans, you can join the group I set up to help us keep in touch: SMC ‘96. I hope to hear from you soon!


On April 25, 2009, Alice Caruso Davis and her husband, Charlie, welcomed Max Ferry Davis, who was born at home. He joins brothers Nicky and Joshua. Alice says that Max is a very sweet and easy baby, and they’re all enjoying him. They are still living in the Washington, D.C. area, and have just bought a house. Between a new baby and a new house, the Davis family has been really busy!

Ivonne Grantham Smith and her husband Baron have had a lot happening as well. They moved to a new home in February 2009 and had their second baby two weeks later. Camden Baron Smith was born on March 19, 2009. His big brother, Grantham, is incredibly proud of his new “big brother” status and loves having his new little brother around.

Meredith Johnson McGuffage, Shannon Crunk Hipp, Anne Schneeman Dougherty, and Maureen Kozba Sitzman of her life, including grad school and interest. She received her master’s degree in special education from the College of Mount St. Joseph in August of 2008.

City of Hammond for the past seven years (a year in fourth grade, two years in first grade, and four years in second grade) but am currently taking a leave of absence to be at home with our first baby, our daughter, Adia Joy, who was born this summer (July 2, 2009). Keep in touch with Christine Peterson Schrom. She’s living in Bolingbrook, Ill., and is still enjoying teaching middle school. She and Joe just welcomed their third daughter, Molly Christine, on St. Patrick’s Day 2007. This past year (2007) I have been able to get together on occasion with Kathy (Katie) Goolsby Flavin, Marcia Wojan Laciak and Kathy Heron. All are well and have also had a very busy 2007. Katie had her second daughter, Margaret (Maggie) Grace, in March of 2007. Marcia was married in August and Kathy began a new teaching job in the fall.

Continuing with an update on Katie, Kathy Heron told me that Katie and her (Katie’s) husband, Eddie, welcomed a third baby girl into their family! Lillian (Lily) Maeve was born on Oct. 27, 2008. Kathy said that the family is adjusting, doing well, and saving their pennies for Saint Mary’s tuition! Congratulations to all, and best of luck with that saving!

Kathy also told me that Vanessa Quatman Damschroder continues to live in Lima, Ohio, with her husband, Dr. Richard Damschroder. Jr. On May 7, 2009, they welcomed Georgianna Layne into their family.

In my update from last year at this time, I failed to put in some news that I had received—my apologies to Beth Lorenz Pullan! Here is the news that Beth had to share: “My husband, José, and I welcomed another child into our family on Dec. 19, 2007. Our new baby girl, Anjali Rose, was born at our local hospital in DeKalb. Our son, Ryan, was born in Irvine, Calif., on July 19, 2007. In December of 2008, I received this news from Michelle Harbinak Shapiro: ‘I work in Westlake, Ohio, and we have a house in Lakewood. My husband, Jared, and I had our first baby on Nov. 15, 2008: Ayla Rae Shapiro. Also, one of my college roommates, Shannon Swafford Levin, recently had her first baby! Lucy Leigh Levin was born in Irvine, Calif., on July 29, 2008.’ Not long after that e-mail, I received one from Cara Ford Cernak: ‘On August 8, 2008, I married Nick Cernak in Glen Ellen, Calif! Kimberly Heffernan Moore, Shauna Maliszewski, and Andrea Sondag Schweitzer were able to make it out. We had fun catching up and enjoying wine country. I’ve lived in Oakland for almost two years and am the assistant registrar at Mills College.’ In April of 2009, I received wonderful news from a friend of one of our own: Prof. Tim Heron, Ed.D. He wanted to submit news on his daughter, Kathleen Heron, who gives me great updates for our column! Kathy was mentioned earlier, but here is the update her dad wanted me to include: ‘On March 20, 2009, Kathleen Marie Heron returned to Saint Mary’s to present ‘Teaching Preschool Children with Severe Communication Delays and Autism: Using Schedules to Arrange Transitions’ to Dr. Nancy Turner’s education class. Kathy shared her expertise with the class about how to arrange iconic and picture schedules to provide structure, consistency, and predictable transitions for children with special needs. Kathy is employed by the Worthington City Schools as a preschool special education teacher for children with communication delays and autism.” Thank you to everyone who has submitted their updates. Keep them coming! Take care of yourselves, and I would love to get together if you are ever in the area! Congratulations and best of luck in all you have accomplished so far!”

Stephanie Sumulong told me that she and her husband, Solito, moved from the East Coast back to the Midwest. He took a job with Land O’Lakes, Inc., and they moved to the Twin Cities area in January 2009. They also welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Owen Solito Sumulong, into the world on May 5, 2009. Stephanie will be staying home with her son for the 2009-2010 school year. She also told me that Lori Evans Kinsella and her husband, Joe, have two children, Abigail and Daniel. Shelley Riley finished her second year teaching high school theology at her alma mater, Saint John Neumann, in Naples, Fl. She taught middle school for six years before moving to high school. Shelley earned her master’s in religious education from Loyola University in Chicago and is currently in the ACE Leadership Program at Notre Dame to earn her second master’s in educational leadership. She has been named the campus minister for Saint John Neumann for the next school year. Last but not least: a little update from your very own Nicole Longier Lieber. I am still living in Solon, Ohio, which is a suburb of Cleveland, with my husband, Steve, our son, Isaac, and daughters Aliza and Abigail. Isaac is finishing up second grade, and Aliza and Abigail are ‘graduating’ from preschool on June 5, 2009. My husband was just awarded a “Top 40 Under 40” award for engineers or members of associated professions. “This award is given to 40 building industry engineers under the age of 40 who stand out in their academic, professional, personal, and community achievements.” I am very proud of him! I met up with Meghan Matthews and Jennifer Hanichak Farrell in Chicago to celebrate Molly A. McHugh’s 30th birthday last summer. Molly is living in the Chicago area. I was also able to visit with Meghan in Boston, where she is currently living. Jennifer and her husband, Brian, along with their son, Brady, are living in South Bend. Molly and I were able to visit Jennifer when we attended a Notre Dame football game in the fall of 2008.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their updates. Keep them coming! Take care of yourselves, and I would love to get together if you are ever in the area! Congratulations and best of luck in all you have accomplished so far!”

From the Courier Office: Mary DeKever writes, “I have had an exciting few years! In the spring of 2009, I taught an education course for the second time at Saint Mary’s. It was such a rewarding and fun experience to come back to my alma mater. Then, on August 1st 2009 in Granger, Ind., I married Frank Murphy. We now live in Greenfield, Ind. Helen Yearwood was my maid of honor and Katharine Burns was a bridesmaid. Also, in attendance from the class of 2000, were Laura Carroll DeBoilt, Merideth Williamson Drudge, and Kimber Podemski Stone. A great time was had by all!”

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Katie Corsentino Newberger 1503 S. State St. Unit 505 Chicago, IL 60605 katiecorsentino@gmail.com

From Lori: Hello, fellow ‘02-ers! As 2009 takes its final bend toward the homestretch, it’s clear that this has been a year of great growth and exploration for our class. In nearly every way imaginable, our class has been on the move—and quite literally, for some. For example, Jaime Dineen-Gleason reports that she and her husband moved from Los Angeles back home to Chicago. “My husband got a job transfer and, luckily, I was able to transfer with my pharmaceutical company,” she reports. “Since living in Chicago, we bought our first place and have been able to reconnect with friends in the area.”

Vanessa Hogan recently moved back to her hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind., where she is working for Lifeline Youth and Family Services. She is a home-based therapist, providing therapy for families, adults, and children. She also became a licensed mental health counselor in April 2009 after completing all post-graduate hours and the licensing exam.

Holly James reports that she currently plays women’s professional tackle football when she is not working, and has been approached to play professionally in Japan.

Erin McGarry writes “I left Chicago in July and took a position as a speech pathology researcher for LinguiSystems Inc. in East Moline, Ill. I’m looking forward to a new career challenge writing various speech pathology tests and materials and tests for this company. I am much closer geographically to my family—which is nice. Anyone in the Quad City area is invited to drop me an email at emcgarry@linguisystems.com.”

Noreen Gillespie-Connolly has been packing and unpacking a lot. She relocated from New York City to Atlanta in May of last year to help The Associated Press start a new editing desk, then traveled to Houston and Louisiana in the fall as part of teams that covered Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Noreen recently moved to Chicago to help launch another wire service editing desk for the Midwest. She graduated from NYU in May with a master’s in public administration.

Also on the move are Amy Lazzarotto-Nelson, husband Mike, and their little guy, James. The family recently relocated to Naperville, Ill. “We bought a house (our first!), and we couldn’t be happier.”

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Sarah Chaudoir-Alden and her husband, Travis, recently moved from Iowa back to Michigan. The two live in Manistee, Mich., with their two daughters, Natalie, 3, and baby Molly, who was born in April. Sarah was practicing law in Iowa and will be working for a firm this fall once she is admitted to the Michigan bar.

Kathy Harter-Harris reports from Vienna, Austria, where she and husband Brendan Harris ND ’02 have been living since August 2008. The two live just outside the main part of Vienna and have access to museums, the Hapsburg Palaces, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, European wine, and all the history you can digest. “During our time here, we have connected with fellow SMC graduates who live in the U.K., including Lissy Driscoll ’03 and Renee Donovan-Genetti ’03,” Kathy reports. “This past December we also reconnected with another SMC grad, Jenny Wejman ’99, Tammy Grady-Thornton, Muffy Grant Linnane, Kate Lapinski, Tracey Quinn, Michelle Chandler, Erin Quinn ’04, and Beth Quinn ’06.

Francesca Casaccio married Ben Rabchuk on March 28. Erin Weldon served as maid of honor for the event, while in attendance were other great SMC alums served as bridesmaids, including Katie Miller-Quinn, Megan Keleher, Erin Roberts-Davidson, Laura Stevens, and Marlee Seiler. Many more SMC-ers were in attendance, including Jenny Wejman ’99, Tammy Brady-Thornton, Muffy Grant Linnane, Kate Lapinski, Tracey Quinn, Michelle Chandler, Erin Quinn ’04, and Beth Quinn ’06.

Francesca also reports that she felt lucky to have Debbie Ianlorno, Jeanne Haske, Mary Hermes, Lindsey Cotter-Mackenzie, Lindsay Clark, Liz Kocurek-Dunleavy, Kristen Wojtas-Berg, and Jess Klink in attendance. “It was awesome—great time, lots of dancing. The couple honeymooned in Thailand and currently live in Chicago.

Brooke Wagner married Vince DeSapia ND ’01, ’06 in August 2008. On Dec. 30, 2006, Anna Yearwood married John O’Rourke III. Anna’s sister Bridget Yearwood ’03 served as maid of honor, while Helen Yearwood ’09 and Katrina Weibel ’02 served as bridesmaids. Other SMC friends in attendance were Emily Dreyer-Bates, Tricia Eggebrecht, Hayley Dawson-Owens, and Elizabeth Derby ’00. Anna and husband John live in East Longmeadow, Mass., where she currently is teaching second grade at Mater Dolorosa in Holyoke, Mass., and earning her master’s degree in moderate disabilities. And, on Oct. 3, 2007, the O’Rourkes were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Mary Kathleen O’Rourke.

Many others in our class glowering report on news of a new arrival. Editor’s note: Apologetically, the birth of an extremely adorable baby was accidentally omitted from the spring 2009 updates. Amanda Spica-Listen and her husband, Bob, welcomed their daughter, Marian Peal, on July 17, 2008. The family happily reports from Caledonia, Mich. Julia Fletcher-Lee and her husband, Shawn ND MBA ’02, welcomed their second son, Aaron Mark, in January 2009. The couple’s son Andrew, 3, is “a very proud big brother” reports Julia. In addition to being a mother of two, Julia continues to work part-time as a cardiac cath lab nurse in Chandler, Ariz.

Katherine Deane married Ryan Nagy in June 2007. The couple reports from Indianapolis where they just welcomed their new baby girl into the world, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Nagy, on April 30. Katherine continues to work as a human resource manager for Deloitte and Touche. Hayley Dawson-Owens and her husband, Kyle Owens ND ’01, announce with excitement the birth of their son, Oliver Dawson Owens. “Oliver was born on Jan. 24 and quickly stole our hearts,” she reports. “We also are celebrating our five-year wedding anniversary this year. I’m loving my career as a market research analyst; I’ve been working closely with a baked goods manufacturer and a home garden company this year. (I now know more than I ever thought I would about bread and weed control)”

Tracy Harber-Armitage and husband Matthew recently welcomed a baby boy, Braydan Timothy Armitage, on May 11, 2009. On March 11, 2009, Meredi Fletcher-Jolty and husband James Jolty ND ’02 welcomed their son, Jackson. Meredi reports that all is going well and that little Jackson will be singing the ND fight song before long. A sizable round of “thank yous” goes out to all who submitted updates. May the remaining months of 2009 continue to be prosperous for you all.

Mary Nolan Crawford and her husband, Bill ND ’01, have settled into their new suburban life in Canton, Ohio, and have their own new addition, a Chocolate Lab named Irish. Jeanne Haske has been working on a side project I’m excited to tell you all about. While in her downtime as a paralegal for the Chicago law firm Jenner & Block, Jeanne has become quite the artist. She has opened up a site on Etsy, called Ruffled, which features her custom-made clutches. Please check out her fashionable creations at www.ruffled.etsy.com!

Erin Weldon continues to live in Chicago’s Gold Coast neighborhood. She spent this summer tutoring elementary school children before returning to her full-time teaching position at The Lane in Hinsdale. She also continues to serve on the board of the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago.

Lindsey Cotter Mackenzie says the long flight was worth it for her beautiful vacation to South Africa this past May. She and her husband, JB, ND MBA ’02, spent several days exploring historic Cape Town and the Winelands. They ended the trip with a safari, where viewing included South Africa’s finest—rhinos, giraffes, elephants, zebras, hippos, cape buffaloes, and lions. She said that it was a trip of a lifetime—with hopes, though, of more in the near future!

Katie O’Connell and Mary Hermes also ventured on a two-week trip to Zambia in southern Africa this past April. They visited Mary’s sister, who works for Catholic Relief Services in the capital, Lusaka. Both said their excursion was an incredible and life-changing experience that included visits to the House of Moses orphanage in Lusaka, a safari in South Luangwa, and a trip to Victoria Falls. Katie is also excited to have graduated from the Chicago Executive MBA program at Notre Dame in May and continues to work as a Director at AAIte, a firm in Chicago focused on operations strategy consulting.
**Lori Marso Cuomo** finished nursing school and her master’s in nursing at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md. She met her husband while in nursing school and has remained in Baltimore ever since. She married her husband, Dave Cuomo, in Iowa in 2006, and they had their first child, Joseph (Joey) Peter, on Aug. 10, 2007. Lori says that she’s working just one day a week at Kennedy Krieger Institute and enjoys staying home with Joey the rest of the time.

Amy Lazzarotto Nolan writes that she and her family are moving to Naperville and couldn’t be happier. They have been in Milwaukee, where her husband, Mike, worked for Miller Brewing Co.; now, though, he has been transferred to work in the Chicago Loop, Miller Brewing Co’s new headquarters. Her new will be address 2714 Gateshead Drive, Naperville, IL 60564. Welcome to Chicago!

Shannon Rogers and CC Cronley Sumner are involved with starting a new alumnae club of Eastern North Carolina. Shannon is taking on the role of special events director, and CC is the communications director. Their team also includes co-presidents Christine Luby Gaither ’72 and Judy Trippe Geaslen ’84, and treasurer Heather Peoples Sopko ’00. They are currently organizing a student send-off later this summer. Anyone in the eastern North Carolina area, please contact CC if you would like to be involved with connecting local Belles. She can be reached at cc.sumner@datadirect.com.

From the Courier Office: When taking a breather from playing baba-tender to human child, and gear engineer to her two children, William and Winter, Maria Pilar Clark moonlights as a columnist for Chicago Parent and Chicago Baby magazines. She is also a contributor to Mommy Track’d and has been invited to write for Examiner.com as a baby and toddler gear expert. Find her at: http://tinyurl.com/q5axkl.

’04

**Kathryn (Katie) Harrison**
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Hello, Class of 2004! I hope that everyone had a nice summer and a great five-year reunion! It was so nice to see so many people on campus and to hear of all the wonderful things everyone has going on. Over 100 members of our class came for the weekend. According to my sources, that’s a record for a five-year reunion class! I have lots of updates from lots of you this time. Thanks so much for sending these in!

Anne Marie Guerrettaz wrote that she is currently working on her doctorate in second language studies at Indiana University in Bloomington. She received her master’s in education from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in 2006 and spent time traveling and studying in Spain and the Dominican Republic after college. She also taught graduate courses in applied linguistics to educators in Panama and Central America. She has traveled all over the United States and to Quebec, Canada, to present her research on language pedagogy and is glad to be living in Bloomington close to her family and many wonderful friends.

Kimberly Gans is currently living in Mishawaka, Ind., and works as a controller for Laidig Systems there. Sarah Turek Waboske was recently married to John Waboske. Sarah is the patient coordinator at Dean Health System and lives in Fitchburg, Wis. Betsy Mitchell wrote that she is currently working as a registered nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She is studying to become an oncology nurse practitioner and will complete her master’s degree this fall.

Erin McGinty received her master’s degree in counseling at Mount Mary College in 2006. She is currently living in Milwaukee and works as a licensed professional counselor and eating disorders therapist at Rogers Memorial Hospital. Jessica Hardesty started her ob/gyn residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago in July. She graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine in May. Melissa Nix completed her graduate degree in biology this year at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. She works for EMSL Analytical as a microbiologist/mycologist. My fellow RLST major Amanda Richer Albarran completed her master’s in pastoral studies at the University of Dayton. She is married to Louis Albarran and works as she director of youth ministry at St. Joseph, St. Patrick, and St. Margaret Mary parishes in Terra Haute. Lynn Busse Comerford was married to Dr. Patrick Comerford in June. Lynn is an elementary school teacher in the West Seneca Central School District in West Seneca, N.Y.

Lori Robakowski Zapp finished her graduate degree in nutrition science at Indiana University in 2008. She married Keith Zapp in December 2008. Laura Waite Demko received a master’s in education from Notre Dame in 2006. She and husband Tommy live in Chicago with baby Blaise, born in June 2008. Andrea Zandstra Alves is a registered nurse at Yale–New Haven Hospital in Connecticut. She is married to Pedro Alves ND 04. Andrea and Pedro welcomed a little girl, Lia Rose, in October 2008.

Kelly Willbrandt Adair wrote that she is an application developer for Fifth Third Bank. She and her husband, Roy, are enjoying living in the Cincinnati area. Melissa Augustine Mejia and husband J.R. have a son, Coen Milan, born in February 2008. They live in Wichita Falls, Texas. Emily Horner Batton married Adam Batton in October 2008. Emily is a teacher in the South Bend Community Schools and was recently hired as Greene School’s athletic director. Bridget Jones Le is a senior accountant with Harley Davidson Financial Services. She and her husband, Vu, live in Chicago. Catherine Romano recently began her residency at the University of Texas. She received her doctor of osteopathic medicine this year from Midwestern University.

Stephanie Cunningham Ryan married Peter Ryan on January 10 of this year in Chicago, during a snowstorm! Matrons of honor were Jennifer Bartalino Fey and Jennifer Cunningham ’07. Kim McInerney Claey was a bridesmaid. Also in attendance from SMC were Bridget Gottlieb, ’05, Amanda Wishin, Jennifer Bachtel Whitton, Katie Virzi, Adrienne Upah, and Nancy Soller ’60. Stephane is working on her doctorate in learning sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

It was great to see my old friend Annie Basinski at reunion! Annie works in Chicago as a public relations professional at Edelman Worldwide. She lives in Lincoln Park close to her SMC roommate Michelle Biersmith Hennings, who reported that life is going well for her in Chicago as well. I was also glad to run into Kelly Moran and Erin Sullivan. Kelly also lives in Chicago and works as the corporate event coordinator for Easter Seals. Erin is the head coach of our wonderful Belles softball team. Thanks again for all the updates!

**From the Courier Office:** Kristina Schlieske writes: “Here’s an update on what I’ve been doing since graduation: In May 2008, I received my master’s degree in sacred music from the University of Notre Dame. A highlight of my program was returning to Saint Mary’s campus to give my final recital in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. In August, I moved to St. Louis and joined the Vincentian Service Corps for a year of service. I live with seven other volunteers and am ministering at Our Lady’s Inn, a pregnancy shelter. I just accepted an offer from Niagara University in New York to serve as a campus minister and will be moving and beginning my career there in August.”

’06

**Mary Elizabeth Nelson**
1655 Flagstone Drive
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
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Hello, Class of 2006! I hope that everyone had a nice summer and a great five-year reunion! It was so nice to see so many people on campus and to hear of all the wonderful things everyone has going on. Over 100 members of our class came for the weekend. According to my sources, that’s a record for a five-year reunion class! I have lots of updates from lots of you this time. Thanks so much for sending these in!

Melissa Mejia (Mejia) and husband J.R. have a son, Coen Milan, born in February 2008. They live in Wichita Falls, Texas. Emily Horner Batton married Adam Batton in October 2008. Emily is a teacher in the South Bend Community Schools and was recently hired as Greene School’s athletic director. Bridget Jones Le is a senior accountant with Harley Davidson Financial Services. She and her husband, Vu, live in Chicago.

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These items and other memorabilia are housed in the College’s Archives.

Full story on page 8

The Class of 1910 had a total of six members, shown here in this framed photograph, quite a contrast to the College’s enrollment this Fall 2009 semester: 1,664 Saint Mary’s students—1,561 on campus and 103 studying abroad—the highest enrollment in 18 years.

Wood dumbbells used in women’s physical education classes, circa 1890s–early 1900s

A salvaged roof tile from the 1920s-era campus clubhouse, since razed and rebuilt

Surveying equipment used on campus in the early 1900s

A University of Notre Dame Football program (ND vs. Iowa) pasted among the scrapbook pages of Alice Flynn Osberger ’50