The Market Value of a Liberal Arts Education

In an ever-changing economy, liberal arts degrees give alumnae the flexibility and creativity they need to follow their career paths and their dreams.

Stepping Out

Fiction writing class lets students explore other lives in novella.

In the Stacks with Alumnae Authors

Alumnae literati who got their start at Saint Mary’s.

Something to Write Home About

Courier interns ask Lisa Maxbauer Price for real-world advice.

Best of Both Worlds

Dr. Mary Anne Luzar ’72 takes liberal arts degree to Washington and beyond.

Invite More Creativity Into Your Life

Art Professor Krista Hoefle offers advice on how to bring creativity into your life.
Some Musings After One Year at Saint Mary’s…

By Vice President and Dean of Faculty Patricia Ann Fleming

A version of this essay was delivered by the Vice President and Dean of Faculty at the beginning of her second year at Saint Mary’s College at College Forum.

My tenure at Saint Mary’s has been one of substantial challenges. Substance, as a concept, fascinates philosophers. Plato dismisses substance as insignificant. Our substantial existence, he tells us, can get in the way of knowing truth. When discussing substance, Aristotle distinguishes between the accidental and the essential and challenges us to be able to identify the difference; John Locke argues that, while he cannot point to substance, substance nevertheless exists, for it is that within which qualities adhere. Jean Paul Sartre effectively challenges our views of substance, not so much as to say there is no substance as to help us to see that what is essential about substance comes into being through existence or living. Essential, so important to Aristotle and then Aquinas, he argues, does not precede existence. Post-modernism and the work of philosophers like Derrida suggest that substance, and the notion of essence or center that accompanies it, is far less significant than its marginal features. We should look to the margins to find realities, as any claimed substantial reality focusing on the center fools us.

I mention this little bit of philosophy about substance so that I might also share with you how one might, after encountering new substantial realities, view or appropriate them. If I were a Platoniist, I would dismiss my experiences this last year at Saint Mary’s as insignificant, believing instead that I could never really know who and what Saint Mary’s is by more experiences or encounters with its faculty, staff, students, and administrators. I should, instead, stay in my office and reflect and meditate on the ideal form or state that Saint Mary’s could fall from grace of the idealized view I had struggled to know in a Platonic recollection. If I were Aristotelian, leaving my office and experiencing the realities of Saint Mary’s would be of primary importance as knowledge and truth about Saint Mary’s comes from encounters and experience, but I would be challenged as well to distinguish the essence of Saint Mary’s from its accidental features.

I might be in search of all and only those features, uncovered by my experiences that are unique to Saint Mary’s College. I experience this Aristotelian approach often when someone asks me to identify what makes a woman’s woman unique. That is actually an extraordinarily challenge...to define these qualities. John Locke would agree that these qualities exist. Regardless of any ability to see the underlying substance of a Saint Mary’s student, or faculty, staff, or administrator, he will still say we can identify their primary qualities. (Locke was, of course, quite influenced by Aristotle.) If I were an existentialist, like Sartre, my approach might be a bit more humble, thinking that over time as I exist here at Saint Mary’s I would encounter the real Saint Mary’s and even then, (reminded of his famous phrase “We are what we are and we are not what we are”) I should always be careful not to assume I’ve captured once and for all Saint Mary’s essence. And, finally, were I a post-modernist, I would look in the marginals to find Saint Mary’s. I would not assume that I could or should ever be able to truly know Saint Mary’s by searching for its center or its heart; for the significant aspects of Saint Mary’s would be found in the places where maybe nobody is looking. Well, by now you know, if you didn’t already, that you have a philosopher for a vice president and dean! So, you might be asking yourself—which of these views of substance does Patricia adopt? (Or, of course, you could be reading this thinking philosophy is pretty strange stuff!)

Let me tell you this. I tend to think that there is truth in all these ideas, although some are more incomplete or partial than others. My challenge is to hold them in a productive tension so that I might be able to understand and experience Saint Mary’s both more totally and more innovatively at the same time. My husband, by the way, reminds me of the importance of substance since he works with clay. One of the first things he does before throwing a pot is to center the clay. He cannot proceed without this centering process. But as he throws the clay, he opens this center, pushing toward boundaries to form a work of art. That work might exceed what we normally think of as boundaries and move into an unfamiliar shape but the pot, whether it is classic or post-modern, retains integrity through the productive tensions kept intact by artist working with the clay.

This is the same for Saint Mary’s. I have seen and experienced Saint Mary’s this last year as have tried as well to identify its essence and explain this to parents and persons considering Saint Mary’s and its future. I am immediately looking beyond the fine faculty, its supportive staff, and its confident and articulate students, I am immediately aware of the importance of substance since he works with clay. One of the first things he does before throwing a pot is to center the clay. He cannot proceed without this centering process. But as he throws the clay, he opens this center, pushing toward boundaries to form a work of art. That work might exceed what we normally think of as boundaries and move into an unfamiliar shape but the pot, whether it is classic or post-modern, retains integrity through the productive tensions kept intact by artist working with the clay.

This is the same for Saint Mary’s. I am very proud of the way in which our faculty, their department Chairs, and our academic administration proactively and creatively meet the challenges presented to us by these productive tensions that we all face.

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Einstein said a liberal arts college education trains “the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks.” This is a maxim Saint Mary’s alumnae take to heart and put into practice. Courter caught up with four alumnae recently—a wordsmith for number crunchers, a policy planner/philanthropist/artist, a world traveler, and a market guru—to ask them about their lives and their careers, to see where their liberal arts backgrounds had taken them.

Katy Karr ‘06

Katy Karr graduated summa cum laude from Saint Mary’s with a double major in humanistic studies and English literature. After taking a literature/philosophy tandem course her first semester, and an introductory humanistic studies course her second semester, Karr was hooked.

“I was instantly addicted to the subject matter and the unique outline of each course of study,” says Karr. “I really wanted to study what I loved and what I believed in, and I couldn’t bring myself to choose between the two.”

Karr now works for Bank of America as a communications assistant. Karr’s addiction to the world of abstract ideas resulted in a very practical skill set, one that made her confident about going toe-to-toe with applicants from left-brain fields. “Literature and humanistic studies helped me to develop a sound set of communications skills,” says Karr. “Writing, presentation, articulation, and critical thinking…I felt very confident that I could successfully portray and promote these skills in any interview and have an edge over candidates with business degrees.”

The diverse interests that motivated Karr’s double major resulted in a career that would allow her to pursue her passions. “I was trained to write, to speak publicly and passionately, and to believe in my abilities and in God’s plan for my life,” says Dondanville.

Dondanville’s passions reached beyond her work week and, ultimately, brought her back to Saint Mary’s. She has been an integral donor and devotee to the College. “My motivation to give to Saint Mary’s was simply one of gratitude,” says Dondanville. “Soon after graduation my father and I were talking about his volunteer involvement with the high school seminary he attended. When he spoke of his gratitude for the dedication of the priests who made that type of education possible, I realized that I felt the same way about those who had preceded me at Saint Mary’s College.”

Anne Hesslau Dondanville ’82

Policy Planner, Philanthropist, Artist

One of the hallmarks of a liberal arts education is the ease with which graduates can transition from one career path to another. “I graduated in 1982 when the economy was in a similar cycle that this year’s graduates may encounter,” says Anne Hesslau Dondanville. “The summer after graduation I accepted an entry level job at a Japanese bank, worked as an international flight attendant based at O’Hare, and applied to graduate school all in the first year out of Saint Mary’s!”

After graduating with a degree in political science, Dondanville earned her Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield and went on to work as a policy planner for the Illinois Department on Aging. From there, she took a position as the executive director of the Springfield Alzheimer’s Association. For Dondanville, her liberal arts background prepared her to pursue her passions. “I was trained to write, to speak publicly and passionately, and to believe in my abilities and in God’s plan for my life,” says Dondanville.

Dondanville’s passions reached beyond her work week and, ultimately, brought her back to Saint Mary’s. She has been an integral donor and devotee to the College. “Women who shared that Board table with me remain friends and resources to me today. They were ten, twenty, and thirty years older than me and shared their wisdom—regarding parenting, careers, and spiritual decisions. They were company presidents, attorneys, teachers, musicians, artists—but what we had in common was a desire to assure that Saint Mary’s College was positioned to cherish her heritage and at the same time, prepared to meet the financial challenges that could jeopardize its future.”

Dondanville says she’s seen first-hand the difference financial aid and scholarships have made to Saint Mary’s students. “I have read articles in the Courier about the accomplishments of women who were student government commissioners who would address us at Board meetings. My alumnae-endorsed applications have been submitted by young women who are now graduates. I have received notes and calls from students and I am more convinced than ever that a Saint Mary’s College education is an even greater gift in today’s world than it was in mine,” says Dondanville.

Dondanville’s passions and pursuits continue to reach far and wide. “I currently run my own business, creating artisan jewelry including the French Cross necklace, worn by many alumnae, and remains an active member of the Madeleva Society Steering Committee. Dondanville attributes her devotion to the College to the education it provides, an education she believes to be unique. “Students are exposed to the classics, to current political debates, to the arts and sciences in a beautiful, intimate environment where they are safe to explore their intellectual leanings with other young women from all over the world,” says Dondanville. “They are taught and mentored by talented faculty members who are committed to their academic growth and professional preparation. It is an environment of excellence where faculty, administration, staff, and alumnae are committed to their success.”

Lisa Coury ’98

World Traveler

Lisa Coury found her passion, one that would translate into a career, while studying abroad her sophomore year. “The Saint Mary’s Rome Program is the reason I fell in love, not only with Italy, but with travel, in general,” says Coury.
Curry “It was unbelievable to me how art and history came alive in front of me in the Eternal City…. It gave birth to my love for cultural exchange. Through contact with another culture, through the experience of being a foreigner, you learn about others and about yourself. Most importantly, you come to know that similarities far outweigh the differences between people. It’s a matter of language. And, when you understand this lesson, the differences between people become fun!”

Curry graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in humanistic studies and a minor in Italian. In 2001, she traveled back to Italy to St. John’s University in Rome, where she got her MA. Then, she entered into Florida State University, where she earned a Master’s in International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management.

According to Curry, humanistic studies prepared her for the world of business. The major, unique to Saint Mary’s, looks through the lenses of many disciplines to understand Western culture. “I taught myself how to study a culture…to understand its current political, social, religious, scientific, and artistic environment, and to understand how all of these elements combine to shape the way people think and act,” Curry explains. “This type of analysis is the identical through process used in business school and in business in general. To analyze any market, you have to use this type of analysis to know if a product should be introduced, how to introduce it; and then how to market it.”

Now, Curry spends her days helping others see the best of the place she loves. Each weekend she flies for travel throughout Italy. We’ve prepared all types of itineraries, from very simple to very extravagant. I enjoy what I do because it takes me to the places my clients’ vacation, thus they are better able to enjoy the richness of the Italian experience,”

For Curry, sharing what she loves is often its own reward. “We leave when our clients come back and we can tell that they get it, that they understand the meaning of dolce vita (the sweet life in Italy). We even had a couple come back once and tell us that we saved their marriage, but really it was just Italy. It’s a great gift to share with others!”

Curry credits the broad-based education she received at Saint Mary’s with preparing her for the career she envisioned for herself. “My liberal arts education, in general, made me a well-rounded person,” says Curry. “It is only my mom and I running Grazia Italia, so our job functions run the gamut. It is equally important for me to know how to do accounting, as it is for me to be able to write effectively and to create marketing campaigns. That key to small business is well roundedness, I believe.

Kathleen Kelly Hartman ’94

“My liberal arts degree gave me many career options,” says Kathleen Kelly Hartman, manager of investor relations at CME Group (formerly the Chicago Mercantile Exchange). “But it is the liberal arts degree that prepared me for my current role. When I was an undergraduate at Saint Mary’s, I was asked what it is that your thesis, and why is it true? Once you’d gotten the core ideas together, the focus on podiating the mechanics and style of your writing was laid on a journey that allows you to intimately know another person’s life. But there is another side to writing. It is also important to me to be able to write about my own life and to identify with the lives of others. We get the opportunity to travel the world with interesting people and cultural backgrounds, from different time periods and countries. What I love about fiction is how it allows us to take an experience beyond the boundary of a story and make sense of the world from a larger perspective. Employers, I hope, will always value individuals with this kind of sensibility.”

What are the benefits of studying and writing fiction?

“Fiction allows us to step outside the confines of our own lives and to identify with the lives of others. We get to meet people from all walks of life with incredible social and cultural backgrounds, from different time periods and countries. What I love about fiction is how it allows us to take an experience beyond the boundary of a story and make sense of the world from a larger perspective. Employers, I hope, will always value individuals with this kind of sensibility.”

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Kurt arrived just in time to help me dig my old blue bike out of the shed. After wandering through mountainous boxes of my parents’ things and climbing over various pieces of lawn and garden equipment, I spotted it. It was still beautiful, if not a little tired looking. It was the bike that had carried me to school, to church, and to work. I bought it for myself before I went to college. The bike had carried me to the majority of my classes and when I lived in the city, it had also carried me to and from work.

By Natalie Davis Miller

Professor Frances Hwang placed a bag full of apples in the classroom. The assignment: Each of her fiction writing students was to pick out an apple and write about it. Descriptions were varied, flowing, poetic even. Exercises in writing description such as this were just a small part of an engaging fiction writing course.

Students in Frances Hwang’s fiction writing class spent the fall semester crafting characters, setting, dialogue, and scenes. The classroom instruction included in-class writing assignments, and student-led class discussions.

Professor Hwang is no stranger to good writing. In addition to a number of awards, honors, and grants, she has had a number of short stories published in literary magazines such as Tin House, Glimmer Train, the Madison Review, and the American Short Fiction. She is also the author of a short story collection titled Transparency (Back Bay Books-Little, Brown and Company, 2007), and she is presently working on a novella herself. Hwang has been a professor at Saint Mary’s since 2007.

The semester ended with students submitting at least 40 pages of their novella. When Hwang met with Coursey to talk about how students benefit from trying their hand at fiction and how the experience complements a liberal arts degree.

How does a liberal arts degree work in the real world? How does it help students prepare for a career?

“I always think of students with a liberal arts degree as being passionate about learning for the sake of the learning. They are curious about many things—art, politics, literature, science, religion—and their breadth of knowledge allows them to make connections, to grasp and make sense of the world from a larger perspective. Employers, I hope, will always value individuals with this kind of sensibility.”

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By Desiree J. Fisher

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emily cook

major: Business Administration and Marketing
hometown: Fairfax, Virginia

"I plan on becoming a professional stage manager; I’ve set the goal of joining the Actors’ Equity Association within five years of graduating from Saint Mary’s. I would also like to try writing plays when I’ve found some kind of security in the future."

city or town: Philadelphia
aspirations: "I write as an escape. When I was young, I would read as much as I could and as often as possible to escape from the mundane everyday life we all live. That’s not to say that I didn’t enjoy life, because I did (and still do), but I enjoy escaping to different worlds, either in the sense of other people’s lives, or even to fantastical places."

from: Alone No More:
excerpt from: Crack.
"As the sound of leather making solid contact with metal broke the silence in little Field, Brandon unleashed a blood-curdling scream from the mound. The intended, hard, line-drive by the husky batter ricocheted off the side of Brandon’s face. The ball was halted by the fleshy skin between Brandon’s temple and ear. Both fell to the ground with a thud. The audience gasped as the infield stood in position with shock written across their faces. All the players were immobile as if they were standing in hardened cement."

miranda baxter

major: Theatre and Philosophy
hometown: Mishawaka, Indiana
aspirations: "As concerns for Dogberry consumed his mind, he briefly forgot most of the misfortunes of the evening. He forgot the way Beatrice had turned his heart’s pace up about seven notches when she walked in the door. He forgot the way he had so quickly managed to gain and lose her interest in a single hour. He also forgot how the Ginkgo trees that lined the sidewalk suddenly seemed darker and more threatening as soon as he had departed..."

city or town: Baltimore
aspirations: "I write to express my thoughts, to free my stress and explore my imagination."

from: A Whirlwind of Snowflakes:
excerpt from: On the way home from school, Katie gripped the steering wheel hard, letting her fingertips turn purple from the pressure. She watched the road intensely with her body leaning forward. She drove slowly, careful not to slide on the wet snow and lose control. Almost there, Katie repeated in her head, wondering why she decided to drive. The trip home was agonizing. It was her first day driving since his accident. She was in constant fear while in control of the wheel. Katie could hardly breathe until she pulled into the narrow driveway at her small, brick house. She waited before getting out of the car so she could recover from the drive. The light snow covering the house and the colorful Christmas lights her father hung last week were lit around the roof. Katie took three deep breaths, before going inside."

sarah sheppard

major: English Literature and English Writing
hometown: Grosse Pointe, Michigan
aspirations: "I write because I must; within me is a need to write that cannot be ignored. Writing allows for the preservation of memories, the sharing of ideas and opinions, the exploration of something different, and the birth of new characters and new worlds. That’s the short answer."

from: First of May:
excerpt from: The clown walked nearer to Scarlet; she hid behind the giant wheels of the wagon. He slammed down his bucket and took out a cigar and matchbox from the giant pocket of his denim pants. The clown sat down on the overturned bucket, lit the cigar, breathed it in, and sighed, looking up at the stars. Slowly and softly, between puffs of the vanilla-scented cigar, the clown began to hum a sad tune. Scarlet thought she recognized it from a broken music box she had gotten rid of a few summers ago. And slowly and softly, as Scarlet leaned against the enormous wheel beneath the circus wagon, she began to drift off into a dreamless sleep."

robert crumple

major: Communications
hometown: St. Louis, Missouri
aspirations: "I chose to pursue a writing minor because I have always enjoyed reading and writing."

from: Pressure Point:
excerpt from: Somewh at out of place. Something had been moved. Her chair. She didn’t usually leave it sticking out like that, she always tucked it underneath her desk. Always. She tucked her chair in and looked around. Her closet? The door seemed to be standing ajar; she never left her door like that. Someone was behind her. “Hi Sam,” a voice whispered into her ear. Something twisted around and saw a face staring right back at her. Before she knew what was going on, her entire body went numb and everything went black."

megan sotak

major: English Language and Writing
hometown: Cleveland, Ohio
aspirations: "This week? To work for a wedding magazine. But ask me next week, and I may have a different answer for you."

from: A Masked Man:
excerpt from: As I walked, I was captivated by the storefronts overflowing with masks of all shapes, sizes, colors, and materials. There were masks with long noses, short noses, and no noses. Masks with full faces in all colors of the spectrum. Masks with feathers and bells, with crystals and ribbons. Paper-mache masks and others made of metal, especially delicate-looking. There were even masks of animals—elephants, pigs, giraffes, lions, camels, frogs, hippos, rats, unicorns. I had never seen such enchanting stores, never even imagined them. Some stores sold glass made on Murano Island that came in bizarre shapes, mostly wavy ones with brilliant blues and oranges, branching out from a spherical base. Shelves in windows were decorated with figurines of animals, French cartoon characters Asterix and Obelix, holiday ornaments, and flowers all made of glass. The mask and glass stores made up Venice; one store with material to hide you and one with material to expose you.

To read more of the stories, go to saintmarys.edu/stepping-out.
As a liberal arts college focused on educating proficient writers, Saint Mary's has graduated generations of published authors. From Sister Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C., to Avenue aficionado Kymberly Dunlap '04, our alumnae have made great strides in the literary world. As alumna and author Therese J. Borchard '93 puts it, "In a sense, I think Saint Mary's prepared me as well as any small liberal college could, because I learned to become an analytical thinker," she says. This became an important skill for Borchard as she began to write after graduation. She has published books that explore the history and theology of Catholicism, compilations including The Imperfect Mom: Candid Confessions of Mothers Living in the Real World (Broadway, 2006), and various articles and essays.

After giving birth to her daughter, Borchard experienced what she considers a nervous breakdown. While recovering, she wrestled, once again, with the important issues of faith and mental health. The breakdown changed her life, including her creative life. "I wanted to combine my faith perspective with mental health information that would help others who suffer from mood disorders," explains Borchard. She does this every day through her blog "Beyond Blue" on Beliefnet.com. Her memoir, Beyond Blue: Surviving Depression and Anxiety and Making the Most of Bad Genes (Center Street, 2009) will be released in May.

"Write about something you know well, are passionate about, and know that you will revise again and again." That sound writing advice comes from Kathryn Christenson Janiszewski '64. Kathryn Christenson Janiszewski '64 with Alumnae Authors

Janiszewski has a new book, Only One Returned, that tells the story of her father's harrowing return from a flight-bombing mission over Germany during World War II. "I often told the story of my father's escape and by the time I would finish, those listening were often in tears," says Janiszewski. "They would say to me, 'You should write that story.'" Janiszewski heeded their advice. "I think I can offer an example for those who like to write, have the time, and want to preserve stories for their families."

Adriana Trigiani '80

Wander through the rows of Cusack-Leighton Library's fiction section and you'll find the shelves stocked with books by alumna author Adriana Trigiani. Of course, you'll also find her books at any bookstore worth its muster. The bestselling author of the Big Stone Gap series, Trigiani has published a novel per year since 2000. She recalls Saint Mary's as the place she was encouraged to hone her craft. "I was lucky to go to Saint Mary's and have the world's best professors guide me as a young writer," says Trigiani. "Max Wester set me on a path of whismy and joy; Sister Jean Klene—Shakespeare and storytelling; Reg Bain—theater—well, I could go on and on.

This spring Trigiani released her latest novel, Very Valentine (Harper, 2009), a story about a family of shoemakers in Greenwich Village. "Very Valentine is a full expression of the fundamentals I learned and built upon: storytelling, dialogue, arc, and substance," says Trigiani. "All of these, I learned and cultivated at Saint Mary's."

Sister Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C. 1909

One of our most revered alumnae, Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C., was a prolific writer. She published a cadre of literary works throughout her life, including collections of her poetry and theological essays. Sister Madeleva transferred to Saint Mary's as a sophomore from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, finished her sophomore and junior years at Saint Mary's, and then joined the convent, completing her degree as a member of the Holy Cross Congregation. Sister Madeleva served as president of the College from 1934 to 1961. A contemporary of C.S. Lewis and Thomas Merton, she corresponded regularly with both on theological matters. Sister Madeleva is considered one of the greatest theological minds—male or female—of her time.

I passed a wood of beech trees yesterday
And I am shaken with its beauty yet.
Why should my breath catch and my eyes be wet
Because a hundred trees some yards away
Know simply how to dress in simple gray,
Are poised beyond the need of epithet,
And beautiful past power to forget?
—Excerpt from "Beech Trees"
by Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C.

As with every issue, we welcome your ideas and feedback. We are particularly interested in hearing from our alumnae. Did we miss an author? While we could not feature every alumna author in this story, the library can. If you know of an alumna who has published a book, please contact the director of the Cusack-Leighton Library, Janet Fore, at jfore@saintmarys.edu or (574) 284-5281.
Anticipating their upcoming graduations, Courier interns Kristen Edelen ’09 and Jessica Huang ’09 caught up with alumna Lisa Maxbauer Price ’99 to ask her about life after college. Lisa talked about her journey into the world of magazine publishing and offered advice to the interns on how to achieve career success doing what you love.

**Kristen Edelen ’09**
Major: English writing and communication studies  
Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

**Jessica Huang ’09**
Major: English writing  
Hometown: Naples, Fla.

**Lisa Maxbauer Price ’99**
Major: Humanistic Studies  
Hometown: Traverse City, Mich.  
Current City: Boston, Mass.  
Employment: Best-selling women’s magazine, First, a national leader in newsstand sales with a readership of 4.5 million.  
Position: Before becoming a freelance writer, Lisa was promoted four times in four years and reached the position of Deputy Features Editor.

Kristen: How did your Saint Mary’s education prepare you for your career?
Lisa: I had these wonderful female professors and friends at Saint Mary’s, which made for a smooth transition into a similar environment in women’s publishing. The W [Advanced Writing Requirement] distinction each student earns really helps. It was very important that I was pushed to cultivate my writing through earning that “W,” because those skills can’t be overlooked once you get into the real world.  
Saint Mary’s is wonderful because it puts this big stress on the liberal arts and doing what you love. My career advice is to figure out what you love and find a way to make money doing it.
Also, I think working at The Observer was one of those turning points that set me up nicely for my career.

Kristen: Were there professors at Saint Mary’s that encouraged your interest in writing?
Lisa: Dr. Max Westler is a poetry professor, who was very encouraging of my talents and told me one day, “if you ever stop writing, it would be a real shame.”

Jessica: What’s your best advice for seniors on the job hunt?
Lisa: My best advice is to utilize all the incredible resources of the alumnae. There are alumnae in every city in the country practically, and if they don’t have the job you want they might know someone who does.
Since the job market is going to be tough, those connections are really going to be valuable. As soon as I graduated from Saint Mary’s, I had 18,000 living alumnae.

Jessica: What would you say is your most memorable Saint Mary’s moment?
Lisa: When world famous feminist artist Judy Chicago came to campus, I was so thrilled to hand her a copy of the article I had written about her in The Observer. I later heard from my art history professor that the last thing Chicago said when she left for the airport was that she thought the coverage Saint Mary’s gave her in the paper was the best she’d ever seen during any campus she had ever visited.

Kristen: How was the adjustment from college to your first job at Physician’s Weekly?
Lisa: …I moved to New York City the Saturday after graduation. I had $1,600 and no job. It’s kind of dramatic, but sometimes, you just have to move to the city, pound the pavement, and be there to go on interviews.  
Physician’s Weekly ended up being a dream job and a wonderful training ground. I was writing cover stories after my first three months. I made contacts and worked big press conferences. The job taught me how the publishing world worked in New York City.
It is hard paying your bills that first year on an entry-level. Manhattan is an expensive place, but it seemed doable and like it was this wonderful adventure. Every year you make more money, so it gets easier.

**Kristen: Why is magazine publishing so appealing to you?**

Lisa: I love that it’s really tangible. I love that people buy magazines because they want to read them the second they get home. It feels real to me, that something I write exists for awhile in the world.

Depending on what life phase you’re in, there’s always a magazine that is kind of like your companion. Now that I’m a mother, the magazines I really want to read are parenting magazines.

**Jessica: How are you balancing motherhood and work?**

Lisa: When I told *First* that my family was relocating to Boston, they were so wonderful. They said essentially, “We’d like to keep you on—full-time, full-salary, you’ll just work from home.” I have a 2½-year-old son and I really wanted to be around more. This is the second time in my career that I’ve been a full-time freelancer. Being self-employed means I have a lot more flexibility.

**Jessica: What are some of the coolest things you’ve done as a magazine writer?**

Lisa: I did a 2008 cover story on actress Kristen Chenoweth from *Pushing Daisies* and *Wicked*. That was one of my first big celebrity interviews. Also, I interviewed Kelly Ripa at a press event and then, she was later featured with *First*. While at *First*, I had the opportunity to interview the cast of “Scrubs,” “How I Met Your Mother,” and “Entourage.”

Last year I worked the pressroom for the Dove Awards. It was in Nashville’s famous Grand Old Opry, and I interviewed some really great country music stars. It’s cool because even if these interviews never become stories, you still have that experience.

**Kristen: What memory stands out for you from the time you spent in New York?**

Lisa: Hitting tennis with Billie Jean King at a press event during the U.S. Open. I had this moment of thinking, “Wow, being a journalist really opens doors. You get to do some amazing things.” I was from a small town in Northern Michigan and I was working on these amazing stories in New York City, and the one road that connected those two destinations was Saint Mary’s.
A liberal arts degree may not seem like the first step on the path to becoming a scientist. For Dr. Mary Anne Luzar ’72 however, her liberal arts foundation led to a successful career in the sciences and an opportunity to make a difference in the world.

Luzar returned to campus this past October to present a four-day, non-credit mini course, titled Trial Research in the 21st Century: The Complex World of International Drug Development. Luzar is the chief of the Regulatory Affairs Branch, Division of AIDS, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health. She currently works on AIDS research for the Department of Health and Human Services, and has traveled to over 20 countries for work-related projects. Her work has appeared in numerous journals, including her clinical findings from her dissertation, which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. She is fluent in both French and Spanish, and defended her dissertation in French, becoming the first American to receive the Ph.D. summa cum laude in microbiology from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. Prior to that she obtained a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. Luzar then received a B.S. in mathematics from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. Prior to that she obtained a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Luzar double-majored in humanistic studies and French literature at Saint Mary’s. As a first-year student, Luzar heard Dr. Bruno Schlesinger speak on the humanistic studies program. “He was mesmerizing,” says Luzar. “He spoke eloquently about the role of history, religion, art, and philosophy in our western culture—but more importantly, he wove them together into a ‘cultural basket’ and made me understand that this program could give me the foundation on which to build anything I wanted in my life. And so I decided that night to major in humanistic studies….”

Today, Luzar is responsible for ensuring that the 400 human clinical trials in 45 countries sponsored by the U.S. government and internationally, merit pertinent U.S. laws and regulations. The four-day mini course gave Luzar the opportunity to share current information on clinical trials for testing new drugs and vaccines for the prevention and treatment of HIV.

“Because Saint Mary’s has a student body interested in making a difference in their world, and because this world is increasingly international in scope, I believe this course… will be of interest to them and will provide an additional tool for them to help realize their goals.”

Luzar embodies how a liberal arts foundation works in hand with the discipline of science. “I always tell people that humanistic studies taught me to see the connections between complex issues that do not appear on the surface to be related. The Saint Mary’s liberal arts education I received with humanistic studies has been invaluable to me as a scientist.”

Fall Sports Round-Up

The fall of 2008 saw four of the College’s varsity athletic teams take their respective rings of competition. Junior nursing major Megan McClowry had a break-out season for the cross country team as she finished first for the Belles at each race this fall. McClowry finished 13th at the MIAA Championships to earn All-MIAA Second Team honors for the first time in her career. She became just the fourth harter for Saint Mary’s to earn All-MIAA honors. As a team, Saint Mary’s finished the MIAA season in fourth place for the second consecutive year. No other Belles’ cross country team has finished higher in the MIAA.

Also posting a break-out season was sophomore golfer and business major Rosie O’Connor. O’Connor finished the fall season with 403 strokes in league competition to average 80.6, edging out her nearest competition by a single stroke, to become the fifth Belle in the past six years to earn MIAA Season Medalist honors. By finishing second overall as a team in the fall season, Saint Mary’s will host one of the three 18-hole rounds of MIAA play in the spring that will determine the conference’s automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament.

Under the guidance of first year head coach Ryan Crable, the Saint Mary’s soccer team featured an all-conference athlete for the eighth consecutive season. Senior forward Lauren Hinton earned All-MIAA Second Team honors for the third time in her career after leading the Belles in goals and points last season.

The 2008 volleyball team had one of the most successful seasons in recent history with 18 wins in the fall. Junior outside hitter Lorna Slupczynski recorded her 1,000th career dig and kill in the same match, which also happened to be the team’s 18th win of the season. She and senior teammate Cathy Kurczak both earned All-MIAA honors and the title of Most Valuable Player this season.

Through the fall athletic season, Saint Mary’s was in third place in the MIAA’s Women’s All Sport standings, which are based on each school’s season finish in the conference. Saint Mary’s has had their highest ever finish in the standings last year in fourth place.

Basketball

Senior Erin Newsom broke the school record for career rebounds, scored her 1,000th career point, and was named First Team All-MIAA this season. The Belles celebrate the closing seconds of a historic 91-84 win over #1 Hope. This year’s Saint Mary’s basketball team had the most successful season in program history. The Belles won a school record 17 wins and finished second in the MIAA, which was the highest finish ever for a Belles basketball team. The team hosted and won the first two rounds of the season-ending MIAA tournament and made their first trip to the conference tournament championship game. Senior forward Erin Newsom has been leading the way for the Belles much of this season. Newsom has broken the school record for career rebounds, surpassing the old mark of 683 set by Julie McGill ’98, while also becoming just the eighth player in school history to score more than 1,000 career points.

Synchronized Swimming

Some young talent has emerged this season for the swimming and diving team. Eva Cavadini and Barbara Beidler, first-year swimmers, have already found themselves among the All-Time Top Five finishers in their respective events, and Audrey Dalrymple, has broken six school records. Dalrymple has come out of the starting blocks to be one of the best breaststrokers in school history as she has set four separate school records this season. She also became the second swimmer in College history to qualify for and participate in the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships. The Belles finished the season in fifth place at the season-ending MIAA Championships hosted by Saint Mary’s at Riverfront 22-19 at Rolfs Aquatic Center at the University of Notre Dame.
Professor Krista Hoefele's artwork is on display in the Hammes Gallery, part of the faculty exhibition this spring.

5 Ways to incorporate creativity into your daily routine

Explore. Take a different route to work, or a different mode of transportation. If you usually drive, try walking or taking the bus. New scenery often inspires new ideas.

Shake up your routine. Perform your daily tasks in a different order. This will retrain your brain to think in new ways.

Get Close to Nature. Take a walk in the woods or spend time in your garden. Poets and other writers and creatives often draw inspiration from the natural world.

Pray or Meditate. Just five minutes spent alone in a quiet space can reconnect you with your creative side.

Take note. Carry a small notebook and pen around with you. When you see or hear something out of the ordinary—a funny joke, an interesting magazine ad, a new song on the radio—write it down. Use the things going on around you as fodder for a creative act later.

An Interview with Art Professor Krista Hoefele

By Shannon E. Brewer ’03

As an art professor and one of the many creative minds on campus, Krista Hoefele knows a thing or two about the pursuit of creative passions. As a college student, she started out as a history major— “I love history,” she says— but as she sculpted away her spare time in the art studio at her alma mater, Hoefele decided to make a major change. Strapped with her creativity and curiosity, Hoefele established herself as a furniture design student at Savannah College of Art and Design, went on to earn her M.F.A. from Pennsylvania State University, and eventually landed at Saint Mary’s. In addition to running the Moreau Art Galleries on campus, Hoefele teaches courses in sculpture, design, and special topics in new media, video, and theory/criticism. Her installations, animations, works on paper, and videos have appeared in national and international venues. Below, Hoefele shares her advice on how people can cultivate creativity in their own lives.

What’s your advice for people who say, “I’m not creative”? Start with a technique or process you’ve always wanted to try and give that. Just dive in and try to find as many resources and as much information on the topic as you can. If you’ve always wanted to try knitting, for example, buy a book, join a knitting group, watch “Knitty Gritty” on the DIY Network, or go to a yarn and fabric store. Find a podcast about what interests you. Just Google-“ing” “knitting” on the Web will give you a plethora of information and resources. The more you engage the more you’ll get out of the experience.

Where can we go for inspiration? Getting back in the classroom is a terrific way to gain a new perspective on what you’re doing. If you can’t take a class, go to your local bookstore and check out their do-it-yourself section for a wealth of books and magazines related to techniques and processes. I love learning about how others work or how they cultivate their ideas. It gives me great ideas in return!

How do we connect with fellow creatives? Artists lectures are a great way to gain new insight. Going to art openings is another way you can meet artists and tap into what, how, and why they do what they do. I love learning new techniques that way.

5 Ways to incorporate creativity into your daily routine

Spring 2009
Witnesses to a New Era

As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963

Cold weather didn’t keep Saint Mary’s students from venturing to Washington, D.C. on January 20th to witness the swearing in of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. “Words cannot begin to describe what it was like to be able to stand in the National Mall as President Obama was being sworn into office,” says junior Aimee Cunniff of Park City, Utah. Cunniff is a business major who says she knew she was going to attend the inauguration since November 4, the night Obama won the election. “After seeing Obama win that night, I decided I wanted to be a part of the history and excitement,” says Cunniff.

Social work major Anna Frantz ’11 was not only present at the inauguration, but she also attended the “We Are One” concert the Sunday before, as well as a ball afterward held by the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, of which she was a guest. Frantz describes the atmosphere at the inauguration as “one of its own,” with people being friendly, happy, and excited to witness history. “I believe that no matter what race, religion, or party you are you can still agree that seeing the first African American president take the oath is a once in a lifetime experience.”

Psychology major Brittany Dian ’12 says of her experience that, “I will always remember the surreal feeling I had standing in the midst of millions of people, all witnessing an event that will be talked about for years to come.” The Tinley Park, Ill. native also attended the inauguration as part of the University Presidential Inaugural Conference.

Blaine Nolan ’10 was already in Washington, D.C., spending the semester there attending American University three days a week and interning two days a week for South Bend congresswoman Joe Donnelly. She too attended events surrounding the inauguration, but says of the top-billed event, “It was incredible. I have never felt such excitement.” Nolan was active throughout the campaign season, as the president of the College Democrats at Saint Mary’s, and as a member of the political science club. Her career plans include attending graduate school for public policy and then moving to Washington, D.C., where she hopes to work on Capitol Hill.

At 5:30 p.m., the sun was setting and snow flurries were falling, but the marchers advanced onward and set the campus aglow with their beacons of light and song. Even a student who could not see the procession from their dorm room or library cubicle would have heard it. The marchers’ voices rose from the icy sidewalks to the tops of buildings as the group sang in unison “We Shall Overcome” all the way to Haggar Parlor. There, participants listened to reflections from President Carol Ann Mooney and a choral reading of King’s “Letter From Birmingham Jail,” directed by Professor Katie Sullivan.

—Jessica Huang ’09, Courier Intern

The Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative March

Nearly a half-century later, King’s message of hope continues to inspire students, faculty, and staff of Saint Mary’s College, who came together to pay homage to King on his birthday. Following a panel discussion on non-violence and civil rights activism, the Sisters of Nefertiti, a student club that celebrates African American culture and history, and Campus Ministry sponsored a candlelight march in honor of King on January 19. The entire college and public community was invited to gather in the Student Center Atrium for an opening ceremony. LaQuay Boone ’10, president of Sisters of Nefertiti, welcomed the attendees. Jacquita Martin ’12 prayed over the event. Lynn Coleman, the assistant to the mayor of South Bend, explained the historic significance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., march occurring one day before President Obama’s inauguration. Adriana Rodriguez ’10, president of the Student Diversity Board, spoke about why it was important to march. Concluding the opening ceremony, Kristle Hodges ’10 led the group in singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” After leaving the warmth of the Student Center, each marcher shared a single flame, passed from one hand to the next.

While Strong plans to dance throughout her life and maybe own a studio someday, she has scientific career aspirations too. “I would like to go on to graduate school for marine biology and go wherever that takes me,” says Strong. This summer, she will conduct research for her senior comprehensive project on Little Corn Island, Nicaragua.

Physiology and Dance: Bodies in Motion

This February Saint Mary’s dance students performed in the College’s annual Dance Arts program. One body in motion was aspiring marine biologist Tara Strong. The junior biology major is working toward minors in dance and chemistry. She says her three areas of study are more related than one might think.

“Right now I am in a human physiology class and learning all about the body,” Strong explains. “This knowledge allows me to fully understand and appreciate the movement required for dancing in a technique class, all the way to the different bodily responses and signals when performing on stage.”

This year’s dance program, titled “Dancing Salmagundi,” showcased several genres of dance including ballet, jazz, modern, pointe, and dance theatre. Strong was a part of a group dance piece about cellular respiration. It is a modern dance, and many of the formations we make are based on the Krebs cycle.”

—Jessica Huang ’09, Courier Intern
Alumnae Deaths
Grace Burke Boomer ’31, mother of Elizabeth M. Boomer ’70, Jane Boomer Fowler ’33, and Ellen Boomer Loomer ’73, sister of the late Margaret Burke Guide ’13, aunt of Sister Mary Louise Guide CSC ’63, and Sheila Burke Vollen ’52, sister-in-law of the late Margaret Kane ’50, died January 9, 2008.
Dorothy Jane Pryor Arl ’38, mother of Nancy Anne McDonald ’63 and Susan Arl Pryor McAlister ’82, twin of the late Betty Pryor Maranta ’38, grandmother of Ann Marie Bailey Berg ’91, aunt of Beth Marzano Fleming, died October 17, 2008.
Kathryn Walsh Burns ’38, July 18, 2008.
Lorraine O’Day Parry ’59, April 21, 2008.
Asa Leach Darks ’12, granddaughter of Laura Darks Flight ’90, September 15, 2008.
Regina Neville Hamilton ’44, October 2, 2008.
Carolyn Murray Paskley ’44, mother of Carolyn Paskley Head ’67, and Jane Paskley Murph ’74, sister of Jo Ann Murph ’81, aunt of Catherine Libert ’87, and Stephanie Libert Mauger ’90, great aunt of Maura Libert ’07, Frainann Libert ’10, and Molly Libert ’13.
Sister Mary Rosakien Dunlavy CSC ’47, aunt of Tamara Malinowski Smith ’90, December 18, 2008.
Jeanne Reminger Clark ’48, mother of Mary Clark Bishop ’79 and Julie Clark Hussey ’87, December 14, 2008.
Jeanne Mako Moore ’48, mother of Patricia Moore ’73, ’76, and sister of Molly McGaffigan ’45 and aunt of Kathleen McGaffigan ’54 and Kathleen McGaffigan ’61.
Dr. Theodore M. Chrobak, father of Edward M. Chrobak ’62, October 22, 2008.
Dorothy Lening Grimmer, mother of Marilyn Grimmer Benkoff ’75 and sister of Sister Mary Joseph O’Rourke ’75, December 24, 2008.
Lewis Cusano, father of John Cusano ’62, October 27, 2008.
Jesus Farmley ’57, father of Nellie Farmley ’65, November 9, 2008.
W. Cary Hughes, husband of Deanna Hope Lee Phernetton, October 24, 2008.
M. Ray Little, father of Alaine King Zadrazil ’08 and Chad, November 7, 2008.
Elizabeth Sweeney Rykaszworski ’77 and David Mark, died October 7, 2008.
Katharine Callan ’68 and John, December 29, 2008.
Vivian N. Elortegui Zapfel ’78, November 8, 2008.
Mary Suzanne “Suzi” Scanlon Rynn ’58, October 2, 2008.
Mary Suzanne “Suzi” Scanlon Rynn ’58, October 2, 2008.
Mary Ann Kerins ’72, December 29, 2008.
Michelle Harbinak Shapiro ’00 and Ralph J. Liguori, father of Claudia M. Scott: Mary Catherine, October 20, 2008.
Sister M. Rosaleen Dunleavy CSC ’49, January 10, 2009.
Mary Ann Kerins ’72, December 29, 2008.
Anna Marie McCrudden ’45, mother of Laura Darko Flight ’93, September 15, 2008.
Lorene O’Day Parry ’59, April 21, 2008.
Mary Reames, sister of Marguerite Reames ’68, mother of Marianne McCrudden Walters ’77, October 6, 2008.
Mary’ s, Cassidy spent two years teaching at University College in Lesotho, South Africa. This experience coupled with... for the police departments of St. Joseph County as a method of in-service training. Cassidy was presented the Spes Uni... award on May 4, 1974, at the president’s dinner. The award, which recognizes a faculty member’s eminent service to the college in some particular aspect of its development, read, “Dr. Cassidy’s constant concern for the attention to the needs and well-being of each of her students have won her their respect, admiration, and friendship. In many ways, she is a prototype of what the Christian educator should be.” —Kristen Edelen ’09, Courier intern

Rita M. Cassidy
April 14–15, January 3–9, 2009

Associate Professor Rita Cassidy passed away on January 3, 2009. Cassidy came to Saint Mary’s in 1961 to introduce a program in African Studies, and taught in the History Department until she retired in 1980. In her retirement, Cassidy spent one year abroad as a counselor for the Saint Mary’s Rome Program, and afterward remained with the College for two more years, working as a consultant in the administration on a project-to-project basis from 1981–1983. Current department chair of history for the college, Associate Professor Kelly Hamilton, was a student of Cassidy’s in the 1970s, and Hamilton remembers her as a “trendy, principled woman, who was way ahead of her time relative to civil rights, equal opportunity, and interest in issues of diversity.”

Cassidy served the College for 22 years. Prior to Saint Mary’s, Cassidy spent two years teaching at University College in Lesotho, South Africa. This experience coupled with her additional research opportunities to revisit Africa developed Cassidy’s specialized interest in African studies. She was a pioneer in organizing and conducting programs in African American history and culture for college systems in South Bend and Eckhart. Her programs were even further developed for the police departments of St. Joseph County as a method of in-service training. Cassidy was presented the Spes Uni...
Buffalo and Western New York

Members of the book club attended a lecture in the University of Buffalo Distinguished Speakers series on November 16, 2008. The guest speaker was Ronald Hesser, author of The Killer Runner. (The book club had previously read and discussed this book.) The group discussed the lecture over coffee and dessert later that evening.

A trip to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada is being planned for May 2009. Please remember to send 2008-2009 dues! For more information, please contact Nancy Dobson at (716) 652-7192.

Cleveland

The Cleveland Club welcomed spring with its annual meeting and a book discussion on April 15. Kim McElroy ’81 welcomed alumnae to her house for this event. Upcoming events were discussed including a service project and fundraising for the Club. After the meeting, the Memory Keeper’s Daughter by Tim Edwards produced interesting discussion by attending alumnae. Mary thanks to Katie for hosting and to all who attended. It was a great turnout.

Events to look forward to include a Founder’s Day celebration in October and a Cookie Exchange in December. Watch your e-mail and the Club Web site for information about these and other upcoming events. For more information, contact Cheryl Patsch Miller ’79 at cpatsch@netzero.net or (440) 526-8966.

Colorado

The first 2009 event for the Colorado Alumnae Club will be April 25; we will be having a “care package” party in Colorado Springs, at the home of Kelly O’Brien ’90. We’re planning to have events along the I-25 corridor, from Colorado Springs, in the south, where this fi rst one will be held, to Golden, in the north, where our Founder’s Day celebration will be held. We hope this will be convenient for as many alumnae as possible to participate in at least one event during the year.

For more information, please contact Sheila Flynn Boone ’95, at sfbmfb@comcast.net.

Dallas/Fort Worth

Dallas/Fort Worth alumnae and significant others gathered together to celebrate the coming of the holidays at their annual Christmas Mass & Dinner held on December 8. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Many thanks to Kevin and Ellen Neuhoff Elpers ’80 for graciously hosting the event.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia area alumnae were treated to an evening with Adriana Trigiani ’91, at a signing of her new book, Very Valentine. The crowd was entertained by Adriana’s anecdotes and accounts of writing this new book. She signed everyone’s edition, as well as her page on the SMC yearbook! The club is looking forward to an early spring event at the Philadelphia Museum of Art—a private guided tour of Couture and Beyond. Philadelphia is the only worldwide venue for this exhibit, so don’t miss it!

For information or suggestions for club activities, please contact Katie Smith, ksmith07@lafayette.edu or (215) 280-1122.

Pittsburgh

The New Year got off to a rousing start for the Pittsburgh Club. Having completed three years of service, the members of the Club’s Board of Directors have been reorganized. Leslie Krugier, who has diligently served the Club as the Director of the Board, stepped down, and Colleen Miles, the current Club Communication Coordinator and member of the Board, took her place. Kathryn Harrison, Board member, is the new Club Communication Coordinator. The Board would like to wholeheartedly thank Leslie for her hard work in rejuvenating the Pittsburgh Club and tirelessly working for the Club’s success.

This spring, Pittsburgh alumnae can look forward to celebrating Mother’s Day Early. On Saturday, May 9, the Club will host its annual spring event. This year we will be having a Mothers & Daughters Tea at the Omni-Willam Penn Hotel. Mothers and young, daughters old and young, grandmothers, and sisters are all invited. Be sure to look in your mailbox for important information regarding this fun celebration.

Since starting the Club back up in 2006, the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Alumnae Club have been working to create a comprehensive directory of all Pittsburgh area alumnae in the Club’s most recent newsletter you will find a form to fill out which will help us in creating this document. Please take time to fill it out, or contact Colleen or Kathryn with your new information, so that we can successfully complete the directory.

If you have any questions about the Club, or wish to become more involved, please contact Kathryn Harrison at kharrison1@gmail.com or Colleen Miles at collemiles2007@gmail.com for more information.

St. Louis

The St. Louis club is planning a happy hour in March but details have not been finalized. Please e-mail klk960@yahoo.com to join the club!

San Francisco

The Saint Mary’s Alumnae Club of the San Francisco Bay Area is organizing an Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th with KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now), a volunteer-led organization that provides one-to-one recreational opportunities for children and young adults with mental and physical disabilities. SMC Alumnae Ian Seneal ’81 is the Executive Director of KEEN. The hunt will take place from 11 am-1 pm at Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park. Volunteers are needed to arrive at 10:30 am to help hide eggs and do other set up. If you’re interested in volunteering or getting involved with the Club or wish to become more involved, please contact Michelle Lagas at michellelagas@gmail.com

South Bend

In February, members of the South Bend Alumnae Club gathered for a tour of Speis Unica Hall, the new academic building on campus. Alumnae were quite impressed by the modern classrooms, office spaces, and technological capabilities along with common areas where students and faculty can gather (including a café, a reflection room, and a second-floor patio). Following the tour, the Club hosted a Valentine’s Day party for its local Saint Mary’s students, with cookies, punch, and cocoa for everyone to enjoy.

Other that same month, the club arranged to cater the Moms Support Group sponsored by former residents of Hannah’s House. After dinner, while the mothers participated in a group discussion about topics related to women and children, alumnae helped with child care.

Speaking of moms, the club will be organizing a monthly Mom’s play group for local alumnae. If you are interested in participating or want information on how to get more involved with the club, please contact

Club president, Janet Honach at ghonach@travelers.com or (219)78-4941.

Utah

The Utah Club had a small and very good gathering in Park City hosted by Holy Cross Ministers on November 22. We met for lunch at the home of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and instead of gifts to exchange, members donated diapers for clients served by Holy Cross Ministers. Ten alumnae were able to attend. Sister Kathy Kamphaus CSC updated the club members on new buildings on the campus. Afterward, some members visited the St. Mary’s Park City Boutique where the Holy Cross Ministers Women’s Microbusiness Project has a booth. Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Pagowski CSC ’67.

Philadelphia area alumnae attended a book signing for Adriana Trigiani’s new book, from left to right: Susan Fitzgerald ’81, Bobbie Schraus McCarthy ’66, Katie Smith ’95, Ann Kieler Casey ’81, Arnaballa Logue Canin ’74, with Adriana Trigiani ’91.

Dallas/Fort Worth. Back row, left to right: Andrea Sondag Scheritzer ’80, Mary Jane Niesch Niblett ’85, Carolyn Neuhoff Elpers ’80, Carla DiSimone Haught ’83, Mary Beth Beauchamp Berry ’87, Linda Kawecki ’79, Tia Barrett Bigioano ’76, Cynthia Rodriguez ’84, Patty Dutyh Wittsion ’88, Erin Krombach Groves ’05, Lettie Albright Muckley ’83, Maura Nugent Bardley ’77, Enrie Desolant ’95, Lynda Haag Novakovic ’72, Nancy Marr ’87, Elly Brown Colchak ’82. Front row, left to right: Ellen Neuhoff Elpers ’81, Hayley Dawson-Dennis ’90, Jeanette Friedewald Lynch ’84, Mary Holland ’87, Jennifer Kacarab Holloran ’92.

Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Pagowski CSC ’67.
Julie Marie Branick
310 North Garfield Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-2555

From the Courier Office: Julie Marie Branick

I am writing this news on Inauguration Day 2009. America is in crisis. What do we face as a nation? What do we face as a world? Our small class, fewer than 30, is preparing for our exit from Courier and the world at large. We are looking forward to a 1940 class reunion with our friends and classmates. I am writing this from Wolf Creek, the cattle cheering...the cattle cheering...in the future. There is always the anticipation of another SMC reunion...in the world or in the near.

These of us who remember ourเฟria have reason to be thankful. We can look back and think of how our lives began. We can look back and think of how our lives began. We can look back and think of how our lives began...but they cannot look back. This is not the life they have been given.

It is my belief that life begins at birth, not at conception, and that we have the right to choose our own paths. This is the reality of our time.

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were able to attend Saint Mary’s Rita Hanley Hupp has been to London, England, for a European tour, including an elder host trip concentrating on wine. She told us about all the charming inns she visited. Lila Chenal Millford and Bob ND ’81 still live in their home in Manistee, Mich. In spite of her arthritis, Lila remains a woman of energy—a whole week of picknicking, swimming, and eating out with friends.

Preparing musical programs for a retirement home and for a University of Notre Dame cabaret, Mitti Finkenbach buyer. She has also written a couple of young readers’ books.

Mary Lou Quinlan Lohr is looking forward to the fall weddings of two of her granddaughters, one in Haymarket, VA and the other in Bourbonnais, IL.

Sally Fox Shawrami is proud of her son, who was named chief medical officer of Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Recently, Sally was in China before the Olympics and observed many changes since her last trip in 1986—particularly, more cars and fewer bicycles.

Regina Milligan Sweeney came from Cleveland. Her husband attended the Notre Dame reunion, and we are looking forward to a visit from him and Regina. In life spanned 40 years serving on behalf of persons with disabilities. Her family, including her husband, nieces, nephews, and great nieces, have always taken the opportunity to enjoy life in Italy below.

Carrie Powers Powell joined Harriet Enkelnjek for her annual trip to Europe. Carrie was particularly happy to see her old friend and her family. We were pleased to welcome the excitement and adventure of our group of travelers as we danced with a group of in Berlin.

Marianna Marcucci Hassett is in September in Fort Wayne. This was a shock to us, because we were planning to see Joan and her husband in the spring. We have kept each other posted about events in Notre Dame. Let us keep these classmates and their families in our prayers.

I had a short chat with Jean Marie at our reunion in June. Don’t you think that our group of 18 was an attendance record for grads 60 years?”

Mary Elizabeth Ott ’82 was sworn in as an Associate Circuit Judge of the Twenty-first Judicial Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri.

Lucia Anna (Pic) Trigiani ’80, a principal in the law firm of Mercer-Trigiani, has been named to the 2009 edition of Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. Trigiani was also honored by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency at the 46th Annual Bank Officers’ Convention in December 2008.

Mary Rose Shaughnessy was named to the 2009 edition of Best Lawyers in America for employment and labor law. The Liebschers have many reasons to feel much the same in Pinehurst, N.C.—with golf, tennis, volunteering, and Mary helping clients with travel. Their own 2008 trip included an excursion to Dubrovnik and the Arab Emirates (a first), to see the desert turned into modern metropolitan cities and feel completely at home in a Muslim country.” Three cruises took them through the French Polynesian Islands, New Zealand, and the Maldives, floating all the way to Mumbai. And we are happy. Many thanks for the information and the pictures.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Erin White Schafer on the loss of their dear mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law in August. Erin is in Florida visiting with her mother and her sister in South Bend.

Mary Rossi ’98 and her husband, Bob ND ’91, have been living in California for several years but have welcomed Mary’s family into their home in the Café. Several of their children and many of their grandchildren had a great time visiting with them and enjoying the secular environment. Mary’s late husband, Richard, had a stroke in December and died in January.

The last Courier reported the death of Joan Cooney Kearney-Smith in September. We were all so surprised to hear the news. We had planned a visit to Maggie Valley, N.C. She was planning a March trip to Florida for “another 50th birthday” of one of her children.

“I never dreamed I’d race into my declining years like this!”

The last reunion in the series of the Twenty-first Judicial Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri.

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watch for that one! Mary Jo and Larry Honey Hurley Gfroerer ’58 and resort of Ogunquit, Maine. They had a grand time walking the rocky coast, enjoying the prolific flowers that the site had to offer. Sadly, Mary Beth unexpectedly lost her husband shortly after that trip. Evidently, Mary Carey Swift ’58 and her twin daughters Susan and Lisa—both of whom were graduates of Randolph-Macon College—had a trip Down Under in the fall that was spectacular with its scenery. Hope to see you at the reunion in June!

Carolinas to be near their daughter. Sheila Conlin Brown ’52 will complete her term on the Alumnae Board this spring. She and Dick ND ’56 spend a lot of time in Chicago and will be in their time share in Palm Springs for six weeks this winter.

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in Chicago in August, followed by (of course) lunch. It included Sara Johnson Walz, and Cille Bucolo and I have a long, 30-year friendship. The fans of Cille’s friend, Colorado, news as follows. “We skied four days a week, all winter—Michael says he has to make up for all the ‘week day’ skiing he did while he was growing up. We don’t have a really big concentration in any one place; I hope to have our first official meeting for Founders Day friends returning north for the weekend.”

June 18, 2008: She left Saint Mary’s, and one of her cousins was receiving her Jersey City, N.J., condo. She had planned to stay in the campus. “We send our sincerest congratulations to the lady on the loss of her dear mother and deepest sympathy to her and her family.”

June 11, 2008: Sara Johnson Walz, and Polo had a wonderful start to her teaching career at George Washington School in Washington, D.C. She was the first female physician in the Virgin Islands, where she worked in emergency medicine and family practice medicine. Concerns for the Virgin Islands made her the first delegate to represent the offshore territory in the U.S. Congress.

Mary McCarthy McGee, who was a delegate for the U.S. Virgin Islands to Congress, was recently recognized for her efforts to fight drunk driving at the federal level. She worked hard for an amendment on giving territories the right to vote. Now in her 7th term, Donna was re-elected as a delegate for the U.S. Virgin Islands. She is also a delegate to the Democratic Convention. Her website lists all these achievements, plus many more, but it also shares her photos from the Obama inauguration.

Virginia Conry marked a first as the mother of the groom when her son, Dan, married this summer at Michigan Beach in Indiana. Dede kindly shared her news. “I am a collection of stories spanning her 40-year involvement with the Island. She has also established Serenity Press as a means to publish other works as well.”

Jane McCoach McKee also played home in Danbury, close to Jane and, her husband, Mike. Their son, Will, lives three hours away in South New Hampshire. Jane and Mike visited Gettysburg, and congratulations are in order for two classmates. Conry married John O’Connor at her childhood parish in August. Mary Happy and contented news from Beverly Senda Defoe in Georgia: “We have had a wonderful start to 2008. Cameron retired last year, and I called it quits from Sears in January after 24 years. We bought our first home in Atlanta, and I hope to have our first official meeting for Founders Day at the beginning of the year. We are interested in serving as a reporter for the Class of 1970, please contact Jessica Stuifbergen ’99 at (574) 284-5332 or jstuifbe@saintmarys.edu.”

Mary Dunn and John live in River Forest, Illinois. Although Liz is the current honor of this title for our class during the ‘80s. Pam now works for NALF, a foundation that promotes placement of children into adoptive or foster homes until they can manage stairs. She would appreciate a call from you at home any time: (708) 544-7141.”

Mary Anne Hagan’s obituary was featured in The Courant on July 13th. She was 73 years old. She was the daughter of the late Ann and John Hagan and the mother of Sean and Ann. She was also the sister of Mary and E.J. Finneran, ND ’66, and some other ND friends and their wives. On the way, we plan to stop in Boston and visit with my roommate, Pat Devine McCarthy, and her husband, Dick NS ’67. Our goal is to have a relaxing summer, enjoying snowbird

Savannah, Georgia, was one of the sites for the girl’s get away weekend of 1970. In attendance were Liz Casey, Mary Beth Tebor Delehay, Cathy Finneran, Karen Kaslow, Judy Krzywy, Melanie Adams, Guylene Rolf and Jessica Rima Brena. The weekend was spent at the Savannah Girl Scout house in Savannah and did a bit of site seeing in the area. The main part of the weekend was the opportunity to see each other, find out what everyone had been up to since high school, and as always host meals and do things together. This event was the second get together of the women and plans are to repeat the good times in another city location yet to be determined.

Ilse Heimer, Kathleen Marcone, Liesl Finneran, Kathleen Marcone, and some other ND friends and their wives. On the way, we plan to stop in Boston and visit with my roommate, Pat Devine McCarthy, and her husband, Dick NS ’67. Our goal is to have a relaxing summer, enjoying snowbird

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two weeks early, so Edi didn’t arrive in Colorado until after the birth. It was lucky that the birth was early, because that allowed Edi to see her youngest, Brendan, graduate from Notre Dame, which is the alma mater of all his sisters.

Nancy Erdman Coffey lives in Sterling, Va., and is a social worker with the Department of Family Services in Fairfax. Her husband was a Foreign Service Officer who retired in October.

They have three kids scattered throughout the world in Japan, New York (that one is married), and Chapel Hill, N.C.

Joann Yandow Maneri continues to live in Burlington, Va. She has retired and is loving it!

the members of the Class of ’70 observed their 60th birthdays, and they had a variety of ways to celebrate the milestone. Several classmates described their celebrations, so it report in this issue on those whose celebrations involved travel, then report on other celebrations in our next class notes.

Becky O’Connor Chandler and her husband, John ND ’70 took a trip to Ireland as part of the commemoration of their shared 60th year. On Becky’s actual birthday in May, they gathered in Boston with their immediate families at a restaurant in the South End of Boston called Sibling Rivalry. Her children and sibling “hosted” her as part of the fun of the evening. After dinner, they went to a sing-along piano bar with innocuous transporting them to and from their hotel’s in North Andover. The birthday weekend also included the graduation of Becky and Jim’s son from Wabash University. Teddy Kennedy was the intended speaker (his step-daughter is in the class), but he had to cancel because of his illness. At the last minute, Barack Obama (at the time, Becky’s senator, neighbor, and friend) stepped in, and the students and their parents were nearly hysterical when the news was announced. The speech about the importance of public service was well received by all, in spite of the security, photographers, and long lines to the grounds for the event.

Becky leaned another interesting experience toward the end of her 60th year.

“...now, at the close of our 60th year, we got to join Michelle and Barack in our local elementary school to vote for his presidency. My son and I were ecstatic seeing the_obama_with_our_signs_in_the_window_education_our_one_year_old_to_the_values_of_democracy_and_the_power_of_the_vote."

by spending the weekend with Mary Lou’s brother and sister-in-law in Philadelphia. Food seemed to be the theme of the weekend, as they ate and shopped at the Reading Terminal and the Italian Market before having dinner at a wonderful Italian restaurant that specializes in food from the Abruzzo region. She and her husband also had an earlier celebration with these other couples from high school by spending a weekend together at the home of the couples in the Ozark Mountains in southern Missouri. 60th birthday celebrations to be continued in our next class noted! From the Courier Office: Jessica J. Rona Beling added, “This year’s site, for the girls’ get-away weekend, Class of 1970, was Savannah. In attendance were Becky and Jim ND ’70, Mary Beth Tifffel DeFaro, Cathy Linneman Cronin, Debbie Byrne Lynn, Margie Goodwin Harrison, Sue Gudgeon Reilly, and Jessica Rinna Beling. We spent the weekend at Sue Gudgeon Reilly’s winter house in Savannah and did a lot of sightseeing— including the historic city, houses, churches, and cemeteries. Of course, the best part of the weekend was the opportunity to see each other and find out what everyone has been up to as well as how each one’s families are doing. This event was our second get-together and plans are to repeat the good times in another city.

Ancient cities, architectural marvels, and sites of cultural, natural, and historical significance are yours to experience in Croatia, destination of the Fall 2009 Alumnae Association tour.

Highlights of the city of Dubrovnik included Stari Grad, the old town founded by the ancient Greeks in 34 BC. The city was protected by the Venetian and Dalmatian wars of art. Split and Ljubljana also boast historical landmarks and the Upper Towns of Zagreb is considered one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe.

Natural wonders are found all over Croatia, including Plitvice Lakes, the Postojna cave, and Alpine lakes and peaks.

Come with family and friends to experience the cultural riches of Croatia, Jewel of the Adriatic. For more information about this trip, visit saintmarys.edu/alumnae-travel.
although he did not play in the bowl game. Of her three grandchildren and two dogs arrived from Mac and husband Brian ND '74 at their crowded Cotter Cauley and her family, and Deb Schwarz, but our cell phones couldn't Some news I received from Gilbert Mefodeff following graduation from the University of a neurologist in New York who is a great person to talk to. Pauline McHugh, who has just organized from the SME. Anur Gupta of the SME was in New York City, and did you remember that he was on his birthday? And Kathleen Courtemanche was in the show of the Century? That was a memorable day. Please write, dear old friends, Offi c e: Phyllis Quinn writes: Jan Gabler Cranfi eld, Natalie Dwyer-Haller '01 later in the summer. Meanwhile, Heather Carr arrived earlier from California to visit Ashley, married Terence Huvane at Fordham University Church with a reception at Tavern on the Green. It was a mini-reunion for several of us, including Tom and Janet Teichen McHugh, Kate Berney Werring, Frances Spinks Caver, and Maura Carroll. Claire Mignelli Hughes class news for some years to Bruce Fretwell. They have a darling three-year-old girl named Annie. Kelly says that she's having so... and social security disability law in Port St. Lucie, Fla., which is just next to her own community of Vero Beach. I traveled to the ND-Purdue football game, which was a good one, with my son Willie, 16. He was amazed at the environment—had never seen anything... for the away games. He couldn't believe it, but I do remember team Barry/Bob ND '74/Milt/Jeff huff i ng and puffi ng for the game on New Year's Day. Another e-mail came from Terri Mclaughlin Patterson (quinnmclaughlin.com), who notes that she needs to have a new one before going to the next reunion. I hope by the time you read this Katharine As always, I send my love to all of you! Kelly Cambron Fretwell writes: “I am back in Florida, enjoying the weather—until I need another grandchild fi x!”
Scheid, who was back in the Chicago area for a family visit. Later in the summer, Clare Van Hecke Korte jetted off to Honolulu for ten days of Regina Rudser Hoyt Andrea Thomas Barnes Karen Chandler Axelrod Reg and I plan to meet An in Atlanta for a girls’ weekend in January. Hello to Meyers, and Anne Borgman. I’ve thought of you often and hope that you’re doing well. Cheers to 2009!

My oldest Joey just turned 5, and my daughter Kate is 3. They keep me super busy! I volunteer at their preschool, and I ran into each other this summer as we dropped our daughters off at Doug Bruno basketball camp in Lak. I love seeing our kids at Doug Bruno camp that Abby attends. Pretty cool, and our daughter Nina was also at Fine Arts Camp on the last day. That was one of my favorite spots to run into them. Our oldest, Brendan, is a sophomore at Montini Catholic High School, and is on the gulf team.

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note from Columbus, Ohio. She was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in December of 1984 as a Nurse Corps Officer, RRTC unit at Notre Dame. She has been stationed at 12 different locations over the years. Gulfport, Miss. (son Tyler born at Keesler AFB in Nov. 1984), Augusta, Ga. (daughter Jennifer 1993, son John born there Sept. 1997), Washington, D.C. - aboard the aircraft carrier the Enterprise, VA, and Sawahl, Japan. Sheila earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of the West Indies May of 1995. She was commissioned in the U.S. Navy as a Nurse Corps Officer, RRTC unit at Notre Dame. She has been stationed at 12 different locations over the years. Gulfport, Miss. (son Tyler born at Keesler AFB in Nov. 1984), Augusta, Ga. (daughter Jennifer 1993, son John born there Sept. 1997), Washington, D.C. - aboard the aircraft carrier the Enterprise, VA, and Sawahl, Japan. 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From Shannon: I need to offer everyone a quick apology for my absence over the past year or so. A few points of closeness in my life (aside from turning 40) (both my attention to other issues, but now I am back and fully engaged, so can thank you! We have Lisa Catemaczi Midliff to always pick up my slack. I can never forget that. And please join us this summer when they have the LUMAC (Midliff) update finds everyone doing well! As my husband, Mike, and I head back to Connecticut, I want to report that her husband, Kelly, returned safely from Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Oct. 7 after a seven-month military deployment. Kelly also reports that

From Mike: This is my second attempt to report that her husband, Kelly, returned safely from Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Oct. 7 after a seven-month military deployment. Kelly also reports that

From Jan: We are happy to see so many college friends and their families in Baltimore for the ND/Navy football game—those friends included Dr. Peter Wolf of Ohio State University in Marysville, Ohio. We live in Dublin, Ohio.”

From Lucy: Finally, I have to apologize for missing the last column. Our move in July 2008 from Rochester, Minn., to Baltimore was very overwhelming, but we all have happy news. The Sunday Night of September 2008 as we cheered on the Irish against Purdue and saw the many changes that have occurred on campus.

From Lisa: It was an eventful summer for the family, with eight-week trip abroad. Five of those were spent in Japan just before the last three spent making my way toward Italy. The adventures were all well worth the efforts, but I think I have left the Leaving the field of college athletics for a while, I am now pursuing a PHD in industrial and organizational psychology. And what better way to fill the time than to take a trip? Thanks to everyone who e-mailed updates during my trip. As I traveled alone it was great to have the connection to family and friends back home! All in all, I set foot in eight countries and had the most amazing time!

From Beth: Shortly after my return, I found myself in Sacramento, Calif., with Mary Udovich Baginsky, Erin Chace Coen, and Laura Beckham Cuskey to attend the Labor Day weekend wedding of Stacia Stompetto and Scott McRitchie. The wedding was beautiful and elegant with the vineyards of the area in the backdrop and Stacia sparkling just as a bride should! Everything was perfect—from the hospitality of Stacia’s mom and dad, Jackie and James, to the wonderful songs by Stacia’s classical quartet. Stacia’s brother, brother, Jordan, Scott and I are the happy family in the Boston area. Last weekend I had the opportunity to meet up with fellow SMC alum, and I have it now! I need a place to stay in time for Christmas. Barbara Howells touched base in December, a future Bella named Brigid Brooks Zvirbulis.

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Getting Married? Expecting?

If you have news about weddings or babies, please share it with us. We love hearing about the happy moments in the lives of our community!

Sampson attended the wedding, and killed her sister, Jennifer Foss. ’04, was killed seven years ago by her older father. Jennifer was also an alumnus of the Computer Science Department at DePaul University and now has two children, Elena and Max. John was also kind enough to let me stay in the family’s Ieland home for part of my family’s stay in Ghazi, she said, her super busy but lovely. She also mentioned meeting up in NYC last spring for a small visit with John Mahoney and Megan Maloney O’Malley ’99.

Michaela Kuhf Sulfedt: married Gregory Shultz on June 10, 2006. The couple had a reception at The Residence in Chicago. The couple is currently living in NYC with her husband, John, and two kids: Nolan, 3, and James, 19 months.

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Megan McAlary Allison married Scott Allison in Sept. 2008, at Saint Mary’s in Chicago. They had many Saint Mary’s classmates and faculty there. They are planning their second child and are currently living in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Megan and Scott have two children, Maddy, 5, and son, Sam, 8 months old.

Jen Mahoney: ’98, husband welcomed a baby girl, Grace. Gretchen and her sisters, Jeanine Weigel Pickett ’99, Colleen Weigel ’02, and Kristen and very helpful babysitters when Ann and Joel need an extra set of hands—as three kids under the age of two keeps them on their toes!

On the workfront, Lisa Siefert ’97 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy, on Oct. 1, 2008. Mia Rinehold Datena ’97 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy, on Oct. 1, 2008.

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in June 2008, Shannon Watts earned a master’s degree in speech language pathology at Ohio State University, Davie, Fla. She reports from her new position as a speech language pathologist for the public school system.

Concurrently, Jamie Norton Trailov earned a master’s degree in speech language pathology at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and is working as a pediatric speech-language pathologist at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Additionally, Jamie married Jason Trailov on July 12, 2008. Their ‘02 alumni Collen Collins and Mariel Oliphant were both ordained as bridesmaids.

Rachel Deor was living in Charlotte, N.C., and worked as an assistant principal at Bethel Elementary School and taught kindergarten at their team. Past March, Rachel and Erica Betrak, who lives in Austin and works as a nurse anesthetist, traveled to Chicago and got to visit where they visited Lauren O’Neil. Since the SMC friends, visit, Lauren O’Neil has returned to the United States after completing the Notre Dame-China ACE program. She lived in Ecuador for two months and studied international development in Santiago, Chile, where she taught from October 2007 to December 2008. Lauren is currently in her third year of podiatric surgical residency, in Youngstown, Ohio. In the realm of holy matrimony, Katie McIntyre united in marriage Sept. 15, 2007. The two were married on a beach in the Pocono Mountains. Katie and David are living happily ever after in McAlisterville, Pa., and I were three of her ten (yes, 10!) bridesmaids. Liz and Brian moved to Connecticut following the wedding.

Myers March 27, 2008. Brigid Kelly Roberts Panzer and Tracy Graf were both deployed to Baghdad in spring 2007. Coincidently, Amy E. Kocis Weatherhead and Holly James writes from Los Angeles and her husband, Greg, welcomed their future SMC alumna, Marin Abigail Parker, June 21, 2008. Megan McCoy Parker and her husband, Daniel ND JD ’04, welcomed their first child, Alexander James, into the world on Aug. 25, 2007. Kristin has decided to leave her teaching career to stay at home with her new baby and is loving every second!

Continue to teach together at Alcott Elementary School in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. Last year, they were honored to have Saint Mary’s alumnae in attendance: Mary Hermes (yes, 10!) bridesmaids included Lesley Lapinski, Marlee Seiler, Brianne Dunn, and Rachel Deer. Since the SMC friends’ visit, we could not have asked for anything more. We really enjoyed seeing the happy family reside in Grand Rapids, Mich. We are working as an attorney and lobbyist in Des Moines.

Michelle Nagle Lickteig is working as a policy attorney and lobbyist in Des Moines. Stefanie Rohr received her master’s in education and is currently in her fourth year teaching eighth grade science at St. Rita of the Holy Cross School on the Near West Side. Meg Deluca-Wright and Erica Burket visit the Windy City this past summer, and the three had a blast catching up.

Jessica Coulter recently received her doctorate in psychology from Illinois State University and is working as a project director for Ipsos, a worldwide market research organization. Jessica is also working on her National Board certification for teaching. Thank you, everyone, for your updates. Best wishes to you all, and have a safe, relaxing, productive, and sun-filled summer! I look forward to hearing from each of you in the fall again.

It’s been a while since I’ve written an update. I hope to have lots to share from 2008.

As for me, last year I left my job at Davis & Hosfield Consulting for the exciting world of market research. I am a project director for Ipsos, a worldwide market research firm. I work in the marketing division, and spend most of my time on new product innovation research studies and serving on the student board for the ASIAC. I am currently working at their Student Development Schools in Orlando, Fla. Jessica is also working on her National Board certification for teaching. From the Courier office: Katie Melchionni welcomes you to our five-year reunion. It is a privilege to serve as archbishop. Guided sightseeing includes Wawel Castle, St. Mary’s Church, and the Krakow Barbican. For more information about these trips, visit: 43COURIER

The Legacy of Pope John Paul II July 11–18, 2009 $649 per person, plus airfare Enjoy a week in Pope John Paul’s Poland. Start in Warsaw with guided sightseeing featuring the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the Olympic Stadium, and St. Joseph’s Church. Continue to Czestochowa, visit the Shrine and the famous Black Madonna, an image and devotion ascribed to Our Lady of Czestochowa. Guided sightseeing includes Wawel Castle, St. Mary’s Church, and the Krakow Barbican. For more information about these trips, visit: 43COURIER

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were able to attend the wedding of Emily and Jim's wedding were her sister and maid of honor, Heather Hammond, Rachel Waldron '03, Kate Hartman Rozenszweig '05, and Maura Murphy. Maura Frailey Barth wore her maternal grandmother's dress.

From Cate Leone Cetta: I hope all of you are happy and healthy, and totally shocked that it has been almost a year since you graduated Natalie and I have since moved into the DC area, are loving life, attended American University, getting an MA in broadcast journalism and interning for NBC. Today I was at the Washington Bureau. The ability to cover the election and Iran situation for NBC has been a great experience, plus rubbing elbows with Matt Lauer and Luke Russert hasn't been too shabby either. Please, please send me updates on your happenings. Thank you.

In November, Connie Walsh, who also lives in DC, and I drove up to Baltimore for the ND Navy game and the alumni event. McLean, Corey Dough, and Megan Staley was great to see the family and taliking.

Jaclyn Thompson moved back to Colorado and is doing marketing for a chemical distribution company. She writes that she was back in South Bend for Michelle Winter's wedding. McLean and Corey Dough attended Michelle's wedding. Vicki Luevsan, who lives in Denver, and her fiancé, Ben for Michelle Winter's wedding. McLean and Corey Dough attended Michelle's wedding.

Amanda Beldin, ND '04 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Saint Mary's women in attendance at Emily and Jim's wedding were her sister and maid of honor, Heather Hammond, Rachel Waldron '03, Kate Hartman Rozenszweig '05, and Maura Murphy. Maura Frailey Barth wore her maternal grandmother's dress.

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Salute to our friends who have attended the wedding this past summer. Melissa and Andy are living in Rochester Hills, Mich. Manda Walsman's wedding was on June 17, 2009. She wrote:

Natalie Elizabeth Grasso is living in New York City. She is a financial adviser for JP Morgan Chase. My SMC-Pittsburgh friend, Welsh also finished law school and is currently working as a public relations specialist at NASCAR Dryden.

Jennifer Gibreel Wernig and her husband reside in Ann Arbor, Mich. She is a financial adviser for JP Morgan Chase. My SMC-Pittsburgh friend, Welsh also finished law school and is currently working as a public relations specialist at NASCAR Dryden.

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Recognize anyone?

This picture from the Cushwa-Leighton Library is undated. If you have any information regarding this picture, please contact the editor at courier@saintmarys.edu.