

“Let me throw a word out here – empowerment. As faculty members, we are giving our students the power to not only change their own lives but also the lives of others around them.”
– Ed Tywoniak, Communications professor

202 OF THE MOST INTIMIDATING PEOPLE YOU'LL EVER LOVE.



There's no doubt about it – our professors are impressive. They've won major writing awards, published pioneering scientific papers, and worked closely with the U.S. government on policy and environmental issues.

But here's the thing: At Saint Mary's, you'll find that even though our faculty members have an enormous amount of energy and enthusiasm, they don't have giant egos. They will guide your inquiry and challenge you to fine-tune your opinions, but they'll never talk "at" you.

Their job is to lead you on your own intellectual journey. And you won't find better guides anywhere.

SMC professors are pushing the envelope (inside the classroom and out).

- **Brenda Hillman**, Olivia Filippi Professor of Poetry, was awarded the 2009 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for poetry and named one of "50 of the Most Inspiring Authors in the World" by *Poets & Writers* magazine.
- **Professor Robert Bulman** (sociology) recently published his book *Hollywood Goes to High School*, which illuminates the myths Hollywood manufactures about high schools. His Jan Term students helped him conduct the research.
- **Professor Carla Bossard** (biology and environmental science) received the California Invasive Plant Council Award for exceptional contributions to invasive plant management and protection of California ecosystems.
- **Associate Professor Mary Volmer** (English) "Crown of Dust," the debut novel by Mary Volmer, English faculty member and recent director of the SMC Honors Program, was reviewed as part of a five-book "Fiction Chronicle" in the New York Times Book Review.
- **Professor Joe Burley** (chemistry) recently worked with the National Park Service to measure ozone levels in and around Yosemite Park.
- **Professor Barbara A. McGraw** (business) a renowned scholar of social ethics, published *Rediscovering America's Sacred Ground: Public Religion and Pursuit of the Good in a Pluralistic America*.



At **Saint Mary's** you'll travel far outside the classroom to sharpen your global awareness, but the core curriculum maps your journey by connecting the social, economic, religious and political structures of the communities and cultures you'll meet.

Saint Mary's students from all walks of life benefit from the College's powerful values, based in Catholic intellectual and cultural traditions and Lasallian core principles — faith in the presence of God, concern for the poor and social justice, quality education, inclusive community and respect for all persons.

Saint Mary's students learn how to walk the talk, using ethical problem-solving and decision-making in their lives and in the context of their disciplines and future professions.

The First Year Experience Programs helps Saint Mary's students with the critical transitions from high school to college, and ultimately to successful post-college lives.

Every year at least a third of our students conduct research with a professor – and our professors collaborate with the world's premier research facilities (the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, the National Supercomputer Center and Moscow's Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics, to name a few).

Our **Office of Academic Support and Achievement Programs** offers a number of services to help you make the most of your Saint Mary's experience. Programs include support programs for first- and second-year students, assistance for students with disabilities, peer mentoring, plus study skills workshops and general tutorials.

ECOLOGY. THE OIL INDUSTRY. WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY.

It's an attitude.

*Myrna Santiago, history professor,
Director of Women's Studies*

When I began looking for teaching positions, I was lucky enough to get a number of offers. What was different, and exciting, about Saint Mary's was that it had such a diverse student population, way more so than the other places I was considering.

At last count, there were maybe two dozen Chicanas with Ph.D.s in history in the whole country – and I'm one of them. And I think most of us who went into this profession wanted to be role models for Mexican, Latina and Chicana students. But most of my colleagues don't have many students to work with, because the number of Latinas going to college is small. But here, it's different. I have a ton of very diverse students and they're all wonderful.

My own research has been focused primarily in the areas of labor and ecology and the oil industry, but I'm about to start some new projects that look at earthquakes. One very interesting thing about Saint Mary's is that many classes come about because students want me to teach a particular topic. At some point my students started to say, "Why don't you teach a class about this or that?" And I'd say, "That's a good idea – if you promise to bring your



friends." That's how I started teaching classes about Latin American women's history.

If you asked my students about me, I think they'd say that I make them work really, really hard and push them to stretch themselves (maybe more than they like), but it's because I care. I believe they have the capacity to do great things in the world. It's as simple as that.

You can get a liberal arts education anywhere. What sets Saint Mary's apart is that there's a concern for the greater good – you end up caring about more than just yourself, and that makes for a spectacular experience. It's part of the whole Catholic tradition that Saint Mary's lives: a focus on **community**.



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