

Spring is here! The Office of Admissions is busy hosting overnight and day programs for admitted students, Orientation is gearing up for the summer and graduation is almost upon us. With all of the applications for fall in and admissions decisions out, it's the perfect time to look back at the fall and assess the efforts of our membership. Every year we seem to be bigger and busier!

I'm thrilled to report that this past fall 2006, AAP members attended a total of 64 college fairs (+25 from last year)!! We were represented by 56 alums and 2 parents, versus 35 alums and 3 parents in fall 2005. The increase in our efforts paid off, as we received over 4,000 applications for the fall and were able to admit 3,257 new freshmen and transfers for the fall 2007. Thank you everyone for your time, energy and commitment to the Alumni-Admissions Program. Our program has once again proved to be a crucial piece in achieving the College's enrollment goal.

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

#### ADMISSIONS OFFICE TO HOST NEW EVENT:

This spring the Admissions Office will hold our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Junior Visit Day. On **Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** we will invite high school juniors to come to campus and experience life at SMC. Students will participate in campus tours, mock seminars, an admission presentation, and will be treated to a bbq lunch with members of our faculty. For more information, please contact our office at: 1-800-800-4SMC.

**ALUMNI-ENDORSED APPLICATIONS:** Thank you to everyone who encouraged a student to apply to SMC by endorsing their application. Below is the total number for 2007 to date, along with prior year history:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Applicants	290	217	397	219
Accepts	250	189	281	181
Deposits	75	53	94	*5

*\*as of 3/16/07*

**SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS:** Thank you to those who have signed up for a local college fair this spring. There are still several fairs needing representation. Please visit the AAP website to register today!

<http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/aap/schedule.html>

**SPRING PHONE-A-THON:** We are just getting started with this year's contacts. Right now we have 26 members calling and e-mailing admitted students. If you would like to help with this effort, it's not too late! We have until May 1 to contact as many potential Gaels as possible.

**AAP TRAINING:** RSVP now to participate in this year's AAP training workshop during reunion weekend. We will be meeting on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</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!

### College to Offer Boost in Financial Aid

MORAGA, Calif. (Feb. 5, 2007) - Saint Mary's College of California will increase its institutional financial aid by \$3.6 million in 2007-08, a 22 percent boost aimed at making the college more affordable for low- and moderate-income students.

The decision by the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees will help the college reach its goal of enrolling an incoming freshman class with 25 percent of students eligible for federal Pell Grants.

In his 2008 budget plan released today, President Bush proposed that Pell Grants be raised by nearly 14 percent next year, to a maximum award of \$4,600. The grants are the federal government's primary financial aid program for low-income families.

In 2006-07, nearly a quarter of Saint Mary's total undergraduate population received Pell Grants, including 20.5 percent of its freshman class. Altogether, more than half of all Saint Mary's undergraduates received some form of need-based aid.

Michael Beseda, Saint Mary's vice provost for enrollment, said it is the college's mission to make quality education an affordable and realistic goal for students from low- and moderate-income families.

"Rising numbers of students qualified to attend college do not have the ability to pay for it," said Beseda. "Saint Mary's College strives to offer these students the support necessary to succeed."

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

### ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

March 26	Gael-For-A-Day
April 17	Overnight Program
April 23	Gael-For-A-Day
May 1	Enrollment Commitment Deadline
May 12	Junior Visit Day
July 21	AAP Training!!

## AAP MEMBER PROFILE

*In this issue of the AAP Newsletter, I introduce new member Lyndsey Tennant '04. While this is Lyndsey's first year in the AAP, she already made huge contributions to the program and to the hundreds of students she has met. By the end of this school year, Lyndsey will have represented the College at 9 college fairs! This is a record for the most fairs attended in one year by any AAP member! Thank you Lyndsey for your participation and strong commitment to Saint Mary's College.*

I first saw Saint Mary's at the ripe old age of 8. We were taking my oldest sister to college and I was nervous that she was going "so far" away. But I have many memories from those days. I got invited to an "overnight" with her and her roommates and I fell in love with the school. I am sure of that now, upon looking back at it. But I am sure that my sister will tell you that I just had too much fun jumping on the beds to stay away! When it became time for me to go to college, SMC was apart of the process. Having my oldest older sister graduate from SMC (Courtney Tennant-Paneri '90) and my other sister was at SMC at the time I was applying (Whitney Tennant '02), I knew where I wanted to go. The environment that I felt at SMC was just what I needed—family and school.

I graduated in May 2004 with my B.A. in History. That was not the major that I had intended to study but fell in love with it that first semester. Under the wonderful guidance of my advisor, Prof. Carl Guarneri, I was molded into not only a well rounded student but I like to think a "historical scholar," well at least in the area of my thesis! While at SMC I was a Student Orientation Leader (S.O.S) and a member of the Week of Welcome (W.O.W) committee. I was a Resident Advisor (R.A.) my senior year, and was a member of the Student Alumni Association (SAA) as well. I tried to busy myself with those activities and I worked in the college bookstore for three years as well. I continued my education at the University of La Verne in southern California. I just received my Masters in Education and am currently completely my teaching credential. I am currently a substitute teacher who is looking for that perfect classroom! I spend most of my time in the classrooms with students with special needs as well as junior high school students.

I learned about the Alumni-Admissions Program almost a year ago and I signed up right away. After signing up for my local Alumni chapter finding that events were not planned, I decided I wanted a more active role in SMC. I love going to the college fairs, and in fact even dragged my mom to one to help me out. (She had fun as well!). It is great being able to connect with the students that are unsure of where they want to go and to ease some of their anxiety. It helped, I think, that I worked while in school and was lucky to have the Sabatte Scholarship while at SMC. I urge students to apply and to have faith in themselves. I think that it is great that, as Alumni of such a great school, we have that chance to follow St. John Baptist De La Salle's teachings "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve," which we model when we attend the fairs. I am confident that those students that I have guided to SMC are having fun while they are learning.

-AAP Member Lyndsey Tennant '04

**April 17-May 15, 2007 - 2006-2007 Brother DeSales Seminar Program.** This program offers alumni, parents and friends of Saint Mary's College the opportunity to revisit the Great Books in discussions facilitated by Saint Mary's professors. The Alumni Great Books program has been recently renamed in honor of the late Brother DeSales Perez '53, who was the faculty moderator of these seminars for ten years.

**Sunday, April 29, 2007 - 2007 SMC Hall of Fame Awards Banquet.** The Saint Mary's Honors Court voted to induct six new members into the SMC Athletics Hall of Fame for 2007. This year's class includes Trisha Dean '00, John Leykam, Ed Lickiss, Tracy Morris '00, James Mouton '91 and Cassidy O'Hara '89. The 1985 women's volleyball team, winners of the NAIA national championship, will also be inducted.

### MAY 2007

**Saturday, May 26, 2007 – Graduation.**

### JUNE 2007

**Sunday, June 10, 2007 - Giants vs A's at AT&T Park.** Come watch the Giants and A's battle it out on Sunday, June 10. The Saint Mary's alumni office will host a tailgate party at 11:00am in the parking lot with food and beverages. The game starts at 1:00 pm. We also have 50 View Reserve tickets available for the game. To RSVP, contact Courtney Carmignani at [ccarmign@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:ccarmign@stmarys-ca.edu). Tickets for the game and the tailgate are \$40 each.

**June 22-July 2, 2007 - Cruise the Greek Isles with Brother Ronald Gallagher.** Saint Mary's alumni are invited to join President Br. Ronald Gallagher on a ten day cruise to the Greek Isles from June 22 to July 2, 2007. The cruise will begin at the port of Civitavecchia, near Rome, Italy.

### JULY 2007

**Friday, July 20-22, 2007 - Reunion Weekend 2007. Featuring Reunion Years of '56, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '78, '79, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02.** For more information, please go to: <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/alumni/reunions/RW/2007>

**July 28-August 12, 2007 - Alumni travel program to Peru.**

The Saint Mary's Alumni Travel Program is a way for you to explore a country with experienced SMC faculty who will offer their expertise for education, exploration, and adventure. These trips are open to all SMC alumni, faculty, staff, students, and their friends.

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Professor Robert Gardner Named Honorary Christian Brother

Saint Mary's College Professor Robert Gardner has been named an honorary Christian Brother for his outstanding service as a teacher and mentor.

Gardner received the rare honor during a special ceremony at Saint Mary's College on Feb. 24.

"During your years at Saint Mary's College, you have consistently embodied our mission in many ways, particularly your unstinting and generous service to the students of the college," said the official confirmation letter presented to Gardner by the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Gardner, who graduated from Saint Mary's in 1969, teaches in the Collegiate Seminar Program and in the Liberal and Civic Studies Program. He also leads the monthly Brother DeSales Perez Great Books Seminar Series, named for Gardner's longtime mentor.

As an affiliated member of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Gardner has been given the highest honor that the order bestows on individuals who, in outstanding ways, live out the educational mission of the Brothers.

--Debra Holtz  
Office of College Communications

## SPRING 2007 ALUMNI EVENTS

### APRIL 2007

**Monday, April 16, 2007 - Southern California Gael Classic Invitational Golf Tournament in Memory of Brother Jerome West, FSC.** Please join us for the 11th annual Southern California Gael Classic Invitational Golf Tournament at the Candlewood Country Club. Two flights, a four-person scramble format and an individual medal play, will begin at 11:30am with a shotgun start. Check-in begins at 10:00am and the day concludes with an Award Dinner, Prize Drawing and Auction at 5:00pm. All proceeds raised benefit the Saint Mary's College Gael Athletics.

