

Saint Mary's College COURIER

Summer 2023



UPON REFLECTION

By Katie Conboy, Ph.D.
President of Saint Mary's College

Each year, it is a wonderful gift that over the course of just a few weeks in late spring we have opportunities to look forward and to look back. In this issue of *Courier*, we reflect on Commencement and Reunion 2023. Through several stories, we also focus on what is forged at Saint Mary's: knowledge and skills, preparation for careers, deep friendships, and life-long relationships to the College.

I've been thinking a lot about knowledge, skills, and career preparation as we send another graduating class out into the world. This has been a year of planning at Saint Mary's, and much of that planning is about how we continue to ensure that our newly minted alumnae are ready to meet both the needs of the world and the expectations of employers and graduate schools. I was heartened to discover, recently, a College publication by Sister Monica Wagner, CSC, called *Benchmarks: Saint Mary's College, How it Grew* (1990). While the emphasis of this book is on the physical growth of Saint Mary's—from the original campus of the Academy in Bertrand, Michigan, through its evolution to become the College—there is also some attention to how the curriculum grew and changed over time.

Indeed, *Benchmarks* reveals that from the earliest days of the College, the Sisters were continually transforming the curriculum, and that fields such as "Polite Literature," "Astronomy, with the use of Globes," and "Herbariums" changed over time and were supplemented with emerging professional fields: pharmacy, journalism, pedagogy, and education. Sister Monica surmises that, at the turn from the nineteenth to the twentieth century, the Sisters were responding to a variety of pressures that sound very familiar in our own time: to offer what other Catholic women's colleges were offering, to choose fields that would differentiate Saint Mary's from the competition, and to "broaden the range of accommodation to perhaps a growing public concern over 'usefulness.'" Some of the fields she mentions have disappeared from the

Saint Mary's curriculum, but I was delighted to recognize that our current balance of liberal arts and professional fields was reflected in the earliest years of the College.

This issue of *Courier* includes a wonderful example of how a Saint Mary's education prepares graduates for careers they never imagined: the story of **Kristin Crowley '93** and her journey from graduating with a degree in biology and medical school aspirations to becoming the first woman to serve as chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department. From what I know of our recent graduates and our alumnae across decades, graduates have always felt well prepared as they leave Saint Mary's, and we will strengthen that preparation even more in the years ahead.

I saw first-hand at Reunion that there is also so much strength in the friendships that are cemented at Saint Mary's. In these pages, you can read about one group of friends who have supported each other since they met in the late 1980s. If there is any story I hear consistently from Saint Mary's alumnae, it is about friends and friend groups. We want to collect those stories, so please use the instructions on p. 15 to send us yours!

For its entire long history, the College has promoted both enduring women's friendships and an education that is broadening, deepening, and useful. In fact, perhaps the word used so consistently about the Saint Mary's experience—*sisterhood*—encompasses both the personal relationships and the professional development of our graduates. Graduates count on their friends for the support they need through the seasons of their lives and can also rely on a tremendous network of alumnae to help them as they launch and navigate their careers. If that's not sisterhood, I don't know what is!

With summer upon us, we continue to look backward but also forward to August when we will welcome both our returning students and our incoming Class of 2027 to campus. The beat goes on!



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Forging the Future of LAFD

A year into her role as fire chief for the Los Angeles Fire Department—the first woman in its history—Kristin Crowley '93 is just getting started.

by Wendy Wilson

There are throughlines from Kristin Crowley's time as a student-athlete to her role as fire chief of the city of Los Angeles.

"I go back to the privileges that were granted to me on the front end by going to a school like Saint Mary's," she says when describing her path to the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). "My family life, the support that I had, the drive on the athletics side, the competitiveness—all of it—prepared me for, I think, whatever I decided to put my mind to."

Her swearing-in as the first female fire chief on March 25, 2022, was a watershed in the department's 137-year history, a public demonstration of LAFD's commitment to change. Longstanding concerns about the treatment of women and minorities in the workplace, combined with mounting pressure to reimagine the department in ways to better reflect the community's greater need for assistance with medical emergencies rather than fires, created an opportunity for the department to revisit its mission and chart a new course for its 3,600 employees.

A year later, Crowley says the work is just getting underway.

"What I've learned throughout the years is, especially when you're in a position of impact and influence, you have to be very mindful about the pace of change, that we're bringing everybody along with us when we are really starting to turn the culture, to turn how we do things, and evolve as an organization," she shares. "I've got a vision of where we want to go. But what are the steps of how we get there? And how do I empower my people to get us there? That's the big picture of what I need to do as the fire chief."

Finding a Home in Fire

Her plan had never been to fight fires, but to study medicine: Crowley was going to become a doctor. Raised five hours away from Saint Mary's in Green Bay, Wisconsin, she chose to attend the College because of the balance it offered (balance, she will tell you, is one of her favorite words) between strong academics and the prospect of continuing to compete in some capacity as an athlete.

"That was my decision, the best decision I've ever made," she affirms. "I left Saint Mary's feeling, legitimately, no matter what I put my mind to, I could achieve. That's

a combination of how I was raised, [but] a big piece of that was also my experience at Saint Mary's."

Shortly after graduation, she moved to Los Angeles, enrolled in paramedic school, and began studying to take the MCAT. But as her training as a paramedic progressed and "rideouts" began—shifts spent in the company of practicing emergency responders—she and her classmates were given a bit of freedom to choose where they spent their time in the field. There were various agencies with which the students could gain experience, even some private ambulance companies that collaborated to provide hands-on learning opportunities. But when her class was told they'd been offered the chance to work alongside LAFD, no one was interested.

"The word on the street was, 'You don't

"I left Saint Mary's feeling, legitimately, no matter what I put my mind to, I could achieve."

—Kristin Crowley '93, LAFD Fire Chief

want to go to LA City [LAFD], they don't treat their paramedics very well," she remembers. "So you didn't want to go there, especially as a female candidate or a female paramedic intern. And you know what? That intrigued me. I was the only one to raise my hand in our entire class full of my male counterparts and say, 'Yeah, I want to go to LA City.'"

The rest of the story is simple: "The instructor said, 'Are you sure?' and I said yes."

Chief Crowley knew she was home within a half hour of arriving at her first firehouse on the rideout. She was struck by the professionalism she saw from the moment introductions were exchanged and surprised by a welcome sense of familiarity. An athlete throughout her academic career—three sports in high school, soccer and basketball during her time at Saint Mary's—Crowley had missed the healthy

competition and sense of camaraderie that she now found in the firehouse.

"It was pretty much right in alignment with my life trajectory," she says. "Not that I wouldn't have been completely happy being an orthopedic surgeon. I think that that would have been a fantastic career. But when it came down to those extra pieces—how I felt when I was in the fire station and running 911 calls was what tipped the scales for me."

A Trailblazer Tasked with Systemic Change

When Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti nominated Crowley to become the 19th fire chief in department history, the expectations were two-fold: she would lead the department's work on behalf of the city while also shaping a change in workplace culture dogged by allegations of bullying and discrimination. In the months leading up to the announcement of Crowley's endorsement, a poll of 1,200 firefighters and civilians employed by the LAFD attempted to quantify concerns about sexism and racism and department morale. The results compiled by independent consulting firm Deloitte were stark: departmental bullying and harassment were named as problems by 56% of female firefighters, compared with just 19% of males. For employees of color across genders, the percentage of respondents pointing to harassment as a problem emerged worryingly at 41%. An overwhelming 70% lacked confidence in department leadership.

But on the day Crowley stepped into the breach so unsparingly illuminated by the collected responses of the department, she spoke of "the goodness of what everybody brings to work each and every day." Joined by her wife Hollyn Bullock and their three daughters on the day of her swearing-in, she acknowledged the honor it would be for her to advance that virtue within the organization. The troubling assessment of workplace culture notwithstanding, Crowley spoke from her own experience: she knew no small amount about the great goodness of the LAFD. In a nearly 25-year career, she'd held practically every job at every level of the department and had done so as a woman, and it is this perspective through which she shapes change within the department.

“That’s the evolution and the growth I’m hoping to bring with my administration: where, with everything we do, we create that space to bring equity across the board with all members within our department,” she says. “I think that’s where we have fallen short over our past 137 years, and that [is how we] will then create a shift in the culture of how we treat one another in the fire stations, and how we treat one another when we’re out providing service to the communities of LA.”

In addition to concerns about its workplace culture, the LAFD is struggling with an organizational identity crisis. The reality of the work being done by firefighters across the city no longer aligns with the perception of what the department’s name signifies in the minds of internal and external constituencies alike: most of the work being done by first responders doesn’t involve fighting fires.

While the need for LAFD services continues to rise—in 2021, the department’s nearly half million calls for fire and emergency medical services was up 7% from the previous year—81% were for EMS needs, not fire.

Breaking to Rebuild

Crowley has served as a department “first” in several ways. Before becoming the first female chief in LAFD history, she was its first-ever female fire marshal and only the second to be elevated to the position of chief deputy. She is the only member

of the LGBTQ+ community to lead the organization. But her distinction as the first paramedic charged with reshaping the direction of the department is a signal fire of its own, a beacon for where it is headed.

“The goal is to fracture that status we’ve held, organizationally, as this hardcore, traditional fire service, that all we do is fire,” she says. “We run over 1,500 incidents a day, transport over 600 patients a day to the hospital, and now 85 to 87% of that is EMS-related. So we have to have a different mindset and evolve.”

Now a year into her tenure, Chief Crowley and her team are preparing to unveil a three-year strategic plan to help the department implement essential changes. The initiative is only the third of its kind in LAFD history. (Crowley also participated in the development of the second, a roadmap that provided guidance from 2017-20). Of the seven goals articulated in the latest iteration, one focuses on improving the workplace environment, specifically stating LAFD is committed to an organizational culture that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion. Crowley said this objective is supported by many strategies and tactics in use by the department now—and maintained going forward—in its ongoing efforts to address those issues, but with an “equity lens.” Among these efforts: a diversity, equity, and inclusion bureau launched under her leadership in January, another first in department history.

Collaboration with staff and community partners was integral to the creation of the new strategic plan. Crowley said the better part of the last year included purposeful communication with sworn and civilian stakeholders within the department as well as neighborhood councils around Los Angeles to gather information and build a consensus in support of the department’s work.

“It’s one thing to have a plan, [but] it’s another thing to manage it with leadership and measurement,” she reflects. “So that’s what I’m excited about.”

And she believes direct communication with those she serves is the best way to continue to promote a broad understanding of the changes her administration is implementing. To that end, the department instituted “Chats With the Fire Chief” earlier this year, a series of monthly webinars focusing on a relevant topic while creating an open channel for conversation between employees at every level and herself.

“I’m not going to understand what the members of the fire department on the sworn and civilian sides need unless I create those bridges and identify the gaps in communication,” she says.

“A project of love”

Perhaps the best indicator of Crowley’s chances of realizing institutional change for the department can be found in the success of the work she’s already done. Noe Anthony Lopez II, a 24-year-old firefighter and paramedic now assigned to LAFD’s Fire Station 20, can attest to the impact of some of Crowley’s earlier efforts. Lopez is a product of the LAFD Cadet program, a pre-employment path for youth that provides an opportunity for the department to identify and cultivate talent. Crowley was instrumental in serving



After joining the department in the ‘90s, Crowley suited up and started training for the fires ahead.

as a leader for the initiative, an effort responsible for training more than 1,000 area students in firefighting basics with a focus on character development. It was through the Cadet initiative that Lopez began volunteering with the department at age 14; it was also how he met Crowley for the first time, then a captain within the department.

“I had a very clear understanding of the type of person she was,” Lopez remembered. “She was very giving. She cared not only for the department, but also just the community in general. I could see hers is definitely a project of love.”

Crowley remained a resource to Lopez even after becoming fire marshal. When he emailed her in 2019 seeking interviewing advice, she made room in her day to meet with him at City Hall. “I’m forever thankful to her just in my specific personal process,” he says, “but I know the person that she is, and I’m sure there’s a number of other people who are [thankful], too. The youth programs were one of the main things—one of the many projects—she put all of her time and energy into. It has touched so many lives. There’s like hundreds of cadets that have been out there. She influenced and created these avenues for all the communities of Los Angeles, from the valley to downtown to

the harbor, she’s given us these avenues—and I can only speak for the youth programs.”

The son of a 25-year veteran of the department, Lopez grew up in and around the fire stations to which his father was assigned, and so he experiences the LAFD with fresh eyes while carrying stories of what came before.

“To be honest, we do have our challenges and issues as a department. We’re not perfect, you know? But I think she’s doing a lot to work toward addressing those, and it makes me hopeful,” he says of Crowley’s first year. “Even now, I think of the way that she holds herself and juggles all those issues and remains professional, even through all the gripes and complaints. It just makes me very happy to have her as chief.”

Making the Grade

Eventually, Crowley hopes the reputation of the organization will be burnished to a shine, so much so that its light will serve to attract aspiring paramedics like she once was. In this way, the department could grow its workforce appropriately because the community would know “at LAFD, they treat people right.” She says the department is currently revisiting the existing hiring policy that requires new

recruits complete training as firefighters before they can become paramedics.

“I’m trying to build this momentum, to bring balance in regard to what we do organizationally, that as we’re onboarding the next generation of firefighters, we’re also onboarding a different mindset that brings value to what we do 85% of the time.”

Evaluating the department’s progress on her watch, Crowley sounds like the basketball player she was at Saint Mary’s 30 years ago. She speaks of continuing to control the pace of the change she’s been charged to deliver. And while she concedes that pace can become frustrating, it is a priority for her to manage it to ensure the best results for LAFD employees, both civilian and sworn.

“There’s always room to improve, always room to take a big step back,” she reflects. “I feel like we’re making some really good progress, though. But you know, honestly, to ask what grade would I give myself?”

She gives a small shake of her head. “It doesn’t matter how I grade myself. You’ve got to ask the members of the LAFD.”



Fire Chief Crowley pictured with members of the LAFD on a visit to one of the organization’s 106 fire stations.



COMMENCEMENT 2023 Keep the Faith and Be the Good

By Tori Murphy '19

The Class of 2023 ended their senior week on May 20 under a cloudy sky and amid unseasonably cold weather that belied the mood of the greatest of all celebrations, Commencement. Before friends, family, and the picturesque Le Mans Hall, President Katie Conboy greeted each graduate and presented them with their hard-earned diplomas.

Environmentalist Molly Burhans addressed the Class of 2023 first and urged them to always be the “good” in the world. She asked, “Why is the bad so loud when the good is so pervasive?”

“As you go forward, think creatively about how you are uniquely poised to further the good around yourself and others by using your knowledge and skills: by dreaming big, by making good noise with your life to compete with the loudness of the bad.”

Burhans told her story of the obstacles she faced—and overcame—to inspire those sitting in front of her. “I invite you to prepare yourself for challenges instead of running from them. Embrace them as part of your journey. Move forward with love and faith, and may you always discern that which is good and true,” she said.

As the 361 graduates sat proudly with degrees in hand, President Conboy presented the Class of 2023 with one last charge, asking them to “keep stretching, keep growing, keep the faith.” She said, “I hope you have great discoveries, wherever the tides and currents of life take you, and also that those tides turn and bring you back often to your alma mater.”



Celebrating our Multiethnic Grads

The 16th annual Multiethnic Graduation Celebration honored 62 seniors from diverse backgrounds for their achievements and demonstrations of resilience during their time on campus. Held in Moreau’s Little Theatre, those celebrating were met onstage by President Katie Conboy, Vice President for Inclusion and Equity Redgina Hill, Dean of Students and Campus Life Gloria Jenkins, and Director of Multicultural and International Student Services **Adriana Petty ’01**. On behalf of the graduates, **Tyana Phillips ’23** shared a reflection on her Saint Mary’s experience, and **Jennifer Hernandez-McDuell ’05** returned as the keynote speaker.



Valedictorians Honored

The College recognized three graduates for outstanding academic achievement. **Emily Morin**, an elementary education major; **Chyan Rangel**, a neuroscience major; and **Natalie Volling**, a statistical and actuarial mathematics major, were named valedictorians of the Class of 2023. Rangel addressed her classmates, challenging them to always ask themselves, ‘Now what?’ ‘Class of 2023, do not fear, just explore. And never stop asking once you have crossed that finish line, ‘Now what?’”



You can watch all three valedictorian speeches at saintmarys.edu/commencement-2023

Senior Award Recipients



Lumen Christi Award
Angela Martinez Camacho



Outstanding Senior
Libbey Detcher



Madeleva Award
Megan Wilcoxon, MAS, MS



Commencement Honorees

The College recognized four honorees during the day’s festivities.

Commencement speaker Molly Burhans was presented with an honorary doctorate for her work as an environmentalist, cartographer, and social entrepreneur. Internationally recognized, Burhans is the founder and executive director of GoodLands and was the chief cartographer for the first global, data-based maps of the Catholic Church, unveiled at the Vatican in 2016.

The rare President’s Medal was awarded to William Schmuhl for his exceptional contributions to Saint Mary’s and the community. Schmuhl’s connections to the College are multi-faceted: an adjunct instructor in the Business Administration and Economics Department and an emeritus member of the Board of Trustees.

The College also celebrated Dr. Ida Stockman’s work and contributions with an honorary degree. A professor emerita in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at Michigan State University, Dr. Stockman has significantly impacted the field of communication sciences. Through her work and research, she has intentionally incorporated diversity into the speech-language pathology curriculum and shaped clinical training and practice.

Honorary degree recipient **Gretchen Flicker ’93** was honored for her steadfast support of the College, having served on the Board of Trustees for 11 years and ultimately becoming Chair in 2019. Flicker has been heavily involved with Saint Mary’s since graduation, serving on the Madeleva Society Steering Committee, volunteering for the Reunion Gift Campaign Committee, and belonging to the Mother Pauline Society.

2023 LEGACIES

Our legacy graduates celebrate along with their family members: mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and more who all attended Saint Mary’s. (Mothers are listed in italics; deceased alumnae denoted with an asterisk.)

Julia Larkin Allen, *Kathryn Killian Allen* ’93, Mari Morrissey Bower ’46*, Meghan Marie Allen ’19, Sarah Elizabeth Allen ’19, Margaret Mary Killian ’91, Elizabeth Ann Killian ’96

Kayla G. Ambrose, Jessica Lynne Purvis ’19

Elizabeth Terese Andersen, *Mary Vallortigara Andersen* ’87, Claudette Ferrini LeRose ’53*

Grace Elizabeth Anspach, *Michelle Hooper Anspach* ’97, Lori Corirossi Hazen ’92, Natalie Hultz Aubry ’92, Sara Jane Aubry ’21

Angela Rachele Bannan, Cynthia Bannan Sozio ’92

Kathryn Mary Barnes, *Michaeline Feldman Barnes* ’92, Rachel Louise Moore ’18, Mary Carole Feldman Prasse ’88, Margaret Feldman Moore ’89, Colleen Feldman Ermsing ’91

Taylor Marie Bean, *Courtney Anne Bean* ’25

Emily Ann Bennett, Rosemary Birmingham O’Brien ’48*, Erin Taylor Bennett ’23

Erin Taylor Bennet, Rosemary Birmingham O’Brien ’48*, Emily Ann Bennet ’23

Eknoor Bhullar, Shannon Bhullar ’21

Julia Ann Bobosky, Addie Magdalene Bobosky ’21, Courtney A. Bobosky ’87

Kalyn McCue Berger, *Kristina Berg Berger* ’95, Kathleen Vilona Hussey ’80, Jeannelle Naquin Brady ’74, Mariana Hussey O’Rear ’85, Maureen Hussey Key ’76, Monica Berg Dunbar ’02, Kristen Wojtas Berg ’02

Jillian Elizabeth Bowen, Olivia Grace Emord ’22, Karen Johnson Emord ’84, Patricia Johnson McCourt ’90

Julia Marie Brett, Rachel Marie Young ’14

Sydney Marie Brooks, Madison R. Brooks ’21, Kennedy Joy Brooks ’26

Madeleine Renee Brown, Megan J. Brown ’25

Olivia F. Busk, Bonnie Elizabeth Couch ’26, Mary Claire Busk Canef ’10, Karen Busk Fitzsimons ’89, Cynthia Busk Buskmiller ’83, Beth Worley Couch ’90, Jennifer Ligda Busk ’97

Diana Cervera, Vanessa Cervera ’21

Lucille Alice Chamberlin, Lillian Antoinette Chamberlin ’21

Kira Laneita Chong, Alyssa Susan Chong ’21

Josephine M. Ciaravino, Carolyn Solomon Wujek ’02, Christina Solomon Funk ’06, Catherine Solomon Bahoura ’09, Emily Virginia Theis ’12, Maria Elisabetta Ciaravino ’20

Maggie Jane Clancy, Caitlin Ann Clancy ’12

Grace K. Conlon, Claire Marie Conlon ’20

Fiona Connelly, Molly Acker Galbo ’06, Anne Palmitier Acker ’06, Grace Anne Connelly ’19, Mary Therese Connelly ’25

Lillian M. Corso, Sydnie Corso Freeman ’13

Amelia Elizabeth Crowe, Cailin Ann Crowe ’13, Maggie Therese Crowe ’16

Therese Rosemary Diamond, Nora O’Sullivan Beesley ’10, Bridget E. Enright ’16, Gabriela Diamond ’18, Katherine Margaret Mary Enright ’25, Margaret Mary Hansen ’25, Phoebe Elizabeth Diamond ’26, Sheila M. Diamond ’82, Brigid Diamond Hansen ’90

Claire Elizabeth Doyle, *Mary Nell McCauley Doyle* ’84, Emily Carolyn Doyle ’18, Ana Cote McCauley ’88, Jennifer N. McCauley ’86

Maura Colleen Doyle, *Colleen Danaber Doyle* ’93, Elizabeth Siefert Reidy ’04, Mary Siefert Cann ’08, Sarah Siefert Barney ’99

Christina Lee Esposito, Alyssa Esposito ’21

Emma Elizabeth Feller, *Karen Bossy Feller* ’83, Lauren Bossy Caruso ’03, Kristen Carlson Morin ’92, Kaitlin Feller Bacher ’11, Barbara Couvreur Carlson ’67

Caitlin Joan Fox, Kathryn Louise Flynn ’05, Kathleen Flynn Fox ’74, Chelsea Jeanne Fox ’25, Barbara Brems Flynn ’76, Laura Brems Flynn ’79

Isabel Ann France, *Emily Unger France* ’97, Kimberly Reiken LeDoux ’77, Magdalen Grace France ’25

Megan E. Galvin, Molly Malone Galvin ’20, Maureen Catherine Galvin ’25

Elisabeth Mary Gangwer, Kristin Greenwood Reilly ’04

Nina Michele Gante, Megan Noelle Ross ’15, Roberta Anne Ross ’23, Ava Christine Gante ’25, Cara Calzolano-Ross ’89, Mary Anne Goodnow Calzolano ’89

Brianna Marie Geary, Ann Kennedy Marrocco ’14, Brooke Erin Geary ’25, Cheryl Prosek Kennedy ’82

Genevieve Marie Giannetti, Megan Kennedy Shanley ’06, Grace Kathryn Kennedy ’12, Anne Kennedy Weicher ’08, Karen Lowery Kennedy ’79

Emma Elizabeth Haigh, Mary E. Haigh ’11, Megan Louise Haigh ’11, Patricia Haigh Peterson ’99

Sydney Nicole Haislip, *Theresa Kay Bosak* ’88, Georgine Bosak Bonkalski ’93

Julia Margaret Hannigan, Therese Marie Burke ’16, Cecilia Walsh Burke ’76

Anna Elise Heger, Stephanie Donnay Heger ’22

Margaret M. Hopper, Ashley Moritz Voss ’09, Katelyn Hopper ’24

Abigail M. Houser, *Amy Brinkhoff Houser* ’97, Aubrey V. Houser ’21

Jessica Lyn Joyce, Kristen Alexandra Joyce ’26

Kalli Rae Jungles, Kylie Nikole Jungles ’16, Cassidy Mikala Jungles ’20

Anna Maria Kampe, Erica Rose Chabot ’16

Sophie Marie Keller, Summer Paige Keller ’26

Madison E. Kinniry, Morgan Kinniry Fean ’18, Lauren Brianne Kinniry ’21, Kristin Marie Kinniry ’21

Kathryn Anne Knapke, Kayla Rose Knapke ’20

Elliott Kostielney-Hurley, *Susan Marie Kostielney* ’92, Madelyn Jean Leahy Pittard ’19

Ashley Rose Kraker, Emily Patricia Kraker ’21

Hana Noell Larkins, Tsuki Levelle Larkins ’24

Trang Thanh Le, Kayla Huynh York ’26

Skyler Cadence Leach, *Chloe Kaninsky Leach* ’02

Kassandra Anahi Loza, Daisy Marie Loza ’21

Leslie J. Lynch, Christine Ann Bodnar-Larson ’91

Anne Elizabeth Maher, *Patricia Sullivan Maher* ’87, Katherine Rose Sullivan ’12, Clare Maureen Maher ’15, Madeline Rose Maher ’17, Grace Angela Maher ’21, Kelly M. Sullivan ’82

Hanna R. Maheras, Megan Finan Conlin ’14, Caitlin Erin Finan ’18

Grace A. Marcheselli, *Leigh Schuster Marcheselli* ’88

Anna Frances Martin, Calli Anne Versagji ’09

Morgan Louise Martin, *Carrie Rogalski Martin* ’94, Cristin Joel Welch ’16, Christine Fleischman Michalik ’94, Macie Elizabeth Martin ’19

Hannah Paige Mathis, Chloe R. Mathis ’26

Kaitlin M. McCann, *Tricia Duda McCann* ’95

Megan Anne McIntyre, Lauren Marie McIntyre ’25

Abigail Louise Middendorf, Theresa M. Biondo Flick ’85*

Mary Catherine Mihalik, *Mararet Callahan Mihalik* ’84, Elizabeth Mihalik Kotoriy ’89, Catherine Callahan Rixie ’86, Joan Fallon Callahan ’82

Ashley Jean Miller, Cassidy Jean Miller ’21

Olivia M. Milnamow, Emily Milnamow Canner ’16

Brooke E. Montgomery, Morgan Alexis Montgomery ’25

Emily Nicole Morin, *Kristen Carlson Morin* ’92, Maureen Nicole Hutchison ’16, Barbara Couvreur Carlson ’67, Marlynnne Brookman Morin ’66, Melissa Morin Hutchison ’90

Ariel Munoz, Ivory Bella Munoz ’26

Katherine Rose Murphy, Kelly Portolese Murphy ’86

Katherine Mary O’Connell, Dolores Cernota Dvorak ’60*

Molly Elizabeth O’Shea, Kaitlyn Marie Baker ’16, Irelyn Grace O’Shea ’22, Aris Siobhan O’Shea ’26, Maureen O’Shea Junge ’94, McKenna Michelle O’Shea ’21, Kristie O’Shea Baker ’93, Kristin Galbreath Ganton ’96

Sarah Fagen Page, Allison Anne Page ’20

Megan Kathleen Palmer, Darcy Palmer-Shultz ’03, Jeanette Palmer Reifenberg ’05

Adriana Kekoa Patacsil, Isabel Nakoa Patacsil ’23

Isabel Nakoa Patacsil, Adriana Kekoa Patacsil ’23

Katherine Elaine Peak, Monica Torzewski Peak ’67*

Courtney Ann Pelletier, Lindsey Michelle Pelletier ’21

Magdiel Perez, Sarai Perez ’25

Alexandria Perns, Gianna Markie Perns ’25, Molly Marie Perns ’25

Clara L. Prasse, *Mary Carole Feldman Prasse* ’88, Rachel Louise Moore ’18, Margaret Feldman Moore ’89, Colleen Feldman Ermsing ’91

Shania Quintana, Chelsea Quintana ’24

Grace Beatrice Reid, *Teresa Anne Gorno-Reid* ’81, Mary Louise Gorno ’72

Kaitlynn Renee Riba, Megan M. Riba ’21

Yajali Rodriguez, Frida Paola Rodriguez ’21

Madelyn E. Rongers, Kaylee Ann Rongers ’26

Shana W. Rosenbaum, *Brooke Warner Rosenbaum* ’02

Roberta Anne Ross, *Cara Calzolano-Ross* ’89, Nina Michele Gante ’23, Ava Christine Gante ’25, Megan Noelle Ross ’15, Mary Anne Goodnow Calzolano ’89

Emily Ann Rusch, Carol Lynn Jones ’97, Mary Jones Dalzell ’98

Madeleine Grace Rzepka, Monica Theresa Rzepka ’21

Maria Elisabeth Carole Schudt, *Susan E. Loveless Schudt* ’91, Alexandra Anastasia Schudt ’20, Jo Anne Schudt Caldwell ’55, Lucia T. Schudt ’26

Christina R. Shadid, *Theresa Martin Shadid* ’89, Anna Claire Shadid ’19, Martha Smith Shadid ’82

Erin Margaret Shea, Eleni Shea Gegner ’16, Megan Elizabeth Shea ’18, Kelly Julieann Shea ’26

Rylee Elizabeth Sites, Rebecca Lynn Sites ’22

Savannah Brooke Smallwood, Jordan Lynn Smallwood ’21

Annika Kierstin Smith, Kathleen Neville Smith ’91

Bridget Starner, Mary Kate Starner ’19

Sara Frances Steve, Alexandra Renee Steve ’19

Mary Caroline Joy Sturm, *Allison Zern Sturm* ’84, Caroline Zern Lee ’87

Madison Suseland, Katelyn Elizabeth Waldschmidt ’24

Cassidy Nicole Swartz, Kaylee D. Swartz ’20, Samantha Totten Miller ’00, Sydney Marie Swartz ’21

Jane Elizabeth Sypniewski, *Rebecca Jausahir Sypniewski* ’96

Sofia Claire Taskey, Mariana Taskey ’25

Christina Marie Thomas, Janet Timm Hergenrether ’91

Mikayla Marie Trumbla, Miranda Marie Trumbla ’19

Maria Kathryn Ugo, *Christina Krych Ugo* ’97, Katelyn Dapper Dressing ’12, Sarah Dapper Cobb ’15, Joan K. Stephens ’21, Monica Joan Ugo ’25, Kathryn Krych Dapper ’87, Carol Krych Stephens ’83

Samantha Grace Veome, Julia Veome Love ’19

Anna Grace Volpe, Caidence Eileen McDonald ’26, Brynne Elise Volpe ’21, Emily Catherine Volpe ’24

Alexandria Noel Weihs, *Kristen Merlock Weihs* ’95

Alexa Marie Zeese, Kelli Kristine Zeese ’12

Michelle A. Zeiger, Gloria Louise Zeiger ’16, Nina Marie Zeiger ’18, Lucille Jean Zeiger ’20

When Home is Where Your Girls Are

The remarkable, 30-year friendship of 10 Saint Mary's Belles

by Wendy Wilson

There is a key waiting to unlock the front door for Mollie Meehan Baumer at nine homes, each one warm inside with the promise of comfort found only with friends who have become family, bright and sustaining outposts for an exceptional group of women.

"I know I have a key under a mat at nine different homes. I know I do," Mollie says. She imagines a future with more travel now that her youngest is off to college. And as the one of her number who lives farthest away, any trip east lands her right in the thick of the others. "That gives me hope and excitement about the future."

Decades before marriages and children, loss and prosperity, those keys were cut in love at Saint Mary's. **Moira Scully Papp**, one of the mighty pack of 10 friends from the Class of 1990 of which Mollie is a part, would agree. Just a week before, her family had been reorganizing downstairs, moving things out of the workout room in their Chicago home to make space for "Mollie's bedroom," for whenever her Los Angeles-based friend can make the trip back.

I went to a very big high school, and I feel like I have a wide net of friends, and no one has friends like my college friends," Moira reflects, repeating, "no one. And they all know it, too! They're always saying, 'Oh, your Smick friends, your Smick friends. You're so lucky.'"

But to find each other and the other eight—the dear companions who keep watch with them and hold their victories and losses with equal care to this day—they first had to find their way to Saint Mary's.

Saint Mary's as Crossroads

For Moira, it was a direct path to Notre Dame, Indiana from Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School in Chicago. She arrived at Saint Mary's with something of a community already in place. She learned about the College from families who vacationed with hers at their lake house: **Christine Cronin Falkenberg** (siblings had introduced the girls when they were 7) and **Tracey Hayes Uruba** (Moira's parents had been friends with Tracey's grandparents, the younger set connecting at age 14). In the fall of '86, Moira would turn out to be one of three young women across several families who'd spent time in their house enrolled at the College. And Saint Mary's had the additional appeal for her parents of being closer than John Carroll University outside of Cleveland, which four of Moira's siblings had attended.

There were other relationships that arrived on campus fully formed, too, ready to be interwoven into the fabric of what was to be the larger collective. **Karen Comerford Keating** and **Kelly McGowan Chestnut** met as fourth graders when they lived across the street from one another in Fayetteville, N.Y. Though Kelly's family moved away after several years, the time the two spent together skiing in winter and searching for salamanders when the weather was warm cemented a friendship that endured. They exchanged letters and spoke on occasion. Then, in spring of senior year, Karen came across an old letter of Kelly's in her dresser. She found Kelly's number and reached out, learning that each one of them had committed to Saint Mary's independent of the other. It was too late for them to room together that fall, but the two remedied that the following year and remained roommates throughout the rest of their time at the College.

Mollie came from farther away. She'd grown up in California, the daughter of a man with enough room in his heart for two of the Midwest's great football dynasties: the Ohio State Buckeyes and, more specifically, the rivalry between the University of Notre Dame and the University of Southern California. Before one of his trips east to watch the Irish take on the Trojans, Mollie told him that she'd heard there was a school across the street from Notre Dame. An older girl at her high school in Torrance was attending there. Would he look at it for her and report back?

"I think we hold each other up, and the muscle we're using is the Catholic faith."

—Mollie Meehan Baumer '90

He took his assignment seriously. He walked around campus and found his way to the admission office, making sure to mention Mollie's affinity for soccer while he was there. Soon, literature from the College was arriving at her home, along with an invitation to scrimmage with the soccer team. After she visited Saint Mary's in April of her senior year, Mollie felt a connection to the place.

"I wanted to get out of California," Mollie remembers. "I wanted to try something else. It seemed like a lovely, safe place to do that: not too intimidating. I knew from playing soccer my whole life I would have 10 friends, all of a sudden, at the first practice."



Pictured left to right are **Jane Soroka Husnik, Erin McCarthy Sheridan, Mollie Meehan Baumer, Moira Scully Papp, Kelly McGowan Chestnut, Karen Comerford Keating, Donna Ryan Coffey, and Tracey Hayes Uruba** at Mackinac Island, Mich. in 1997.

Deirdre Lyne Churchill and **Christine Cronin Falkenberg** are pictured on page 14.

111 East Navarre

So the young women who would knit together tightly to become the band of 10 they are today began to orbit one another on campus from various distances for the first three years: Moira and Mollie, **Kelly McGowan Chestnut, Donna Ryan Coffey, Deirdre Lyne Churchill, Christine Cronin Falkenberg, Jane Soroka Husnik, Karen Comerford Keating, Erin McCarthy Sheridan, and Tracey Hayes Uruba**. Moira and Mollie were in McCandless Hall as first years, "so we knew of each other," the former recalls. There were classes together—Spanish for certain, Moira remembers—and then there was just "the way that Saint Mary's works,"

how the College culture of welcome and greeting ensured each young woman found themselves saying 'hi' to another over and over again.

Spring of junior year was when the loose, on-campus affiliation of acquaintances solidified into a sisterhood that would span decades. In class with a group of education majors one day, Mollie sat just outside the circle of their conversation. The students had just discovered that the fifth roommate for the off-campus house they'd committed to for fall would be transferring to Villanova University. As they discussed possible candidates to fill the unexpected vacancy, a head turned in Mollie's direction.

"Someone came up for air and looked at me and was like, 'You might be good,'" Mollie recalls. "So when I came in senior year, it was a whirlwind of, 'Whew, look at these fun people. Where do I belong?' And then, there we were: the girl house on the boy block."

That fall, the friends found themselves evenly divided along residential lines: four lived on campus (some parents wouldn't even have entertained the alternative), and five lived off in a house at 111 East Navarre. One lived in Turtle Creek. The arrangement proved beneficial to all concerned.

After graduation, each wedding and the occasional girls' trip (Myrtle Beach

and Mackinac Island were among the earliest) offered the tribe opportunities to reconnect. And there was always the fall, the ritual of football, and the group's faithful return for all of its attendant rites and ceremonies. It was the arrival of the babies that upended those beloved patterns. Friends had to decline some invitations because they were pregnant—sometimes because they conflicted with plans to try and become pregnant—and the frequency of their reunions slowed.

Their experience is common. In the introduction to his 2009 book, *The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and a 40-year Friendship*, the late writer Jeffrey Zaslow identifies the years between 25 and 40 as those when women's friendships "are most at risk," as they become fully engaged in the work of building their personal and professional lives.

"Everyone took a break," Mollie says, "because we were knee-deep in motherhood."

Everything Old is New Again

At a Notre Dame tailgate in the fall of 2018, the friends found themselves connecting in an old, familiar way but

"We respect each other, and we check on each other and we love each other."

—Maira Scully Papp '90

from a new place in each of their lives. Many of their children were attending universities now, and they themselves had become established in the lives they had stumblingly set out to make after graduation. The moment seemed abundant with potential: maybe this was the perfect time to reconnect in earnest, Mollie reflected. She told Erin that she would be willing to host everyone in Cabo San Lucas. If she sent out an invitation to the group, would Erin be willing to respond first to build momentum within the group for the idea? Erin agreed, and when Mollie reached out to her Saint Mary's sisters with the offer to host a gathering in Mexico and the proposed dates, Erin immediately texted into the group with her flight information.

"It lit a fire," Moira remembers.

That trip was different. Confidences were exchanged this time about how child-rearing was challenging them rather than

whose child was reading first. There was frank talk about which family members were putting them through their paces. "We finally got real and got vulnerable," Mollie says, "and it was a great trip."

It proved to be the first of many. The women have been back to Cabo more than once since, but they also made a point of returning to Saint Mary's for their small, make-up reunion after the pandemic. Mollie laughingly recalls their pack of 10 as making up most of what she estimates were a dozen from the Class of 1990 who came together on campus for Reunion as the world continued to reopen. The group pedaled to the picnic on bicycles and met College President Katie Conboy under a tent.

Today, their shared text thread—readily identifiable by its bell icon—is about everything, Mollie says. Together even when they're apart, the group celebrates their victories and mourns each other's

losses. Prayer requests are shared, but so are funny remembrances of one another's parents. The virtual lines of communication connecting them mirror the real-life. They are interconnected in more ways than they can count, serving as godmothers and confirmation sponsors to one another's children and proud concierges to the tri-campus experience to those members of the next generation who choose to attend their alma mater. Before enrolling at Saint Mary's, Moira's daughter Annie was shepherded down The Avenue and around campus by her mother's friend, made to feel welcome with each personal introduction.

Many of the group have lost parents and in-laws, and the occasion of any funeral or wake demands they congregate for support and consolation. Moira remembers her parents as the first. When her father died, Mollie flew in to help her write his eulogy, but "every single person was there." When one of their 10 experiences such a loss, the others act. They celebrated a lot as young graduates, Mollie reflects, grateful for that time, but says they are now "in the thick of that other arc of life": losing parents, dealing with health struggles, going through difficult times with marriages.

"I think we hold each other up, and the muscle we're using is the Catholic faith," Mollie believes.

It is known to her friends that Moira leaves a reunion in any given year to drive by her parents' cemetery on Chicago's South Side to thank them for sending her to Saint Mary's. These pilgrimages are just one example of the sense of shared values and priorities that also plays a part in the women's enduring connection. Separated by two time zones, Moira has still managed to become a part of Mollie's Tuesday prayer group. She attends by way of FaceTime, present on the phone Mollie holds in her hand. And an impromptu trip to a roadside shrine in Mexico to Our Lady of Guadalupe to pray for a family member's illness will bring them together for a recitation of a Hail Mary, no matter how rusty some of their memory of the rhythm of the words may be.

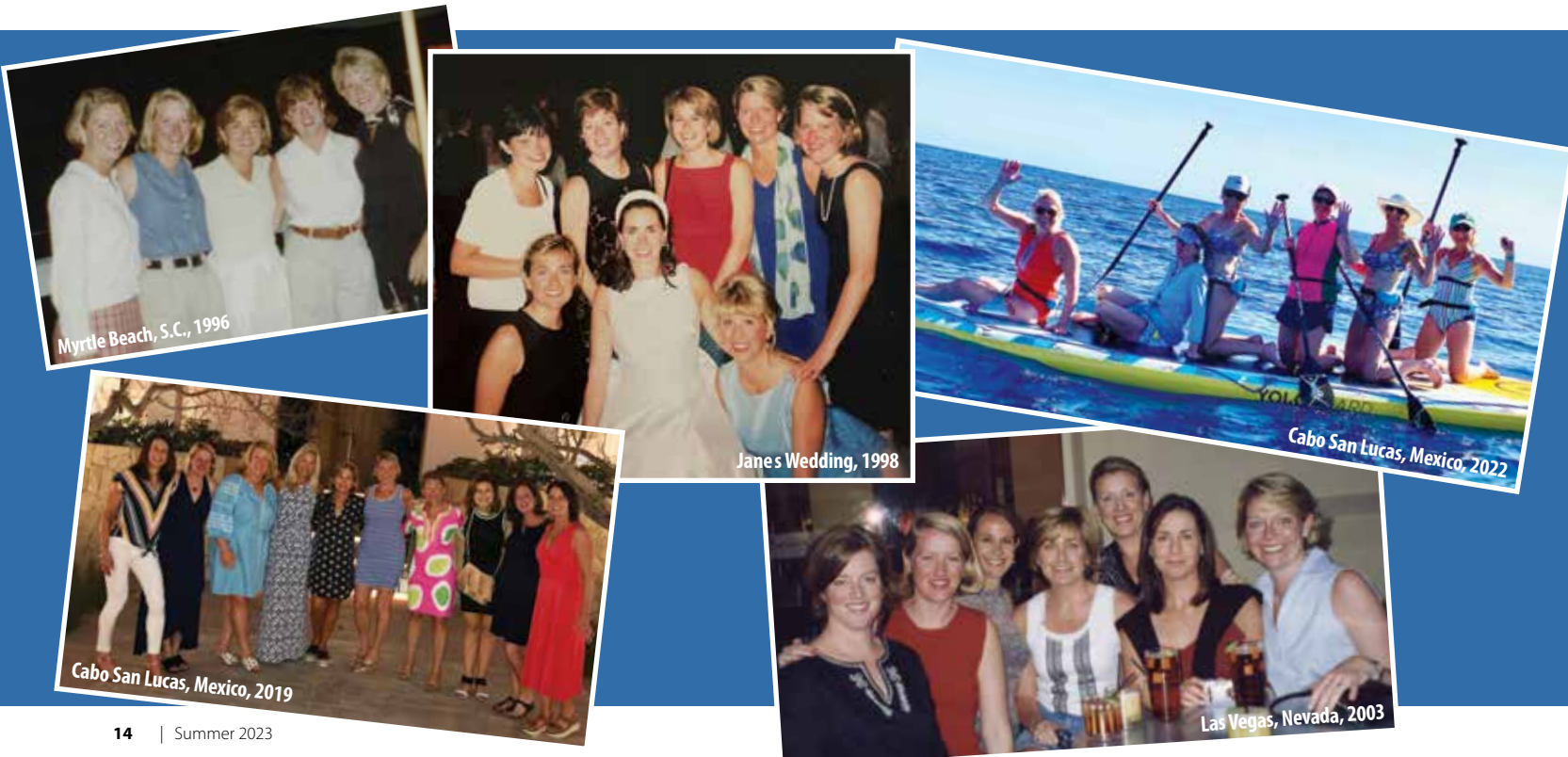
"You can hide with your pain, or you can come out with it," Mollie offers. "And when you come out with it, and everyone comes out of the woodwork, I always say this: if you're vulnerable, and you let them in, we're allowing each other to live the gospel by how we tend to each other and how we take care of each other."

While the roots of their collective relationship stretch back more than 30 years, the women credit the longevity of the connection born at Saint Mary's not with the past and the memories they share but with the women's ability to appreciate and respect each other's development as individuals.

"It's past, present, and future," Moira affirms. "We are not stuck in the past, and all we can talk about is what we used to do when we were 18, 19, and 20. It is that we have grown up—and grown into—these lovely and beautiful friendships. And we respect each other, and we check on each other, and we love each other."

Mollie concedes the pack seeks warmth when they gather now: sunny destinations where they can reconnect. Plans are being concocted now for a reunion in Utah sometime in July. But she insists that place only serves as a backdrop for the meaning that the friends find when they're together, that these 10 could have "fun at an insurance seminar."

"And if we bottled up the joy that we experienced with each other and sold it?" she asked. "I mean, come on! Forget it." ❧



Share Your Stories of Forever Friendships With Us!

The story of this extraordinary friend group from the Class of 1990 is the first in a new storytelling series, called "Saint Mary's for Life."

We want to know more about the lives our alumnae share in friendship with one another.

Who belongs to the family of friends you made at Saint Mary's?

How are you maintaining those relationships?

And how have these friends sustained you during a challenging time?

Submit the stories of your Saint Mary's friend group for the opportunity to have it shared with the College community on our website or social media platforms. We know the friends you make at Saint Mary's stay with you for a lifetime. Help us tell that story by sharing the adventures and experiences you continue to have with yours.

Scan the QR code to share your #BestBelles story with us.
saintmarys.edu/SaintMarysforLife



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Alumnae Return to The Avenue for Reunion by Tori Murphy '19

Nearly 700 alumnae from the classes of “threes” and “eights” flooded onto campus for their Reunion the first weekend of June. Alumnae returned to reconnect with classmates and reminisce about their College experience while making new memories.

Attendees enjoyed a busy weekend with an array of activities planned by the Office of Alumnae Relations. With opportunities to tour the new and renovated spaces, attend panel discussions and Mass at Holy Spirit Chapel, or catch up with President Katie Conboy and faculty members, it was a weekend to remember.

From two members from the Class of 1958, 107 from the 50-year Class of 1973, to the 75 members newest Reunion attendees from the Class of 2018, Saint Mary's recognized the unique bond of Belles and their shared love of the College.

Next summer, we will welcome members from the classes of “fours” and “nines” back home. We hope to see you coming down The Avenue soon.



Alumnae Honored

The College honored four remarkable alumnae during the annual all-class banquet. **Maria Josephine Kasindi Kamm '63** was honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award for her philanthropic efforts and devotion to the education of young girls in Tanzania. Her son Georg Christian Kamm and granddaughter Vera Kamm accepted the award and spoke on her behalf. **Caroline Johnson '18** was named Outstanding Young Alumna for her professional achievements, volunteer work, and enduring dedication to Saint Mary's. The College presented **Fran Farrell Callahan '68** with the Humanitas Award for her unwavering courage and compassion, as well as her commitment to her faith, family, and community. And Alumna Achievement Award honoree **Kristin Crowley '93** was recognized for utilizing her Saint Mary's experience in breaking the glass ceiling to become the first female fire chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Spark Lab Makerspace Becomes a Center of Innovation

by Haleigh Ehmsen '16



Faculty co-leads of the Spark Lab Jeff Greiner, assistant professor of education, and Michaela Duffy, professional specialist in scenography in theatre, with students utilizing a new digital fabrication tool in the makerspace.

The first floor of Haggar College Center has become a Shangri-la for creation. The same area where some alumnae remember visiting the Helpdesk for IT support and others remember the campus bookstore is now a space dedicated to women-led innovation and technical skill development. Within its 10,000 square feet is a key space that will act as a magnet for a new generation of makers and leaders and will double down on Saint Mary's strategic vision to be an institution of lifelong learning by embracing professional advancement for women in all phases of life.

The Spark Lab is an expansive makerspace with shiny polished floors, high-top workshop tables, bright, industrial lighting, and an initial assemblage of creative technology. Here, students will explore idea development, commercialization, business formation, prototyping, and entrepreneurial efforts.

The lab is also open to women in the community, building off the strength of the College's SPARK Business Accelerator program by assisting area women in launching businesses and pursuing growth in their professional arenas. SPARK's 8-week courses also meet on the first floor of Haggar.

Dana Strait, senior vice president for strategy and finance, said the College has been working toward this vision since 2020, inspired by faculty proposals for a makerspace that date back to 2018. It involved collaboration with faculty and staff of the College as well as the investment of multiple funding organizations and regional partners, including the University of Notre Dame's Idea Center. The Spark Lab's advisory council—made up of faculty and staff across disciplines such as math, theatre, physics, art, English, and education—leveraged the Idea Center's expertise and

guidance from Regional Innovation and Startup Education (RISE) to help design a space that would meet the needs of the Saint Mary's students and empower them to gain new skills while learning more about their passions and talents.

"Makerspaces can take many forms," Strait said. "The Spark Lab is designed to improve women's access to skill-based learning in disciplines known to be strengths for Saint Mary's College, including health sciences, STEM, and the arts. Students in all disciplines will have access to learning industry-valued skills that are in demand by employers, regardless of their major or minor."

The 5,000-square-foot flexible workshop gives all students a place to prototype and small-batch manufacture a range of physical and digital products. It is adjacent to a newly renovated office suite and collaborative classroom used by programs using the lab.

Strait envisions that, in addition to completing their major, Saint Mary's students will access the lab to add to their resumés and enhance their value in the workforce by developing practical skills related to manufacturing and technology.

"There's a promise of creating industry-ready graduates who have the skills to serve the community in a variety of careers," said Strait.

And beyond Saint Mary's undergraduates, College alumnae and women in the greater South Bend community will also be able to use the Spark Lab to experiment with prototypes or create something new. With the lab, the College is expanding entrepreneurial capacity and skill development among women in the region, including graduates of the SPARK Business Accelerator program that seek support in launching product-based businesses.

The space officially opened this spring and has already led to unique projects and collaborations. Kenneth Douglas' music education class used the Spark Lab to build guitars. Campus groups created French crosses and engraved keychains for student events. And a Girl Scout troop made t-shirts—introducing many girls to campus. Spark Lab is also a hallmark of Saint Mary's summer pre-college and camp programs this year, including two entrepreneurship-oriented programs, one for middle school-aged girls and another for those in high school. These have attracted numerous new partners to campus during the summer months, including youth from the South Bend Community School Corporation.

A coordinator for the Spark Lab started full-time in May: Shreejan Shrestha now serves as innovation scholar, working to help realize the space's potential in supporting students and partnering with the community. Two faculty members—Michaela Duffy, MFA, professional specialist in scenography in theatre, and Jeff Greiner, Ph.D., assistant professor of education—serve as faculty co-leads.

Duffy was on the advisory council that helped to imagine the space. She plans to use the lab's capabilities to support work done for her stagecraft course. She will use one of the Spark Lab's adjacent classrooms, as well as the tools and resources available in the makerspace, so her students can develop new models for lighting, sound, and costumes.

Duffy said the Spark Lab invites students to be creative in how they design a theater stage. Vinyl cutters, laser engravers, and modeling for scenery are all tools at their disposal. The lab also has computers with software that enable students to have more versatility and flexibility in their design process. Duffy described how, prior to having the lab as a space to land, her class was nomadic, gathering in places around Moreau Center for the Arts. Now her students will have dedicated space to innovate.

"The Spark Lab is an asset to the Saint Mary's community and gives us the opportunity to use creative problem solving educationally," Duffy said. "It also encourages students to play around with things that might be of interest to them." According to Strait, the space was designed to focus on four strengths unique to the College: 3D modeling, part creation and engineering, textile manufacturing, and medical making.

Greiner, also a member of the advisory council, used his background in

instructional design to offer insight into how faculty might incorporate the space in their coursework. He says he's excited about helping colleagues envision how they might use the Spark Lab to enhance the learning experience.

Phase one of the innovative spaces within Haggar has been wholly grant-funded, receiving nearly \$1 million from regional partnerships including LIFT Network, Judd Leighton Foundation, Ball Venture Fund, and the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI). To go along with the Spark Lab is a collaborative workspace / lounge area, with new offices for support staff and collaborators.

A vision for the near future includes industry credentialing to support talent development of skilled, certified, industry-ready graduates into the South Bend-Elkhart regional workforce. Planners see this as a bridge to industry for students and community participants—particularly those with interest in engineering, computer science, health sciences, textile manufacturing, or design.

Those who once could only dream of the space, who spent months exploring the vast possibilities, have created a bold resource for student and community entrepreneurs to utilize, enabling them to contribute their higher-value technical skills to a fast-changing workforce. 🚀

Haggar: A Building Dedicated to Trailblazers

The location for the Spark Lab is fitting: Haggar College Center. While the building began as the Alumnae Centennial Library, a gift from College graduates to honor the Sisters of the Holy Cross, it was renamed for Joseph Haggar, Sr., in the '80s in conjunction with extensive renovations. Haggar was a visionary and innovator when he began his business, Haggar Apparel, with just two sewing machines in 1926. Within two years, the Lebanese immigrant and entrepreneur had 500 employees producing 75,000 pairs of pants annually. The company went on to become one of the largest men's clothing brands in the world. Haggar was also the father, grandfather, and great grandfather of several women who attended Saint Mary's: daughter **Rosemary Haggar Vaughan '48**; and granddaughters **Patricia Haggar Turner '67**, **Victoria Vaughan Miller '72**, **Lydia Haggar Novakov '72**, **Marian Haggar Bryan '76**, and **Mary Lynn Vaughan '77**.



SUSI Shaping the Next Generation of Global Leaders

This summer Saint Mary's will host 22 women from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia for five weeks as part of the Study of the US Institute's (SUSI) Madeleine K. Albright Young Women Leaders Program sponsored by the US Department of State. The SUSI program, held at a select group of US universities, is part of broader State Department efforts to promote a better understanding of the United States abroad, particularly among future world leaders. The program supports undergraduate women from around the world as they improve leadership skills, learn about the United States, and build lasting connections with their American peers and Saint Mary's student participants. Anticipated opportunities include service projects with local nonprofits, trips to Chicago and Washington D.C., and enjoying the hospitality of local host families. **Madison Suseland '23** and **Chinaza Ezechikamnyo '26** are two of four Saint Mary's student program coordinators participating in the experience. Suseland says she is "most looking forward to the opportunity to meet women from around the world and share the experience of cultivating intercultural communities while building valuable leadership skills and having some fun along the way!" Ezechikamnyo added that she "intends to use the skill sets which I will acquire from this program and Saint Mary's College...to partner with the Abia State Government and create more platforms for the intellectual development of girls in my hometown, Umuahia, Nigeria."

Engaging Women Conference Connects Program Attendees With Resources and Learning

A capacity crowd of 200 entrepreneurs and professionals connected on campus for a day of learning and career building. Programming for the College's eighth annual Engaging Women Conference, held May 25, focused on the theme "Audacity to Believe" and approached professional development holistically: topics ranged from how to source funding for a start-up venture and networking, to setting effective boundaries and prioritizing physical health. Women leaders at colleges and universities in the region kicked off the day's wide-ranging conversation with a presidential leadership panel, featuring Saint Mary's own president, Katie Conboy, along with Susan Elrod, chancellor of Indiana University South Bend, and Tia Robinson-Cooper, chancellor of Ivy Tech Community

College's South Bend-Elkhart campus. The conference serves to support the College mission to promote women's economic empowerment at every stage in life.



The Center for the Study of Spirituality

Saint Mary's established the Center for Spirituality in 1984, an initiative where instruction and study of Christian spirituality was intentional, academic, and offered in a way that students could use its guidance to make sense of the world. In June, the College updated the Center's name to the Center for the Study of Spirituality (CFSS), which, according to Julianne Wallace, D.Min, vice president for Mission, "better reflects the contemporary understanding of spirituality grounded in academic exploration." The Center for the Study for Spirituality will continue its diverse program offerings, including the Madeleva Lecture and Ex Libris Author Lecture series. The Center is also exploring new opportunities including hosting summer spirituality seminars, a new iteration of the New Voices symposium and partnerships with key collaborators and institutions in the field of spirituality. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, Ph.D. will continue to serve as the CFSS director.

Saint Mary's Professor to Teach in Zimbabwe



Dr. Kristin Kuter, associate professor in mathematics and computer science, has received a Fulbright Scholar fellowship for the 2023-24 academic year. She is among 800 U.S. citizens who will teach or conduct research abroad through the prestigious program. Through their work, Fulbright scholars establish long-term relationships between people, institutions, and nations. Alumni of the program include 62 Nobel Laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize winners, 78 MacArthur Fellows, and thousands of leaders and world-renowned experts in academia and many other fields across the private, public, and non-profit sectors. For her fellowship, Kuter will travel to Zimbabwe to teach at the Harare Institute of Technology, focusing on data science, specifically mathematical statistics.

ALUMNAE DEATHS

1943 Frances C. Boltz Hultgren Morris	September 28, 2022	1959 Elizabeth Mahler Keenan Suzanne Linbeck Reynolds Janet Hausser Taylor Susan Colby Vandegrift Rosemary Doheny Weller	March 11, 2023 January 18, 2023 January 19, 2023 January 12, 2023 February 11, 2023
1944 Jane Pilarski Calef Louise Ford Kimble	January 30, 2023 December 17, 2022	1960 Judy Stinchfield Klein Mary Sharon Holland Logan Mary Boudreau Sullivan	April 2, 2023 February 12, 2023 January 1, 2023
1947 Lenore Sroub Bracken Joan Kreuser Spencer	January 6, 2023 December 9, 2022	1961 Julia Dwyer Dianne Golubski Toronski Marilyn Smith Wyrick	April 9, 2023 March 10, 2023 February 12, 2023
1948 Marilyn Vaughn Haveman Rosemary Kisgen Mullahey	September 16, 2022 January 27, 2023	1962 Martha Wyss Cordes Joan Marie Theisen Emlong Maureen Sullivan Garvey Mary Katherine Giles Ann Marie Fees Ranck	February 19, 2023 November 15, 2022 March 29, 2021 January 20, 2023 January 3, 2023
1949 Mary Jane Rossi Sister Mary Eileen Scully, OP	December 27, 2022 March 1, 2023	1963 Maribel Kelver Early Sarah O'Connor Fallon Arline Hagan Saturdayborn	April 1, 2023 February 1, 2023 February 6, 2023
1950 Mary Peck Argue Joann Vandewalle Schilling Patricia Theiss Sears Mary Kelyt Strudeman	April 14, 2023 February 2, 2023 January 23, 2023 April 6, 2023	1964 Rosemary Rath Quinn	January 26, 2023
1951 Nancy Wills Browne Helen Kuhn Carey	January 23, 2023 April 22, 2023	1965 Sister M. John Margaret Dietzen, CSC Mary Taylor Gineman Sister Mary Agnes Anne Wilcox, SMSM	August 25, 2022 February 24, 2023 December 11, 2022
1952 Margo Ahrens Mary Ann Scherger Fairlie	April 29, 2023 January 20, 2023	1966 Sister Roberta Bennett, CSC	March 24, 2023
1953 Phyllis Artim Beckman Mary Jane McKeon Gray Barbara Swanebeck Pougnet Carolyn Connolly Rogers	January 18, 2023 January 3, 2023 March 7, 2023 March 19, 2023	1968 Elizabeth Christopher Elmore Teresa Bauer Lopata Janet Murphy O'Connell Vera Wingeier Sullivan	December 28, 2022 January 25, 2023 January 7, 2023 December 21, 2022
1954 Joanna Gill Craig Hazel French Cushing Mary Carteaux Diehm Mary Wells Strathdee	February 17, 2023 December 12, 2022 March 25, 2023 February 10, 2023	1969 Susanne Schenkelberg Boland Julia Botet Fogarty Gabrielle Higgins Keeler	March 26, 2023 January 19, 2023 December 5, 2022
1955 Jeanne Benish Hasbrook	October 10, 2022	1970 Kathleen Ann Hannon Lucy Salas Riebling	January 21, 2023 January 25, 2023
1956 Joanne T. Dunagan Patricia Garvey McCann Georgia Sechowski Prosser	January 17, 2023 December 31, 2022 January 15, 2023	1972 Jean Meier	March 1, 2023
1957 Margaret Maher Engler Sister Gladys Marie Martin, CSC Anita Martin Olsen	January 21, 2023 January 30, 2023 December 9, 2022	1973 Claudia M. Traudt	February 11, 2023
1958 Loretta Bunting Anderson Gretchen Wiedemann O'Loughlin	January 16, 2023 March 25, 2023	1974 Shannon D. Lejeune	December 24, 2022

1977 Mary Dunlap Capadano	January 13, 2023
1979 Mary E. Le Donne	March 18, 2023
1980 Cary Crutsinger Renz	January 27, 2023
1983 Lisa Maronick Riney	February 28, 2023
1984 Karen Hobert Flynn	March 3, 2023
1986 Kerry F. Donegan	March 2, 2023
1991 Susan Minahan Blake	January 18, 2023
1998 Kerri Ann Nelen	March 19, 2023

FAMILY DEATHS

- Robert Alford, father of Arlene Theresa Stoltz '91, April 6, 2023.
- Clark Armstead, father of Michelle Armstead Pacynski '82, January 30, 2023.
- Nancy Balck, mother of Elizabeth Firestone Balck '99, February 20, 2023.
- Frederick Baumer Jr., father-in-law of Mollie Meehan Baumer '90 and Ann Maureen Lillis Baumer '91, April 15, 2023.
- Donald Blum, father of Jennifer Blum Vuckovich '88 and Susan Baxter Blum '88, April 4, 2023.
- Mary Bobear, mother of Katherine Bobear LaMonica '90, December 30, 2022.
- Joan Bock, mother of Christi Bock Harman '78 and Jamie Bock Helman '82, grandmother of Courtney Helman Schultz '10, February 7, 2023.
- Stanley Bone, husband of Maureen Claire Hunter-Bone '68, March 21, 2023.
- Margaret Brantman, mother of Kelly Brantman Roles '92, March 7, 2023.
- Lawrence Brekka, husband of Marilyn Krakowski Brekka '63, January 16, 2023.
- Michael Brennan, father of Colleen Mary Brennan '91 and Kerry Brennan Ward '94, February 12, 2023.
- Earl Briesch, husband of Charlotte Keefe Briesch '56, March 29, 2023.
- Frank Brown, father of Ann Marie Brown '87, March 31, 2023.
- Rodney Bunker, husband of Virginia Mary Bunker '68, January 15, 2023.
- Ralph Campbell, father of Mary Jo Campbell Dalton '75, December 25, 2022.
- Charles Chmielewski, father of Robyn Chmielewski Albert '00, February 5, 2023.

FOR THE RECORD

Gaston Choiniere, husband of Patricia Hall Choiniere '65, December 30, 2022.

Maureen Ciampa, mother of Patricia J. Ciampa-Muske '80, March 26, 2023.

Terrence Clancy, husband of Carol Bennett Clancy '82, April 21, 2023.

John Coye, father of Theresa Coye Nihill '84, March 20, 2023.

Dolores Craven, mother of Maureen Craven Fischer '74, February 24, 2023.

Timothy Crotty, husband of Patricia Lehmann Crotty '61, brother of Patricia Crotty Misrach '61, February 24, 2023.

Darlene Czop, mother of Janice Marie Czop Boswell '84, January 9, 2023.

Alma Dene Dahm, mother of Mary Dahm Howlett '78 and Margaret Dahm Salin '79, January 8, 2023.

Phyllis Daniels, mother of Shannon Daniels Reuter '94, January 27, 2023.

Thomas Deranek, father of Karen Deranek Roberts '85, grandfather of Kelly Marie Deranek '10, father-in-law of Jacquelyn Meluch Deranek '85, January 11, 2023.

Bonita Dini, mother of Mary Frances Dini '98, April 2, 2023.

Joanne Duffey, mother of Margaret Duffey Gerth '85, grandmother of Mary Gerth Omiliak '16, December 14, 2022.

Lily Duggan, mother of Elizabeth Duggan Van Horn '83, Patricia Duggan Otto '87, and Ellen Duggan Ariston '97, January 20, 2023.

James Dunlap, father of Michele M. Dunlap '84, December 15, 2022.

Charles Dunne, father of Kirsten Meg Dunne '92 and Melissa Lynn Dunne '97, December 29, 2022.

Barbara Eastman, mother of Krista Eastman Heroman '00, March 5, 2023.

Charles Edwards, father of Lisa K. Edwards '85, February 3, 2023.

Michael Eiben, husband of Suzanne Scanlan Eiben '66, March 23, 2023.

Rev. Thomas Frances Elliott, CSC, brother of Marianne Elliott Morin '64, February 20, 2023.

Isobelle Ellis, mother of Aimee Ellis Dillon '99, March 17, 2023.

Margaret Ellis, mother of Mary Beth Ellis Hunter '99, March 23, 2023.

John Englehart, father of Katy Englehart '88 and Michele Englehart '93, February 25, 2023.

Daniel Falvey, father of Lauren Falvey Bonadies '07, brother of Amanda Falvey Conmy '88, uncle of Brigid Eileen Conmy '22, brother-in-law of Anne Day Falvey '84, March 13, 2023.

Barbara Farrell, mother of Anne Farrell McKay '88, Karen M. Farrell Regan '90, and Kathleen Farrell Perreault '94, January 2, 2023.

Sebastian Fiacco, husband of Danita Eartly Fiacco '86, January 5, 2023.

CariDee Foley, mother of Ann Foley Madigan '86 and Molly Foley Forsberg '95, March 13, 2023.

Augustine Fornataro, father of Lisa M. Fornataro-Clerici '83, April 11, 2023.

Allen Frischkorn, brother-in-law of Catherine Hammel Frischkorn '75, uncle of Julie Marie Frischkorn '01 and Kathryn Frischkorn Stofka '06, February 11, 2023.

William Gallivan, husband of Nancy Mack Gallivan '57, January 14, 2023.

Anthony Gallo, husband of Amy Kohs Gallo '94, December 16, 2022.

Robert Geegan, father of Marilyn Geegan Fontein '80 and Bridget Geegan Blanton '83, January 21, 2023.

John Gibbons, husband of Sharon Reardon Gibbons '61, father of Judith Gibbons Riordon '86, January 19, 2023.

Thomas Gill, father of Kerry Gill Rogers '02, January 22, 2023.

Willard Gillmore, husband of Mary Gombos Gillmore '67, February 26, 2023.

Paul Goldmuntz, husband of Pamela Schertz Donleavy '71, March 12, 2023.

Thomas Gorman, II, brother of Rosann Gorman Conroy '65, March 6, 2023.

Werner Graf, father of Marisa Graf Novak '93, January 9, 2023.

Richard Granata, grandfather of Alexys Ann Granata '22, March 20, 2023.

John Griffin, husband of Claudia Keppel Griffin '76, February 28, 2023.

Jerome Gumz, father of Roberta Gumz Mocogni '83, January 8, 2023.

Carol Haag, mother of Lisa Ann Muellner Lobel '91, January 20, 2023.

Frederick Hammond, father of Suzanne Hammond Vasti '90, December 12, 2022.

Judge William Hart, husband of Catherine Motta Hart '50, January 17, 2023.

Edward Healy, father-in-law of Molly McNeill Healy '90, April 5, 2023.

Kathleen Hoess, mother of April Hoess Sanchez '94, December 25, 2022.

Edward Hogan, uncle of Erin Hogan Liebenauer '08, Colleen Hogan Jain '10, Megan Anne Hogan '13, and Bridget Trainor Hogan '17, cousin of Ann Acker '70, Mary Acker Klingenberger '79, and Molly Acker Galbo '06, February 16, 2023.

Karen Hollies, mother of Mary Hollies Benchik '89, April 14, 2023.

James Horan, father of Tobey Elaine Horan '92, December 13, 2022.

David Horn, father of Christy Horn Mangus '90, February 11, 2023.

Linda Horning, mother of Amy Horning Hansen '95, April 7, 2023.

William Hurley, father of Megan M. Hurley Nazdam '94, March 1, 2023.

Marion Jacobs, mother of Patti Jacobs Hein '89, December 22, 2022.

William Jobes, father of Amy Jobes Foley '96, January 31, 2023.

Roger Johnson, father of Kristin Johnson Kirsch '94, April 15, 2023.

Donald Jones, father of Carol Lynn Jones '97 and Mary Jones Dalzell '98, February 3, 2023.

John Jones, husband of Patricia Cahill Jones '59, father of Leanne Jones O'Callaghan '96, February 19, 2023.

Philip Joyce, father of Pauline Joyce Shipley '78, November 17, 2022.

Herbert Knudten, husband of Anne Locher Knudten '65, January 5, 2023.

Donald Komara, father of Kirsten Komara '86, March 13, 2023.

Charissa Koontz, mother of Carrie Koontz Gaines '98, February 28, 2023.

Stanley Kownacki, father of Stacy Kownacki Tennis '15, December 12, 2022.

Vincent Kwiatkowski, father of Megan Marie Kwiatkowski '01, February 15, 2023.

James Lambke, father of Laura Lambke Fassnacht '84, Lynn Lambke Riley '85, and Jeanne Lambke Simons '87, February 13, 2023.

Karen Leep, aunt of Jillian Pietrzak Laubacher '07 and Amanda Pietrzak Dixon '13, March 24, 2023.

Ronald Lesneskie, father of Alicia M. Dombkowski '02, April 6, 2023.

Deron Leutenegger, husband of Caroline Lemek Leutenegger '86, July 1, 2022.

Suzanne Marie Libbing, mother of Janet Susan Libbing Prendergast '92, grandmother of Cassandra Lynn Libbing '17, sister of Josephine Disser Barger '53, aunt of Ann Therese Heiny-Long '71, Carol Disser Dresser '84, and Jean Weigand Morrissey '86, great-aunt of Madeline Claire McCrea '10 and Alexandra Leigh Dresser '17, February 3, 2023.

William Logsdon, father of Catherine Logsdon Moreno '86, March 15, 2023.

James Loveless, husband of RuthAnn Speer Loveless '68, February 3, 2023.

Daniel MacDonald, father of Mary MacDonald Roussel '89, November 24, 2022.

Jerome Maggiore, father of Joyce Maggiore Shaw '81, March 18, 2023.

Stefan Mannes, father of Doris Mannes Derheimer '79 and Cindy Mannes Trahin '82, January 8, 2023.

Janis Matha, mother of Kristen Matha '03, April 2, 2023.

Edward McAnaney, brother of Sheila McAnaney Kostanecki '61, Kathleen McAnaney Glaser '65, and Maureen McAnaney Mokrzycki '69, uncle of Kim Hexamer Walker '87 and Heidi Hirschle Hexamer '89, December 24, 2022.

George McAndrews, father of Melissa McAndrews McCaulley '91, April 7, 2023.

John McClernon, father of Clare Marie McClernon '12, April 5, 2023.

James McCormick Jr., husband of Elizabeth Eichelberger McCormick '57, February 22, 2023.

Mark McGoldrick, son of Joanne Donohoe McGoldrick '57, December 13, 2022.

Andrew McKenna, father of Suzanne McKenna Sullivan '76, Karen Ann McKenna Sullivan '77, and Mary McKenna Dowdle '86, uncle of Maura McKenna Salter '90, father-in-law of Mary Nash McKenna '80, February 7, 2023.

Joan McLane, mother of Anne McLane Bell '98, January 10, 2023.

Joan Miller, mother of Joanel Miller McKenna '75 and Nancy Miller Daluga '79, grandmother of Mary Rose Daluga '10, February 19, 2023.

FOR THE RECORD

Gina Mitchell, mother of Racquel Sherich Gordon '96, November 1, 2022.

Manuel Morfin, father of Michelle Morfin Wilson '88, February 17, 2023.

Hugh Mulligan, husband of Patricia Doyle Mulligan '53, April 20, 2023.

Christine Murdock, mother of Amy Murdock Roberson '80, March 4, 2023.

Rawson Murdock, father of Amy Murdock Roberson '80, December 30, 2022.

Norbert Murray, father of Kimberly Ann Murray Meek '84 and Colleen Murray McGuigan '90, February 26, 2023.

Robert Murray, father of Cheryl Murray Burke '77, November 29, 2022.

Vito Nigrelli, husband of Vera Victoria Nigrelli '62, January 21, 2023.

Robert O'Connell, father of Heather Hypes O'Bryan '88 and Kathryn Marie O'Connell '02, February 13, 2023.

Bridget O'Connor, mother of Deirdre O'Connor Maisano '94, April 14, 2023.

John O'Gorman, husband of Judith O'Neill O'Gorman '61, December 19, 2022.

John Orel, father of Kimberly Orel Padgen '83, January 3, 2023.

Gabor Oross, father of Susan Oross Wiggins '93, January 8, 2023.

Carol Osmer, mother of Caitlyn Marissa Osmer '12, February 14, 2023.

Thomas Osten, husband of Ann Bergen Osten '66, March 15, 2023.

Steven Palmer, father of Darcey Palmer-Schultz '03, January 25, 2023.

Joseph Pandos, father of Amy Pandos Obman '95, January 3, 2023.

Douglas Parker, father of Amanda Parker Fox '02, April 3, 2023.

Thomas Pellegrino, husband of Susan D. O'Connell '76, February 8, 2023.

Angelo Percich, husband of Mary McCarthy Percich '55, December 23, 2022.

Janet Peterson, mother of Kerry Peterson Leone '93, December 9, 2022.

William Petzak, husband of Catherine Carter Petzak '62, March 23, 2023.

George Pietrzak, father of Rosemary Pietrzak Carter '89, January 31, 2023.

Carol Pirich, mother of Rose Marie Pirich Goger '94, December 15, 2022.

Gregory Plesha, father of Lauren Elizabeth Plesha '22, December 20, 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Rose Anne Schultz '66, CSC

Sister Rose Anne Schultz '66, CSC, passed away on May 17, 2023. She was 89 years old.

Following in the footsteps of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, Sister Rose Anne spent a lifetime in service to her Congregation and her College. She holds the distinction of being the youngest person to serve on the general council of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Her work at Saint Mary's began as the director of administration and mission at the Center for Spirituality, a role she held from 1990 to 1997.

Saint Mary's was one of the first colleges or universities to have a Division for Mission, and in 1994, Sister Rose Anne was asked to become our first vice president for Mission, a position she held until her retirement in 2009. She willingly jumped into uncharted waters and with typical vision and courage created a division that continues to touch the lives of the vast majority of students, faculty, and staff.

She also served on the Saint Mary's Board of Regents as well as the College's Board of Trustees. Her service to the Board of Regents spanned two terms—from 1980 to 1984, then from 1986 to 1994; she served as chair from 1986 to 1990. Sister Rose Anne also served on the Board of Trustees from 2011 to 2015. The College honored her with the President's Medal in 2009. This medal is presented rarely and exclusively to those who have offered exceptional contributions to the life of the College and society.

A deeply spiritual woman, Sister Rose Anne was known for her prayerful life and reverence for the sacred. She had a special interest in liturgical music and religious symbolism. College pilgrimages to El Salvador and Mexico were organized under her leadership and are tangible examples of her belief that we must reach out to those without a voice.

Sister Rose Anne received a Bachelor of Music from Saint Mary's College in 1966 with a minor in secondary education. She went on to receive a master's degree in Religious Education from the University of Detroit in 1971.



Peter Popit, husband of Ellen Hanahue Popit '74, January 15, 2023.

John Porter, husband of Jeanne Murray Porter '49, brother-in-law of Ann Murray O'Neill '54, uncle of Deborah Walker Petersen '66, Ann Fitzgibbons '73, and Joan Fitzgibbons '83, December 12, 2022.

Franklin Proud, father of Sharee Proud Wolff '83, February 19, 2023.

Stanley Raska, father of Rachel Raska Selle '10, February 18, 2023.

JoAnn Reiland, mother of Nanci Reiland '85 and Jennifer Ann Reiland '91, March 24, 2023.

Donald Renard, father of Andrea Renard Goldman '91, March 1, 2023.

Donald Reuvers, father of Kay Reuvers Murphy '91, December 16, 2022.

James Rubino, father of Jaime Rubino Henry '03, October 28, 2022.

Edward Ryan, brother of Ellen Marie Ryan '84, December 29, 2022.

Judith Schafer, mother of Beth Schafer Coyne '99, March 22, 2023.

Theresa Schaub, mother of Catherine Schaub Semancik '98 and Joan Schaub Skipper '03, January 24, 2023.

Richard Scheibelhut, husband of Gail Mottice Scheibelhut '59, December 20, 2022.

Vincent Scheller, husband of Carol O'Brien Scheller '54, December 20, 2022.

Catherine Schmitz, mother of Kristin Schmitz Baker '88, February 21, 2023.

Margaret Shiel, mother of Elizabeth Eileen Shiel '06, February 24, 2023.

Gloria Simony, mother of Christine Marie Simony '79, January 31, 2023.

Devona Slavens, mother of Mary Beth Slavens '99, March 20, 2023.

Matthew Sorensen, husband of Judith Roe Sorensen '84, January 18, 2023.

Charles Stark, father of Elizabeth Stark Pardue '01 and Jennifer Stark Mosher '05, April 5, 2023.

Ruben Stortzum, husband of Julia Dwyer '61, March 12, 2023.

Martin Sullivan, father of Theresa Sullivan Norton '92 and Bridget Mary Sullivan '98, uncle of Eileen Sullivan Peters '95, cousin of Anne Sullivan DePrimio '72 and Mary Sullivan Keller '76, February 9, 2023.

Wilfredo Tiu, father of Maria Tiu Rodell '90, December 5, 2022.

Dale Tschudy, father of Therese Ann Marie Tschudy '09, February 3, 2023.

Richard Was Sr., father-in-law of Kathleen Rose Was '86, February 1, 2023.

Blair Weaver, son of Lisa Blair '92, January 4, 2023.

William Wilson, father of Ann Wilson '89, December 31, 2022.

James Wolfe, father of Kristen Wolfe Theisen '01, February 17, 2023.

Chi-Wood Yuen, father of Janet W. Pang '93, April 10, 2023.

Daniel Zierk, father of Jennifer Zierk Cross '03, September 30, 2022.

Carol Zink, mother of Rebecca Zink Wilson '85, February 3, 2023.

For births and weddings, please visit Baby Belles and Wedding Belles at alumnae.saintmarys.edu

Chicago East

The SMC Chicago East Club has been busier than ever! In 2022 we had record-breaking attendance at our annual Summer Spirits event. We also sent final exam care packages to 23 first-year students that we packed up at our holiday party. Our 2023 lineup includes another Summer Spirits event and the return of our Founders' Day event this fall. We also have quarterly board meetings and happy hour events that are open to all alumnae in the Chicago area. Be sure to check out our Instagram page @smcchicagoeast for the most up-to-date information about upcoming events. Interested in being more involved with our chapter? Send us an email at: smcchicagopresident@gmail.com. We are also looking forward to welcoming our new class of 2022 and 2023 grads!

Chicago South

On April 13, the Chicago South Alumnae Club gathered food and assembled over 200 lunches to be given to those in need through Pro Labore Dei. Every week, this Catholic mission serves families on the South Side of Chicago and southwest suburbs with lunches, groceries, clothing, and spiritual support.



Cincinnati

The Saint Mary's Alumnae Club of Cincinnati wants to reiterate its thanks to **Carrie Orr Chambers '06** for her enthusiastic, creative, and meaningful leadership over the past nine years! Under Carrie's presidency, the Cincinnati Alumnae Club started a partnership with Off the Streets, a home for women transitioning out of human trafficking and prostitution. The Cincinnati Alumnae Club not only brought dinners and provided fellowship with the women, but also raised money for them through the sales of French cross necklaces as well as donations from running the Queen Bee Half Marathon. These events and others raised more than \$10,000 for Off the Streets over the past five years.

As previously reported, the Saint Mary's Cincinnati Alumnae club was also recognized as the Community Volunteers of the Year from Off the Streets and HER Cincinnati. It is very fitting that Carrie accepted the award last winter as the culmination of her outstanding job as the Cincinnati Club president.

Although Carrie's shoes are big ones to fill, we know there are other very creative enthusiastic alumnae out there who can keep the club rolling. If you hear any whispers from the Holy Spirit, possibly calling you to lead our club, please contact **Kacey Schmitt '85** at KCSchmitt4asl@gmail.com, another past Club president. Kacey would love to talk to you. We hope to have some new leadership that we can introduce at our freshman send-off at the beginning of August. Until we meet again, may God hold all the Cincinnati alumnae in the palm of His hands.

Columbus

The Columbus Ohio Alumnae Club has continued its passion for reading and fellowship through a monthly book club led by **Marilyn Messick '69**. If you are in the Columbus area and would like to participate in our book club, please contact Marilyn at marilynmessick@gmail.com. We would also like to thank **Sarah Ryan '89** for contributing two gift baskets from our club to the SMC Moms Weekend Silent Auction! We are always welcoming new members and new ideas for our club fellowship. Please contact **Cindy Finley '92** at cindyafinley@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining the Columbus Area SMC Alumnae Club.

LA/Orange County

The LA/OC Club continues with the usual activities; check the website for ornament info and events: <https://www.saintmaryslaclub.com/> or check us out on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/saintmaryslaclub/>

In this news, we highlight our service and collaboration in LA and the ornament project. The Los Angeles Alumnae Club works with the Brother André Outreach Center at Saint Agnes Parish in East LA. Saint Agnes school was staffed by Sisters of the Holy Cross for many decades, and in the '80s they opened and operated the Brother André Center through 2021. Father Luis Espinoza, the pastor, joined us for the 2022 Founders' Day Mass at the home of **Lucy Dagiau '83** and her husband Bob. The club worked with the center's volunteer Director Maria Ahumada at Christmas when alumnae sponsored families whose needs were identified by the center. The project was very rewarding, and the club plans to continue the sponsorship annually. The club also supports an Amazon gift registry for the center that provides daily necessities for the center to distribute to its clients. This year's Christmas ornament is on sale at the bookstore and through the club website. We gathered on April 1 to quality inspect, stuff, and prepare the ornaments for mailing. The ornament this year is the Church of Our Lady of Loretto with the stained-glass window. It is fantastic!

Pittsburgh

Nora Barry Fischer '73 and Dr. Don Fischer graciously hosted the Saint Mary's Club of Pittsburgh at the Pittsburgh Golf Club in April. We were able to hear remarks from our esteemed Saint Mary's President Dr. Katie Conboy during the event. Dr. Conboy shared a vibrant picture of current campus culture and a hopeful vision of where Saint Mary's is heading. Nearly 75 people were in attendance and it was a great evening to catch up with so many local alumnae.



Toledo, OH

In December, the Toledo Alumnae Club gathered for our annual Advent Mass and Brunch. We went to Mass at the Historic Church of Saint Patrick and then enjoyed brunch together at Manhattan's. If you would like to get more involved with the Toledo Alumnae Club, please contact **Elizabeth Munger '12** and **Toni Marsteller '13** at SMCclubtoledo@gmail.com. We hope to see you at a future event!



Twin Cities

After a brief hiatus, the Twin Cities Alumnae Club is back! **Kate Lohmuller Decker '05** and **Emily Arnold Schmidt '08** will be spearheading events in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area for all Saint Mary's alumnae to meet, mingle and network. If you're interested in receiving information from the club, please reach out to SMCtwincitiesalum@gmail.com



Connect and Serve With the Alumnae Association

The Alumnae Association Board of Directors (AABOD) designs and promotes opportunities for alumnae to connect with each other and Saint Mary's College. The AABOD programs provide a variety of continuing ways for alumnae of all ages and class years to get involved with Saint Mary's.

There are many opportunities for alumnae to connect: both in-person through Reunion and Alumnae Clubs/Affinity Groups, and virtually through programs such as SMC Talks, Spirituality Hours, and Club Leader Chats, among others. These

programs are part of the AABOD's mission and have been greatly expanded over the past several years. This work evolved through the COVID-19 pandemic and later to include more alumnae. More information about AABOD programs is available on alumnae.saintmarys.edu.

To continue and expand this work, we are recruiting diverse voices to the AABOD. Alumnae are encouraged to apply for the Alumnae Association Board of Directors if they want to get more involved. Each year, new members are selected for the

AABOD and serve three-year terms (with the option for a second term after three years).

With new members, we have to say goodbye to those whose terms have ended. This year, three directors have left after making enormous contributions to the lives of our College. **Denise Malley Coyle '75, Jennifer Winnett Denniston '98, and Meganne Hoffman Brezina '03** (pictured with President Katie Conboy), along with **Cristina Posadas '11** will be missed.



CLASS NEWS

Thank you for sharing your news with us and for participating in our dynamic alumnae community. As a rule, we do not moderate Class News. This section is intended to be an avenue for self-reporting of life occurrences. The content or positions of these submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the College, the Office of Alumnae Relations, or the Courier staff.

1952

Marilyn Dargis Ambrose
mambrose2@sbglobal.net

I only got one response to my request for info for this *Courier* issue due April 2023. We're all in our early 90s and sometimes quite hard to respond. Quite understandable. **Sister M. Emily Demuth, CSC**, writes: "Other than continuing with many spiritual opportunities for the Lenten season, I have become a member of the Laudato Si' Implementation Committee at Saint Mary's. This is an international endeavor for all of Holy Cross, and I serve on the committee for North America. It is a privilege and a challenge. I also serve on the board of the Clinical Pastoral Educators of the Central Valley in Fresno, CA. And we are now celebrating our 10-year anniversary and have planned a celebration for it."

Our last *Courier* had several articles about our class. Sadly, we had the largest number of deaths in the Class of '52 since the last issue—six. Thinking in a positive manner, what a joyous reunion in heaven that must have been with **Joyce McMahon Hank, Juanita Boozer Bay, Nancy Hutchison Newton, Kathleen Smith Schaffer, Annemarie Matt Seidler, and Joyce Dyckes Slavsky** all gathering together in their heavenly home. Don't you sometimes wonder what that will be like? I certainly am, as I'm writing this on Palm Sunday at the start of Holy Week.

I sent a Mass card to Juanita's family and received a heartfelt response from one of her daughters. She said that she and another daughter, brother and grandchild were able to join Juanita back in 2007 when Saint Mary's honored her as the first African American graduate from the college. As a student then, did you know this? Juanita led a roundtable discussion on African American trailblazers in post-war America. Juanita said she recalled her experience on campus was difficult sometimes, but she always valued the education she received and encouraged all her family to share in her lifelong love of learning. She died at her home in Haliburton, Ontario, Canada.

Joyce Hank died in her home in Minnetonka, MN. When she arrived at Saint Mary's in 1948, she saw carved words in Le Mans Hall from John saying,

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," which impressed her enough to pursue her degree in philosophy. She and her husband were unwavering in their generosity to their alma maters—Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, often anonymously. I vividly recall Joyce asking me to accept our class award at Reunion for largest class donor, saying she had to leave early yet we all knew it was her very large donation that put us in that position. Naively, I expressed our gratitude and only when I walked off the stage did I read the inscription, which was my name. I said to the vice president there was a mistake—she said, no—Joyce wanted it that way.

And life goes on for me. Heavy rains and cold prevailed all last month, but the sun is now shining. My garden is an ocean of radiant colors in full bloom. I continue being a lector and eucharistic minister at my local parish. During this past Holy Week, many are involved in the liturgies. It seems people are hungering for meaning in their lives and I see a "return to the fold" trend. This Easter morn, several of my family followed our Lithuanian traditions by coloring eggs, with the more artistic ones drawing unique designs. Value of family passes down generations.

Life, Love, Peace

1954

Bernice Boucher Hopp
2735A Marquette Manor West Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-875-1082
jim-bernice@att.net

Spring greetings to the Class of 1954. Sixty-nine years ago, we were intently preparing for comps and were eagerly awaiting our graduating morning.

Last December, **Marlene Gaubinger Durkin** wrote, "We have been fortunate to have our two annual family gatherings, a camping trip in Gainesville, FL, in January, and a fishing tournament every June in Sarasota, FL. We have at least 30 at each event. In January, our granddaughter is being married in Atlanta, GA. My 90th birthday is due in March 2023, and I hear whisperings that plans for a celebration are underway." Marlene relates that they stay busy at John Knox and have the whole range of medical appointments expected at our age.

Lorraine Nigro Cervanyk also wrote in December 2022. It was a difficult year for her. One of her sons died. Also in August she had COVID even though she had had all the shots. The retirement center in which she resides, Lakeview, experienced a breakout of COVID. Lorraine and **Betty Galloway** enjoy phone visits. Betty is still enjoying life in her own home. She no longer drives, but has several helpful friends.

Carol O'Brien Scheller wrote of the death of her beloved husband Vincent Joseph Scheller at home in Westfield, IN, on December 20, 2022. Vince was 94 at the time of his death. Vince and Carol had been married 65 years and had five living children, three sons and two daughters, and one deceased son, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Vince graduated from Cathedral High School and Purdue University. He was a mechanical engineer. Years ago, Vince went out to pick up his morning paper, slipped on ice, became an invalid. Carol provided extraordinary care for him. A Mass of Christian Burial took place in Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

I had cataract surgery in January and am still wearing the special glasses. Hope to discard glasses later this month following many appointments. I, too, experienced a mild case of COVID early in January. Recall flu days at Saint Mary's. A roommate or friend carried a tray to your room for you! Recovery with aspirin occurred.

Thank you for writing. Please write news for the next issue of *Courier*.

1955

Maureen Sullivan
(248) 458-1999
maureen98@msn.com

I spoke with **Shirley Wagner Van Devere**. They were able to purchase a new living accommodation in Fort Myers, FL, after their former home was destroyed by the hurricane. Happily, they were able to

spend the winter there enjoying the warm weather and their other snowbird friends. She had a nice family celebration for her 90th birthday while there.

I have spoken with **Barbara Bridgman O'Connor**, who tells me she is doing most all the things she enjoys doing only at a slower pace. Good for her! In my conversations with **Frances Clohessy Spillane** we reminisce about the good old days and have some good laughs. We were both disappointed we were unable to get together in Florida this year.

Shirley Dyckes Kelley is enjoying her new residence in Florida and keeps very busy with a variety of activities.

I had a wonderful and surprise email around St. Patrick's Day from **Nancy Cole Hodapp**, who currently lives in the Grand Rapids, MI, area. What a blessing it was, and I was able to follow up with a nice phone conversation with her. I hope to visit her sometime this summer after I get settled in a new place back in the Detroit, MI, area. After college, Nancy taught school and was married for 54 years before her husband died about 10 years ago. They had three girls and six grandchildren.

Unfortunately, their eldest daughter and two of her four children were killed in an automobile accident in Hastings, MI, on April 3, 1991. The two remaining children were raised by an aunt and uncle. They are now in their 30s. In 2007, Nancy and her husband moved to Grand Rapids after she survived breast cancer to be closer to one of their daughters and her family. She has some very productive children and grandchildren: a promising cartoonist and writer and a distinguished artist at Grand Valley State University. One daughter is the office manager for a fulfillment company and another daughter is a professor of practice at the University of Nebraska teaching grad students all about speech pathology and traumatic brain injury. Nancy enjoys living in her condo with her cat and although she can still drive she enjoys being driven for shopping excursions by her daughter Linda. She reports that there is so much more she could add as she believes she has had a full and interesting life and thanks God every day for where she is now. God bless you, Nancy! She says she looks forward to the *Courier* column and is truly saddened at the deaths of her classmates. She reports that she could put a face to nearly all classmates if given a name. Good for you, Nancy; that's more than I could do.

Well, I hope some of you can follow Nancy's lead and surprise me with a nice long email or phone call. We would all be very happy to reconnect with our classmates. So, "until we meet again" in *Courier*, take care and God bless you, each and every one.

1956

Joan Mette Reddy
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Dear Classmates,

Unfortunately, we are at an age when our biggest news often is tinged with sadness. Such is the case of **Gayle Baumer Foy**. Gayle's husband Dave died in July. She says: "We had a wonderful celebration of Dave's life." Ten of their children, their wives and

husbands, and 17 of their grandchildren came from all over the country.

In November, Gayle was diagnosed with serious back trouble (bursitis of the hip), but she is doing much better nowadays. However, she notes, "Guess no dancing for the future." Dancing may be out, but she and six of her daughters are planning a trip up the Danube in May. Gayle has one granddaughter **Lucille Semler '20**, who is a Saint Mary's graduate and works as a nurse in Indianapolis. Gayle ends her note with "Love to all. May we grow old gracefully."

Marilyn Minch Weber, whose husband died in 2021, writes of her loneliness without him, but she also says that she is doing well. She is very active in playing the piano. Marilyn's daughter and husband are musical performers who are out every weekend, and she often leaves the house to see them perform.

Angela Griner Fealy is not as active as Marilyn. She has a health problem that keeps her home. She fills her time with reading, doing puzzles, and watching TV. She lives with two of her daughters who care for her. "A son lives down the street and is on call if needed. Life is good."

I would agree with Angela that life is good. It just has changed. Husband John and I still live in the house we bought almost 50 years ago. We have thought about moving into older people's independent living, but we find it very difficult to make the move. We are now thinking about hiring some extra help in addition to the traditional maid and lawn services.

We are still very interested in the theater. I had to give up the idea of trying out for parts. (I had my last role about four years ago in the farce *Leading Ladies*.) I think my memory might hold out, but I doubt that the energy would. I still volunteer to usher for the five productions our community theater does each year. But my ushering is definitely limited to one or two matinee performances for each play.

I also do limited volunteer work as a lector for our parish's Masses. I find it very rewarding. Preparing for reading at a Mass really helps me understand and experience what is happening on the altar.

I know that **Carolyn Greives Kelley** is in much the same situation as John and I are. She finds it difficult to move from a longtime residence in suburban Boston. When I bring up the subject of moving, she says, "I am working on it. I don't want to talk about it now." She keeps busy communicating with others via the computer. One of her communicators is a Zoom book club. She was so enthusiastic about the club that I joined it. I attended my first meeting on April 22.

When I spoke to **Louise Warnicke Renault**, it was during a move to a senior independent living facility that is about four miles from her present condo in suburban Tucson. The move had been delayed because of COVID cases among the relatives who were helping with the move. (Louise caught COVID herself.) There were no serious cases, and the move was continuing. Louise will be able to continue to enjoy the pleasures of the Tucson area, like the symphony, museums, etc.

Remember three dates: August 1, December 1, and April 1! Those are your deadlines for the news of the Class of '56. You don't have to wait until then.

EXCELSIOR

Rita Hasley '56 was presented with the Unsung Hero Award at the annual Obama Democrat Dinner in Fort Wayne, IN. This award recognizes Rita for her dedicated volunteer work in Allen County.

1957

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On this cold but sunny March day, I am warmed by rereading Christmas cards and emails. Sam and **Rosemary Knope Trippe** again gave me reason to smile. You may recall that Rosemary was willing and able to be at our 65th Reunion but declined when she found no one could join her. They did get to Sam's 65th class reunion at the Naval Academy in May, but even that memorable event must have been upstaged by their 65th wedding anniversary in July. This occasion was celebrated with "all the bells and whistles" and attended by their five children, spouses, children, and grandchildren. An archway of American flags held by their seven grandsons created a dramatic entrance for the honored couple. I wish I could share the priceless pictures of the whole group!

Another 65th wedding anniversary was celebrated in June by Dr. Paul and **Sallie Costa Ineich**. Their party in their longtime hometown of Jacksonville, IL, was shared by their two children, four grandchildren, and their great-granddaughter.

Another card with an amazing photo was from **Mary Kathryn Carroll Hartigan**, taken with her granddaughter Mary Carol Madigan at Mary Carol's June wedding. After the holidays, Mary Kathryn shared a very interesting article printed in the Winter 2021-22 issue of *Notre Dame Magazine*, titled "The Women of Past Presence." It is a fascinating account of the very important role the Holy Cross sisters played in Notre Dame's early history and the lack of recognition they have received from the university. Believe me, it's worth searching for!

I was happy to receive **Pat Bauervic Leonard's** card from snowy Michigan and **Mary Comisky Riley's** from the opposite weather zone—Scottsdale, AZ, both mentioning the importance of staying in touch.

A nice collage of photos accompanied Dan and **Pat Peterson Huber's** Christmas letter from Lake Forest, IL. Happily, their three children still live near

them, although their grandchildren are growing up and starting their careers in various places. Thankfully, the three youngest are still in grade/high school in the area and are more available.

Just before Christmas, the *Chicago Tribune* carried death notices of two classmates. First was **Anita Martin Olsen**, who some knew as Bobbie. Anita came from Chicago's South Side, attending the Academy of Our Lady with others in our class. She graduated from Marquette, transferring after freshman year. Anita and her late husband Robert Olsen raised their five children in Northbrook, IL, where she was an active volunteer and worked at the library for over 25 years.

Also, in December I saw the death notice of **Kathleen (Kay) O'Toole**. Kay came from Chicago's western suburbs and remained in the area. She left after sophomore year but always remained loyal to the College and the friends she made. **Julie Dittoe Schmidlin** reminded me that she roomed with Kay and **Mary Camblin Crean** sophomore year.

It was through Julie that I learned of the September death of Thomas Jacobs (ND '57), husband of **Charlotte Lepetit Jacobs**. In addition to Charlotte, who he met the first week of our freshman year, he is survived by their four children and families, including nine grandchildren.

Also in December, **Jody Donohoe McGoldrick** contacted me with the shocking news that her son Mark T. McGoldrick (ND '78) died in his sleep. Mark and his wife Carolyn were business owners in the health care field. In addition to Carolyn, he is survived by their two daughters, Erin (recent graduate of TCU, teaching in the Bronx) and Holly (sophomore at Boston College), and his five siblings and their supportive families.

The "For the Record" section of the Fall/Winter *Courier* mentioned the April 2022 death of Raymond Robert (Bob) Dolan (ND '55), husband of our **Carol Williams Dolan**. The Dolans raised their seven children in Oklahoma City, OK. My sympathy to Carol, Charlotte, and Jody and all those whose losses are unknown to me.

Next came the sad news of the January 21 death of **Margaret (Peggy) Maher Engler**. Peggy died in Charlotte, NC, after a long illness. She was predeceased by her husband John C. Engler, but is survived by their four children: David, **Kathleen Engler Malone '82**, Steven, and Father Chapin (you may have seen his weekly TV ministry *Daily Living*). Also surviving are their eight grandchildren and her sister **Ann Maher Lee '62**. As a music major, Peggy shared her considerable talents at the piano and composition with all of us. We can picture her at the piano in the Rec, keeping the fun going with singing, sometimes related to our hometowns around the country. Post college, she had her own children's TV show *Peggy's Magic Train* and continued to volunteer and entertain at her children's schools.

In response to my email about Peggy's death, I heard from **Nancy Mack Gallivan**, with news of her own loss. Her husband of 65 years, Dr. William (Bill) Gallivan died January 14. Nancy shared her

wonderful story of meeting Bill on the El Capitan train on her way to South Bend for freshman year (with her mother and fellow classmate **Ann Birmingham Rosedale**). Bill was on his way to St. Louis for medical school. After graduation, he returned to California during Nancy's senior year at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles and they "renewed their acquaintance." Their family includes seven children, 26 grandchildren, and seven "grands." Thanks to Nancy for sharing this romantic story and her sorrow.

This is a good time to remind those of you not getting my emails that our annual Mass for the intention of our deceased members was March 29. We have been together in prayer across the miles since 2016 on the last Wednesday of March, at the good suggestion of **Julie Bohan Allen**.

This was on my mind when **Mary Jo Cleary Maddux** called to tell me of the February 22 death of James (Jim) H. McCormick, husband of our **Bane Eichelberger McCormick**. (I promised I would not say Elizabeth Jane.) Jim died at home in Sherwood Forest, MD, near where they raised their four children, and enjoyed all the water sports and boating available on Chesapeake Bay. In addition to Bane, Jim is survived by their seven grandchildren; our sympathy to all.

February 23 was the One Day, One Saint Mary's Donor Challenge. A big thank you to all! We really came through! I just wish they would show the class rankings by the percentages instead of number of contributors. As we all know, we are dwindling in numbers!



Mary Ann O'Loughlin Szydlowski and Irene O'Leary Van Beckum enjoying a visit in sunny Florida.

I have heard that two among us have met in sunny Florida for a meal or two and, we know, lots of laughs! Larry and **Mary Ann O'Loughlin Szydlowski** and **Irene O'Leary Van Beckum** were enjoying Marco Island and the pleasure of reminiscing.

I'm happy to close this column with **Maureen Butler O'Malley's** account of her recent (9/11/22-12/11/22) trip to Ireland. As Maureen said, "After four trips to Ireland, seeing the country, I wanted to go and just be there. It was a grand adventure! My hub was Dublin and half of my time was spent in the town of Boyle, County Roscommon. My great-grandparents Butler had come from there to South Bend in 1862. Unexpectedly, mid-way, seven of my family came over for two weeks." Maureen, we are delighted you shared this great experience!

1959

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You may have read of the death of two of our classmates in "For the Record" in the Fall/Winter 2022 *Courier*. **Nancy Olsak Southworth** passed away on May 3, 2022. She was a lifelong Cleveland and career educator, retiring from the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities in 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband James and leaves behind three children and eight grandchildren.

Mary Ann Sonntag O'Donnell passed away peacefully on April 28, 2022. She was preceded in death by two grandchildren and is survived by her husband James, four children, and seven grandchildren. Mary Ann married Jim O'Donnell, following her freshman year at Saint Mary's, and moved to Germany. After many more moves, they settled in Roswell, GA, in 1974, then a tiny outpost of Atlanta. According to her obituary, she was a talented seamstress, creating and altering formalwear for many brides in the Roswell area.

I received an obituary from **Betsy Finneran Kennedy** for **Dr. Rosemary Doheny Weller**, who passed away on February 11, 2023. Rosie joined the Gallaudet University faculty in the late 1960s and taught there for over 40 years. Earlier in her career, she was a high school teacher and debate coach. In retirement, she edited the Ft. Washington, MD, community newsletter and served as an usher at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., for almost 20 years. She was predeceased by her husband of 54 years Joseph and is survived by one son and a granddaughter.

Also heard from **Sally Porth Brown** that her nursing classmate **Elizabeth Mahler Keenan** of Springfield, VA, passed away on March 11, 2023, of cancer. Preceded in death by one granddaughter, she is survived by her husband of 63 years Michael Keenan, six children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. After earning her nursing degree from Saint Mary's College, she met her future husband, a graduate student at Notre Dame, while she was employed as a nurse in South Bend. She returned to her nursing profession when her youngest child started school and served as a nurse at Arlington Hospital for 19 years and the Casey Clinic in Alexandria, VA, until her retirement in September 2001. Please remember Nancy, Mary Ann, Rosemary, and Liz in your prayers.

Sally writes that she is once again involved in theatre production in her retirement community with sold-out performances of *Fiddler on the Roof*. I had a nice phone conversation with **Carol Podesta Foley** after the holidays. She and Brian are settled in their "retirement cottage" in Lake Forest, IL. They have one married grandchild and two will marry this year. No greats yet. Because of damage caused by Hurricane Ian, they were unable to rent a place

in Boca Grande, FL, this winter, as is their custom. **Mary Moran Smith** writes all is well in Arizona. "I'm still hosting Christmas dinner but only have to do the main dish—nice! The rest comes from the guests." **Rosie Mudd Nickodemus** is living a full life in Saginaw, MI. She swims, walks, reads, sings, and works on puzzles...big, complicated puzzles! She had house guests for six months, while her daughter and husband built a house nearby. "I miss my dear friend **Mary Ann Chaplicki Devoe**, but I stay in touch with **Marybeth Schaeffer Conroy**. It's hard to believe that God has blessed me with so much these 85 years." She laments that only two of her 15 grandchildren are married but is enjoying the three greats they have given her. **Betsy Finneran Kennedy** writes, "All is well with the Kennedys. We finally have the first grandchildren's weddings next summer. I do want a great-grandchild before I croak."

Received a long newsy Christmas letter from **Rose Marie "Cass" Cassmeyer Hutches** with a beautiful picture of her surrounded by her beautiful therapy collies: Molly, Lordy, Sir Prize, and Smokey Blue. Fibber, her special pet and companion of nine years passed away suddenly in May—a terrible loss that she is still dealing with. In 2022, Cass celebrated the birth of her second great-grandchild and a granddaughter's wedding that was cancelled twice because of the pandemic. She underwent a much-needed knee replacement, postponed several times because of suspected dental problems that turned out to be non-existent. This was followed by a valve replacement and pacemaker surgery. "Looks like I'm working on being the bionic woman: eyeglasses, hearing aids, one fake knee with another to come, and a pacemaker. However, I do still have all my own teeth even if most of them have fillings." I received another newsy Christmas letter with photos from **Pat Wilson Fastiggi**. She took several trips around the country to visit friends and relatives "because she could." There was a family reunion in July with almost all the immediate family. "I had cataract surgery in July also. Interesting what happened to my color sensing. Everything is so much brighter. I probably would have opted for a different color for the geraniums at my back door if I had bought them after the surgery."

Life is full here in California for Gerry and me. With six children and their spouses, 22 grandchildren (nine are married), and nine great-grandchildren... life is very full. We will celebrate another grandchild's marriage and welcome two more greats in 2023. Gerry underwent emergency spinal surgery six days after Christmas but has fully recovered thanks to a very skilled surgeon whose PA (physician's assistant) is our granddaughter Haley Ann. We have done little or no travel since the beginning of the pandemic but traveled to Florida for Easter to spend time with our youngest daughter in Naples and my sister **Betty Benford Belfiore**, who lives in Venice. Two years ago our kids gave each of us a writing program called Storyworth for our 60th anniversary. We spent that time writing our life stories and they were published in hard-covered books along with photos by Storyworth at the end of 2022. Each child and grandchild received a copy this Christmas. It was a very satisfying experience once we got going, so I highly recommend you check it out: hello@storyworth.com. I play pickleball five days a week

and Gerry plays the piano and spends hours on his computer—capped off with cocktails at 5:00 p.m. and then to dinner that I don't have to cook!

You know where I am. Let me hear from you!

1961

Wini Tennis Kristufek
lakelady29297@gmail.com

Pat Kelley Baker sent a recap of her life since graduation. She attended the Radcliffe Publishing Procedures Course and thus began her life in publishing—first as a designer at Little, Brown, and Company in Boston, then in advertising at Sunset Books in Menlo Park, CA, and finally closing her career as executive editor at Hoover Press at Stanford University. She served 35 years as a volunteer docent at the Stanford Art Museum (now Cantor Arts Center), specializing in prints and works on paper. Her husband Norman and she lived on the San Francisco peninsula in Los Altos Hills and have a daughter, a son, and three granddaughters. When it was time, they sold their home and moved to a nearby retirement community. Norman has since passed away. Pat continues to enjoy a full life in her apartment at the Terraces at Los Altos, dabbling in art, calligraphy, and other creative endeavors, taking daily walks at the Baylands Nature Preserve at the foot of San Francisco Bay, playing friendly games of poker and Rummikub, reading selections for two book clubs, and enjoying new and ongoing long-time friendships. Her family lives mostly in California, so they are able to visit fairly frequently.

An email from **Cathy Biley Wright** reported she had her right shoulder replaced in January. She is working on getting her strength back and is blessed to have a clean bill of health. Cathy treasures her time at Saint Mary's and her friends from school. They are a blessing.

Sandy Graham Bartlett emailed they had taken the giant step of moving into assisted living. It was just in time as Bill's Parkinson's suddenly got worse and he is in a wheelchair. The staff treat them like they are their grandparents. They enjoy their time with their two new great-grandsons: one born the end of September, the other the middle of November.

Sad news from **Sherry Reardon Gibbons**, who reported that John, her husband of 60 years, passed in January. It was a blessing that their seven children and all 21 grandchildren were able to be there for his funeral.

Jean Lucey Easterly continues in her role as faith formation coordinator at All Saints Church in Hayward, CA. Jean loves teaching Bible studies, teaching RCIA candidates, and preparing children to receive their first reconciliation and holy communion. She also continues writing introductions for first and second Sunday readings. Over the years they have provided a context and get parishioners ready to hear the readings. Jean enjoys coordinating events for the entire parish. She has served as a lector since 1974.

Mary Ellen Carroll Convery was celebrating the removal of the cast from her broken right wrist. She also wrote of the picture their daughter took of Mary Ellen and husband Tom, which her friend said was of true love after 62 years of marriage.

Mary Ellen Berry Malone would like to visit with anyone who has had experience with Parkinson's. She has it and would like to learn of the experiences of others with the disease. Her email is dolly5@airmail.net.

An email from **Cee Cee Grimes Van Hecke** reported she has been working as the receptionist at her parish church for the last 35 years. She loves getting up and going out to help people. When the phone rings, she never knows who will be on the other end—an old friend, a priest who has moved, a parishioner she knows, or even someone she doesn't know.

Cee Cee is in touch with her roommate and friend **Nancy Grimes Rudge**. They talk on the phone often and are able to visit once in a while. She also talks to **Liddy Nash Schwartz**. Cee Cee stays busy keeping up with her seven children and 20 grandchildren. The grands are from age 32 years to 18 months and are living all over the country—North Carolina, Wisconsin, Utah, Colorado, Missouri, California, as well as there in Illinois. She loves crocheting, reading, belonging to a book club, and taking Renaissance classes. She also enjoys meeting for coffee weekly with her girlfriends.

More sad news came from **Meg Scott O'Neill**. Her husband Dan O'Neill (ND '60) passed away on April 12 after many long years of dealing valiantly with dystonia/spasmodic torticollis.

News from **Judy Halter Enright** told of her granddaughter Rose Enright, a senior at ND, who is in charge of a radio station they have. She and four girls from SMC run a radio show called "*Cheaper by the Cousin*." The SMC girls are Class of 2025's **Kitty Enright** (another granddaughter) and **Maggie Hansen, Tess Diamond '23**, and Class of 2026's **Phoebe Diamond**. "*Cheaper by the Cousin*" is done through the WVFI radio station, which is in the Duncan Student Center. Rose and Kitty are both on the board of the station; Rose is the station manager, and Kitty is the arts director. It is an internet-only station, so the show is aired on wvfi.nd.edu Monday nights at 7 p.m. ET. They have a different theme every week and typically the show is half talk show, half music. Although Rose told Judy that it's mainly the cousins laughing at their own jokes!

Rose also went to Padua, Italy, over spring break. The trip was funded by a grant from Notre Dame's de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture at Notre Dame. She received the grant for two reasons. The first was to study how artistic depictions of St. Anthony of Padua evolved over time and how that evolution indicates how the Catholic Church's relationship with saints has changed over time. The second reason was to make a pilgrimage to Padua for the Easter Triduum.

Diane Crowley sent word that she and husband George Hano spend the summer in New Hampshire, where they both are active in the

lifelong learning program at Dartmouth College. In the winter they are in Aiken, SC, a lovely Southern town overflowing with former Yankees who play golf or ride horses. (We no longer do either.) George has three sons, D-I-L's, and grandchildren living in Boston suburbs, so they see them often during the summer. A must-do is a multi-generation lobster dinner in Gloucester. Her two sons are in the Atlanta (John Ratkowski) and Washington, D.C., (Pat Ratkowski and family) areas, so they see them when they transition between north and south, and whenever else it's possible. She went with John, Pat and family, and loved ones to France last spring, where they stayed at very different, but delightful, VBOs in Brittany, Bordeaux, and Paris. Granddaughter Ally Ratkowski-Howe will be graduating from Cornell University in May, so a trip to Ithaca (and a stay at another VBO) with a family celebration is in the near future.

Thank you to all who answered my request for news. It was great to hear from you. My next deadline is August 1, 2023.

1963

Gail M. Donovan
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Sad news to report for our summer column in *Courier*. We lost two fine members of our class in early February—**Sally O'Connor Fallon** and **Arline Hagan Saturdayborn**. Both women were hailed in local papers for their significant impact on their communities in Marion, MA, and Portland, ME.

No cause of death was noted in Sally's obituary, but **Mary Ann Boyle** told me that Sally had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma several years ago. A biology major in her undergraduate years, Sally put her expertise to good use throughout her adult years, teaching, developing new coursework in the marine sciences, mentoring students and colleagues, and earning a second master's degree in education from Harvard in her 60s. She was blessed—having not just one love of her life, but two—marrying Richard "Dick" Arthur several years after Jim Fallon's unexpected death. Sally loved to watch people's reactions when she noted how many children composed their extended family. I think I heard 12 at one point.

Arline's booming voice and her "reminders of how amazing it is that we get to be alive" were noted by her daughter Caitie Whelan. A multifaceted educator, Arline was once governess to Attorney General Robert Kennedy's children (1963-64, a tremendously momentous year, as you will remember), and she swam in the Amazon River to celebrate her 81st birthday. Having recently undergone cancer treatment, Arline died from complications of COVID-19, despite being fully vaccinated, boosted, and careful around others. Right up to the end, Arline was organizing all the details that were involved in her ESL classes for immigrants, her yoga classes "for ordinary people" reluctant to wear the usual gear, and her training programs in *Sustainable Compassion* for professionals in the helping professions. Decades ago, Arline and

I were classmates together at the Harvard Ed School, and years later she called teaching one of the best things that ever happened to her. At this April deadline for *Courier*, I am looking forward to a Portland event celebrating Arline's life on June 24.

Let's salute these friends and their lives of contribution, and quietly pledge to make the most of time remaining to us. Please send me news of your doings!

EXCELSIOR

Mary Kean Coffey '63 was inducted posthumously into her high school's Hall of Honor to recognize her life of service and remarkable accomplishments.

1964

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Dear Class(y) Ladies,

Kathy Cullinan Seggerson and her husband John did a Rick Steves tour of the Peloponnesian Peninsula and a land/sea Footsteps of St. Paul tour. They also visited Austin, TX, to visit the LBJ and George Bush libraries and to see their daughters in Santa Barbara and Zurich.

Sue Shalgos Wolsfeld, Bobbye Borchers Flecker, Mary Kay Brady Turner, Angie Braunstein Maher, Joanne Casellini Kelly, and **Linda Camiller Sanderson** reunited at Sue's winter home in Scottsdale, AZ. It began with a Neil Berg's *50 Years of Rock and Roll* and ended with a plaque to Sue that said: "The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been, and the memories we have made along the way!"

Nan Tomshack Tulchinsky retired after 30 years as the official scorer for ND men's and women's basketball...now she is a fan. She can cheer and clap for the home Irish, she can sing the alma mater. Also, she is a tour guide for the Basilica at ND and runs a food pantry. At 80, she is grateful to be able to do these things.

Kay Christenson Janiszewski visited cousins in Phoenix, where she thoroughly enjoyed the two museums there, was thrilled with the Grand Canyon, and colors of Sedona. She recently saw *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Richard Thomas and was reduced to tears three times. **Mary Beth Allen Sweeney's** daughter Maureen needs healing prayers. **Sally Diggles Muller** says: "A lot of us need acceptance prayers for our ailments and the grace to live each day in gratitude."

Maria Mazza Kompare and her husband are living vicariously through their children's trips and marvel at the activities and drama of grandchildren between 10-25.

Marianne Elliott Morin's brother Tom, who was a Holy Cross priest for 56 years, passed away. The whole family spent time at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame and walked Tom to his final resting place on ND's campus. May he rest in peace.

Hope you and your families are well.

Hope, Peace, Joy!

1965

Sheila Kelly Ames
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Janie Groskopf Voll wrote of her enjoyable mini-reunion. "Merry Christmas **Lil Chard Beshel** and Happy Birthday! Because of your ever-diligent birthday greetings, I contacted **Nancy Wagner LaValle** while in NYC for my own 50th wedding anniversary. We had a wonderful lunch and visit at the NYAC. Thank you and blessings in '23." Nothing



Jane Groskopf Voll (left) and Nancy Wagner LaValle

like a quick mini-reunion at Christmastime between two old friends.

A travel update from **Mary Delaney Willer**. This is a trip that I myself had always dreamed of taking, but never did so, and I found this fascinating. "I was fortunate to have had two wonderful trips in the last few months. I was to go to Egypt in March of 2020 and of course the world shut down. So, this is a three-year-delayed trip. I was a world history teacher so I had wanted to go to Egypt, but other travel plans got in the way over the years. I went on this trip with Road Scholar Travel Adventures. I cannot say enough good things about them. It is a very educational trip, which is what I had wanted, but physically demanding. There were 18 of us to begin with, but COVID took down four. The first day we arrived we did everything that I think I taught. After a 14-hour flight, five hours of sleep, we went to the pyramids at Giza, camel riding, the Egyptian museum and King Tut artifacts, and ended the day with a lecture on the Nile (and everyone was falling



Mary Delaney Willer

asleep). So, I was wondering what are we going to do the next 13 days? Well, we were trying to understand 3,000 years of Egyptian history, so there was much to do. Probably the highlight of our trip was a visit to the Valley of the Kings. We also did a four-night cruise on the Nile. To join our cruise, we had to get up at 2:00 a.m. to take a flight to Luxor, very tiring. But the sights stir your spirit. The weather was perfect. One of our final destinations was the temples of Ramses II in Abu Simbel, a world heritage site. It was a trip of a lifetime. My February trip to London was with two of my sons and families. We went to a Leyton Orient football (soccer) game of which my son owns part interest. And they won! Sunday we did black cab four-hour tours of London, which was great, and Sunday night went to a play in the West End. Now I'm home resting." What an adventure!

Ladies, not to sound like a broken record, but if you change your email, please let me know. We are missing a number of classmates due to incorrect email addresses. Thank you.

1966

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COVID kept many of us apart from family, friends, and classmates. During this time, many classmates

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reached out to fellow classmates by phone, text or Zoom. **Christine Nichols Donohue** sent a note thanking **Carol Senda Damaso** for organizing a number of Zoom reunions of roommates. Roommates and friends included **Pat Guccione Conway, Ronnie Henahan Hagerty, Ellen DeRaedt Hoover, Mary Fran Petricca Gleason, Pam Smith Malone, and Shelia Beirne Conry.** Pam and Pat live in Nashville while Mary Fran and Carol are a few miles apart in Scottsdale. Christine loved the conversations, the laughs, and the wonderful connections with good friends.

Barbara Borchers Bernath wrote from Charlotte that she meets with **Carla Johnson Lewis** and **Elaine Amann Mayeux** regularly. They would meet for birthdays at a golf club where they all belong. In addition, they see each other with their husbands and on special girl time. With the intervening COVID years, the group has grown to include a younger Saint Mary's graduate, a friend whose daughter went to Saint Mary's, and a few friends with a Notre Dame connection.

Barbara and her husband Mike (ND '66) traveled to South Pasadena, CA, recently to visit their middle son and his family. As a side tour, they hiked Joshua Tree National Park. They found the scenery breathtaking.

Alana McGrattan shared the news that she keeps in contact with **Margot Ostheimer Hammond, Christine Keenen Kealy, Dana Boussard Reifel, Martha Crikelair Wohlford, and Judith Spinner Johns.** Alana confirmed that they are all still standing after the pandemic. With her partner Peter Kaserer, hoped to travel to Austria in April. Peter and Alana run a small ranch and lease it to an organic farm in Corrales, NM.

Alana is on many nonprofit boards that include the New Mexico State Library Foundation, the New Mexico Chapter of the National New Deal Preservation Association and the Santa Fe Indian School, where she organizes the archives that I have collected over the many years that she worked there.

In November, **Anne Sheenan Garbarino** moved to Crosslands, a continuing care facility in Kennett Square, PA. It is southwest of Philadelphia. She is independent living, making many new friends, and participating in concerts and lectures. There is a swimming pool and a workout center that see a visit from Anne constantly. Anne is now about 20 minutes from her daughter. She would love to hear from any SMCers who live in the area.

Kathie Donovan Dur spent the month of March in Paris with her granddaughter Cricket, who is spending her second semester of her junior year in high school as an exchange student. It is the same school that her dad attended for his entire year when the Dur family lived in Paris.

Shirley Yancey Kloepfer shared the news that one of our La Casa Amiga members since she arrived from Mexico at the age of 7 months has been accepted at Saint Mary's for the fall semester. Kimberly Ortiz Morales is an outstanding student and has all her paperwork and financial costs done for DACA.

Shirley escorted Kimberly to Saint Mary's to visit SMC and recently returned with Kimberly when her acceptance was announced.

1968

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Thank you, classmates, for responding to my email asking for your news. As some of you may know, **Betty Christopher Elmore**, our previous class reporter, passed away earlier this year. Also, **Penny Wingeier Sullivan, Janet Murphy O'Connell, and Maureen Claire Hunter-Bone's** husbands passed. Dr. Stanley Bone died on March 21, 2023, at age 74 due to complications from Parkinson's disease. They had enjoyed a long marriage, which included a son and a daughter and three beautiful granddaughters. We extend our sympathies to their families.

Last fall, Hurricane Ian hit Florida. **Karen Kramer Miltko, Roseann Van Gelderen Lyons,** and other classmates with SW FL residences experienced home damage and are in the process of rebuilding. This winter, your classmates in SW FL met for lunch several times. **Christine Gott Dickemper** organized February's gathering with President Conboy and Vice President Holly Johnson as special guests. We appreciated their interest in our class and what we have achieved through our Class of 1968 Endowed Scholarship. (As of August 2022, the Class of 1968 Endowed Scholarship was valued at \$504,863. The current recipient is Aurora Prida '25 from Dallas, TX.) Also joining us for lunch in Naples was **Catie Condran Geist** (Palm Bay) and **Janine Yashewski Drndak** (Vero Beach). **Kathy Huisiking Sullivan, Karen Huisiking Coffey, Harriett Hillebrand Cronin, Mary Jo Day Knauf, Barbara Gibson South, Mary Donoghue Brueggen** and her sister, **Colleen Donoghue Hatstrup '75, Roseann Van Gelderen Lyons,** Christine's sister-in-law, **Mary Kay Duffy Gott '66,** and me.

March saw Kathy, Karen, Harriett, **Mary Donoghue Brueggen, Barbara Gibson South,** and me celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the ND Club of Naples. We shook hands with Lou Holtz, enjoyed a Guinness, and got pictures with St. Patrick! Our lunch group met again in March in Fort Myers. **Maureen Murphy Sheehan** joined us and shared the news that her daughter and family returned to the United States from several years in Australia. This helps Maureen see more of her grandchildren! We celebrated with **Nancy Root Smith** on her good news of ringing the bell for the "all clear" on her melanoma battle. We traded our list of recently read books: *The Henna Artist* (Aika Joshi), *Last Hope Island and Citizens of London* by Lynne Olson, *Trespases* (Louise Kennedy), *Queen of Dirt Island* (Donal Ryan), and any of Marie Benedict's historical novels about women: *Carnegie's Maid, Lady Clementine,* and others. Nancy Sheeran Cholis recommended several of these books.

Last October, **Leigh Malone Tomaszewski, Jean Jacob O'Reilly, and Sue Hoevel Diefenbach** attended the ND-California football game. **Maggie Sullivan Slankas** and her husband Tom (ND '68) provided tickets and joined them at the game, which Notre Dame won while trying to hydrate! The temperature was 88 degrees. They attended Mass on campus afterward, truly a joy after seeing Mass for so long online. Then to dinner at their home away from home parked a few miles from campus,

Susie and Al's RV! Since they travel extensively all over the country, they have the lifestyle down to a tee. From food prep beforehand to finding the optimum shade-providing parking spot, they are pros! An unforgettable weekend.

Others attending ND football games included: **Kathy Huisiking Sullivan** and Steve met their son and daughter-in-law and other Sullivan family members in Las Vegas for the ND-Shamrock series. Mike and I caught up with our granddaughter (ND '25) at the Marshall game. We totally agree with Leigh that going to Mass after the game is special. **Pat Gersuk Cavanaugh** and Gene can always be found tailgating under the "Great '68 ND flag."

This March, **Jane Evans Schaffler** and Ed celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with Mass at Sacred Heart. **Taya Haugland Mahoney** moved back to Idaho from The Villages, FL. **Peggy O'Connor** and **Harriett Hillebrand Cronin** cruised the Panama Canal in January. **Claire Callahan Johannesen** missed the Florida lunches as her husband Tom recuperated from successful heart surgery at their Illinois home. **Donna de Manbey Boynton** wrote that **Mamie Piton**, her SMC roommate, lives in Montreal, **Sherry Knight Ferree** is in Kansas, **Ronni Vodicka Simon** is in Wisconsin, **Sally Blackley Clemmer** is in Florida, and **Virginia McDonald Brehl** is in Tennessee. Donna lives in Connecticut and keeps active in her book club and choir and is president of the friends of her local library.

Francie Russell championed the nomination of **Fran Farrell Callahan** for the 2023 SMC Humanitas Award. More than 20-plus classmates wrote endorsement letters giving testimony to Fran's many years of dedicated service and philanthropy to her Houston community and Saint Mary's. Fingers crossed that Fran receives the award at our 55th Reunion this June.

A note from the Courier Office: Fran Callahan was awarded the Humanitas Award at the Reunion Banquet on June 3, 2023. Read more about Fran's recognition and all the Reunion festivities on page 16.

The Class of 1968 is a special class that has maintained friendships, and shared joys and disappointments over the years. While there won't be as many of us attending our 55th Reunion, please stay healthy and in touch with each other through emails, phone calls, and our Facebook page: Belles '68. Our Facebook group name might change in the next few months because of Facebook's requirements for a new administrator. This was a role that **Betty Elmore** handled. Harriett and I will keep you informed by email and *Courier* news. I welcome your news any time; just email me at mary@marybwolf.com or text me at 570-337-2805.

1969

Joyce O'Donnell Bussewitz
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What a jackpot of news, dear classmates! Heartfelt gratitude to so many of you who sent updates!

Mary Bramlage Minton was the first to send her joyous news. "I am spectacularly thrilled and proud

that my granddaughter **Madison Melanie Minton** has committed to attend Saint Mary's College this fall as a member of the Class of 2027! She plans to enroll in the pre-law program and will also play on the SMC softball team. Through conversations with her about the Senior Preview Day in February, I have realized that so many things about SMC have changed—no curfews, sweats and T-shirts for class, no Laurel Club, cars on campus, and more, but some things will not change—a world-class education, growing into adulthood, learning her place in the world, and nurturing friendships that will last her entire life. Madison and I were talking about it all recently, and her face suddenly lit up as she exclaimed, "I just want to go now!" And so she's off...



Mary Bramlage Minton and her granddaughter Madison Melanie Minton '27.

As I frequently do, I had to smile reading of a very busy life "in retirement." From Missouri, **Carolyn Brennan Saucier** responded to my news request.

"This is Carolyn, many years ago Sister Carol Ann with Holy Cross nuns. I will be married 49 years in June. We have six children and 15 grandchildren. After teaching chemistry at Lincoln University, I switched to theology and religious education and taught teachers in the Diocese of Jefferson City for 24 years. Now I volunteer in prison ministry, a homeless shelter, and lead Bible study groups." Whew!

Another on-the-go report came from **Ann Hollander Sedlacek**. "I am blessed to have good health, wonderful friends, and terrific kids, and I've been able to travel quite a bit the last six months. In October on a trip to Mackinac Island, we had a stop in Grand Rapids, MI, where I was delighted to have dinner with **Janet Krueger** and her husband Bruce. It is such a joy to be a guest in a good friend's home and enjoy a cozy meal and conversation. A delightful and very unexpected highlight of a West Indies cruise was running into **Mary Ann Taverty** in San Juan in February. Mary Ann and Willie had come from snowy Denver to enjoy a driving trip through Puerto Rico, and our cruise ship had disembarked to the Sheraton Hotel awaiting transfer to the airport for our flights home. We literally "ran" into each other. Now that daughter Sarah has moved to Utah, I've missed regular get-togethers with the Denver gals, but am expecting a visit from **Nan Raaf** in a couple of weeks as she is driving to Chicago. It is remarkable and a true blessing that our SMC 'sisters' have remained close after 50+ years."

Another classmate reported from Missouri, **Peggy Pettey Powers**. She wrote, "St. Louis has been my home for 75 years. My husband Dave and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on August 11. Our three kids plus spouses and eight grandchildren are taking us to the Lake of the Ozarks. I've been back to Saint Mary's several times and always enjoy seeing the campus."

Marilyn Murphy Messick sent her Ohio/Florida news saying, "Dave and I have been rehabbing our property on Sanibel after Hurricane Ian devastated the whole island. The amount of ocean floor (muck) that was deposited in our yards after the 14-foot storm surge flooded our neighborhood was unbelievable. The worst part, however, is that all the seawater soaked into the water table, and the high salt content then killed all of our vegetation, including all of the 40 trees surrounding the house. It looks like a desert now instead of a tropical paradise! On the flip side, we had a tremendous blessing. Because our home is on 14-foot-high pilings, and the roof and windows stayed intact, there was no damage inside. The unexpected camaraderie among our neighbors has made us realize that we really are in the best neighborhood in Sanibel! We are looking forward to seeing my SMC Columbus and Cincinnati friends in April for a Zoom luncheon. Hope to see **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie, Marian Morris Furey, Fran Roat Stinnett, Margaret Roberts Richards, Alison Whittaker Rink, Shelly (Rachelle) Bruno, Cathy Kearney Buser, and Sue Richards.** Family and friends are everything!"

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From Colorado, **Nan Raaf** reported the Denver area group is continuing to do well. "Our numbers have increased due to frequent visits by **Ann Hollander Sedlacek** from Blair, NE, and **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie's** move to the area. (Happy to borrow her from the Cincinnati group!) We still find excuses to get together seasonally to share updates on the happy, sad, and challenging moments in our lives. We always leave feeling grateful for the support and understanding because of our very long-term friendships and looking forward to our next gathering. I remain connected with **Janet Krueger** in Michigan, who always amazes me with her knowledge on almost any topic, **Georgia Florin Gasner** in California, who is the most level-headed person I know, **Rosy Naphin** in Illinois, with whom I have never laughed so much in my life, and **Kathy Schmitz** in Japan, who shares a library account with me."

Joanne Leonard Scharf said that all is well in her and Dan's (ND '69) home in Rockford, IL. "We have four children and five grandchildren. Everyone is healthy, happy, and enjoying life. Dan and I have a second home in Lincoln, VT, in the Green Mountains! We travel to Jupiter, FL, occasionally but are not officially snowbirds. Dan keeps busy with his weight and balance plotter aviation company, called American Aeronautics, and he also refurbishes laptops for our local refugee program. Recently, he was recruited to also send these laptops to Kenya, Africa, through a contact in Naperville, IL. Postage to Africa is prohibitive for him to send them. I'm busy with the many church activities, fundraisers, and volunteer projects at Holy Family Catholic Church. I am also swimming, biking, and taking Pilates to stay in shape for our age! We see our grandchildren regularly, and the greatest fun is the fall Vermont trip with everyone. The oldest grandchild is 11, so all are gratefully present for now. Maple syrup production is a big hit with them! I am also subbing occasionally in the local Catholic and public middle schools. I recently went on my first-ever spiritual retreat with 37 other ladies at the Bishop Lane Retreat Center here in Rockford. We studied biblical passages from the book *Jesus Approaches*, led by the author Liz Kelly. It was an absolutely wonderful, fun, and intensely spiritual weekend. Blessings to all!"

Cathy Anthony Odell emailed from South Bend and "is still happy to be fairly busy with editorial work for the Catholic Press. I do some proofing for Liturgical Press, reporting for *National Catholic Reporter* and *OSV News*, and recently finished a fourth revision of my 1986 book on Marian apparitions, *Those Who Saw Her: Apparitions of Mary*, which was published by *Our Sunday Visitor*. My husband Bill and I still love organic gardening and are now involved with Shekan, our small faith-sharing group in helping to promote community composting. Food waste in landfills, we have learned, produces methane and is a terrible environmental hazard. We shamelessly dote over our son Luke, daughter Juliana, and only grandchild, 3-year old Hendrix, and are hoping for more travel time and family visits in 2023. I regularly see classmates **Joan Sullivan** and **Julie Weger Chismar**, a near neighbor and gardening buddy. Joan and Julie are also members of Shekan."

From Chicago **Mary Ragen O'Rourke** sent her news. "I am so lucky to spend time with many of my SMC friends and to keep in touch with many others! During the year I get to share many fun dinners and lunches with **Patty Reynolds Walsh, Kathy Walsh, Kathy Carey Moore, Mary Beth Barry Hogan, Janice Williams, and Marty Roark Higgins**. During COVID many of us I just mentioned started having Zoom get-togethers with **Susie Madden Darrow** (our amazing leader!) plus **Sally Gildea Smith, Barb Crowley Schenck, and Mary Lou Broussard Bartley**. These get-togethers provide us with the continuance of warm friendships that we established at Saint Mary's. We talk about our families, books, politics, and current events, etc! We've kept up with each other's lives, joys, sorrows, and given each other friendship and support for over 50 years! I think for me, that is the biggest reward of my time at Saint Mary's. My husband John (ND '69) and I just spent a few months in Chandler, AZ, where our daughter Martha (ND '97) lives with her family. We have four other children, John (ND '93), Mary (Marquette '97), Kathleen (ND '04) and Elizabeth (U of CO '04). We have 12 grandchildren, whom we also love spending time with!"

Kathy Carey Moore sent her update reporting, "The South Side Chicago gang is doing great. I see **Patty Reynolds Walsh, Mary Ragen O'Rourke, and Mary Beth Barry Hogan**, but not nearly as often as I'd like. We are in a book club together with some other high school friends. Even if we don't get together to actually discuss a book, there is a LOT of fun texting about politics, the news, staying healthy, grandchildren's lives, travel, best new series on TV, and many other topics. They are all wonderful friends and fabulous humans. **Susie Madden Darrow** was so wonderful about putting an SMC Zoom together every couple of months during COVID. Now the world has moved on, and so has our Zoom. I miss it, because Susie, who lives in Florida, is always up to something interesting, as is **Sally Gildea Smith**, who lives in Seattle and is finally (I think) about to retire from her librarian career, which is too bad. She always has a great list of book ideas for us. **Kathy Walsh** and **Janice Williams** usually joined those Zooms, as did **Barb Crowley Schenck** in Cincinnati and occasionally **Mary Lou Broussard Bartley**, who lives in Peoria but is always off traveling for family get-togethers. Just writing about this makes me want to ask Susie to host another Zoom so I can see all of these people again! My dear roommate **Bibbie Conole Withers** is always near my heart. We don't speak that often, but when we do, I always feel it a great gift of my day. Just last week we had an actual dinner party with **Nancy Carlin Figel** and Tom, **Helena Siedlecki Daly** and Kevin, and another couple. All the guys are longtime friends from The Great '68. It was fun to see them and catch up on their new lives. Nancy and Tom have moved to Long Beach, CA, and Helena and Kevin have moved to Ireland, but they all happened to be back in Chicago, and we found much to talk about, including reminiscing about our days at SMC. My husband Tom and I have lived in the same house for over 50 years! Tom is still working and seems to really enjoy it most days, but we don't get much travel time in, unlike our retired friends. Life is good without any special add-ons. We have a son,

daughter-in-law, and two young grandchildren in D.C., so we do travel there several times a year. I love going there, and the weather is much nicer than in Chicago. Our daughter and her family live nearby in Chicago, and our oldest son and his family are in Park Ridge, IL, a nearby suburb. We get to see a fair amount of our seven grandkids, all still grade school age, and that's THE BEST."

In conclusion I will add that my husband Roy and I were thrilled to spend a few hours recently with **Sheila Dwyer Robusto** and Danny (ND '70), who were en route back to Florida. We had to "fast talk" as Sheila said, but we managed! It was a short but sweet time over a visit in our home and lunch here in Wilmington, but we squeezed in as much as we could! It was our own version of March Madness, I guess! Thank you again, dear classmates, for taking your turn and sending me so much news! God bless!"

1970

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In early 2023, we held a class Zoom session on "Aging in Place." This was coordinated and hosted by **Kathy Yuhes Kwinn**, and we had three presenters: **Judith De Vlieghe Weaver, Mary Noell Rooks, and Ronnie Henry Kessenich**.

Judith talked about actions to take with respect to living wills, estate wills, documents, power-of-attorney options, passwords, medication lists, insurance, and the like. There was a very good exchange of ideas on shared accounts, what to do about passwords, and candid conversations with loved ones.

Mary gave us a view from her perspective of moving to live in an area where you can grow into all the retirement phases, from being able to take advantage of community services and cultural events, to making sure your home is handicap-accessible.

Ronnie took us on a tour of her home in Marietta, GA, that she and her husband remodeled to accommodate his Parkinson's progression. There were many interesting aspects of the remodel—pocket doors, widened hallways and doorways, single-floor living, lower cabinet access, wheelchair access to bathrooms and showers, safety bars, many ideal aids that fit quite naturally into the beautiful décor of her home.

We also had a lively discussion about tools and aids, which we all should know about to help us as we gracefully "age in place." Just to whet your appetites, here are a couple items we discussed. We learned about the "jar-key" which is an invaluable tool to literally help us open jars. (I've now purchased several as party gifts for all my friends.) We talked about the incredible new uses of an Apple watch, which can be used to get help in the event of an emergency or a fall. When properly set up, this can happen automatically. All agreed it was something we should check out.

Our class Zoom Lounge in February brought together about 10 of us, including **Cathy Armbruster Farmer** from Lancaster, PA, who regaled us with stories about her start in the news and advertising business.

Cathy wrote to me about a recent visit: "**Ronnie Henry Kessenich** and I recently spent an afternoon together when my husband Sam and I were in Atlanta. We had not seen each other in over 50 years and it was a wonderful reunion—so easy to catch up as if no years had passed. We enjoyed lunch and Ronnie took us to see the amazing Cyclorama at the Atlanta History Center. We ended the afternoon with delicious homemade cake slices at a French bistro.



Cathy Armbruster Farmer and Ronnie Henry Kessenich.

"Ronnie and I saw each other again a few days later for a class book discussion via Zoom. Reading the book about the mothers of NPR (Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie) for this session brought back many memories of my 1970s career as a radio and television newscaster. It was an interesting time to be a woman competing in a man's world but my SMC experience prepared me well. There were many highlights during that time including covering the 1972 presidential campaign between Nixon and McGovern and interviewing numerous political and entertainment celebrities. After doing this for several years, I transitioned into the world of public relations, ultimately retiring as senior vice president of an advertising agency. Today, I live with



my husband Sam in Lancaster, PA, and would love to see any SMC classmates who might be in the area!"

As Cathy mentioned, during National Women's Month in March our class Zoom focused on discussing four books featuring women in non-traditional careers. This was organized by **Kathy Yuhes Kwinn**, assisted by her wonderful daughter Kari Kwinn, our technical expert, and facilitated by **Ronnie Henry Kessenich**. We discussed: *Hidden Figures* (the true story of NASA's African American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program), *The Flight Girls* (a stunning novel about the real women Air Force service pilots whose courage during World War II turned ordinary women into extraordinary heroes), *The Chancellor* (a captivating biography detailing the extraordinary rise and political brilliance of German Chancellor Angela Merkel), and *Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie* (a group biography of four beloved women who fought sexism, covered decades of American news, and whose voices defined NPR). Needless to say, the discussion was riveting about the impact these brave women had during their lives and how we all related through our various Saint Mary's experiences and beyond. And most importantly how we have carried this confidence forward to influence our own lives and the lives of our sons and daughters.

Until the next time... send me your stories. Everyone wants to know about you and what you're doing.

1973

Peg FitzGibbons Higgins
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One of my college roommates, **Mary Jo Geffert Lahr**, is a neighbor of mine having moved from Minnesota to Charleston, SC, a few years ago. She does not miss Minnesota winters and has family who live here including two daughters and a

brother. The family, which includes four sweet grandchildren and lots of nieces and nephews, keeps her plenty busy. Mary Jo also has a son, the father of four, who lives in Minnesota and visits regularly. In 2008, Mary Jo was diagnosed with Parkinson's, an ugly disease, but she has managed through the challenges with her usual wicked wit. Lucky me – I get to see "Geffert" frequently.

I was happy to hear from **Kathy Murphy-Keedy**, affectionately known as Murph. I know we will have missed seeing her at Reunion this year, but she has a good excuse—her daughter Micaela got married. Here's more information shared by Murph: "My husband Dan and I are retired now. Our whirling sports-loving grandsons—Noah, 12, and Owen, 9—keep us busy with soccer and baseball games. I'm sorry to miss our 50th Reunion and seeing SMC friends, so I'm sending lots of love electronically! Our five children are engaged in work they enjoy. Rob is a pediatrician and also supervises medical school residents at Michigan State University. Jenna works in medical school research for the University of Michigan. Micaela is an RN. Meggie works for *America's Funniest Home Videos*. Ben is a film editor for a company that makes trailers and commercials. We love Michigan and Ireland! We've traveled to Ireland twice and would love to return in the future."

Claudia (Muggs) Traudt passed away on February 11 and will be missed by so many of us. After earning a graduate degree at the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought, Muggs joined the faculty of the Graham School/University of Chicago in 1982. Not surprisingly, she was well-loved and respected. The Graham School published a beautiful tribute about Muggs. They wrote that for decades, she "dazzled thousands of students with a spunky mix of smarts and charm. Her teaching repertoire was extensive: Plato to Virginia Woolf to Herman Melville. She professed a particular love for teaching poetry, Shakespeare, Joyce, and Toni Morrison. She was the quintessential Renaissance woman—a teacher, visual artist, sailor, poet, sister, and aunt."

Jan Leibold Zorn and her husband Pete celebrated 50 years of marriage this past June and celebrated in Hawaii with family. Congratulations to you both! Other post-COVID travel included a trip to Germany and to Ireland. Jan is happy to report that her four children and six grandchildren are thriving. Adam is a radiologist working for the Gunderson Group in Wisconsin; Shannon is an orthopedic PA for Advocate; Peter is the owner-operator of a concierge physical therapy business; Amanda, following in her mother's footsteps, works for Phillips and is finishing up a master's regulatory from Johns Hopkins. Pete continues to enjoy time working at their farm, tending to their orchards and animals.

Gretchen Niersbach Murray will miss seeing classmates at our 50th Reunion as her granddaughter Beth will be graduating from high school that same weekend. Beth will join her brother RJ at Notre Dame in the fall. Their brother Dan is a high school junior and their sister Bridget is an eighth grader. Big congratulations to Gretchen and Bob (ND '72), who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year!

1974



EXCELSIOR

Jacqueline Leskovec '74 has been promoted to Senior Librarian at the Hardin Library for Health Sciences at the University of Iowa. Jacqueline's work with the Network of the National Library of Medicine has earned her this promotion, which is the uppermost position as a librarian at Hardin.



February in Florida: (left to right) **Mary Jo Kelly Martin '79**, **Laura Brems Flynn '79**, **Kathleen Flynn Fox '74**, **Vevo Navarre Martin '79**, and **Marijo Rogers Kelly '77**.

1975

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Hello, Classmates of the Class of 1975!

We have been missing news from our class for a little while. After retiring from the University of New Mexico as a clinical psychologist in 2022, I now have some extra time to help our class catch up with our news. I know I have always looked forward to receiving *Courier* in the mail and hearing how everyone is doing. Please send me any information about you, your family, or classmates that you would like to share. You can contact me at my home address or email. I will be submitting updates in April, August, and December. Looking forward to catching up.

1978

Susan Margiotta Salem
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Dear classmates of '78, by now we have been together at Reunion and made more beautiful memories with our SMC sisters. I hope that you are inspired to provide me with your family, career, retirement, life updates, as well as photos for the future *Courier* articles. Our Reunions are always a smashing success. It is very possible that your face still hurts from laughing and smiling. We are so fortunate to have grown up in the '70s for so many reasons! We hold on to hope that our children and grandchildren will flourish in these uncertain times. Let's keep them grounded in family and faith.

I know that I personally could not have managed life's challenges without the constant support of **Lisa Maglio**, **Susan Plavac Heidkamp**, and **Elizabeth Hassert**. My sisters are always there for me. Saint Mary's laid the foundation for my career, relationships, and life. I feel truly blessed for those four beautiful years. Thank you friends from the bottom of my heart.

Mary Rost Gorecki around the holidays 2022 wrote: "I attended two weddings of classmates' kids this year. Our president, **Nancy Mogab's** son, was married in Milwaukee. The first of her three children to marry. Quite a few of us were there. **Judy Eckelkamp Tobben**, **Mary Pat Wilson Russell**, **Shelagh Crook Merenius**, **Pat Caserio Clark**, and **Maureen Morris Bowman**. As always, Nancy looked beautiful. Just weeks later, Mary Pat's fifth of six was also married in Milwaukee. Judy and Pat couldn't make it, but **Mary Beth Vieha** was there.

"As for me, I still live in Naperville, IL, and am in the same home in which we raised our three girls. My eldest Sarah, 40, lives in the Netherlands and has two children. She's a teacher and her husband is a nurse. I vacationed with them on the island of Monte Isola, outside Milan this summer. Just beautiful! I loved the very old Italian church and Mass. My daughter Kristi, 38, and a labor and delivery nurse in Hinsdale, has six children, 9 and under. Her third and fourth births were both twins. The first set are fraternal boys and the second set are boy/girl. The little girl's name is Mary. Makes me so happy to have a baby named after our Blessed Mother and myself. My third daughter **Therese Frances Gorecki Vicory '15**, or Tess as we call her, just moved back from Arizona to Oswego, IL, to be close to family. She attended SMC and graduated in 2015 and is a teacher. She's pregnant with her second child. That will make 10 grandchildren for me in March when the little guy comes.

"My husband has been very ill since March 31, and I spend my days taking care of him and babysitting. I lost my job in the beginning of COVID and would have tried to get another job but I'm kept busy caring for all of them. My daughter Kristi had two very early births. Her first child was born at 28 weeks and was in the NICU for three months. The same with her second set of twins. All three around 2½ lbs."

From **Luci Staples McCall**: "Bill (ND '78, '80) and I have lived in Grand Rapids, MI, since his graduation from ND MBA school almost 43 years ago! It is hard to believe that we will be married 44 years this coming August. Bill retired from his CPA practice last year and he and I are planning a few trips including Dublin to watch the Irish play Navy in August.

"I retired in 2019 after 35 years working with high school students, teaching both French and social studies. I really loved my career but now enjoy the company of 10 grandchildren under 10, of which the two newest are twins and are the children of our daughter **Kathleen McCall Mezwicki '06** and her husband Andy. Big sister Amelia is 2 years old. Our oldest **Megan McCall Schmitt '04** and her husband Derek (ND '04) are the parents of four children and our son John (Miami/Ohio '08, ND '09) and **Ally Nowak McCall '08** are the parents of three children. We stay busy watching them at all their activities.

"I continue to enjoy being involved in Saint Mary's alumnae activities including having served as president of the Grand Rapids Club. I recently finished a six-year term on the Saint Mary's Alumnae Board of Directors, which was truly an honor to represent our class."

1979

Cheri Petride Miller
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I hope everyone is doing fine.

I received some exciting news from our classmate **Nora Duffy**. Nora was honored on the weekend of October 21-23, 2022, when the University of Notre Dame hosted an event called "Cheer Her Name." The event recognized the 50th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. During the University of Nevada, Las Vegas football game, Nora, along with approximately 80 other Saint Mary's College graduates, were honored with membership to the Monogram Club. They received their ND letter jackets and were recognized for being pioneers of women's athletics. Many congratulations, Nora!



Nora Duffy receiving her ND letter jacket at "Cheer Her Name" event.

From **Elizabeth Scheurer**: "Oops, I did it again! No, I did not get rid of a conservatorship, but I had another patent issued. U.S. Patent #11147540 'Introducer sheath and puncture tool for the introduction and placement of a catheter in tissue' was issued on October 19, 2021. Who would not want one of those? Here's to critical thinking, which seems to be a lost art. Thanks, SMC, for instilling into me everything that is possible. Hope to see you at the next Reunion!"

Start planning now for our 45th class Reunion, which will be held the weekend of May 30 – June 2, 2024. It will be a great time to reconnect.

I look forward to your news for the next column. Send me updates anytime. Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer.

1983

Sue Poss Harrison
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By the time you read this, our 40th Reunion will have taken place. I hope many of our classmates were able to attend and enjoy lots of laughs and fun times catching up. I also hope the Reunion will inspire some of you to send in news about that weekend, as I'm sure those of us who weren't able to be there would love to hear all about it!

Erin Foley Almanza writes: "I am really looking forward to the Reunion and reconnecting with classmates this May. These past few years have brought lots of wonderful opportunities to everyone in our family. Isabella (Bella), our youngest, is finishing her final year at Harvard and graduating the weekend before this 40th Reunion. Our oldest Albert plays basketball professionally. He has played for different professional teams in Mexico and is now in Perth, Western Australia, for his second season with the Eastern Suns. My husband Boone and I traveled to Perth this past July. We caught a few games and really enjoyed our time exploring Western Australia. After returning from Australia, I drove from Austin to Maine in August with our dogs and spent the month hiking Acadia National Park as well as Baxter State Park. Boone joined me in Boston in September, where we spent the entire fall season. We traveled throughout the northeast to watch Bella and the Harvard volleyball team play as well as take in the beautiful fall weather. Bella finished her final season as captain and earned a spot on the All Ivy Team, honorable mention. Our middle child Madalena graduated from the University of Texas in 2020 and is now well into her second year in law school and is on law review. I am definitely looking forward to having things slow down a bit after a very busy past few months."

1984

Kathy Owens Sherlock
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Hello, Class of 1984,

I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to our 40th (oh my) Reunion next year! It's been a long time since we've had any news about our class. Special thanks to those who reached out recently, and I encourage others to send along news to share with our Saint Mary's community. We'd all love to hear from you!

Sandra Gonzalez Ver Beek reports that she moved from the Chicago area and has been living in Austin, TX, for the past five years. Sandra and her husband Greg will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in June. Sandra talks with **Mary Dolehide Cahill** often. Mary married Robert Cahill last May. Mary's wedding was officiated by Father Christopher Gustafson (ND classmate).

Sister Anne Wachter writes, "In December, I was able to visit **Amy Wright Keane** and her husband 'Peachy' (ND '84) at their home in Chicagoland. In January 2023, I moved to Japan, where I am preparing to become, in summer, the next head of school for the International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo. I moved here from Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada), where, for the past 10 years, I was the head of school for the Sacred Heart School of Halifax. Life in Tokyo is fascinating; there is something new to learn every single day!"

Some sad news to share: **Karen Hobert Flynn** passed away peacefully on March 3, 2023. Karen was a very devoted, considerate, determined, and successful woman, who loved her family and had many accomplishments in

her life. She began her nearly 40-year career with Common Cause, eventually serving as its ninth president. As so beautifully stated in her obituary, "Karen's time at Common Cause was marked by extraordinary dedication, relentless optimism, and inexhaustible courage in the fierce pursuit of an inclusive, accountable democracy that worked for all people. She always kept people at the forefront of everything she did. She lived the simple and yet profound truth that every person matters and deserves to be heard." She will be dearly missed.

Cyndy Short shared, "I am in Kansas City, MO, which is my home base but my work allows me to travel in and out of Birmingham, AL, where I have over the last two years been able to stop and have really wonderful visits with **Lydia Locker Bartle**. We are both navigating our empty nests. Lydia continues to teach and I continue to practice law in state, federal, and military jurisdictions in the Midwest, the South, the West, and points in between. My most recent trip back to ND-SMC was in 2018 with my family to say goodbye to my father Tom Short (ND '54). He loved ND and instilled his love for ND-SMC in each of us."



Friends enjoyed a trip to complete a portion of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Here they are on top of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

As for me, in celebration of our 60th birthdays, a small group of our classmates made a journey to Spain in May 2022 to complete a portion of the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James). This is a pilgrimage which leads to the shrine of the apostle St. James in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. We all had a wonderful time together and were able to experience all that the Camino offers: a spiritual connection to God, time outside enjoying nature and its beauty, self-reflection, and time with special people in our lives. If you are able, we highly recommend others experience the Camino for themselves. You may be surprised at what you discover about yourself! We enjoyed sporting Saint Mary's shirts at the end of our trip on top of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela (**Kathy Owens Sherlock**, **Heidi Cerneka '87**, **Maureen Hughes Clifford**, **Lisa Cerneka Burns**, **Jenny McCauley '86**, **Jeanne Brown Morris**, **Mary McEnery Harding**, **Deanna Deery-Schmitt**, **Loret Haney McMahon**, **Molly Mulligan**, and **Melissa Stiles**).

Please continue to send me updates for future *Courier* issues as it's a great way to stay informed and connected to others. Consider sharing news about your family, travel, fun get-togethers with fellow Saint Mary's friends, and professional and personal successes. We have much to be grateful for. All the best to all of you and have a great summer!

1985



Gathering of four classes, and out of the seven of us, five participated in the Rome Program, and one in the Ireland program. (L-R) **Mary Thinnis Evans '85, Kristen Johansen Kilguss '88, Emily Johansen Pecoraro '93, Anne Bowler Madden '85, Annie McGraw Morrical '85, Janice Johansen '80, Laura Johansen Jeffcoat '85.**

1989

Karen E. Crespy
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Summer is upon us! We have lots of celebrations of life, love, friendships, and new homes to share.

Mimi Tuohy O'Leary shared some wonderful 2022 news. The O'Leary's eldest son Joe married

his longtime girlfriend Taylor Ashley at a beautiful outside ceremony at her parents' home in Palm City, FL. Then, on December 15, Mike (ND '89) and Mimi welcomed their first grandchild Grace Ashley. Grace decided to arrive two weeks early, on Mimi's birthday! After graduating from Notre Dame, their son Jack (ND '23) moved to Chicago to work for LEK Consulting Group. Mary Kate (ND '20) is enjoying her third year of living in Spain where she works as an English teacher. Thanks to technology, the family is able to FaceTime regularly so it doesn't seem like an ocean away.

In Grand Rapids, MI, **Barb Moorhead Vedders** and Joel celebrated the graduation of their son Jack from Calvin University, which was followed just two weeks later by the May 13 wedding of Jack and Molly! **Karen Crespy** was there to share in the happy occasion. Over the President's Day weekend, Barb and her daughter Abby visited Karen in Maryland, where they had a great time catching up and spending time in Annapolis and Old Town Alexandria.

Patti Jacobs Hein and her husband Kevin celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2022 by buying a vacation home in Ireland! They have had a joyful, magical journey so far and you can follow their adventure @marysaisling.

Patti also shared the sad news that after 91 years filled with a life of faith, tenacity, and dignity, she and her five siblings surrounded their mother with love, Irish songs, hymns, and Christmas carols as she

went to heaven on December 22, 2022. Patti shares that her mother blessed her with a love of reading, stories, and laughter; an appreciation of art and history; a desire to be a lifelong learner; and a deep love for family and people from all walks of life.



Patti Jacobs Hein's vacation home in Ireland!

After living in Nashville since 1993, **Kristine Kruczek Mains** moved to Indianapolis to spend more time with her mom and extended family. She has enjoyed reconnecting with her roommate **Sandy Cerimele Fralich** and **Jill Gillig Folstrom '87**. During the Saint Mary's Belles Voix choir spring break tour, Kristine hosted Dr. Nancy Menk and loved hearing their concerts at Marian University, as well as their evening concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. While Kristine moved north, her children remained in the South. Her oldest, now 28, left the vegan restaurant industry to start a new boutique company at Mother Lode in Atlanta called

Altar Source; and her youngest, at 22, is a principal dancer with Charlotte Ballet. Kristine retired as an educator just before COVID and is now working from home for a California-based assessment developer for education, workforce, and industry partners. In addition to traveling to North Carolina and Georgia for family visits, home improvement and landscaping at her new house are completely occupying her days.

In December 2022, **Tracy Horn Siciliano** made the move to Washington, D.C.—a place she has wanted to live since earning her political science degree! She loves her new home and enjoyed the spring Tidal Basin cherry blossoms.

Kellen Brugman left the winters of Northern Michigan for warmer living in Carefree, AZ. She made the move for an amazing career opportunity and to be closer to her folks. Kellen is teaching with Arizona State University's Osher Lifelong Learning, leading spiritual and wellness retreats, and doing holistic wellness coaching for people and businesses in Scottsdale. She has found a great church (where the priest often sings a spiritual song after his homily) and a local pub and restaurant nearby owned by a Notre Dame alumnus.

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

1993



EXCELSIOR
Claire Dougherty Stewart '93 has accepted her recent appointment as the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian at the University of Illinois. Her new position started May 16.

1994

From the *Courier* Office

From **Mary Cosgrove Moran**: "I started a new position with the International Institute of Buffalo last fall as the staff immigration attorney representing Afghan evacuees on asylum cases and other humanitarian relief applications. I am responsible for overseeing and managing the Institute's legal caseload of Afghan clients that were resettled as part of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)."

1995



EXCELSIOR
Maureen Loughran '95 has been named the Director and Curator of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, becoming just the fourth director and curator since it was established in 1987.



EXCELSIOR
Jennifer O'Dell '95 has been newly elected to the Council of Institutional Investors Board.



Mini reunion in San Diego, February 2023. **Jen Puplava Goodstal, Erika Moen Januschka, Jean Powers, Elizabeth Kernan, Alexis Dunbar Beckwith, Seanne Patrick Buckwalter, Bryn Umhofer Schmitt, and Meredith Dodge Melinder.**

2000



EXCELSIOR
Bridget H. Labutta '00 was named among World Trademark Review's WTR 1000 ranking for 2023. Bridget was recognized for her practice in trademark law and copyright law, areas where she holds nearly 20 years of experience.

Francis A. McAnaney Humanities Lecture

An Evening with Ada Limón

September 21, 2023

Join us for a conversation with Ada Limón, Poet Laureate of the United States, author of six books of poetry, and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry.



This is an in person event.
For more information and tickets,
visit saintmarys.edu/Events.

The Francis A. McAnaney Humanities Lecture has been endowed by a gift from the Peter B. and Adeline W. Ruffin Foundation. This continues a lecture series revived by Donald and Susan Rice '61 in 2006 in memory of Bruno P. Schlesinger.



EXCELSIOR

Anna Zingalis '00 was recognized with a Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae Association 25 Under 35 Award. This award recognizes young alumnae from the academy who have made significant contributions to their profession, community, or alma mater by the age of 35.

2001

Molly Kahn Allen
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Greetings, Belles of 2001!

Kathleen Kennedy and her husband welcomed their first son in January 2023. They are looking forward to watching him grow up and become a third-generation Lake Michigan sailor.

Caroline Polking Robertson and her husband Bob Robertson welcomed their son Paul William Robertson on December 27, 2021.

Catherine Schroeder shares, "After teaching first grade for over 15 years, I have decided to dip my toes into school administration waters. I started my third master's in education—my master's in educational leadership. This should do it for me for graduate school for a while! I continue to teach for the progressive Winnetka public schools and work with a few SMC grads!"

After 22 years in education, and 10 years working in a public Montessori setting, **Maureen Capillo** and her partner Brett recently moved from Grand Rapids, MI, to Cary, NC. Maureen is now the executive director at Sterling Montessori Charter Academy. Maureen says, "While we miss Michigan desperately, we are pleased with our decision and move." Sterling is a pre-K to eighth-grade program serving 750 students, and Maureen is blessed to supervise a robust and fully staffed team of over 100

employees. Maureen looks forward to finally finding their forever home and settling in to serve this community for the foreseeable future.

Gretchen Trybus Batalis is teaching high school Spanish in Charleston, SC. It is hard to believe, but Gretchen has been teaching for over 22 years.

Caroline Polking Robertson, Kate Nolan, Jeanne Tierney Barcelona, and Gretchen try to get together once or twice a year for football games in the fall and summer reunions.

Margaret Sullivan Hatton is also in the classroom in her second year of teaching fourth grade at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Washington, IL. Margaret and her husband Michael Hatton (ND '03) stay busy with their brood of five kids ranging in age from 7 to 17.

Maureen Flannery Crowe recently made a big career change to pursue school social work. She is in her second year of graduate work and is looking forward to graduation in May 2024. Maureen currently interns as a psychotherapist for Sound Mind Counseling with a fellow SMC grad in Glenview, IL. In August, Maureen begins a second internship with New Trier High School. Maureen and her husband are in the thick of parenting teenage boys, which has been an experience. The twins are now freshmen in high school and her youngest is in sixth grade. When not studying or working, Maureen bounces between track meets, tennis matches, and baseball games. Maureen shares that she is definitely busy but no complaints. Life is good.

Jillian Koepke Pantano shares greetings from Tampa! Jillian writes, "In December, I went from selling advertising solutions to selling tortillas, Mexican cheese, and chorizo! I'm now a key account manager for Olé Mexican Foods. My territory is retailers on the East Coast of the country. Next taco Tuesday, pick up La Banderita tortillas! We even have zero net carb tortillas!"

Jillian Fenske Boerstler sends greetings from the northern border. Jillian and husband (Steve) moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2019 after she completed her doctorate in bioethics. Jillian writes, "Since immigrating to Canada, I've provided ethicist support to multiple health authorities in British Columbia. I recently accepted a position to oversee ethics for Island Health, the health authority that provides health care services across Vancouver Island. We relocated to the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island in early 2022. It's a utopian landscape of nature and adventure. We hope to make this island our forever home!"

Laura Paulen recently moved from Washington, D.C., to Charlottesville, VA, and is enjoying a smaller town and access to the outdoors. Lauren does social policy research with Abt Associates and appreciates the flexibility of telecommuting. Lauren and family hope to stay put and settle in.

Katie Kelleher started a new role as senior associate general counsel at the American Bar Association this past February. After over a decade litigating personal injury cases, this is a significant career change. But, Katie shares, "I am excited to join such a talented team in the General Counsel's office, and I look forward to many new professional challenges ahead."

Whew, as always, lovely to learn about the incredible contributions our classmates make to our communities and continue to connect with SMC. Please continue to be well, do good, and be in touch.

2003

Meganne Hoffman Brezina
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Amy Wall Surma and her husband Jon-Paul welcomed a baby girl Ava Lee into their family on September 27, 2022. Her big sister Asher graduated from SMC ECDC preschool program and now attends kindergarten at St. Pius. Amy serves her clients with website design and development (www.made-designs.com) and helps people care for their health and well-being naturally (www.ownyourcare.com).

This past fall, **Heather Goodrich Schrider** and **Susan Kutz** ran in a 10k Bay Bridge Run and five-mile Celtic Solstice. After graduating from the University of Maryland executive MBA program in the summer of 2022, Susan was promoted to clinical supervisor for advanced practice providers at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD.

Catalina Bajuyo Finck has been carving a new path for herself over the past few years as a productivity and ADHD coach for adults and a parenting coach for parents of neurodivergent children. Catalina helps adults identify their values, gain clarity in their work and personal life, and move forward through curiosity and accountability. As a mother with personal experience of ADHD, autism, and sensory processing disorder, along with her background as an educator, she has found her true calling in helping and supporting others. Her passion for education and commitment to making a positive impact in the world has become her full-time work, and she's excited to continue making a difference in the lives of others. Catalina and her daughter have designed a blanket this year to help support mindfulness and sensory calming. To see what this mother and daughter duo are up to or just to say hello, visit www.SMC2003.MOM!

Jena Morreale Corsello came out to South Bend for the ND/BC game with my family and got to spend some time tailgating with **Bridget Myers Mullins, Val Gillis Brown,** and **Kerry O'Reilly Hurley**. Jena shared, "It was freezing and we were in a blizzard for the game, so everyone got to really experience South Bend. I had a chance to bring Charlie (husband) to the Backer after the game to really see the true dive bar life."

Lisa Cesak writes, "As I prepare for our 20-year Reunion, I am reliving my college years through my daughter Kylie, who is wrapping up her freshman year at Illinois State University! One of my hopes for her over the next few years is that she makes lifelong friends like I did at SMC! **Jessica Needles** and I took a much-needed girls' trip in February 2022 to Punta Cana, where we had lots of laughs and made great memories. We hope to plan another trip soon when more Belles can join us!"

Maria Conticelli, Heather Muth, Erin Schultz Sherer, Becky Lindemann Miedema, Tara

Blanchard Sabo, and I snuck over for an overnight trip in Chicago back in December. While a quick trip, it was full of laughter and catching up. It made us excited for Reunion, which, by the time this article goes to print, will be one for the books. We are already looking forward to our (gulp) 25th Reunion in 2028!

2007

Lisa Gallagher
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Colleen Brannagan-Peisker and her husband Brian welcomed their fourth baby, Mary Louise Peisker, on June 24, 2021, at 10:40 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 21 in.

Kirsten Kensinger and her husband John Periman welcomed their future Belle Mary Frances Periman on July 4, 2021. She is named after her late grandmother **Mary Frances Nolan Kensinger '69**. Her godmother **Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer '99** traveled up to Alaska for the baptism last July.

From **Susan McIllduff Belair**: "I would like to write that my husband Brannon and I welcomed a baby boy Mac Brannon Belair on February 14, 2023. When deciding on a name for our son, we chose Mac which in Gaelic means 'son.' Thus, Mac Brannon literally means Son of Brannon. Mac's first name is also a nod to his maternal grandparents, the McIllduffs. Mac was baptized on April 22 at St. John's Cantius in Cleveland. Krista Fritz is his godmother.



EXCELSIOR

Megan McFadden Wickstrom '07 won an Early Career Award through the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. The award recognizes mathematics teacher educators who display remarkable potential for leadership while early in their careers.

2008

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Greetings from the Class of 2008!

On January 14, 2023, **Mariá Balata** married Benjamin Wilburn in Orlando, FL. Their ceremony was officiated by **Stephanie Pupo Bader**, who along with **Hayley Coxon Hynes** and **Katie Cosimano** (all fellow Rome Belles), made up Mariá's 'I do crew.' Mariá and Ben live in Chicago, where Mariá is the director of a hospital-based domestic violence, sexual assault, and anti-trafficking program. Ben is the lead specialist for diversity, equity and inclusion for a tech company and full-time dad to their rescue furbaby Caia Maria.

Michelle Sherman and husband Nick Rademacher moved from Philadelphia, PA, to Dayton, OH, in the fall of 2021. Her new position with Pax Christi USA has included international opportunities, including the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative gathering in Rome, Italy, and an interfaith delegation to document and report human rights violations in the Philippines. She also teaches at the University of Dayton in the graduate ministry program.

Elizabeth Diedrich Odhner recently celebrated her five-year wedding anniversary with her husband Jason. They have one child Levi, 3. Elizabeth graduated with her MSN as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner two years ago and has started her second graduate program to pursue becoming a certified nurse midwife. For the past two years, Elizabeth and her family have been living in a converted school bus and traveling all over the country, including a very cold December day at Saint Mary's!

Jeney Anderson Christensen was nominated and selected as Woman of the Season for the Winter 2023 edition of *Lake Country Living Magazine*. She has owned and operated Peney Cakes, a dessert food truck, for five years now out of central Minnesota.



Jeney Anderson Christensen at her business!

Kelly Haggerty O'Hara and her husband Jim welcomed a baby boy James Joseph O'Hara VI on December 2, 2022. Big sisters Eleanor and Grace are big helpers and loving their new baby brother!

From **Katie Soller Maloney**: "My husband (Christopher) and daughter Molly, 3, welcomed George Soller Maloney on December 17, 2022. I received a master of arts in applied psychology

from New York University in May of 2021 and I took on the role of director of medical student health services for the NYU Grossman School of Medicine in New York City."

2009

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The Class of 2009 has a lot of updates to share this summer!

Katie Yohe married Kwame Gasu on December 3, 2022, in New Smyrna Beach, FL. Fellow Belles **Ashley Fusaro, Megan Ryan, Mo Seus, Liz Dodds Palmer '13,** and **Libby Koultourides '93** were in attendance and led the partying efforts, as expected.

Clare Heintz Butler welcomed her second child Robert on January 4. He joins big sister and future Belle Elizabeth. **Laura Kleinschmidt Banks** and her husband Patrick welcomed their second son Andrew on January 7. **Andrea Beres Finn** also welcomed her second son Sebastian on January 19 with husband David. **Alex Tulisiak Harvan** and her husband John welcomed their son George on February 16. **Jill Swan LaCross** and her husband Matt welcomed their fourth child Samantha on July 31. She currently works as an editor at VP Demand Creation Services. **Alex Meckes Heckert** had a baby boy on November 3, 2021, and reports he's now a wild 1 year old. **Courtney Vietmeier Kubik** and husband Mark welcomed their second child John in November 2022. **Martha Smid Cosgrove** is a transportation marketer in Dubuque and has a son Charlie and a daughter on the way.

Maura Clougherty Bonham now lives in Northern Virginia and is a social media and content creator for the Military Mom Collective, which is a collaborative community for military families worldwide.

Katie Comeford Fernandez shares the good news! Evan Patrick Fernandez was born April 24, 2023! He's a big boy weighing in at 8 lbs. 10 oz. and 21 in. long! Katie can't wait to take him to SMC one day and show him around!

It's never too late to send in your updates—we love hearing from you and look forward to our 15th Reunion this time next year!

2011

From the *Courier* Office

Julie Laemmle Watts has been selected to the Alice Houston Women's Leadership Program, part of Leadership Louisville's newest initiative designed to accelerate and sustain the growth of mid-level women leaders into positions of influence.

2012

Kate Kirbie Dubinski
SMCclass2012@gmail.com

Catherine Mitchell Duffy married Jay Duffy on March 19, 2022, in Chicago, IL. Many Belles and ND alum were in the wedding party and guests in attendance including **Keely Noonan, Morgan Bedan '13, Michelle Leonard Vigder, Megan Hester, Kristen Nelson, Trish Mitchell Schacht** (ND '00), and Mike Mitchell (ND '98).

On August 20, 2022, **Allison Courtney Piehl** married Nicolas Piehl. Bridesmaids in the wedding included **Emma Brink, Elizabeth Johnston Busam, and Elizabeth Munger**. Also in attendance from Saint Mary's were **Elizabeth Karpus Schirtzinger, Claire Buehe Prescott, and Susan Larson Courtney '14**. Allie's father is John Courtney (ND '83).

Nichole Fundora Siedlarczyk gave birth to her son Stetson in 2020 and her daughter Sawyer in 2022. Recently, she was elevated to partnership at the law firm Golan Christie Taglia LLP and earned the designations of Rising Star (2023) and Emerging Lawyers (2022) for Illinois. Her family resides in Concord Township, OH.

Jordan Nine Rudolph started a new business, an interior design home store. She opened two storefronts in 2022: Henri Home in Wayzata,

MN, and in Saint Paul, MN. She also launched an e-commerce site: myhenrihome.com. **Colleen Golden Jankowski** started a new position in November 2022 as director of sales at Lou Hansell (www.louhansell.com), a luxury garment hanger company based in South Bend. **Brianna Diantionette May** celebrated nine years as senior financial aid counselor for the University of Notre Dame.

We have six baby announcements to share: **Meredith Rizzo Bonner** and her husband Robert Bonner welcomed the birth of their first child Lucille Grace on December 18, 2022. **Katie Bennett Hyde** and her husband Peter welcomed their son Francis Peter Hyde on January 3, 2023. He joins siblings Molly, 4, and Bennett, 2. **Hannah Hupp Cain** welcomed a baby girl Madelyn Grace Cain to her family on January 23, 2023. **Laura Hranac Flancher** and her husband Scott welcomed their first child Arthur Scott Flancher on February 17, 2023. They are doing well and settling into their new family life in Minneapolis. **Kelley Murphy Enzweiler** and her husband Matthew Enzweiler (ND '13, ND Law '16), welcomed their third child Jane Frances on February 21, 2023. Peter, 2.5, and Mary Michael, 17 months, are proud older siblings. **Jackie Zupancic Momont** and husband Matt Momont (ND '11) welcomed the birth of their second daughter Emma Frances Momont on March 4, 2023.

2014

Kat Sullivan Kinasz
Galicia Chantal Guerrero
belles2014news@gmail.com

Dear 2014 Belles,

We are thrilled to share exciting news from our fellow classmates. From weddings to babies, awards, and new jobs, our class has been busy since our last update.

Shanlynn Bias Everhart got married on December 2, 2022. Congratulations, Shanlynn, we wish you many years of love, adventure, and happily ever after.

A few of our classmates have exciting career celebrations. **Shannon Glazier** has been nominated for a 2023 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership. This is a highly competitive award process, six pre-K through 12th grade school leader finalists from more than 130 nominations received. Congratulations, Shannon, we are so proud of you!

Erin Nanovic started a new job at Vanguard and will be returning to school to get her MBA from Villanova University. We will be rooting for you as you continue to soar at work and school. You have excelled as a Belle and an Eagle, and we look forward to watching you continue to thrive as a Wildcat. Congratulations, Erin!

Baby Belles continue to ring for our class! **Emma Derheimer Niespodziany** and her husband welcomed Kacey Lorraine Niespodziany on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16, 2023. Kacey was 7 lbs. 4 oz. and her parents are enjoying this special time together. We hope Kacey will join the Saint Mary's College Class of 2045.

Katherine Kautz Lemek and her husband Peter welcomed a baby boy Harold Otto Lemek on October 15, 2022. Congratulations, Katy and Peter! We hope you are loving this wonderful time together as a family.

We are so happy for the continued success and jubilation from our classmates! Sending love to our fellow 2014 Belles.

2015

Nicole O'Toole Peterson
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Dear Class of 2015,

It seems impossible that it was 12 years ago we were driving down The Avenue for the first time, Vera Bradley duffels and North Face jackets in tow, to move into our dorms. We pondered what our first semester would look like. Would we take Italian or Spanish? Do we want to study abroad? When will we take our "W" courses? Would we get too homesick before fall break? The questions that keep us up at night may have changed, but I find myself relying on many of the same women for answers in our third decade of life that I did in our second. And what a wonderful decade it has been so far!

Tabitha Hackbush Frenz married Eric Frenz in Fort Wayne, IN, on November 19, 2022. **Victoria Connelly Enomoto, Anna Fanelli, Jennifer Hackbush Monroe '03, and Taquoia Hackbush '25** helped them celebrate. Congrats, Tabitha and Eric!

Olivia Arend Erdmann married Cecil Erdmann III on December 21, 2022, in a Disney fairytale wedding in Orlando, FL. **Erin Cisneros** was a bridesmaid and **Kelsey Collins** was a lector. Congratulations, Olivia and Cecil!

Here's to creating more wonderful memories in 2023. Don't forget to send me your personal and professional life updates to: nicoleotoolepeterson@gmail.com. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023!

2016

Jennifer Anne Vosters
smc16news@gmail.com

Hi, Class of '16!

First up, Baby Belles! **Ashley Watkins Reagan** and her husband welcomed their son Noah Leif Reagan into the world on September 25, 2022. The Reagans also moved into their new home in Bluffton, IN, that same month. All our best to you and your family, Ashley!

Wedding Belles! **Hannah Drinkall Finn** married Matt Finn on October 22, 2022, in Orlando, FL. (Fun fact: Matt's aunt is also an SMC alumna!) Additionally, Hannah began working as an account executive at Shyft6 in 2021 and welcomed her daughter Tara Mary on August 22, 2019. We are so happy for you and your family, Hannah!

More Wedding Belles: **Maureen Malarney Jones** married Ronnie Jones in Indianapolis, IN, on November 19, 2022. Belles **Lucy Semler '20, Lindsay Rzepecki, Maggie Wenzel, Margaret Malarney '19, Paige Kennedy Allen, and Marykatherine Curtin Donovan '17** were all in attendance. Congratulations and best wishes, Maureen!

More exciting life achievements! **Maddie Corsaro** bought her first house! She moved into her beautiful new home in Malvern, PA, on June 15, 2022. Major congratulations, Maddie! Here's to many memories (and future Belles reunions??) in your new digs.

Don't forget to send updates to *Courier* at smc16news@gmail.com. Births, weddings, new jobs, new cities, life accomplishments, Belles reunions... we wanna hear about 'em!

2017

Kate FitzMaurice
kfitzm01@saintmarys.edu

Dear Class of 2017,

I'm pleased to share these updates from our fellow Belles:

Emerald Ellen Blankenship was accepted to the Mutz Philanthropic Leadership Institute, an organization that works to skill-up professionals serving in executive roles at social impact organizations across Indiana. Emerald currently serves as the VP of programs at the Community Foundation of Howard County. Congrats on being accepted as one of the 23 spots in this year's cohort, Emerald!

Sara Knable Croft and husband Coby welcomed their baby girl Norah Felicia in March. Congrats, Sara!

Claire Kathleen Condon married Matt Grigas in September. The bridal party included several Saint Mary's alumnae family and friends: **Lauren Condon Butera '06, Erin Condon Kodman '07, Caitlin Condon Coyne '12, Bridget Condon Hyland '15, Claire Evalyne Veselik, Bridget Trainor Hogan, Sarah Catherine McKeivitt, and Lauren Marie Faso. Gretchen Pugliese Renfro '88** gave a reading at the ceremony. Congrats, Claire!

Lastly, a huge thank you to the 60+ members of our class who contributed to this year's Donor Challenge! Go Belles!

I always love hearing your news and updates. Please don't hesitate to reach out at kfitzm01@saintmarys.edu!

2018

Catherine Anne Bruno
catherine.bruno9@gmail.com

My Dearest Belles,

Our first Reunion has come and gone. It was wonderful to catch up with everyone, stay on campus, and admire our beautiful alma mater! I look forward to many more Reunions in our future. As we enter August of 2023, it is crazy to think our first day of class was August 25, 2014. I have the pleasure to announce a few updates from our classmates:

Brynne Elisabeth DuBois is happy to report she is now the assistant director of recruiting for the football team at Louisiana State University.

Samantha Elizabeth Allen married Kendall Tallman on March 11, 2023, in Fort Wayne, IN. **Abbie Spica VandenBosch** and **Stephanie Ridgeway Johnson '19** were bridesmaids. Other Belles in attendance included **Jenny Ann Indelicato, Allyson Brienne Brunet Slusser, Janet Libbing Prendergast '92, and Megan Suzanne Prendergast '26**.

Brooke Nicole Lamb married Devon Sanchez-Ossorio on June 29, 2022. The couple will have a formal ceremony and celebration this summer on June 29, 2023.

Alyssa Santos Ledwith had a baby boy Elias on December 14, 2022.

Emily Harrast has completed her training in the United States Peace Corps. She is currently teaching English in Morocco as a volunteer. Because she is now fluent in Arabic and educated in Morocco's culture, the next two years will be her home in Morocco. Her previous assignment in Armenia was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Please continue to share your life updates and achievements with me at catherine.bruno9@gmail.com. And as always, Go Belles!

2020

From the *Courier* Office

From **Bridget Delaney Martin**: "A lot of things happened for me in 2022 and I wanted to share! I got married to my high school sweetheart Lex Martin on August 20 and then we had our first child on November 19, Sullivan Jordan Martin. We have had many Belles help and visit us throughout our busy and exciting year! We truly couldn't have made it through the year without my amazing Belles!

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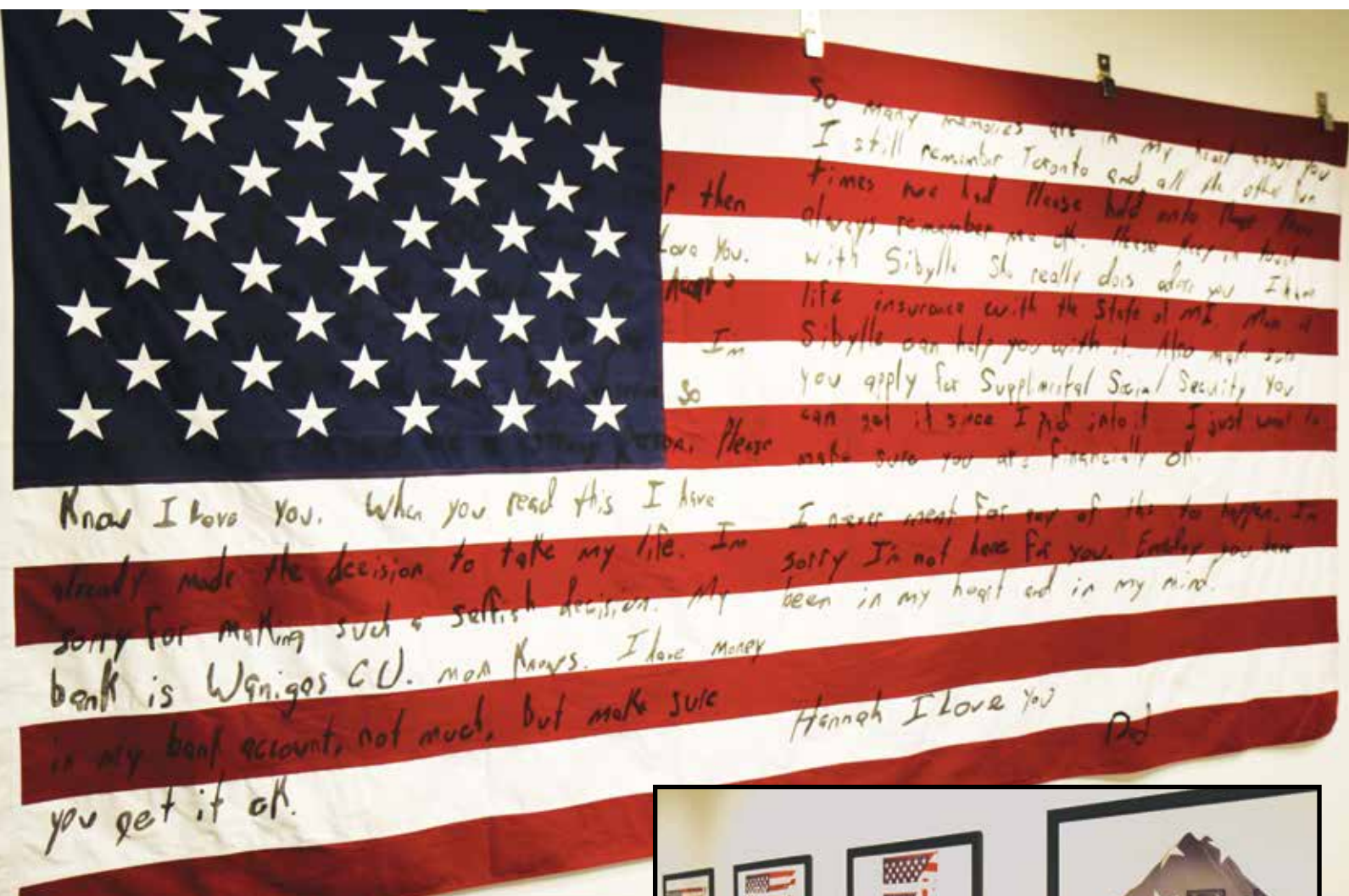
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Hannah O'Farrell '23, Striped Burial

In *Striped Burial*, O'Farrell chronicles the progression of her father's burial flag being folded through photography that incorporates the scanned imagery of sympathy cards, obituary notes, offering envelopes, and messages delivered with flowers. Through the use of the memorial flag and other funeral motifs, O'Farrell focused "on the aftermath of losing a loved one to suicide." The flag's progression as it is reshaped for display or storage represents her father's final message to the artist becoming less comprehensible, the circumstances around his death "folded away; and rarely if ever discussed," she writes. O'Farrell graduated with a bachelor of fine arts (BFA) in May; her work was featured this summer as part of the Undergraduate College Residency Exhibition at the South Bend Museum of Art.