A CAMPUS FOR TOMORROW

Saint Mary Prepares for the Future with New Learning Spaces, Living Options, and Sports Facilities
MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Saint Mary educates students of diverse backgrounds to realize their God-given potential and prepares them for value-centered lives and careers that contribute to the well being of our global society. We value: community, respect, justice, and excellence.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Alums,

During this season of Advent, the days grow shorter and the darkness envelops me. As I still my soul and long for the Light—“the Light no darkness can overcome”—I am struck with a deep sense of gratitude.

My mother did her best to instill a sense of gratitude in her children. No conversation was complete without the reminder, “Do you know how blessed we are?” The correct answer is, “Yes, mom.” Now, mom is 89 years old, dealing with the challenges of age, and she’s still the first to say, “I am so blessed.”

Gratitude is infectious—wonderfully infectious! It’s a perfect antidote to the materialism invading our celebration of Christmas.

At Saint Mary, we have so much to be grateful for.

- Our SCL mission of education.
- Our students, friends, alums, and donors who believe in our mission.
- A dedicated and committed faculty and staff.
- A $1.1 million federal grant to educate Hispanic nurses for Wyandotte County.
- A $600,000 federal grant to educate economically disadvantaged students interested in a career in the STEM fields.
- Recognition for the 10th straight year as a ‘Best Midwestern College.’

And our dear friend Charles “Charlie” Berkel remembered us in his estate planning—leaving the university the largest gift ever received, $13 million. Charlie’s generosity has ignited our university’s plan to create the “Campus for Tomorrow.”

Mom, you are right. We are so very blessed. May our gratitude and joy be contagious this holy season.

Blessings,

Sister Diane Steele, SCL, Ph.D., C’83

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The Aspire is published for the friends and alumni of the University of Saint Mary in the spring, summer, and winter, including the Honor Roll of Donors, and online editions by the Office of Marketing, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048, 913-758-6104. Please send all alumni news items, such as a marriage, birth, death, new job, promotion, award, additional degree, etc., to the attention of: Alumni Relations, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048, 913-758-6126 or alumni@stmary.edu. Please remember to include your class year, address, and phone number.
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- New Accounting Program Creates Triple Advantage
- The Powerful Effect of Endowed Scholarships
- Give from the Heart
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- A Well-Deserved Award
- Sports and Fine Arts Schedule

### Alumni Corner
- Class Notes
- In Memoriam
- Alumni News
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### Class Codes:
- A - Academy
- C - College
- U - University
- M - Master’s Degree
CARING ABOUT MORE THAN JUST A SMILE

“I want to make an impact. I want to truly make a difference.”

That’s just what USM alum Dr. Geoff Peterson, U’09, is doing.

While many dental school grads look to build a lucrative private practice, Dr. Peterson knew from the beginning he was called to serve in public health. This October, he left a private dental practice to serve as the clinic director at the Health Care Coalition (HCC) of Lafayette County (Waverly, Mo.).

His experiences at Saint Mary bolstered his drive to serve. While in college, he was active in the university’s prison ministry, and said, “I saw a group of men that very few cared about. I refused to be somebody that contributed to that.”

Continuing that call to serve the underserved, at the HCC, Dr. Peterson cares for those on Medicaid, Medicare, and the uninsured of Lafayette County. Along with dental care, the HCC offers medical care, nutrition, and physical-activity programs for low-income county residents. Payment is on a sliding scale depending on the patient’s income.

“It’s truly humbling when your former students are inspiring you—their instructor—to be a better person,” praised Dr. Caroline Mackintosh, USM natural sciences and mathematics department chair. “We’re privileged to witness the great things he’s doing.”

Dr. Peterson works in the HCC dental clinic four days a week, and he does outreach in county schools and community centers one day a week—noting this as his favorite part. He said, “I love telling people we’re here. And we don’t care if you can’t pay. This little help could truly change their life.”

And if that’s not enough, Dr. Peterson is currently working on a federal grant to fund a mobile clinic with two dental chairs, which would help eliminate one of the greatest barriers to quality and regular health care—transportation.

“If you’re in health care, you should be in it to help people. It’s not about the money. It’s about how much you’re giving back,” said Dr. Peterson.

He gives Saint Mary so much to be proud of. “He’s a Saint Marian truly living out the mission and forever carrying on the values of our university,” said Dr. Mackintosh.
Tell Us Your Saint Mary Story

From success stories to tales of lives well lived to memorable trivia—we’re always looking for a new Saint Mary alum spotlight. Send your stories or memories to alumni@stmary.edu with “A Saint Mary Story” as the subject line.
University of Saint Mary accounting students now have a unique opportunity to graduate with not only their Bachelor of Science in Accounting, but earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and meet the academic requirements to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam.

CPA and MBA are two powerful acronyms in the world of accounting and finance. A new grad with CPA behind his or her name can earn 10-15 percent more, says the American Institute of CPAs. When a student adds an MBA, the new grad may double their salary and maximize their demand.

“For students with their sights set on the executive suite or their own accounting practice, the program is a perfect fit,” said Rick Gunter, director of graduate and undergraduate business programs at USM’s Overland Park Campus.

“Across the board, USM accounting grads are well-prepared for success, but grads of the new accounting program have a triple advantage when they enter the business world.”

USM’s enhanced accounting program takes six years to complete—four of which go toward the bachelor’s. State regulation mandates 150 academic credit hours to sit for the CPA exam. Students earn enough credit to sit for the exam, along with receiving CPA exam prep, after just three additional semesters, or 22 hours (summer, fall, and spring). Students complete the final 18 hours to graduate with their MBA in three part-time semesters.

“Six years may sound a bit daunting, but when you do the math, it makes sense,” said Gunter. “Most experts agree credentials are critical for career advancement. At USM, we not only want our students to do well while here at USM, but also to succeed after graduation.”

Visit stmary.edu/accounting to find out more about the enhanced accounting program.

SHOP AT USM’S SPIRIT SHOP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

THE USM SPIRIT SHOP HAS ALL OF THE APPAREL AND ITEMS TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BLUE AND GOLD! SHOP ONLINE AT STMARY.EDU/SHOP
Your personal values are cherished when you create an endowed scholarship. This is more than a possible tax break opportunity—it’s reflective of your commitment to the mission of Saint Mary and the values carried on by future generations of Saint Marians.

Endowed scholarships provide a permanent source of financial assistance to deserving students. Although a minimum gift of $10,000 is required to create an endowed scholarship, you can start your scholarship with any amount right away.

Why $10,000?

This amount allows for smart investment with long-term growth and maximum returns in mind (which keeps the scholarship funded year after year). Full-endowment status can be achieved over time with a monthly or quarterly payment plan.

You can also include a bequest in your will of $10,000 for the endowed scholarship program.

Your endowed scholarship can be named in your honor, or in memory of a friend or loved one.

In June 2014, the endowment was $18.5 million, compared to $16.4 million the year prior. This great growth helped combat inflation and enabled Saint Mary to give additional funds to deserving students this school year.

Contact me, Jane Ellen Liebert, if you would like to create an endowed scholarship, or if you have questions about next steps—like setting up a payment plan.

As a member of the Saint Mary family, you know how important it is to pass along our long-standing traditions. Your donation supports our shared mission to educate students from diverse backgrounds to realize their God-given potential. Every dollar supports this mission and the impact we have on our global society.

It’s not about how much you give—it’s that you give. Giving comes from the heart. Consider making a gift to Saint Mary this holiday season.

Please contact me with questions or if you need help making a year-end gift.

Jane Ellen Liebert, C’97
Alumni & Planned Giving Officer
University of Saint Mary
913-758-6126 | jane.liebert@stmary.edu
Proud member of the Saint Mary Legacy Society

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SERVING WITH A PURPOSE

More than 150 USM volunteers packaged over 20,000 meals for delivery to Ebola-ravaged Liberia on Nov. 15 for the university’s annual anti-hunger effort.

This year’s edition—Feed the Need—also had a more personal feel for several in attendance. The university named the event as the inaugural entry in the John Baker Global Service Project series.

John Baker, of course, was a board member and long-time supporter of Saint Mary and husband to Letty Baker, C’72. John passed away this summer.

“This is something John would have been really pleased to have been a part of,” said Letty, who attended the event with friends and family members.

The volunteer crowd easily filled the air of the university’s cavernous McGilley Field House with music, laughter, happy banter—and fulfilled the day’s work in just about two hours.

Visit stmary.edu/FeedTheNeedPics for more photos.

A WELL-DESERVED AWARD

Dr. William Krusemark, chair of the fine arts department and professor of 36 years, was recipient of the Kansas Independent College Association’s (KICA) Faculty of Distinction award on Oct. 21. The KICA Faculty of Distinction program celebrates excellence and achievement among faculty at the 18 accredited private colleges and universities in Kansas.

Dr. K, as he is known to his students, has served as director of vocal music studies at USM since 1978. Prior to coming to Saint Mary, he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music education from the University of Kansas and a doctorate of musical arts degree in voice from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He completed additional studies at the Berkshire Music School in Tanglewood, Mass., and the American Institute of Musical Studies overseas in Graz, Austria.

He has sung throughout the United States and Europe as a baritone vocalist, including more than 20 featured and supporting roles as a 16-year roster artist with Lyric Opera of Kansas City. In New York, he was a regular soloist with the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys and the National Chorale at Lincoln Center and on National Tour. Other credits include the Aspen Festival; Central City Opera; Flensburg, Germany Opera; and the Kansas City, Mo., Springfield, Mo., St. Joseph, Mo., Tapeka, Kan., and Lake Charles, La., Symphonies. He has also served as Choirmaster at Bethany Lutheran Church of Overland Park, Kan. Here’s to you, Dr. K.
# Winter Sports Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Haskell Indian Nations University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Bethel College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas Wesleyan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Tabor College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Sterling College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ University of Northwestern Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>@ La Sierra University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Haskell Indian Nations University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Ottawa University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Southwestern College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Friends University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Bethany College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>McPherson College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Bethel College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Kansas Wesleyan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Tabor College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Sterling College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Ottawa University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Southwestern College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Friends University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>@ Bethany College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>@ McPherson College</td>
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# Men’s Basketball

- Home games
- Away games

# Women’s Basketball

- Schedule subject to change. GOSPIRES.com

# 2014 Spring Fine Arts Calendar

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<tr>
<td>Feb. 6-March 6</td>
<td>Art Majors Projects</td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>The Mime Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Art Majors Projects Reception</td>
<td>May 1-6</td>
<td>Student Art Exhibition</td>
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<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Winter Student Recital</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Student Art Exhibition Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12, 13, 14</td>
<td>Almost Maine</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Preparatory Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Senior Recital</td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Voice Recital</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Senior Music Minor Voice Recital</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Senior Flute Recital: Jordan Buchner</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Opera Scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Spring Choral</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Masterworks Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5-17</td>
<td>Senior Shows</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Senior Shows Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Chamber Music Recital</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16, 17, 18</td>
<td>The Glass Menagerie</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Spring Band Concert</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Spring Choral Pops Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Spring Student Recital</td>
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USM theatre productions in italics.

Visit stmary.edu/fineartscalendar for more.
A CAMPUS FOR TOMORROW

You may not recognize campus the next time you visit. Big changes are happening as we create the “Campus for Tomorrow.”

“This is exciting for everyone at Saint Mary,” said USM President Sister Diane Steele, C’83. “We have a beautiful, historic campus and our campus improvement plans preserve our rich history, yet allow us to build out to meet the needs of the future.”

A steering committee of trustees and administrators, along with the architects of Hollis + Miller, sifted through improvement ideas collected in surveys, interviews, and discussions with faculty, students, and staff. Using six distinct criteria (strategic alignment, efficiency improvement, problem solving, community relationships, image, and sustainability), the group finalized the list and began to draw the plans.

Construction will come in a four-phased approach from 2014 to 2022. Thanks to the generosity of many alumni and community donors, three projects in Phase 1 are fully-funded and construction has already begun.

“Saint Mary students, faculty, and alums are at the heart of our educational mission. The campus improvement project will blend the current university facilities with the creation of new and expanded buildings and student space—where our community can study, perform, live, cheer, and collaborate in new ways. It’s a great time to be a Saint Marian.”

- Dr. Dan Dentino, vice president for student life

PHASE 1
COMPLETION DATE: December 2015
- Increase campus parking
- Restore historic stairs and porches (in progress)
- Create entrance archway
- Remodel Saint Joseph Dining Hall
- Construct sports facilities (in progress)
- Launch enhanced accounting program (in progress)
- Start library enhancements (in progress)

PHASE 2
COMPLETION DATE: May 2018
- Alter road for increased parking
- Build apartment-style housing
- Construct “learning commons”

PHASE 3
COMPLETION DATE: May 2020
- Plan relocation of academic space
- Remodel Miege Hall
- Renovate Xavier Hall and Mead Hall

PHASE 4
COMPLETION DATE: May 2022
- Construct parking garage
- Build addition to Miege Hall
- Add more student housing

* Dates subject to change
THANK YOU, CHARLIE!

Charles “Charlie” Berkel remembered Saint Mary in his estate planning. He left the university the largest gift ever received—$13 million. Charlie designated $6.5 million for a stadium, and thanks to his generosity, Saint Mary will celebrate next year’s homecoming game in the Charles J. Berkel Memorial Stadium. The other $6.5 million will come to the university over the next 20 years, and it will be used for scholarships (something dear to Charlie’s heart) and to help further build the Campus for Tomorrow.
Missing nails, rotting wood, and rust have taken their toll on the stately old staircases and porches behind Saint Mary Hall. So much so that they’ve been deemed “off limits” for the past five years.

“Restoration is a critical component of our Campus for Tomorrow plans,” said Karolyn Dreiling, vice president for development. “Our campus holds years and years of memories, and we want those to be preserved for years to come.”

The structure and safety of the beloved stairs and porches were the initial concerns to be addressed.

The first step: a massive overhaul. In August, construction crews stripped the space to its skeleton structure. Crews have since started to replace all joists and railings with long-lasting new materials, and they’ve brought in new wood planks to replace the rotted porch boards.

After the remodel, the porches and stairs will be back up to code—useable and safe just like years ago.

Judy Helnert Collins, C’69, like many alums, has thousands of memories from her time at Saint Mary. One she vividly recalls from her days dorming in Saint Mary Hall involved the stairs. She said, “I would sleep until the last minute, throw my robe over my pajamas, fly down the spiral staircase, and I always seemed to still make it for Mass on time.”

Annabel Willcott, A’46 and C’50, remembers sleeping on the porches in the spring and fall to keep cool with no air conditioning.

Although the stairs and porches may not be the quickest way to Mass anymore—or meant for sleeping—they’ll still be a spot students, faculty, and staff use to learn, grow, and make memories. And these are the special spaces that build Saint Mary into more than just a campus, but a strong community.
"Our academic offerings have grown dramatically over the past several years," said Dr. Bryan Le Beau, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "We now offer programs at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels both on-ground and online to students across the country. That growth has made considerable demands on the services De Paul Library must provide. Our new library director, however, has the knowledge, creativity, and energy to meet those demands. She has made a great start, and we look forward to seeing what comes next."

A LOOK INSIDE DE PAUL LIBRARY

Campus renovation and restoration extends to De Paul Library, too. Danielle Theiss, director of De Paul Library, has big plans for the space to better serve the changing needs of the university community and its students.

“The possibilities are endless for De Paul Library,” said Theiss. “I want it to be the place on campus students come to study and read, obtain research help, collaborate on group projects, catch up with friends, and have a coffee. Libraries have changed into community spaces that aren’t stuffy and silent—rather vibrant learning centers, buzzing with energy and activity.”

CHANGES SO FAR

- More e-Resources = More Group and Individual Study Space
  Students, faculty, and staff are a click away from new eBook databases and resources. That equals more than 9,000 full-text journals, 50 reference encyclopedias, and 2,000 health science eBooks, along with library research guides (overviews of resources experts found to be the best on a given topic).

- More Group Study Space = New Furnishings
  Students are being asked for their opinion on the space’s furniture. They’ll actually get to sit in and vote on the top contenders.

- Increased Access to Interlibrary Resources = Increased Use
  Ordering books and journal articles from other libraries has been made easier (and quicker). In just this semester, Saint Mary has already surpassed last year’s total use.

- More Online Resources = More Online Help
  Online chat service is now available all hours the library is open.

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‘40s
Sr. Marie Madeleine Shonka, C’49, Kansas City, Mo., was honored at the Ascension Health Convocation in Nashville, Tenn. on Oct. 25. Sr. Marie Madeleine received the Ascension Health Individual “Living the Mission and Values Award.” Sister was honored for her service as director of Seton Center’s Food Pantry.

‘60s
Members of the class of 1968 met in Kansas City, Mo., at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on Aug. 16. The group enjoyed lunch, visited the Rozzelle Court restaurant, and had private tour of museum highlights. The class of 1968 also met again on Nov. 8, at the Webster House in Kansas City, Mo. for lunch.

Sr. Barbara Sellers, C’61, Leavenworth, Kan., retired as head archivist of the SCLs. She served this role for 11 years upon retiring from her loyal duties at Saint Mary.

‘70s
Ann Conver, C’73, Peoria, Ill., led two photographic tours: one through Yosemite in June and one to Ireland in September. Her photographs were also featured at the Speakeasy Art Center (Pekin, Ill.) in an exhibit titled, “Converging.”

Audrey Dick Theisen, Ph.D., C’74, is program chair for the Health Information Technology Department at Westwood College in Colorado.

Members of the class of 1974 met in Tulsa, Okla., on Oct. 10 at the home of Charlene Campbell Nickel. Those in attendance were: Charlene Nickel (Broken Arrow, Okla.), Patty Moore (Dupont, Wash.), Susan Stuart (Shawnee, Kan.), Linda Jankowski (Gladstone, Mo.), Darset DeGregory (Prairie Village, Kan.), and Karen Kremers Tyler (Bentonville, Ark.).

Jane Ann Gorsky, C’75, Gladstone, Mo., celebrated her one-year anniversary as the executive director of the Heartland Chapter of the National Parkinson Foundation.

Alison Banikowski, C’75, Olathe, Kan., rallied the troops for Race for the Cure on Aug. 17. Alison’s Allies team raised over $11,000 in donations. It was a soggy start to the race, but Alison’s Allies toughed it out and made it to the finish.

Danielle Trebus, C’77, Kansas City, Kan., is now the theatre teacher at Staley High School, after working for 25 years at Saint Mary. For her fall production, she directed “Guys and Dolls.”

Mary Hunt Birdwell, C’77, Duncanville, Texas, works for the Dallas Independent School District—educating homebound students.

‘90s
Margaret "Maggie" Fitzgerald Reilly, C’99 and M’01, Olathe, Kan., and husband, J.R., are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Jerome Fitzgerald Reilly.


Samantha Askew Albert, C’94, Fardland, Mo., and husband, Dean, welcomed their son, Tyler Jay. Sam and Dean feel privileged to be parents. Sam is a high school communication arts teacher.

Teresa Henrich-Bishop, C’95, Butte, Mont., is working as a senior controls analyst for PPL Services.

Dama Moore Logan, C’95, Olathe, Kan., works as a chemist at MRIGlobal doing lab work, repairing instruments, and writing reports. In her free time she enjoys soccer, volleyball, and bicycling.

Camila Howard, daughter of Ginger Hernandez Howard, C’95, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, enjoys the company of her furry pet friend, Humphrey. Camila and Humphrey became best friends fast.
Jason Nichols, C’96, Easton, Kan., is a member of the communications team for Dairy Farmers of America.

Jason "Lo" Lalicker, C’97, Minot, N.D., is working as a senior project manager for Western Land Services.

Megan Durkin McLaughlin, C’97, Bristow, Va., is working for Micron Technologies and traveling to Japan for her job.

Christopher Huot, C’99, Philadelphia, is a nurse. He and wife, Heather, are the proud parents of two boys and a five-month old daughter. Several members of Chris’ family have attended Saint Mary: mother, Ann Bushbaum Huot, C’71; aunt, Mary Bushbaum, C’71; and sister, Elizabeth "Liz" Huot Salsgiver, U’04.

Sally Selzer Sallee, C’99, Kansas City, Mo., and husband, Matt, welcomed their baby girl, Bernadette Clare. Sally has four children: Madeline, Jackson, Adelle, and Bernadette.

‘00s

Taro Fujimoto, C’00, Sioux Falls, S.D., received the Board of Trustee Employee Award at the University of Sioux Falls (USF). Taro was recognized for his professional accomplishments and outstanding service. He is in his second year as the assistant athletic director of internal operations and ticketing. Prior to joining the administrative side of athletics, he served eight seasons as the top assistant coach for the men’s basketball team. During his tenure, USF claimed back-to-back Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) championships (2006, 2007), three GPAC tournament crowns (2007, 2009, 2011), and made five trips to the NAIA Division II National Tournament (2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011). The Cougars were the No. 1-ranked team in the nation during the 2007 season. Taro said, “Being able to work side by side with some amazing individuals over the years has really helped mold me into a better person. I’ve learned that working hard and having pride in what I do are very important—not only here at USF, but in my personal life as well. I’m really thankful for my new opportunity as assistant athletic director, and I’m looking forward to another great year. Go Coo!” Fujimoto earned a master’s in education from USF in 2007.

Damian Torres-Botello, C’01, Chicago, Ill., and 10 Jesuit novices professed first vows to the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Chicago-Detroit Province, on Aug. 9. By professing first vows, Damian takes the next steps in the 10-12 year formation of a Jesuit, which includes ordination to the priesthood and final vows. No longer a novice, Damian will be a scholastic known as “Mister” or “Brother.” The death of his grandmother, who helped raise him, led Damian to discovering God and the church.

Elizabeth “Liz” Huot Salsgiver, U’04, Altoona, Pa., is a counselor. She and her husband, Brent, have a 3 ½-year-old son. Several members of Liz’s family have attended Saint Mary: mother, Ann Bushbaum Huot, C’71; aunt, Mary Bushbaum, C’71; and brother, Chris Huot, C’99.

Carrie Jacobs, U’04, Kansas City, Mo., is working as a claims specialist with Ferrellgas.

Courtney Manago Huhn, M.D., U’07, Leavenworth, Kan., received a Geriatric Fellowship at Landon Center on Aging. She completed medical school at the University of Kansas and her residency in Family Medicine at KU Medical Center. Courtney hopes to have a career in family medicine and geriatrics, which includes educating medical students and residents.

Geoff Peterson, U’09, Blue Springs, Mo., is clinic director at Health Care Coalition’s public health clinic serving uninsured and in-need patients in Lafayette County, Mo.

Alma Habib, U’13, Leavenworth, Kan., received early decision acceptance into medical school at the University of Kansas this September.

*The cutoff date for class notes was Oct. 15, 2014. Information received after that date is not included, but will be included in the next print Aspire. Email your class notes to alumni@stmary.edu
IN MEMORIAM

‘30s

‘40s
Margaret Harvat Hruza, C’45, Bozeman, Mont., died Sept. 7, 2014. She is the mother of Mary Hruza Selland, C’69, and Chris Hruza, C’70. Margaret’s obituary requested memorials, in lieu of flowers, to her sister’s Saint Mary endowed scholarship fund, Sr. Dorothy Harvat, SCL.

Mary Ann Henscheid Newman, C’49, Tiburon, Calif., died July 6, 2014. Mary Ann was the first of 13 members of the Henscheid family to attend Saint Mary.


Mary Stone Combs, A’41, and C’45, Leavenworth, Kan., died Nov. 6, 2014. She is the mother of Katherine "Kathy" Combs Green, C’82, Leavenworth, Kan.

Edna Bremenkamp Poole, C’41, Lawrence, Kan., died June 25, 2014.

Mary Lou Schott Haskins, C’44, Akron, Ohio, died March 20, 2014.

Marie Dramann Blocher, A’45, Hutchinson, Kan., died Nov. 1, 2014.


‘50s
Sister Carmen Echevarria, C’53, Leavenworth, Kan., died Oct. 1, 2014. Sr. Carmen was a professor in the Saint Mary art department for 11 years. She faithfully served as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth for 64 years.


Sister Anita Marie Westhues, C’57, Leavenworth, Kan., died Aug. 20, 2014. She is the sister of Sister Katherine Mary Westhues, C’58, Leavenworth, Kan. She faithfully served as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth for 67 years.

Peter Faciszewski, husband of Margaret Malone Faciszewski, C’58, Aurora, Colo., died July 17, 2014.

Melvin Tweet, brother of Sister Paula Marie Tweet, C’58, Butte, Mont., died in Kalispell, Mont., on Sept. 20, 2014.


Sister Mary Jo Coyle, C’53, Kansas City, Kan., lost her younger brother, Dr. Joseph Coyle, Gothenburg, Neb., on Nov. 8, 2014.

‘60s
Retha Poos Lallier, C’60, Lenexa, Kan., died Sept. 25, 2014. Retha was an adult student when she attended Saint Mary. She was 97 when she died.


Cathy Moore, C’61, Kansas City, Mo., died Sept. 16, 2014.

Robert Alan Ratliff, husband of Pamela Rau Ratliff, C’64, Corinth, Texas, died July 22, 2014.


Gary Davidson, husband of Karen Ruffatto Davidson, C’68, Rhome, Texas, died Sept. 23, 2014.


‘70s


John Taylor, C’75, Springfield, Vt., died Feb. 6, 2014. John was an adult student when he attended Saint Mary.

Mary Patricia Kelly, C’76, Butte, Mont., died June 29, 2014.


‘80s
Joan Welch, mother of Patricia Welch Cousins, C’83, Aurora, Colo., and sister of Sister Mary Julie Casey, C’58, died June 22, 2014.

Rebecca Langfelt, cousin of Carolyn Boettcher Parmer, C’84, Eureka, Mo., died Sept. 11, 2014.

Katherine "Kathy" Combs Green, C’82, Leavenworth, Kan., last her mother, Mary Stone Combs, A’41 and C’45, on Nov 6, 2014.

‘90s
Frances Flynn-Keegan, mother of Kathy Flynn Ducey, C’90, Banner Springs, Kan., died Sept. 6, 2014 in New York. Kathy is an associate professor in nursing at Saint Mary.

Maureen O’Rouke, mother of Beth Dillon, C’92, Grand Junction, Colo., died July 1, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nev.


FRIENDS/FACULTY/STAFF
Frances (Fran) Erickson, mother of women’s basketball coach, Bruce Erickson, died Aug. 16, 2014.


Marjorie Sirridge, M.D., and long-time friend of Saint Mary, died July 30, 2014. Marjorie married history professor, Bill, Dr. Agnes Sirrdige’s brother.

John Sumpter, father of Christi Sumpter, USM physical therapy program administrative assistant, died Oct. 11, 2014.
SISTER MARY VINCENTIA HONORED AT KC FALL LUNCHEON

The Kansas City Alumni Council hosted a fall luncheon at Grand Street Café on Nov. 16, for alumni, friends, and their guests to celebrate the festive fall season, enjoy great food, and connect with one another.

This year was extra special, as the council honored one of Saint Mary’s finest: Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick—former teacher, dean of freshmen, and alumni/development fundraiser.

More than 70 alumni, ranging from the ‘40s to the ‘90s, came to the luncheon, and the KC Alumni Council made a special donation to Sr. Mary V’s endowed scholarship.

The class of 1964 created the scholarship in June to honor the many ways Sr. Mary V has blessed the lives of Saint Marians through the years.

If you weren’t able to attend the luncheon but wish to give to the scholarship, you still can. Send your donation to Saint Mary, and write “SMV scholarship” in the memo line.

To get involved with activities like the luncheon and/or volunteer with the Kansas City Alumni Council, contact Marsha Breitenstein Puleo, C’70, at mapuleo@sbcglobal.net, or 816-318-3519.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR REUNION WEEKEND 2015

All alumni are invited to next year’s reunion, set for Friday, June 5-Sunday, June 7, 2015 on the beautiful Leavenworth campus.

Catch up with old friends. Make new friends. And celebrate Saint Mary—both as it was during your college career, and as it is now.

This year’s reunion celebrates ALL class years and is a special reunion year for those graduating in years ending in a 0 or 5.

50th anniversary for the class of 1965
25th anniversary for the class of 1990

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NOMINATE AN ALUM FOR A SPECIAL HONOR

Take a minute to honor an outstanding alum by nominating him or her for an Alumni Award. Each award will be presented at this year’s reunion, June 5-7.

In 500 words or less, explain why your nominee should be recognized. Attach your response and any supporting documentation, like news clippings, programs, etc., via email to alumni@stmary.edu. Please note: These items will NOT be returned.

Nominations can be submitted online at stmary.edu/AlumniAwards.

Nominations are due April 1, 2015. Award winners will be notified in May and further celebrated at reunion.

Saint Vincent De Paul Award
- Recognizes an alum who exemplifies the mission of the university
- Nomination remarks must include the words “learning, service, and character” to describe the nominee’s contributions to society

Sister Mary Mark Orr Pioneer Spirit Award
- Recognizes an alum who has achieved great success in his or her professional career
- Nomination remarks must include how Saint Mary played a role in the nominee’s success

Sister Mary Janet McGilley Service Award
- Recognizes an alum who has helped advance Saint Mary by sharing their time and talent
- Nomination remarks must include the nominee’s contribution to Saint Mary and why the nominee feels it’s important to give back to the university community

KEEP US UPDATED!

New email? Saint Mary just started a monthly e-newsletter. If you want to be included, make sure your email is updated. Send info to alumni@stmary.edu.

New address? Saint Mary wants you to receive the Aspire and other mailings at home. Update your mailing info at alumni@stmary.edu or 913-758-6126.

Dropped your landline? Saint Mary students call alumni in the fall and spring asking for your support. Saint Mary staff might be traveling in your area and want to visit. Update your info at alumni@stmary.edu or 913-758-6126.
Support University of Saint Mary Students

SpireFest 2015
Benefiting Student Scholarships

6 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Overland Park Marriott

Make your reservation today at stmary.edu/spirefest or call Sharon Clay at 913-758-6108 to buy tickets or for more information.

RSVP by March 28.

Save the Date
THE 17TH ANNUAL LINCOLN EVENT
7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, 2015
Xavier Theatre
Visit stmary.edu/Lincoln for more information.

Sponsorship opportunities still available!