

Thank you for another year of support and hard work. AAP Members are playing an increasing role in the admissions process. Last year, members were busier than ever; representation at college fairs was up by 33% and alumni-endorsed applications were up 83%!

The Admissions Office has also been very busy. Many of the changes we enacted last year will continue in the 2006-2007 season, including usage of the Alumni-Admissions Program website at [www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/aap](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/aap). Several of you have also accessed Jerome, our alumni online community. Please visit this website, [www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/jerome](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/jerome), and make sure we have your current e-mail and address on file to help maintain this effective tool.

Lastly, a gentle reminder to RSVP for the AAP training session on June 24<sup>th</sup>. It is a chance for members to gather during reunion weekend to be recognized for their contributions, as well as have access to additional training and volunteer opportunities. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Thanks to everyone for the time you give and the caring you show to prospective students everywhere. Your efforts are deeply appreciated by the Admissions Office, Alumni Association, and the entire Saint Mary's community.

Yours for Saint Mary's,  
Gina Meneni, '99 Alumni-Admissions Program Coordinator

**ALUMNI-ENDORSED APPLICATIONS:** This year we saw a significant jump in the number of students who applied with an alumni-endorsed application. This was the first year we did not mail out paper applications to alumni, and instead encouraged alums to guide students to our web site. We are thrilled that this new method not only worked, but that it allowed more students than ever to apply with the alumni-endorsement benefit. Below is a three year history of the alumni-endorsed application:

	2004	2005	2006
Applicants	290	217	397
Accepts	250	189	281
Deposits	75	53	94

**SPRING PHONE-A-THON:** The numbers are in, and your work has paid off. This year, 48 AAP members contacted nearly 2,000 of our admitted students. Of those students, 318 have deposited, confirming their enrollment at SMC for the fall. Congratulations to all of you who volunteered your time with this project. Your efforts made such an impact on these students. *\*If you would like an individual report of those students you contacted, please e-mail me your contact sheet.*

**AAP PRE-SEASON TRAINING:** RSVP now to participate in this year's AAP training workshop during reunion weekend. We will be meeting on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in Garaventa Hall, Room 113. Come meet fellow AAP members and learn more about ways you can help the College. We hope to see all of you there!

#### ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

June 14-15	Orientation Session 1
June 20-21	Orientation Session 2
June 25-26	Orientation Session 3
<b>June 24</b>	<b>AAP Pre-Season Training!!</b>

### New Academic Building to Rise at Saint Mary's

Saint Mary's College will break ground on an academic hall that will house the college's newly named Kalmanovitz School of Education at a ceremony on Friday, May 19, at 11:30 a.m.

Construction of the \$23.4 million building -- named the Frank J. and Olivia C. Filippi Academic Hall -- will begin on May 22 and should be completed by September of 2007. In addition to housing the Kalmanovitz School of Education, the two-story, 37,000-square-foot building will provide classrooms, faculty and administrative offices and various academic support services.

"Saint Mary's is committed to meeting the significant need for qualified teachers in the Bay Area and beyond," said Saint Mary's College President Brother Ronald Gallagher. "We see this project as an investment in the future."

The School of Education at Saint Mary's College grants more than 300 teaching credentials and more than 100 academic degrees to graduate students each year. In addition, the school enrolls more than 600 graduate students and up to 500 part-time students in professional development programs each semester.

Ray Larkin, president of the college's Board of Trustees, said the new building represents a turning point for Saint Mary's plans for capital improvements to its Moraga campus. Construction of Filippi Academic Hall begins nearly two years after the college learned that it would not be receiving \$120 million in pledges from an anonymous donor that were earmarked for several building projects.

"Saint Mary's learned some valuable lessons from that experience," said Larkin. "The college has implemented policies that will provide secure footing for all campus expansion plans in the years to come. The May 19th groundbreaking affirms that."

Filippi Academic Hall is funded through gifts from more than 40 individuals and foundations, including the estate of Frank and Olivia Filippi, the Kalmanovitz Charitable Foundation, and the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on the site of the new building on the parking lot adjacent to Augustine Hall.

**Contact:**  
Debra Holtz, Director of Media Relations

## AAP MEMBER PROFILE

*In this issue of the AAP Newsletter, I am proud to profile one of my colleagues, Damien Fatongia, class of 2005. Upon graduation, Damien joined the admissions staff as an Admissions Counselor and is also enrolled in the Graduate Counseling program here at SMC. He is studying for a Master's of Arts degree in College Student Services with the goal of working with students aged 18-22. This summer, Damien will be leaving our office and moving to Ireland to play rugby for Trinity University. His hope is to one day play at the professional level. We wish Damien the best, and have included a recent article from The Collegian profiling his success.*

The Men's rugby team concluded a successful season over Spring Break, losing a heartbreaker to #5 ranked Utah 22-20 in the second round of the national playoffs.

One of the largest contributors to the Gaels' success this year is super senior, Damien Fatongia. A native of Tonga, a small island nation in the South Pacific, Fatongia has been playing rugby since childhood and has been tearin' it up here in the US since he moved to Redwood City in 1997.

Damien's position is flyhalf. "It's kind of like the quarterback on the field. I direct the backs and call plays. I also score a lot by finding gaps and wiggling through."

As the lone true senior on this year's team, Fatongia has the distinction of being the only player to play all five of his eligible seasons for SMC.

Damien is currently trying out for the Grizzlies, the Pacific Coast All-Star Team. If he makes it and plays well, he will have the chance to be selected as an All-American.

-Allison Kop  
The Collegian Sports Editor

**Saturday, August 12 SMC at Dodger Stadium.** Dodgers vs. Giants. Come out to Dodger Stadium in LA and join other So-Cal Gaels. Join in a pre-game tailgate and then see the Dodgers take on the Giants. Tickets are limited.

**Saturday, August 19 International Student Alumni Reunion.** Join other international student Gaels and share stories of times at SMC and life after SMC. Come to the Brothers Garden (across from the Soda Center) for BBQ, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m and stay to share Gael memories. Catered international lunch with beer, wine and soft drinks. \$30.00 per person/\$10 for children under 15. All international alums invited. If you have any information on "Lost Gaels", please contact the Alumni Office so we can reconnect those Gaels with the College. For more information and to RSVP please contact the Office of International Studies at 925-631-4352 or e-mail [mlittle@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:mlittle@stmarys-ca.edu).

**Sunday, August 20 2nd Annual Grand Wine Tasting.** Come out to the Soda Center on a beautiful August afternoon and taste beers and wines from around the world. All proceeds will go to support student scholarships. If you are a winery, brewery, or distributor interested in being involved, please contact the Alumni Office.

## CAMPUS NEWS

### First Generation Students Share Their Stories at Inaugural Conference

When Saint Mary's College senior Brenna Biggs was in elementary school, one of her teachers told her she was "dumb" and would never go to college. Due largely to the urging of her ninth-grade mentor, who convinced Biggs of her intellect and potential, Brenna will be the first in her family to graduate from college. After receiving her diploma this May, she plans to pursue a doctorate in developmental psychology.

Biggs shared her story at the college's inaugural First Generation Conference on April 26. She was one of the 32 students enrolled in a Jan Term course initiated this year called "Setting the Foundation: Articulating the Experiences of First Generation College Students."

During the conference, college President Brother Ronald Gallagher, FSC, praised the course as "an important component of what we understand as Lasallian education."

Professors Phyllis Martinelli and Dana Herrera, both in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, created the course as a way to understand, support, and celebrate the challenges faced by first-generation college students at Saint Mary's College. Participants in the First Generation Conference discussed the project, providing insight not only on the success of the first Jan Term class of this kind, but also announcing the continuation of the course for next year.

Martinelli and Herrera explained that the original coursework consisted of demographics, bios and readings about first-generation college students that primarily discussed the disadvantages faced by these students. The professors shifted their focus to emphasize the positive qualities the students bring to the college, rather than just their disadvantaged backgrounds.

Biggs and fellow student, freshman Elizabeth Cruz, shared their experiences as the first in their families to attend college. Cruz explained her guilt for not being able to be home for her family, but also her pride in overcoming challenges and returning to her former school as a college student. Both noted the relief they experienced in the Jan Term class when they realized they were not alone as first-generation students.

The class developed a Web site (<http://firstgeneration.stmarys-ca.edu>) to share the students' narratives as well as those of several Saint Mary's College first-generation faculty interviewed by class members. The narratives highlight the impact of family, teachers, and other advisors on their motivation to attend college.

Also mentioned at the conference was a collaboration between the class and Jaime Epstein of the Counseling Center to create a brochure titled "You're Not Alone: What You Should Know About Being a First Generation College Student" that provides resources and insight to help guide future students.

In addition to continuing the "Setting the Foundation" project next Jan Term, Martinelli and Herrera plan to host another conference in the spring of 2007. Herrera continues to update the Web site with narratives, so anyone interested in participating in the project should contact her at [dherrera@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:dherrera@stmarys-ca.edu).  
--Brianna Hardy

## SUMMER 2006 ALUMNI EVENTS

### JUNE 2006

**Friday, June 9 San Francisco Chapter After Work Mixer.** Join fellow Gaels at 7 p.m. at the Bamboo Hut in North Beach (479 Broadway, San Francisco). Mix and mingle with other San Francisco Area Gaels for an after work networking social in San Francisco! This will be a no-host reception.

**Saturday, June 18 A's vs. Dodgers.** Come out to the Coliseum in Oakland and join other Gaels in a pre-game tailgate and then see the A's take on the Dodgers in great baseball action. Game starts at 1:05, tailgate at 11:00 a.m. \$35 includes tickets and pre-game baseball food, beer, wine and sodas. Tickets are limited.

### JULY 2006

**Saturday, July 1 SMC at PETCO Park.** Padres vs. Giants and Fireworks. Come out to PETCO Park in San Diego and join other Gaels in a pre-game tailgate and then go the Padres take on the Giants and stay for Fireworks. 7:05 p.m. game. Tickets are limited.

**Saturday, July 22 Mission San Juan Capistrano dinner for Alumni, Family, and Friends.** For more information, please call the Alumni Office at 925-631-4345 or e-mail Michele Moore at [mvm3@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:mvm3@stmarys-ca.edu).

**July 23-29 Gael Family Camp.** The Alumni Association announces the return of Gael Family Camp, an all-inclusive vacation for alumni families in the Sierra Nevada foothills to be held July 23-29, 2006. Reserve early through Shady Creek, tel. (800) 826-7310.

### AUGUST 2006

**August 8-21 Ancient Mysteries, Natural Wonders: Peru with Dr. Douglas Long.** Based on the overwhelming popularity of Saint Mary's January Term travel courses for students, and in response to numerous requests from alumni for a similar program, the Alumni Relations Office is pleased to announce "Peru: Ancient Mysteries, Natural Wonders," a two-week educational travel program sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences in August 2006 and open to all alumni of Saint Mary's.