Saint Mary’s College of California
Faculty Fall Dinner
&
Faculty Awards Ceremony
Friday, September 9, 2011
5:00pm Reception * 6:00pm Dinner
Soda Center

Bethami A. Dobkin, Ph.D.
Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
&
Brother Ronald Gallagher, Ph.D.
President
2011 Honorees

15 Years of Service
Shawny Anderson ~ Michele Zak
Christopher Ray ~ James Sauerberg
Jessica Kintner ~ Jose Alfonso Feito
Naoko Uehara ~ John Ely
Tom Cleveland

20 Years of Service
Patrizia Longo ~ Richard Courtney
Carla Bossard ~ Ben Xu
Fr. John Morris

25 Years of Service
Tory Courtney ~ Andrew Williams
James Hawley ~ Steve Sloane

30 Years of Service
Melinda Thomas ~ Eric Kolhede
Stephen Woolpert ~ Gregory Smith
Br. Michael Meister

35 Years of Service
Eric Hansen ~ Jacob Lester
Annalee Lamoreux

40 Years of Service
Elaina Rose Lovejoy
Citations
Shawny Anderson—

Do a Google search for “highly engaged faculty”, and Shawny will probably come up. Shawny combines mastery of the latest educational technology, unrivaled expertise in preparing students for immersion in service learning, and an intuitive feel for shared inquiry. She came to Saint Mary’s because of her commitment to social justice. She stayed because, as she says: “Our students are doing the type of contemplation and deliberation that comes with seminar, but then getting out in the world and seeing what happens when that kind of thinking, that kind of discussion, and that kind of weighing of possibilities happens in addressing practical problems”.

In 2007 Shawny received the Alumni Association’s Saint John Baptist de La Salle Award for her personal commitment to our students. Drop by her office and you are likely to find that one or more students appear to have made it their home away from home. A growing stream of students begins passes through as Jan Term approaches. When she prepares to take students on another high-impact immersion course, you will find her office packed with every first-aid application known to humanity, every tasty tidbit that can go overseas and still be tasty, as well as showers, basins, and tools a carpenter would envy. You name it, she’s got it and she’s found a way to pack it. She even includes a string of Christmas lights to hang around the camp.

The challenging destinations to which Shawny takes her students—post-Katrina New Orleans, the Brazilian rainforest, post-earthquake Haiti and, this year, Tanzania—prove life-changing for them. Her travel courses have been featured in the New York Times and on national television. Many staff members begin their days in January by checking her students’ blog, and many a tissue box has been emptied—tears that flow from recognizing just how amazing our students are, and how fabulous it is for them to spend a month with an instructor who challenges them to be the best version of themselves they can be.

On campus, Shawny has organized “chat rooms” that brought students, faculty, and staff together to explore community issues. She has held leadership roles in the adoption of the College’s Honor Code, the Social Justice Speakers Series, new student orientation, the Social Justice Coordinating Committee, and the Disney Forum. As Associate Dean in the School of Liberal Arts, she was the project manager for the murals of the Divine Comedy in Dante Hall, the creation of our student-run organic garden, and the programming of specialized learning spaces.

Shawny sang in a traveling rock band before coming to SMC: Her voice and performance skills are still marvelous. She’s a whirl of enthusiasm, and her tenacity is unparalleled. If you want to send her into high gear, just whisper the magic phrase, “It can’t be done.” (Then get out of her way.) Congratulations and a big thank you to Shawny for 15 years of inspiring and dedicated service.

- Steve Woolpert

Tom Cleveland—

Tom Cleveland is SEBA’s Transamerica Professor of Finance. His distinguished career includes seventeen years as partner and CPA at DeLoitte & Touche, the last six years as national and international director of banking. He has served as CEO, CFO, and chief lending officer at two banks. Tom earned his Master of Science in Chemical Engineering and MBA in Accounting at the University of Michigan, his Doctor of Engineering at Stanford, and his Ph.D. at UC Davis. In addition, he is a former mayor of Lafayette.

The mainstay of SEBA’s Undergraduate Finance Concentration, Tom prepares students for careers in banking, investments, and entrepreneurship. His January 2012 course “How Entrepreneurs Succeed with a New Venture,” will help students understand the ‘best practices of ‘rethinking, reliving, and remaking’ innovations’ in business. Tom’s students speak highly of his enthusiasm, knowledge, and desire for their success.

Tom and his wife Joan enjoy traveling the world, and this past summer visited Vienna, Austria, and Oxford, England, where they spent time with one of Tom’s college classmates who is a former Member of Parliament.

An active scholar, Tom has a forthcoming article in the Journal of Financial Education on the Advanced DuPont Model; he will present research this month at the Academy of Finance and Financial Education Association Conference; and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants just released the third edition of his popular book Audits of Banks, Savings Institutions, Credit Unions, and Other Financial Institutions.

For fifteen years of service, Tom, we thank you.

- Rebecca Carroll
John Ely --

John Ely made his mark at St Mary’s College as a professor focused on social justice. Drawing on his dissertation work on incarceration, he worked to develop and direct the Justice and Community minor. Teaching at the University of Bucharest for three years in the early 1990s drew him into Romanian Studies. John does research and leads Jan Terms courses there. He has several publications in this area and the transcript he and his co-author did of the Ceausescu trial was used by the Hoover institute and in a play. During a recent sabbatical John worked on a PBS documentary on poet Andre Codrescu and published a book chapter that looked at Romanian attitudes towards the Romanian Revolution twenty years after the fact.

Recently he turned his attention back to prisons. He did two community based research courses with the Northern California Service League (NCSL), an ex-offender program in SF. Students did follow-up interviews of graduates of NCSL’s “Life Skills” course to see how well they did at finding employment, housing and avoiding recidivism. John volunteered with the TRUST program in San Quentin, where inmates assist each other to learn how to be a contributing member of society upon release. In 2009, through a NSF grant, he mentored a student’s research on the financial and social costs of imprisonment used in a film about the TRUST program. Currently John is involved in a two semester CBR project (for 2112-2113), that lets SMC students aid the TRUST program plan write a book about their efforts. The targeted audience is at-risk youth.

John enjoys hiking and the outdoors especially in Montana at family reunions where he is known as the “cool” uncle.

- Phyllis Martinelli

Jose Alfonso Feito -

15 years ago Saint Mary’s College gained a committed intellectual in Jose’ Feito. However, that was not his primary contribution. His gift was in helping his students to see themselves as intellectuals, to question and to find their own voices in the process of learning.

Jose’ has long been an advocate of the Great Books programs at other schools, so it is no wonder that he found a home at Saint Mary’s College. Here he created the space and container for students to engage in the co-creation of meaning through the study of the Great Works, both within the field of psychology, and in the greater academic community of the college.

His teaching has inspired many people, both peers and students. He has always been willing to help his peers to develop their skills with the pedagogy of shared inquiry, and taught us not to fear teaching Seminar. Jose’ Feito has also been recognized for his excellence in teaching our students with the Br. De Sales Perez award by the Collegiate Seminar Program.

His research in the study of teaching and learning explores the connection and intellectual intimacy in the process of shared inquiry. He is recognized internationally in this area, and was a Carnegie Scholar, not once, but twice.

Jose’s service to the college includes a record that is very impressive. Beyond serving on numerous elected governing committees, he has served on the governing board of the Collegiate Seminar Program, and has also served as interim director of that program. He has served his peers on the Rank and Tenure Committee, including a year as chair of that committee.

But perhaps his greatest legacy is his service to the students. As one of the founders of the Academic Honor Council, Jose’ Feito helped the students establish a sense of self-governance and a dedication to academic integrity on this campus as we made the transition to being an honor code college. It is in great part due to his and others’ hard work that we can now say “Our own work, Our own words.”

For this, and more, we are grateful for his service of 15 years.

- Elena Escalera
Jessica Kintner -
Jessica has always been willing to do her part and a bit more. She has served on the rank and tenure committee, the collegiate seminar governing board, the academic senate (more than once), the faculty technology group (more than once), as department chair (more than once), and so on.

We see from these repeated errors that Jessica is a slow learner, needing to make the same mistake more than once before recognizing and avoiding a particular pitfall.

Despite the staggering amount of time lost in learning to avoid such problems she has miraculously still been able to conduct NSF funded research, engage students in her research, teach classes and be patiently available to students as they work through their difficulties. We in the department suspect that Jessica’s research in nuclear physics has lead her to discover a source of extra time (which she has not shared with us), since she always has time to help us as well. If all of this was not enough Jessica has begun the development of an Aurora which has already brought a happy light to us all.

- Chris Ray

Christopher Ray –
In his fifteen years at Saint Mary’s, Chris Ray has: written an Introductory Physics textbook which covers the first three semesters, taught every physics course offered by the department, mentored summer research students and many other students as well, designed the layout and lab benches for the physics labs, taught in the Collegiate Seminar, and served on R&T

Chris skateboards regularly—in class for demonstrations and out of class for fun, is the current Vice Chair of the UEPC, is the director of the 3+2 Engineering Program, is the only person who can keep the computers in the physics labs running properly, and last year he spent his Sabbatical in Barcelona, working at Starlabs, where he has consulted on such varying topics as analysis of EEG signals and satellite imaging.

He reports that he now dreams in Spanish. (How is his Catalan?) When he’s not working, he paints (quite well!), sails, dances, plays guitar and spends time with his three amazing children. The physics department would like to express their extreme pleasure that he is back from Spain, and they hope to spend at least another fifteen years working with him!

- Jessica Kintner

Jim Sauerberg –
Jim Sauerberg came to Saint Mary’s from Union College after completing his PhD. in Number Theory at Brown. Popular among students and colleagues alike for his down-to-earth Midwestern charm Jim has been an asset for the math department, and the college as a whole. His list of positions held, in service to the college is extensive, including but not limited to, Chair of Math, Chair of Faculty Welfare, Chair of the Senate and most recently director for the new core curriculum.

Jim’s willingness to take on these positions and the energy and conviction which he brings to them is impressive. His dedication to the welfare of faculty did not end upon his completion of his term at FWC. Jim continued to battle for his fellow faculty members, forthright in his defense of the principle of self-governance.

Finally one must acknowledge Jim mathematical curiosity. A number theorist by training he has worked with students on varied topics from binary representations of primes to the complex world of jumping champions. Jim constantly sees beauty in the world of mathematics. He often brings intriguing questions and problems to other members of the department. The chair has collected these over time and it will be no surprise to those who have met him that the file labeled “Jim’s problems” is a large one.

Congratulations to Jim for 15 years of dedicated service.

- Chris Jones
Naoko Uehara—
Since her arrival in 1996, Naoko Uehara has worked diligently to build a sound Japanese program leading to an East Asian Studies Minor, and to create a study abroad program in Sofia. Her teaching philosophy focuses on personal attention and caring for each student’s success. The results are outstanding student evaluations, spontaneous letters of thanks, and students lining up in the corridor of Dante Hall during her office hours. Her enthusiasm for what she does is infectious, and she often takes Japanese out of the classroom in order to have her students participate in cultural events such as excursions to Japan town, to a Zen temple, to the Asian Museum, and to yearly festivals in the Bay area. She helped create the Japanese Popular Culture Club and acts as its advisor. Together they organize movie nights, bake sales, group dinners and Harajyuku days open to everyone on campus.

Naoko has initiated several generous college-wide responses to disaster, the latest being her relief effort for the tsunami victims. She brought the community together and asked for prayers and donations for her native land.

Naoko is a selfless and humble person and the kindest colleague. We regret that she cannot be with us tonight. She is currently on a leave of absence. We wish her the best and look forward to her return.

- Catherine Marachi

Michele Zak—
That appellation is not far off (even if hard science is missing). Consider her career before she got here: Ph.D. in English (Ohio State) followed by several years as a professor in the department of English at Kent State, to a long and multi-faceted 15 years as a senior-level college administrator at Kent State and U. C. Berkeley, then on to Stanford when she started and directed a Management Communications Program for both MBA’s and Ph.D’s. (building on communications courses she had earlier developed as a Visiting Professor at Georgetown).

Her scholarly work has a similarly broad base: books on Leadership and Communication and Women, Culture, and the Sexual Economy; published monographs on Feminism and the New Novel, Cognition and Communication in Critical Care Centers, and the Politics of Cultural Diversity, and over two dozen conference papers on topics as diverse as Women in the Skilled Trades, Women as Part Time Faculty, Jewish Orthodoxy and Feminism in America, Narrative in the Context of Business, and Teaching Business Communication in the Knowledge Economy.

Michele first visited Saint Mary’s as Stanford’s representative to a Regional Conference on Management Communication in 1996. From that association came an offer for a three-year Visiting Professorship in Graduate Business and then a much longer run as a full-time member of the faculty, where she is equally loved by both 20-year olds and hundreds of middle managers in Bay Area Businesses.

- Dave Bowen
Carla Bossard—
Professor Carla Bossard enjoys weeds (well, she prefers the terms ‘Invasive Plant Species’ and ‘Exotic Pest Plants’), students, and traveling the world—not necessarily in that order. She is an accomplished scholar and teacher, and has been valued member of the Saint Mary’s Community for 20 years.

Carla received her Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis in 1990. She maintains a very active research agenda. Her research in invasive plant species and ecology has resulted in over 40 conference presentations around the world, some 20 publications, and about $100,000 from grant awards. In 2006, the California Invasive Plant Council recognized her work, with an award for exceptional contributions to invasive plant management and ecosystem protection in California.

Whether in class, on a field trip, or doing research, Carla is always finding ways to excite students and give them unique educational experiences. Students find her enthusiastic, engaging, intellectually challenging, and encouraging. While her courses on campus, such as General Ecology, Conservation Biology, and California Flora and Communities, are student-centered, nothing compares to her January Term travel courses. Her use of the January Term as a global educational experience is unrivaled. Carla has taught 18 travel courses during January, traveling to such places as China, Thailand, Morocco, Palau, Cambodia, the Cook Islands, Sumatra, and even a local class in Hawaii. As those of us who have traveled with her on one or more of her Jan Term experiences know, she is a source of endless energy, enthusiasm, and creativity.

In the more mundane world of faculty governance, Carla has also contributed to our community. She has served as Senate Chair, on the BOS Strategic Planning Task Force, and on the Faculty Welfare Committee.

Thank you Carla for 20 years of exemplary teaching, scholarship and service at Saint Mary’s College.

- Roy Wensley

20 Years of Service

Richard Courtney -
Twenty years ago, as a Senior Economist for the Bank of America, Dick Courtney began his career at Saint Mary’s as a lecturer for the School of Extended Education. He rapidly became known as an excellent teacher who, according to a colleague, was “unparalleled in his generosity of time and commitment to our adult students”. He brought this same commitment to student success when he was hired as a full-time faculty member in the School of Extended Education and when he later moved into the economics department in SEBA in 2006.

He immediately became a hit with younger students as well. To this day, students flock to his classes and continue to give him rave evaluations peppered with comments like “awesome”, “enthusiastic” “relates to the real world”, “engaging”, “cares about his students” and “cutie”. But in addition to being loved by his students, anyone who has ever worked with Dick on a committee, paper or project will tell you that he is an excellent colleague—one of the unsung heroes of the college. He is extremely low maintenance and highly productive. Moreover, he seems to make everyone else’s job easier and more enjoyable. A colleague on the Rank and Tenure Committee said of Dick, “I would serve on any committee that Dick Courtney is serving on. His service is impeccable.”

In these tumultuous times, his department colleagues rely on him for his ability to cut through school and college politics and provide a level head and wise counsel. Also, he has always been willing to teach whatever classes at whatever time on whatever days the department needed.

In the last five years, Dick has produced several intellectual contributions including four publications in peer reviewed journals and is actively working on two more papers.

Dick recently has decided to cut back on his teaching although has, in typical unselfish fashion, volunteered to serve on the Faculty Welfare Committee. As a result of his teaching reduction, he will now have more time to devote to playing tennis, going on road trips with Tory and rooting for the Gael athletic teams.

We in the Economics department, SEBA and throughout the college give you, Dick, heartfelt thanks for all of the positive energy you’ve given to us and to your students for the last 20 years.

- Bill Lee
**Patrizia Longo—**  
Faster than a speeding bullet when she speaks Italian, more powerful than a locomotive when she teaches social justice, and able to leap over tall buildings while invariably dressed with Italian style and flair – look up in the sky it’s not a bird, it’s not a plane! It’s Professor Patrizia Longo!

Patrizia has invaluably supported the Department and College by developing innovations in the social justice curriculum. She has committed herself to bringing “food Politics” to the Department and to the College and this wonder woman can raise more organic tomatoes in her own back yard than all of California agri-business put together. Needless to say, she does it all with that unmistakable Italian charm and passion.

It would take more time than we have to list everything that Patrizia has done in and for the Department of Politics – providing leadership as Chair, providing invaluable advice and principled action internally and externally, even providing rides and moral support to new faculty members, and always combining innovative scholarship with her personal practice of just social action.

Patrizia has successfully shepherded the Department through rank and tenure processes, external reviews, curriculum revisions, and moments of discouragement – but her intelligence, her commitment to truth, and her sweet presence have never failed us. All her colleagues can say to Patrizia is: “grazie mille!”

- Mindy Thomas

**Fr. John Morris—**  
It is well know that in ancient Rome, Christians were thrown to the lions for the entertainment of the crowds. On one such occasion, a famous Christian wise man was brought to the arena and cast in among the dangerous, big and hungry cats, which approached him menacingly. He leaned towards each one and whispered something in their ears. The animals, terror-stricken, flew speedily back to their pens behind the arena. The emperor demanded that he be brought forward to be asked: “What did you say to those lions that they fled in fear from you?” The wise man said: “I simply told them that after dinner there will be speeches.”

I think, however, that even the fiercest the lions would forego dinner and stick around for a chance to hear a discourse by modern Christian wise man: Father John Morris. Father Morris actually has many more years than twenty as a formidable presence here at the College, but he divided his time between Saint Mary’s and the Dominican school of theology in Rome, the famous Angelicum, where he lectured in the Spring semester for a number of years. Additionally, many of you may not know that Fr. John took both undergraduate and graduate degrees in aeronautical engineering at the University of Washington—where he was inducted into not one, but two honor societies: science and engineering—and he worked for a few years as an engineer at Boeing, all before joining the Dominicans and completing a Ph.D. in theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. And he serves his Dominican Province as an energetic Coordinator of Social Justice.

So, thank you, Fr. John, through your many years of ministry, for your manifold contributions to the church in general, but especially for your devotion to, and love for, Saint Mary’s College.

- Brother Mark McVann
Ben Xu

Ben Xu is two people. In Moraga, he is a mild-mannered professor. But in China, he is a fighter for truth, justice, and intellectual freedom. Yes, Ben is Clark Kent. And Superman.

In Moraga, we value Ben for his expertise in literary theory and British literature and his skill in the Composition and Seminar classrooms. We appreciate the courses he has created on dystopian literature and Existentialism. We are rather in awe at the speed with which he returns student essays. He is a valued colleague.

In the People’s Republic of China, Ben is an important public intellectual, a spokesman for intellectual freedom. He has written seven books on the public life and social responsibility of the intellectual. Most recently, Ben published *A Life in Writing*, a collection of his father’s early writing, the elder Xu’s forced confessions of “thought crimes” during the Cultural Revolution, and his later reflections as a Cultural Revolution survivor. Memorializing his father, Ben is also keeping alive the memory of the Cultural Revolution.

A 2011 book, *What is Good Public Life*, collects the newspaper columns Ben has published since one Chinese paper, then others, invited him to write about his life in America for the purpose of “public enlightenment.” Two popular blogs now post these columns; together, they have received over two million visits. In his columns, Ben often uses his classroom experiences to support his continuing argument for freedom of thought and expression. We are honored that Saint Mary’s plays a role in Ben’s campaign for those values.

- English Department

25 Years of Service

Tory Courtney

In the Multiple Subject Credential Program, Tory Courtney is “professor extraordinaire.” Over the years, she designed courses, mentored new faculty, and served as Program Director. Bringing her expertise in special education, counseling, and educational psychology, Tory guided hundreds of prospective teachers through their student teaching experience. Tory also taught numerous research courses and mentored many a Masters project. Beloved by her students, Tory is a calm and inspiring presence in the classroom.

In addition to her diverse teaching record, during the years 1986-1989, Tory took on the role of Assistant Dean and then, from 1989-1991, she was Interim Dean for the School of Education. She has been active in the campus community, elected to represent the School of Education on many committees. Tory has authored several articles, and frequently presents her research at meetings of professional organizations, such as the National Association of School Psychologists and American Education Research Association. Recently on reduced services, she now focuses on students in the School Counseling Program.

Tory and her husband, Dick, are avid fans of Saint Mary’s College and Bay Area’s offerings: From musical theater, sports events, and fairs, to hikes in the hills or walks on the beach, Tory has explored them all.

We congratulate Tory on her 25 years of exceptional service to the students in the School of Education and Saint Mary’s College.

- MSTE Faculty
James Hawley—
For the 25 years Professor James P. Hawley’s classes on business and society and ethical and social issues in business with an emphasis on corporate governance have challenged and enriched generations of MBA students at Saint Mary’s College. His scholarship in fiduciary capitalism, universal ownership, and responsible investing is recognized nationally and internationally. Among his many publications he is the co-author of The Rise of Fiduciary Capitalism, the seminal work in its field. He is also the co-founder and director of The Elfenworks Center for the Study of Fiduciary Capitalism which has organized several international conferences; one resulted in a special edition of Corporate Governance, the premier journal in its field and another in a set of papers published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. Professor Hawley’s contributions to the life of the College are many and varied. They include service on the Academic Senate, president of the AAUP chapter, and chairman of the Educational Policy Board. In all his endeavors, Prof Hawley is recognized by his colleagues as a passionate advocate, a first rate intellect with interests across a wide range of subjects, a caring collaborator, and a good friend. When Professor Hawley isn’t attending international meetings or working on other aspects of his scholarship he can often be found in the company of his grand daughter or at the helm of his sailboat, Island Time, enjoying the breeze on San Francisco Bay.

- David Bowen

Stephen Sloane—
Steve has a long and distinguished career at the College that encompasses both faculty and administrative positions and includes an award for Teacher of the Year. It is impossible to cover Steve’s achievements in a short presentation.

Just for starters Steve is truly loved by both his colleagues and his students. He is not only a published scholar, but a published novelist. Steve is also a talented horseman who has written for Dressage Today Magazine. For many years Steve conducted therapeutic riding programs for children with special needs. Currently he and his dog “Flash” provide companionship to elders who can no longer live at home. Before he was an academic, Steve was a career Navy officer and his observations about military life are wryly and wisely presented in his wonderful book: “Gold Stripe on a Jackass.”

All of the above cannot even begin to cover Steve’s kind, deep, steady presence in the Department. Somehow he is able to remain both calm and philosophical whether it is the best of times and or the worst of times. To mix metaphors, Steve is our rock and our port in the academic storm. And, to top it all off, he can be seen regularly, sporting the best wardrobe of colorful shirts, suspenders, and ties of any faculty member on campus.

It is a gift and a true blessing to have Steve’s presence all these years!

- Mindy Thomas
Andrew Williams—

Andy Williams is a person of wide interests and passions: photography (once worked with Ansell Adams in Yosemite), computer software (and author of several instructional manuals for both professionals and novices), sailing, banjo playing, art and music lover and connoisseur, and spending time helping to organize and manage non-profits. And not the least, of course, building a record of teaching, scholarship and service at the college that serves as a model for all others in his department and school. His evaluations are routinely off the charts and the envy of the rest of us; he has given hours of his time in service on countless committees and in Academic Senate and the Rank and Tenure committee; and his scholarship has made a difference in the world. Over the last 20 years, more or less, he has produced a body of globally influential work (with his colleague Jim Hawley). The core ideas of this work have been increasingly adopted by many of the largest institutional investors such as TIAA-CREF, CalPERs and CalSTRs, and other major retirement funds and mutual funds in the U.S. and other countries. Andy’s and Jim’s work makes the case that in the long-run, sustainable investment (which accounts for and attempts to minimize harmful impacts on the environment and on society) is also the most financially and economically sound investment.

His colleagues often comment on the many positive virtues Andy brings to the table: His interests are broad, yet always remain focused; able to grasp the larger picture, but always concerned about details and whether the particulars really do add up to the general. He is indeed passionate about his interests, yet calm and analytic in even the most heated debates and controversies. Andy is a person with clear points of view, but always one who always remains open to those with whom he disagrees, and those from whom he may learn. As a consequence, everyone around him jumps at the chance to work with him. In fact, the chair says that the way he gets faculty participation on departmental and school committees is to begin by saying ‘Andy will be on it.’

Congratulations to Andy for a fruitful, productive and we hope mostly joyful 25 years at the college. - David Bowen

30 Years of Service

Eric Kolhede—

According to his Business Administration Department colleagues, Eric Kolhede is a true gem. We’ll explain that. This year, Eric stepped down after ten years as department chair, during which time he earned a reputation for steady and firm leadership, and thorough and thoughtful work. Eric led BusAd through program reviews that were lauded as “the best” the committees had ever seen, and we learned recently that BusAd is light-years ahead of most of the college in terms of curriculum assessment. Because of Eric, BusAd enjoys “jewel-in-the-crown” status. (The current chair fears he is a tough act to follow.)

Speaking of acts, Eric is an accomplished pianist and lover of the arts. His support of the arts is evident in his Advanced Marketing courses where, for the past fourteen years, in the space of a semester, students research a company, conduct critical market research, and present a strategic marketing plan for arts organizations, symphonies, theater and opera companies, and more. Recently, during economically trying times, especially for the arts, student projects have resulted in media attention and increased funding for these organizations.

Eric’s scholarship combines marketing and the liberal arts, and has, most recently resulted in co-authored publications in Review of Business Research and The Journal of Interdisciplinary Economics.

Finally, we hope that, since returning to faculty, Eric has time to enjoy music and arts, look forward to a well-earned sabbatical, and work on what might be his next career—stand-up comedian. Eric has a reputation for a sense of humor so dry that the Sahara is said to be envious. Students have been known to look at one another after one of his jokes and ask, “Was that a joke?” More often, students sit in utter silence after his pearled words until Eric tells them, “You can laugh . . . that was a joke.” This tells us why Eric has spent thirty years as a professor, preparing for work on the comedy stage: he has to get his timing right.

- Rebecca Carroll
Br. Michael Meister, FSC—

In his Meditations for the Time of Retreat, John Baptist De La Salle writes to the Brothers, "Your students must be convinced that they themselves are a letter which Jesus Christ dictates to you, which you write each day in their hearts, not with ink, but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh." These beautiful words by the Founder can be interpreted to mean that we are called to reverence our students as we reverence the Word of God, that we seek to lead them to God by our lives and example.

In his thirty years of exemplary service to the College, Brother Michael Meister has embodied this text for us in his interactions with students, by whom he is universally loved and respected. One of his students wrote, "I love taking classes with the Brothers at SMC and Br. Michael was no exception. He takes his commitment to teaching seriously and LOVES it! I have never been in a class with a person that enjoyed (his) job more than Br. Michael. He will answer any question and he knows what he is talking about! I learned so much about Dante and the Divine Comedy!"

Brother Michael has developed and taught many wonderful courses for the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, including his "Saints Yesterday and Today" and his acclaimed course on Dante. In fact, he has devoted more than twenty years of research on this great epic poem, and has uncovered and collated more than 100 English-language translations of the work. As a result of his reputation in Dante Studies, he was engaged by the Hearst Art Gallery to curate our Dante exhibit a few years ago. This exhibit featured Sandow Birk’s contemporary depictions of scenes from Dante’s work. Brother Michael continued to advise Mr. Birk through the completion of the cycle of paintings and the modern translation that accompanied them. Mr. Birk honored Brother Michael with warm words of thanks at the gala opening of the exhibition featuring the completed cycle at the San Jose Museum of Art in 2005.

Brother Michael Meister, FSC—

Gregory Smith—

Greg arrived at St. Mary's when he was only a few years older than his students. He quickly established a reputation for excellent teaching, founded on his exceptional knowledge of anatomy; fast becoming “one of the toughest professors a student will ever love”. His courses are in demand and students who have him in anatomy flock to his physiology course for the following semester, no matter their level of achievement because they know him to be a clear, enthusiastic, fair professor who is always willing to help. The admiration of his students is reflected in the number of times he has been nominated by the seniors for their own Professor of the Year award. He developed the Biological Anthropology course and also taught in the Collegiate Seminar. Recently he added a new upper division course in Human Anatomy. His time as department chair saw unprecedented growth in our majors and the hiring of new faculty. He implemented cost-cutting measures that were practical, extremely successful, while placing little burden on department members (much appreciated by his colleagues!). This too, is a byproduct of his practical nature and organizational skills.

He has been integrally involved in the American Association of Anatomists. He is so admired by his professional colleagues in Anatomy that he was instrumental in bringing the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Anatomists (an International Body of Scientists) to St. Mary’s. This was the first time in the history of the organization that it was not held at a medical school. His scholarly efforts have included sabbaticals studying retinal neurophysiology at the University of Utah, School of Medicine and a semester at the University of Warwick, developing new teaching methods for linking radiological information, such as X-rays and MRIs, to computer-assisted teaching of anatomy in medical schools. He has long had an interest in technology in the classroom, from early work on the A.D.A.M. project, the first computer dissection program, to his recent sabbatical work. He also developed a faster and more efficient way to photograph anatomy in medical schools. He has long had an interest in technology in the classroom, from early work on the A.D.A.M. project, the first computer dissection program, to his recent sabbatical work. He also developed a faster and more efficient way to photograph anatomy in medical schools.

He served on the rank and tenure committee and was instrumental in developing a method to evaluate grading standards, giving a studied and scientific way for the college to evaluate grade inflation and allowing rank and tenure to assess rigor and grade trends within a course from year to year.

In summary, Greg has been the quintessential professor who has made a life-long commitment to St. Mary's and the success of his students.

- Carla Bossard
Melinda Thomas—

Mindy adapted with sensitivity and grace into the Politics Department. As Chair she has been diligent, supportive, a strong advocate for the faculty, and an effective leader who is able to motivate people to work together. Her leadership ability would permit her to be an effective herder of cats, a trait that comes in handy when dealing with a faculty of rugged individuals who have an inclination to avoid bureaucratic dictates.

She is adept at attention to detail with the possible exception of shying away from the tedious chore of scheduling. In fact, she has been known to bribe her colleagues who help with this task with a bottle of Campari.

Mindy is an inspiring teacher, witty, articulate, well informed and attuned to student needs. She connects with students in a way that encourages them to love her classes as well as respect her as an expert in her field.

She is a true renaissance woman, an accomplished horse woman who has earned a law degree, practiced law, served as a law school Dean as well as a Vestry Member of Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church and a member of the Territory of Guam School Board.

We are indeed fortunate to have her apply her considerable talent and experience to help us accomplish the Saint Mary’s mission.

- Steve Sloane

Stephen Woolpert—

We begin this commendation for Steve Woolpert by confirming, once and for all, the answer to the oft-asked inquiry: yes, he was Art Garfunkel in a former life, and now has brought his passion for peace and justice, his love for the environment, and his vast musical talents to our academic setting.

Alongside his lucrative music career, Steve completed his doctorate in Political Science at Stanford University. His areas of expertise include the U.S. Constitution, environmental politics, restorative justice, education for a sustainable future, and ecological thinking. In a quote from one of his recent writings, he explains, “ecological thinking means thinking about how things fit together, about patterns and interrelationships and about our solidarity with the living world.” It is this philosophy, we know, that guides Steve’s work in all he does at Saint Mary’s and no doubt led to his being named Professor of the Year in 2003. Steve was a founder of the interdisciplinary program in Environmental Studies. He has contributed to the SMC community time and again with his well-researched and well-written reports on critical campus issues such as faculty workload, faculty scholarship production, the future of the academic schools, Catholic identity and action on campus, and of course, campus sustainability. He was instrumental in initiating a student, faculty, and staff coordinated sustainability effort. In a recent published article, he advocated for promoting student engagement through campus sustainability projects. Steve is also literally willing to get his hands dirty, as he demonstrated when he helped to found and build the much-hoped-for Legacy Garden on campus.

As Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, Steve has led efforts in developing a school advisory board, increasing faculty hiring, and integrating program review into program action plans that help faculty make their hopes become real. He has supported the growth of the graduate programs across the school, and has been tireless in his work to expand the creative arts, from art history and digital art to the music, dance, and theatre programs.

For all that he has done, we congratulate Steve on an ecologically and effectively spent thirty years of service!

- Frances Sweeney
Eric Hansen—

Eric Hansen took over the Directorship of our Executive MBA program in 1977, just two years after beginning to teach in Graduate Business. This followed the resignation (requested) of our initial leader who pretty much made a mess of the place, in the opinion of many faculty, during his two years on the job. Eric quickly got the program back on track and went on to serve admirably until 1989, when he rejoined the regular faculty and handed the reins to Nelson Shelton, who continued Eric’s fine record of successful leadership for the next 18 years. Eric retired to a life of Reduced Services in 2006, returning each year to teach Jan Term and say hello to old friends.

Eric’s tenure as an administrator was marked by many successes. In 1983, Eric was able to point to tangible evidence of the success of his efforts in managing the transition of Graduate Business from its entrepreneurial roots to a position of academic and intellectual legitimacy. In that year, the college agreed to establish two tenure-track positions within the department and committed to adding two more the next year. It was not long before a full-time faculty was in place, doing serious research and teaching a majority of the courses.

In 1984, working in tandem with Nelson (who was then Director of Marketing), Eric established the Professional MBA program, opening graduate business study at SMC to a whole new population.

Also in 1984, Eric became Associate Dean as well as Director, taking on additional responsibilities for the School of Economics and Business Administration in both graduate and undergraduate education. He held the two posts until returning to the faculty five years later.

Eric took a back seat to no one in providing distinguished teaching and doing serious scholarship following his administrative posts. Students commented often on his ‘spellbinding’ lectures and broad cultural knowledge (His Ph.D. from Tufts is in International Relations). His book on the development of business cultures internationally led to numerous invitations for interviews and visiting lectures during the nineties.

If you run into Eric at some point, and you would like to see him cackle with pleasure, ask him what on earth a ‘marginal pass’ is. This mark, established by Eric as an addition to our pass-fail grading system, has a long and storied history in graduate business, and has the distinction of being unique to our program nationally or internationally. One definition; ‘you passed, yeah, but whew was it close!’

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Jacob Lester—

Jacob Lester has enriched two departments in his 35 years at St. Mary’s. In Biology, he has taught the introductory course for Biology majors and upper division Comparative Anatomy and Physiology courses. All these courses are distinguished by his excellent and elaborate laboratories. In addition, he teaches courses in the History of Science. He chaired the Biology Department for 6 of his 35 years here.

With only colored chalk he creates museum quality, artistic renditions of things biological on enumerable classroom boards in his lectures and his labs. His artistic inclinations are also apparent in his exceptional tie collection, which grace the eyes of students and colleagues alike.

Further, for most of his years here he has been a part of the Integral Program of seminars and laboratories. It is reported that in the Integral Junior Laboratory he finally succeeded in carrying out Lavoisier’s essay of fermentation, producing as a result, a fine Chablis in Galileo 214 last semester.

Not content with his exceptional teaching at St. Mary’s, Jacob has shared his teaching talents with 9 LaSallian Institutions in 4 LaSallian Regions of the world. Jacob has taught in four LaSallian Institutions in Thailand; two in the Philippines; and one each in India, East Africa, and Bethlehem University in the West Bank. Jacob’s wife Alice usually joins him in these educational endeavors. Jacob has also done a variety of keynote speeches and presentations both in the Bay Area and at LaSallian Institutions all over the world.

Well done Jack. Congratulations on a valuable 35 years.

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Carla Bossard
Annalee Lamoreaux—

As a wise colleague of Annalee’s, a sociologist, once observed: “With Annalee, there are no simple answers. If you want a simple answer, ask someone else.” Another equally wise colleague explained the source of her complexity this way: “Annalee has limitless intellectual and professional curiosity; a systems view, in which she is always: seeing connections, exploring relationships, questioning assumptions, and seeking multiple perspectives.

And the many people who provided input in this tribute to her all commented on not only her wealth of knowledge in many areas, but on her amazing capacity to recall so many detail about programs and policies about why we do the things we do in the ways we do them; as well as anecdotes and stories of colleagues and students from years ago.

More than her ability to recall the past, all 35 years of it, Annalee is to be recognized for her passion and commitment to education as a positive force in people’s lives and in the world at large. When asked when she’s going to retire, her response is, “why should I? I am blessed to have a job I love; that I find creative, challenging, and rewarding; where I can make a difference, and where I continue to grow and learn myself. What could be better than that?” How fortunate for us all!

- Ken Otter

Elaina Rose Lovejoy—

Some people have said that the chapel was still being built when Elaina Rose Lovejoy began teaching at Saint Mary’s. This is clearly an exaggeration; but Elaina has been at the College long enough to witness many remarkable changes, and she has provided extraordinary contributions of her own. A founding member of the Department of Education, the College’s first graduate department, Elaina created a highly successful elementary teacher education program and then went on, a few years later, to launch the first counselor education program. Both programs have flourished, enjoying long traditions of excellence. An outstanding teacher, much esteemed by her students, Elaina developed and taught an array of courses in the SOE. Her Jan Term Educational Field course, which she taught for decades, was so popular that she sometimes had to offer multiple sections to satisfy the demand. Deeply devoted to the School of Education, she provided consistent leadership, care, and support for her colleagues over the years, often reminding them of their Lasallian, student-centered heritage.

Elaina’s remarkable service was not confined to the School of Education. She served two terms on the Rank and Tenure Committee and more recently was a facilitator of the Campus of Difference workshops. Saint Mary’s College and the School of Education have been blessed by Elaina’s 40 years of devoted service. On this special occasion, let us join in honoring her and thanking her for so enriching our lives.

We congratulate her for her many years of devoted and join others in celebrating her join in celebrating her many contributions the occasion of her 40th anniversary as a professor at Saint Mary’s College, we congratulate her and

We acknowledge her many contributions to the College and the School of Education as we celebrate her many years of devoted service (redundant) . . .

- Jerry Brunetti