

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for your outstanding participation this past fall in the Alumni-Admissions Program. Over the last three months AAP members covered over 40 college fairs and local receptions – **WOW!**

This is not only proof of a dedicated and growing membership, but of the need in which you as a member fill in your community. Thanks to you, more and more students are learning about the educational opportunities available to them, and are inspired to pursue their education at Saint Mary's College. My hope is that each of you was able to experience the joy of working with students while sharing your passion for SMC. Your time is appreciated by both the College and the students you connect with. Thank you.

Yours for Saint Mary's,

Gina Meneni '99

Assistant Director of Admissions, Alumni-Admissions Program Coordinator
(925) 631-4189 or gmeneni@stmarys-ca.edu

P.S. Please be sure to check out the new Alumni-Admissions Program web-page where you can access upcoming volunteer opportunities, training tools and other important member resources.

Login at: www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/aap/

ADMISSION NEWS

ALUMNI-ENDORSED APPLICATION: This year the Admissions Office is strongly encouraging the use of our online application. Please help us in this effort by waiving the application fee of a prospective student. Simply instruct the student to apply online at: www.smcadmit.com. When they come to the payment screen they may enter an alum's name, graduation year and phone number. This will allow the student to submit their application without paying the \$55 application fee. Past data shows that students who apply with alumni endorsement have a higher rate of enrolling to the College if accepted. Please help us find talented students in your area, and encourage their online application.

NEW FACES: The Admissions Office welcomes the following new members to our office:

Damien Fatongia, '05, joins our team as an Admissions Officer. While a student at SMC he majored in Anthropology/Sociology, was a four year starter on the Rugby team, served as a member of Knights of Columbus and the Student Ambassador group, and worked in numerous campus offices (including Residence Life, Recreational Sports and Events & Conferences). Damien is also a Resident Director in Augustine Hall. In addition to student recruitment and applicant evaluation, Damien will also assist in the recruitment and training of Admissions Office student volunteers.

Amy Gonzales, '97, has rejoined the Admissions Office as Assistant Director of Admissions, Coordinator of Minority Recruitment. After serving for six years in our Admissions Office, Amy spent last year completing her Masters degree in Counseling and Credential in Pupil Personnel Services here at SMC.

ALUMNI NEWS

Saint Mary's Day in San Francisco – Nov. 15th

To honor the 75th anniversary of the Galloping Gaels' victory over Fordham in 1930, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom declared Nov. 15, 2005 to be "Saint Mary's College Day." The Gaels received national acclaim when they defeated the East Coast football powerhouse 20-12 on New York's Polo Grounds.

CAMPUS NEWS

Saint Mary's College Scores High in Educational Effectiveness

Saint Mary's College of California is performing better than comparable West Coast private universities and the national average in key areas of student engagement that measure educational effectiveness, according to a national survey released today.

When compared to a group of peer schools, other master-level institutions and national norms, Saint Mary's College scored highest in four out of five benchmarks of educational performance: academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction and supportive campus environment.

In a fifth category, enriching educational experiences, Saint Mary's seniors scored higher than the other comparison groups while first-year students outperformed both master's institutions and national averages.

The findings are part of the sixth annual report of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), a project sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The 2005 report is based on information from more than 225,000 first-year and senior students at 528 four-year colleges and universities.

"The NSSE study serves as a valuable alternative to other college rankings reports because it focuses on the actual experiences of students," said Saint Mary's Provost Sara Stamp. "Its findings give us meaningful insight into how well our students are learning and the effectiveness of our undergraduate programs."

The six comparison institutions for Saint Mary's College used in the study include Holy Names University, Santa Clara University and the University of San Francisco. Saint Mary's students also compared favorably to students attending schools that scored in the top 50 percent of all 2005 NSSE institutions and very close to those in the top 10 percent.

For other key findings of the report, please visit the website of the Office of College Communications or visit the NSSE Web site at nsse.iub.edu.

Contact:

Debra Holtz

Director of Media Relations

(925) 631-4222 or dmholtz@stmarys-ca.edu

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

Each issue the AAP Newsletter highlights one of our outstanding members. For this issue we are featuring one of our founding, and most active members. Elena Rodriguez '99 has represented the College at over 12 admission events, many of which serve first-generation college bound students. Thank you Elena for your continued support and leadership.

It was the summer of 1995 the first time my family and I drove up Moraga Road to finally see the place where I would go to college. My family was dropping me off to participate in the High Potential Program. Many thoughts rushed through my head, "What am I going to study? Will I make new friends? Am I doing the right thing?" My insecurities quickly diminished upon meeting Dr. John Dennis, lovingly known as "Dr. D". Working with him and his supportive staff made me realize what a wonderful opportunity I had landed upon. This supportive environment and zeal to learn were enveloped in all aspects of my Saint Mary's experience. And that is why I felt so lucky to have come to such a special place where students "come to learn" and "leave to serve". I can say that the education I received inside and outside of the classroom prepared me to be a lifelong learner and reinforced my Catholic ideals to serve others.

I graduated in 1999 with a B.S in Psychology and a minor in Spanish and continued my education at the University of Southern California to pursue a Master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs. Currently, I work at The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Los Angeles campus where I oversee our disabled student support services, new student programs, and advise our academically at-risk students.

Apart from my job I am also active in the Del Rey Neighborhood Council and recently applied to run for director of my area. (Elections will be in January and I'll be sure to keep you posted!) I am also an active Red Cross Disaster Relief volunteer. After the Katrina disaster I was compelled to serve after the disappointing lack of support provided by all levels of government to assist the victims. During the weekend of the disaster I registered with the Red Cross and begin taking classes to become a certified disaster relief volunteer. While I did not get my chance to serve this time around, I will be first in line for deployment should another disaster arise.

I learned about the Alumni-Admissions Program a few years back and decided to enroll because I wanted to stay connected with the college, and have an avenue where I can share my positive experience with students. My involvement with the program has been both fun and rewarding. I am confident that those students I have guided to Saint Mary's are having a wonderful time.

WINTER ALUMNI EVENTS

DECEMBER:

Thursday, December 1 – Annual Sacramento Chapter Christmas Party. Join with Sacramento Alumni, Parents and Friends as we celebrate the holiday season at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento.

Friday, December 2 - 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.

Saturday, December 3 - Black Alumni Reunion. The Saint Mary's Black Alumni Chapter cordially invites you to attend the Black Alumni Reunion, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. in the Soda Center. We will be honoring: Tom Brown, Former Dean of Advising Services; Nathan Carroll '75, Former Coordinator of Black Student Programs; Miles McAfee, Former Saint Mary's Baseball Coach; and Arcenta Orton, Ph.D. Saint Mary's Professor. This event costs \$50 per person, which includes open bar, dinner, and entertainment. All proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction support the Lamont Madden Scholarship Fund.

JANUARY 2006:

Saturday, January 7 - Men's Basketball vs. Gonzaga Post Game Social. Come see the Gaels take on Gonzaga in Men's Basketball. Celebrate afterwards with other Gaels to another hopeful Gaels victory. Get your game tickets early! This game will sell out!

Saturday, January 21 - Men's Basketball vs. Pepperdine Pre-Game Social. The game is at 7 pm. Pre-game reception at Dukes Restaurant. This is an Orange County Chapter Event.

Thursday, January 26 - Women's Basketball vs. University of San Diego Pre-Game Social. The game is at 7 pm. Pre-game Reception TBA.

Saturday, January 28 - SMC Men's Basketball vs. San Diego Post Game Social. Come see the Gaels take on USD in Men's Basketball. Celebrate afterwards with other Gaels to another hopeful Gaels victory.

FEBRUARY 2006:

February 2-4 - "Mergers and Acquisitions" Seminar. The Graduate Business Programs are proud to present a three-day seminar on "Mergers and Acquisitions." Join Graduate Business alumni and others for a strategic but practical look at what it takes to initiate and manage a successful merger. Topics include fit with the firm's strategy, valuation pitfalls to avoid, assessing and managing cultural and organizational fit, and developing comprehensive integration road maps. Led by Alexander Angelus, a member of the Graduate Business faculty, the Seminar features well known Silicon Valley consultants, Dick Strayer and Jim Ludwig, who have extensive experience in helping companies manage mergers successfully. Join us in Santa Clara on February 2, 3, and 4 for a highly educational look at an important and very challenging phenomenon in contemporary business.

Friday, February 3 - February 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, February 11 - Homecoming 2006. Celebrate Saint Mary's College Homecoming with students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends of the College. Come for mass, rally, Gaels Basketball vs. Santa Clara and a post-game reception and celebrate the Saint Mary's College tradition.

Saturday, February 18 - Men's Basketball in ESPN Bracket Buster. Come see the Gaels in Men's basketball action. Celebrate afterwards with other Gaels to another hopeful Gaels victory.

Monday, February 20 - Men's Basketball at University of San Diego Pre-Game Social. The game is at 7 pm. Pre-game dinner TBA.

Saturday, February 25 - Women's Basketball at Loyola Marymount Post Game Social. The game is at 2 pm. Post-game dinner at C & O Cucina. This is an Orange County Chapter Event.