

Greetings from Moraga! We are gearing up for another busy and promising academic year. This year's freshman class is already breaking records. For the first time we have enrolled a class which consists of students from 23 different states and 20 countries. Along with their geographic diversity, this class consists of 40% students of color and 41% first-generation college bound students. We are excited to welcome these new Gaels on to campus and into our community.

Our AAP membership is breaking records as well. This fall we had 27 AAP members volunteer to represent SMC at more than 30 college fairs throughout the United States. Another 30 members joined admissions counselors at area receptions within the western states to meet with prospective students and their families. This is a dramatic increase in participation from last year, which means that we are reaching more students than ever! I want to thank each of you for donating your time, energy and enthusiasm to insure a successful recruitment season.

Yours for Saint Mary's,
Gina Meneni '99, Alumni-Admissions Program Coordinator
(925) 631-4189 or gmeneni@stmarys-ca.edu

ADMISSION NEWS

APPLICATION FEE: This year's undergraduate application fee will be raised from \$45 to \$55. Remember, alumni may endorse an applicant that they feel enhances the traditions of Saint Mary's College and waive their application fee. Not only do the students benefit by having their fee waived, the College benefits by attracting talented students who understand how great it is to be a Gael.

NEW FACES: This fall the Admissions Office welcomed four new counselors to our staff. Rich Toledo has taken the position of Assistant Director and Coordinator of Minority Recruitment. His territory includes the bay area, Monterey and the state of Nevada. Laura Apisakkul is our new Senior Admissions Officer and will manage our Spring Visit Programs for admitted students. Her territory includes the central coast, San Mateo, southern California, and the states of Idaho and Utah. Omar Zazueta, class of 2003, has also joined our office. Omar's territory includes the central valley, southern California and the northern California coast. This year we created a new position to manage our transfer student population and welcomed Angelica Moore, Director of Transfer Recruitment. We are thrilled to have all four of these talented people on staff to better serve our students and the SMC community. Please do not hesitate to contact the counselor who is responsible for your local area. They would love to hear from you and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

ALUMNI NEWS

CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT: The Alumni Office is pleased to inform you that the College is currently developing an online community for alumni. After reviewing products and services from commercial vendors, the College has decided to develop this major project in-house to allow for complete customization. The alumni online community will be nicknamed "Jerome" in loving memory of Brother Jerome West, FSC.

The online community will enable alumni to keep in touch with their classmates, network with other Gaels, and stay connected to their alma mater. Look for more details about the online community in winter 2004.

CAMPUS NEWS

In August, the SMC community learned that \$121 million in pledged gifts would not be realized. An independent inquiry determined that the College had been intentionally deceived. A detailed report to the College community, as well as numerous updates, is available on our website at:
www.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/news/081404_donor.html.

While many of you are aware of the implications of this lost pledge, I thought it helpful to provide these basic facts for you to share with prospective students:

- Our operating budget and \$128 million endowment are not affected.
- Financial aid is expected to rise by over 15 percent in the coming year.
- Academic opportunities (access to majors, classes, etc) will not be impacted.
- Anticipated tuition rates for the 2005-06 academic year will not be impacted.
- We are redoubling efforts to find alternative ways to fund high priority projects, including office space for faculty and enhanced student recreational facilities.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of College Communications at: (925) 631-4278.

ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

November 30	Early Application Deadline
January 22	38 th Annual President's Open House
February 1	Application Deadline
March 2	Financial Aid Deadline

AAP MEMBER PROFILE

As Saint Mary's strives to be the premier Catholic, Lasallian, Liberal Arts Institution, we look to our alumni to express the ways these traditions can be lived beyond their college years. SMC 2001 grads Erin Hamer and Geoff Allen are perfect examples of how two very different students can join together to develop common values. We wish them all the best in their life together, and are proud to have them represent SMC in the DC area.

The liberal arts education available at Saint Mary's College imparts students with the tools necessary to succeed in any future experience. My fiancé Geoff and I are good examples of how Saint Mary's prepares students to thrive in a variety of different endeavors. We met freshman year and are going to be married in June of 2005. While at SMC we took very different paths, but were both very involved in campus life.

I was a psychology major with a minor in women's studies, and Geoff was a double major in biology and chemistry. He was directed from the beginning towards medical school, whereas I had not narrowed my many interests into a specific career goal. However, we both chose SMC for its small class sizes, highly qualified faculty, and the personal attention that is central to its education. While there I was involved in program board and served as V.P. for student affairs. I learned valuable leadership and communication skills. Geoff was involved in resident life, as an R.A. in Claeys South.

After graduating in 2001, I began working as behavioral counselor for young adults with Down syndrome and Cerebral Palsy, and Geoff began medical school at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Since then, I moved to Baltimore, worked for a year as a special education teacher, and am now working towards my master's degree in speech pathology. I plan to work in a hospital setting; helping adults who have suffered from traumatic brain injury or stroke recover their use of language. Geoff is graduating from medical school and is going to start his training in general surgery. He plans on practicing in either transplant surgery or surgical oncology.

Our experiences at Saint Mary's have fostered in us the independent thought and strength of character necessary to succeed in our chosen professions. In the classroom, we both agree that our educations have allowed us to keep stride with graduates of any Ivy League college or large university. Our experiences outside the classroom were also extremely valuable, nurturing the leadership, teamwork, and communication skills that we now put to work on a daily basis. We both reflect upon our time at SMC with great fondness, remembering the people and experiences that helped us grow into the people we are today.

- Erin Hamer '01

WINTER 2004 ALUMNI EVENTS

DECEMBER:

Friday, December 3 - December First Friday Mass. As is our Saint Mary's alumni tradition, all are welcome to join the 12:10 p.m. Mass in the SMC Chapel, followed by a lunch in the Founder's Dining Room, for a \$10 donation.

Thursday, December 9 - Sacramento Christmas Party.

Friday, December 17 - Men's Basketball vs. Sac State - Overtime Social.

JANUARY 2005:

Tuesday, January 4 - Men's Basketball vs. BYU. This basketball game is expected to sell out. More than half of the seats have been filled through season tickets, with the remainder going fast. If you or someone you know has interest in attending this game, please purchase your tickets by **Nov. 15**, as they won't be available for long! Call the Ticket Office at (925) 631-4392 immediately to take advantage of this offer. Be sure to mention that you are an alum as this offer is only valid to friends of Saint Mary's College!

Friday, January 7 - January First Friday Mass. As is our Saint Mary's alumni tradition, all are welcome to join the 12:10 p.m. Mass in the SMC Chapel, followed by a lunch in the Founder's Dining Room, for a \$10 donation.

Saturday, January 8 - Men's Basketball vs. Gonzaga. Beat the Zags! This basketball game is expected to sell out. More than half of the seats have been filled through season tickets, with the remainder going fast. If you or someone you know has interest in attending this game, please purchase your tickets by **Nov. 15**, as they won't be available for long! Call the Ticket Office at (925) 631-4392 immediately to take advantage of this offer. Be sure to mention that you are an alum as this offer is only valid to friends of Saint Mary's College!

Tuesday, January 11 - Rock and Bowl for Young Alumni and SMC Students. Young alumni are invited to join Saint Mary's students at the annual "Rock and Bowl" event on Tuesday, January 11 from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Diablo Lanes in Concord (1500 Monument Rd, Concord). \$15 Includes all you can bowl, shoe rental, and DJ Music. Please RSVP to (925) 631-8160 or e-mail saa@stmarys-ca.edu. Space is limited. For directions and other information go to: <http://www.diablolanes.com>.

Saturday, January 15 - Homecoming 2005 - Men's Basketball vs. Santa Clara. Save the date for this year's Homecoming, which is on the same day that the Men's Basketball team plays long-time rival Santa Clara at home. Beat the Broncos! For information on special Homecoming packages for alumni, please call (925) 631-4200. The basketball game is expected to sell out! More than half of the seats have been filled through season tickets, with the remainder going fast. If you or someone you know has interest in attending this game, please purchase your basketball tickets by Nov. 15, as they won't be available for long! Call the Ticket Office at (925) 631-4392 immediately to take advantage of this offer. Be sure to mention that you are an alum as this offer is only valid to friends of Saint Mary's College! Here is the schedule of events for Homecoming 2005:

- 2:00-2:45 - Memorial Mass (Invite participants to read the names of classmates who have passed on)
- 2:45-3:30 - Social in Dryden Hall (Beer, Wine, Sodas, and Snack food)
- 3:30-4:00 - Randy Bennett pre-game talk
- 4:00-4:45 - Rally with the Spirit Team, Gael Force I, Gael Force members, and the Sports Band. Oliver Hall open for students to eat, also open to alumni.
- 5:00-7:30 - Game vs. Santa Clara. Promotion: Rally Towels to first 500 fans in the door. Get your tickets early!
- 7:30-9:30 - Spaghetti Dinner, presentation to honor the '89 team, casual set-up. No host bar.

Saturday, January 29 - Men's Basketball vs. San Diego - Overtime Social

For more information on these events, please contact the Alumni Office at (925) 631-4200.