


Saint Mary's College
NOTRE DAME • INDIANA

Alumnae Association Board of Directors

Dear Alumnae:

The beginning of a new academic and Board Association year includes a new issue of *Club Connections*. The Board continues to work towards providing assistance to the Clubs and opportunities for alumnae re-engagement with the College. A new event of note, the WELCOME HOME ALUMNAE event was held in the new North Courtyard of Madeleva Hall. The Board plans to repeat the event next year.

We hope the revamped focus of *Club Connections* along with the monthly e-mail communications from the Alumnae Office help to make all connections between the Board, the College, you and your club stronger and better able to serve all alumnae. Please use this newsletter to share information with alumnae at upcoming Club events.

Go Belles!

Liz Bermingham Lacy '66
President, Alumnae Board of Directors

Welcome Home Alumnae!



Dr. Mooney (front row center) and Saint Mary's Alumnae in front of Madeleva Hall.

On Saturday, September 19, the Alumnae Association Board of Directors hosted a "Welcome Home" event spearheaded by Dawn Santamaria '81 for alumnae and their friends and families returning to campus for the Notre Dame vs. Michigan State football game. Over one hundred guests enjoyed coffee, doughnuts, and bagels in the courtyard near the new North Courtyard of Madeleva Hall. President Carol Ann Mooney '72 and her husband, George Efta, also attended. Current students were on hand to provide tours of the newly renovated Madeleva Hall. The event provided alumnae with an opportunity to catch up with Saint Mary's classmates, make new friends, learn the latest happenings on campus, and spend time at their alma mater before crossing the street for tailgating and the football game.

She's Saint Mary's

Class of 2013

441 first-year students
from
37 states & 4 countries

16 Valedictorians
5 Salutatorians

17 students with 4.0 GPAs

108 with Alumnae connections

High School GPA:

3.91-4.00 33.1%
3.81-3.90 10.1%
3.61-3.80 18.3%
3.41-3.60 13.9%
3.21-3.40 11.9%
3.01-3.20 7.3%
Below 3.00. 5.4%

High School Rank:

39.5% were in the Top Ten
94.2% were in the Top 50 percent

ACT Score Range:

More than 56% scored above 25 on the
ACT
The Middle 50% range was 23-28

SAT Score Range:

Over 82% of students scored above 500 on
all three portions of the SAT
The Middle 50% range -
Critical Reading 510-620
Math 510-620
Writing 510-620

Alumnae News & Honors

The following women were recognized at the 2009 Reunion for the honor they bring to Saint Mary's.

Kathy Malone Beeler '69 was presented *The Distinguished Alumna Award* for her dedication to South Bend area education, church, arts, healthcare and civic organizations. Ms. Beeler plunges into philanthropic pursuits with the same passion she holds for her service activities and provides leadership in her commitment of time, talent and treasure to Saint Mary's.

The Alumna Achievement Award was presented to **Dr. Joan Richtsmeier '77**. Dr. Richtsmeier is currently an anthropology professor at Pennsylvania State University where she is respected by both her colleagues and students. Members of her lab at Penn State say she "maintains a lab environment that is both productive and academically stimulating". She leads students in their projects and encourages them to follow their own interests in the lab.

Rose-Marie "Rody" Oppenheim Dilenschneider '54 received the *Humanitas Award* for a lifetime of service and dedication to both children and adults in the field of literacy and for her commitment to the standards and ideals of the College.

The Outstanding Young Alumna Award was presented to **Gayla Spenney '97**. After graduating from Saint Mary's College, she began her career in social work. Her career path began in Phoenix working for Aid to Adoption of Special Kids while beginning her master's degree in social work at Arizona State University. Ms. Spenney is also very active working with the Arizona Alumnae Club.

Club of the Year for 2008 – Houston, Texas

The Houston Club is recognized for fresh ideas that re-invigorate its core Alumnae base, encourage new alumnae participants, reach out to current students in creative ways, and serve the needs of others in the community. Club programming includes a Christmas Mass and dinner where members bring food donations for the local parish food pantry, the Founders' Day Luncheon, monetary donations to local Catholic charities, a tennis mixer and luncheon, and final exam care packages mailed to current students. In addition, an annual student send-off includes parents of current students and alumnae. Houston Club members represent the College at local high school college fairs, and participate in a St. Patrick's Day Parade with the ND Alumni Club, as well as spring and summer softball teams with ND alumni and there are various social events for younger members.

Tips for Clubs - Events that connect the Club to current students provide a great purpose and usually have a great response.

- ❖ Care packages at unexpected times are fun and surprising. Don't limit yourself to doing them at the holidays. Some clubs send theirs at Valentine's Day and during finals.
- ❖ Host an Accepted Students reception in late March or early April. This event is a great boost to admissions. Last spring, one club had an event for six accepted students. Before the reception, four were on the fence about Saint Mary's but after the reception, they all enrolled! This can be a simple affair with light refreshments. Include your "youngest" alumnae so prospective students can speak with someone who has been on campus recently and also try to include some alumnae that connect with parents as well.
- ❖ Leadership Change ... Burned out? Need help? Enlist your Alumnae Board Liaison or Jessica Stuijbergen in the Alumnae Relations Office to help find new leadership for your club or to discuss ways to re-organize your club leadership to be more effective.
- ❖ Update your local Club Website info on the College website. If the website is current, it is more likely to be used on a regular basis by your membership. Email a club newsletter with a schedule of upcoming events. Refer to your updated website in the newsletter. Contact Jessica Stuijbergen if you need help establishing or updating the website.
- ❖ Provide Alumnae with an opportunity to donate to Saint Mary's. Donations must be made directly to Saint Mary's from the alumna's personal account. Please contact JudeAnne Wilson in the Development Office at 574-284-4580 or jawilson@saintmarys.edu with any questions. Dues and event payments do not count as donations to Saint Mary's College; they are payments to the Club.
- ❖ Fun Activity Ideas: *SMC Chick Flicks*: get together for dinner and a movie, *Mommy and Tots*: moms and kids gather for parties or play-dates, *Book Club*: get together to discuss your favorite book or perhaps, Very Valentine by alumna, Adriana Trigiani '81.

Each Club or Contact Area has an Alumnae Board Member Liaison, please contact your liaison if you need help or ideas regarding activities and/or Club organization. She would love to help you! If you need the contact information for your Club Liaison, contact Jessica Stuijbergen in the Alumnae Relations office.

For assistance with Club activities or for more information on Alumnae Association events, call:

Director of Alumnae Relations: Kara O'Leary '89: 574/284-4578 or koleary@saintmarys.edu

Assistant Director of Alumnae Relations: Jessica Stuijbergen '99: 574/284-4578 or jstuijbe@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary's College Today

- ❖ *US News & World Report's* 2010 annual survey ranks Saint Mary's College at 97 of the top 100 colleges.
- ❖ Saint Mary's College is pleased to announce its highest enrollment in 18 years. This fall there are 1,664 students from 43 states and 5 countries.
- ❖ More than 90% of Saint Mary's students receive some form of financial aid, totaling more than \$19 million in institutional grants and scholarships. Tuition for the 2009-10 school year is \$29,616 and room and board averages \$9,206.
- ❖ Almost 70% of Saint Mary's student athletes were on the Dean's List in the 08-09 academic year.
- ❖ Madeleva Hall was completely renovated. Improvements include new study group spaces, private study spaces, and an overall better flow to the building. Carroll Auditorium, the 350-seat lecture hall, was updated with new carpet, seating, and lighting. In addition to the Math and Education departments, the College Archives are housed in Madeleva.

Dates to Remember

October 13th: *Anniversary of Founders' Day*
...celebrate Saint Mary's 165th anniversary

December 14-18, 2009: *Saint Mary's College Finals*
...send students a care package

March 18-20, 2010: *Alumnae Association Board Meeting*

April 24, 2010: *Donor Recognition Dinner*

May 3-7, 2010: *Saint Mary's College Finals*
...send students a care package

May 15, 2010: *Commencement*

June 3-6, 2010: *Reunion*
...celebrating classes ending in 0 and 5

July 11-19, 2010: *Alumnae Association Trip to Passion Play - Oberammergau*

Alumnae Participation Matters!

For the 2008-2009 year, Saint Mary's reports that they received a total of \$3,907,425 in contributions from alumnae, parents and friends of the College. The annual fund received \$2,185,728 in unrestricted gifts; such gifts help support financial aid and scholarships. As of May 31, 2008, the College endowment reached \$100,867,600.

Currently, Saint Mary's has a 29% participation rate. This means that 29% of Saint Mary's graduates supported the College with a financial gift for the fiscal year 2008-2009. Saint Mary's goal is to achieve 45% by 2013. Please advise alumnae in your area that every gift from every alumna counts.

Increasing participation can help improve Saint Mary's ranking by such publications as *US News & World Report*. Such publications use alumnae giving participation to measure alumnae satisfaction with their College experience.

Thank you for your financial support of Saint Mary's. Your gift provides the resources necessary to help Saint Mary's offer financial aid and the best and most challenging college experience. Encourage your Club members to support Saint Mary's. It is easy to make a gift online, go to: www.saintmarys.edu/give.

Saint Mary's College Alumnae Association Board

Rebecca Votto Bennett '93, Christine Bodewes '87,
Sarah Brown '05, Jill Moore Clouse '99,
Mary Sue Dunn Curry '85, Nora Barry Fischer '73,
Kelley Fitzgerald '10, Angeline Johnson '07,
Linda Kawecki '79, Sara Bateman Koehler '70,
Monica Stallworth Kolimas '74,
Elizabeth Birmingham Lacy '66,
Kathryn Wiedl Mettler '63,
Priscilla Karle Pilon '86, Lisa Maxbauer Price '99,
Dawn Parker Santamaria '81, Susan Suchy '89,
Barbara Wolfston Urrutia '74,
Phyllis Sullivan Van Hersetz '62,
Abby Van Vlerah '04,
and Karen McNamara Weaver '91