

The Admissions Office is happy to announce that we have read over 3,600 applications for the fall of 2004! This has been the largest undergraduate applicant pool in SMC history. Perhaps it is our improved rankings in the latest *U.S. News & World Report*; perhaps it is the success of our fall and spring visit programs; or maybe it is our outstanding reputation for academic excellence --but most likely it is because of the personal attention every applicant feels throughout their admission process. Time and time again I hear from both students and parents that what they love about Saint Mary's is the feeling that "they belong" here. The sense of familiarity and comfort that people have when they step on campus is largely due to their relationships with alumni- YOU. The role that all of you play as members of the AAP is one of a mentor and trusted friend. The time you spend to reach out to students during their process not only helps Saint Mary's to enroll future Gaels, but more importantly, helps improve the life of every student you come in contact with. The College is incredibly grateful for all of your time and energy, and would like to extend our thanks for helping to attract such an overwhelming talented group of students.

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

ADMISSION NEWS

SPRING PHONE-A-THON: We did it! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to contact admitted students. We have over 35 AAP members calling and e-mailing close to 2,000 admitted students! This is the first year the Alumni-Admissions Program has organized a Phone-A-Thon and I'm thrilled with our efforts. Way to Go!

SPRING VOLUNTEERS: Thank you to the following AAP members who have volunteered their time to represent Saint Mary's College at a local event this Spring:

Alisa Bertain '84
Michael Boele '72
Bob & Elizabeth Brown (Parents)
Niani Cobb-Phillips '00
Zulay (Dowling) Kapci '99
Michael Johnson '87
Alisa Macksey '00
Karen McClelland-Anderer '90
Kirk Pulver '92
Elena Rodriguez '99
Dan Ross '80
Kelly Stallcop '99
Eric Strecker '98
Brendan Trudden '00
Bree Woods '02

Without your time and support we would be unable to provide the personal attention enjoyed by the many students interested in Saint Mary's College across the country.

ALUMNI ENDORSED APPLICATIONS: Thank you to all AAP members who referred an applicant for the 2004-2005 year. The Admissions Office received over 290 endorsed applications and admitted 250 of these "hand-picked" applicants. Not only do the students benefit by having their \$45 application fee waived, the College benefits by attracting talented students who have learned from you how great it is to be a Gael!

Saint Mary's Dean of Science Judd Case Helps Discover New Dinosaur Species

Saint Mary's College Dean of Science Judd Case has discovered what is most likely a species of dinosaur previously unknown to science. He announced his discovery at a Feb. 26 press conference held in the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. and broadcast live over the Internet. The press conference, which was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, was covered by many news organizations, most notably CNN and the Discovery Channel.

Case made his amazing find while climbing among the rocks of James Ross Island off the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula on Dec. 12, 2003. Case believes the fossilized bones he found are those of a new species of carnivorous dinosaur related to the enormous meat-eating tyrannosaurs and the equally voracious, but smaller and swifter, velociraptors that terrified movie-goers in the film "Jurassic Park." Case's trip to Antarctica was funded by the National Science Foundation.

For more information, go to:
www.stmarysca.edu/news_events/news/022704_dinosaurs

ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

April 21-22	Traditional Overnight
April 28	Gael-For-A-Day
May 1	Candidates' Reply Deadline

AAP MEMBER PROFILE

Saint Mary's is always proud of its community. Whether the members are future, present, or past Gaels, SMC enjoys hearing about the success stories and world-changing experiences of its family members. Future Gaels enter to learn, present Gaels develop their wisdom, and past Gaels, like Brian Sexton and Alisa Macksey, leave to serve the world for which SMC prepared them. In their own words, Brian and Alisa share their current success.

Brian P. Sexton, '91 My experience and education at Saint Mary's College has set me up to have both a rewarding and successful career. I graduated in 1991 with a degree in Economics and I am currently working for Merrill Lynch as a senior financial advisor in La Jolla, California. The four years I spent at SMC gave me a great grasp on what to expect in the business world along with the numerous practical skills such as communication and teamwork. The ability to work directly with professors gave me first hand lessons of successful business plans. As a Catholic, Liberal Arts College, SMC gave me the ability to explore and learn about other areas of study rather than just Economics and Business. This gave me a great foundation to become a very well rounded graduate. I will always cherish and be thankful for my time and education at Saint Mary's College.

Alisa Macksey, '00 At Saint Mary's my life was enriched through what I studied and by the values that I experienced through the Christian Brothers. With an interest in different cultures and society, I majored in Sociology/Anthropology and took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad. From both my academics and travels, I came to a deeper understanding of the struggles that different cultural and socio-economic groups endure and the effects of poverty on these groups. Saint Mary's exposed me to the mission of Saint John Baptist De La Salle and the Christian Brothers so after graduating in 2000, I entered into the Lasallian Volunteers to join in their work of educating and empowering the poor. After two years serving as a volunteer in Kansas City, MO, I am now the Associate Director in Landover, MD, and feel blessed to remain involved with this organization. Now I have the opportunity to watch new graduates, many from SMC, go through the challenges and joys of volunteering and see how it touches their lives as positively as it has mine.

SPRING 2004 ALUMNI EVENTS

Saturday, April 24 - Celebrity Waiter Dinner 2004. Save the date! This year's Annual Celebrity Waiter Dinner will be held Saturday, April 24, 2004. Last year, we raised over \$20,000 to help support the Alumni Association's Lasallian Scholarships, the general scholarship fund and the Associated Students of Saint Mary's College.

Monday, June 14 - SMC Graduate Business Alumni Golf Tournament. The Annual Saint Mary's College Graduate Business Alumni Golf Tournament and Dinner will be held at the Moraga Country Club. Join us for a day of fun and networking. Bring a friend, a business associate, or even an acquaintance that is interested in becoming an MBA student. Or, consider organizing a mini-reunion by forming a twosome or a foursome with your Saint Mary's MBA classmates.

June 25-27 - Reunion Weekend 2004 with classes '54, '55, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '83, '84, '89 and '94. Mark your calendars -- June 25-27, 2004 -- for Reunion Weekend 2004. For more information on how you can get involved, please call the Alumni office at (925) 631-4200. Please visit the Reunion Weekend 2004 web site for more information.

**For more information on alumni events contact:
Lloyd Schine (925) 631-4026 or lschine@stmarys-ca.edu**

CAMPUS NEWS

Although many of you are already aware, I am including the following press release regarding the College's decision to discontinue football. Please feel free to contact Rich Davi, Sports Information Director, at (925) 631-4402 if you would like more information.

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE DISCONTINUES INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL; WILL STRENGTHEN OVERALL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

MORAGA, CA (March 3, 2004) - Brother Craig Franz, F.S.C., president of Saint Mary's College of California, today announced a reallocation of College resources to strengthen the College's diverse intercollegiate, club and recreational sports programs. As a result, Saint Mary's is discontinuing its participation in intercollegiate football, effective immediately.

"This difficult decision is the result of thoughtful and lengthy discussions over recent years about the competitive and financial realities confronting all higher educational institutions of our size," said Brother Craig. "Based on recommendations made to our Board of Trustees by an Athletics Review Task Force on the best way to optimize our athletic resources, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously earlier today to discontinue the Saint Mary's football program, and to reallocate those resources to our 14 other intercollegiate sports programs."

The 18-member Athletics Review Task Force included former and current Gael student-athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and regents. They were charged with reviewing and evaluating all aspects of Saint Mary's student athletic programs.

"Given the significant financial and support requirements for fielding a football team capable of competing against our Division I-AA peers, as well as the impact on funding for our other intercollegiate teams, the board agreed that the best way to serve the athletic needs of our entire student population is to discontinue this one program," said Nicholas Moore, chairman of the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees.

Saint Mary's will honor all existing football personnel contracts and grants-in-aid commitments to affected coaches and student-athletes. The College is offering career, academic and personal counseling services during the transition period, and has been in contact with the NCAA to support those student-athletes who choose to pursue athletic opportunities at other colleges and universities.

"We are proud of the remarkable contributions our football program has made to Saint Mary's over some 75 years and deeply grateful to our coaches, our players, the families and fans whose invaluable support is so intrinsic to the spirit of our College," said Brother Craig. "We are all saddened by this painful decision, but it is our obligation to care for the academic and athletic experiences of all of our students."

With today's decision, Saint Mary's joins a growing list of some 30 colleges and universities across the United States whose resource requirements have resulted in the discontinuation of intercollegiate football programs in order to serve a broader range of student athletic and recreational programs.

