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Dear Readers,

I doubt if a week goes by that I don’t think about Mrs. Covault, my favorite teacher, or the lessons she taught me about believing in myself. Her classroom was a tiny, one-room country school.

I was probably one of the last students in America to go to a school like that. In kindergarten and first grade I was the only kid in my class. When it was my turn for lessons, I put my little chair next to the teacher’s desk and had her (mostly) undivided attention. Then I got to listen in on the big kids’ classes.

Mrs. Covault and other teachers like her gave me the life that I live today.

Of course modern schools offer a very different experience. In some ways they’re better. But crowded classrooms, limited resources and tremendous societal needs all challenge our ability to provide a quality education for every child.

At the heart of the educational experience, however, something deeply important remains the same: teachers who do life-changing work against overwhelming odds.

In this issue of the Saint Mary’s magazine we revisit five alumni educators we profiled in 2007 during a similarly challenging time for their profession. We wanted to see how they’ve fared since then and if they stayed with it. We are happy to report that they, like many others, still strive to ensure that each child gets a quality education, no matter how their classrooms and resources change.

I expect most of us can name at least one teacher or professor who had a profoundly positive effect on our lives. What would the world or we be without them?

In addition to our story about alumni educators, this magazine also includes stories about other Saint Mary’s people — students, alumni, faculty, staff and Christian Brothers on the other side of the world — who devote themselves to making a difference in the lives of others.

We want to celebrate these members of our community and also encourage you to send us your stories about a great teacher or some other mentor who profoundly changed your life for the better.

Jo Shroyer
Editor
Real World 101
Three Saint Mary’s students learn life lessons during the new Micah Summer Fellowship

Saint Mary’s Art Museum Debuts
A newly expanded and renamed Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art offers new possibilities

Willie & Johnny
The friendship of painter William Keith and writer John Muir may have changed America’s view of the West and nature

Doing Good Is in the Details
A tutorial in logistics, toughness, heart and negotiation

Why Teach?
An update on five alumni dedicated to a challenging profession

Immersed in a Mission of Hope
Faculty and staff join the Christian Brothers mission helping children of war in Sri Lanka
ALUMNI FAMILY SPANS THREE CENTURIES AS GAELS

Your summer edition listed Gerald P. Martin, Jr. ’53 as a recently deceased alumnus. Nothing else was mentioned. Jerry, and the Martin family, deserved more.

Jerry was one of the most distinguished trial lawyers in California. He spent many years representing physicians and hospitals in medical malpractice actions. He was a member of the most prestigious national organizations of trial lawyers. He was a masterful cross-examiner and charmer of juries. He loved the law. He demanded the absolute best from those who worked for him. He could be cerebral, bombastic, outrageous and generous, all at the same time.

He was enamored of the Great Books and professors such as James L. Hagerty. He proudly displayed his signed copy of Living Upstairs, the book of essays written by Brother Leo Meehan. Jerry rooted for the Galloping Greeks on the gridiron and basketball court. He also generously donated to the EastBay Scholarship Fund. Jerry’s father, Gerald P. Martin Sr., graduated from the old Brickpile in 1926. He taught government and other classes at SMC while practicing law in Oakland. Jerry Sr. became the College’s controller and then athletic director after World War II. Jerry Sr. arranged for young Jerry to room with a promising football player by the name of John Henry Johnson, who, of course, became a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame. In any event, the idea was to have Jerry keep John Henry in line. The father seemed to have not considered that Jerry Jr. might need some chaperoning of his own! Of course, it was Jerry Sr. and Brother Thomas Levi, FSC who made the fateful decision to drop big-time football in 1950.

Jerry Sr. returned to the practice of law in the 1950’s and became a legendary advocate on behalf of physicians and hospitals. In fact, Jerry Jr. represented many of the same hospitals 30 years later. Jerry Sr. also served as unofficial and unpaid consigliere to the College’s board of trustees. He was not afraid to speak his mind! Jerry Sr. was one of the founders of the EastBay Scholarship Fund, which, as stated above, was later supported by his son.

Jerry Jr.’s maternal grandfather, Frank Gallagher, graduated from SMC in 1894. Mr. Gallagher founded Gallagher & Burk Construction Company, one of the major general contractors in the state. He, too, was proud of his affiliation with SMC. Jerry Jr.’s brother, John Martin, graduated from Saint Mary’s in 1965. Thus, the direct line from the Brickpile of the 19th century remains intact.

J. Randall Andrade ’73, Oakland

In the summer 2011 issue, we asked readers to send their ideas for bridging the current political divide in public life. We receive these suggestions:

READER URGES LEGISLATORS TO FOCUS ON CALIFORNIA

As a fellow Class of ’82 alum, it is an honor to see that two classmates have chosen to give back to their communities and California by serving in the legislature. I applaud them. Both interviews, however, carried a common theme of “building relationships.” Being politically naive, my question to these two and our legislators would be, “If you are doing the right thing for the people of California, why would you need relationships?” I believe at times our legislators need to stand back and look beyond their local constituents and re-election and focus on the bigger picture, which is California.

Tim Desmond ’82, Cotati, CA

MAKE ASSEMBLY AND STATE SENATE SEATS NONPARTISAN

Having lived in California since 1974, I have watched, with some sadness, the deterioration of what is supposed to be representation at our state Capitol. It may well be that the way to put an end to all the partisan divide is to make all the assembly and state senate seats nonpartisan. In that way the various extremes will no longer be able to hold dominance within their respective parties and will have to compete at-large. The drowning of those who would otherwise be middle-of-the-road won’t be so easy when the “political” of the parties is taken out of the contest.

Frank Mellon MBA ’82

Errata: In the summer 2011 issue, Saint Mary’s magazine inaccurately identified Susan Kennedy’s Saint Mary’s degree as a 2007 MBA. Kennedy did, indeed, graduate in 2007, with a B.A. in management from the School of Extended Education. Our apologies.
Creative Writing Reading Series—Clayton Eshleman
7:30 p.m.  Soda Center
Clayton Eshleman’s publications include “Juniper Fuse,” The Complete Poetry of César Vallejo” and “The Grindstone of Rapport/A Clayton Eshleman Reader.” He has received a National Book Award in translation and a Guggenheim Fellowship in poetry. He founded and edited two poetry magazines, Caterpillar and Sulfur.

Latino Alumni Chapter Inaugural Mixer 6–9 p.m.  Faculty/Staff Dining Room
Alumni, family and friends are invited to campus for the first event of the newly formed Latino Alumni Chapter. Socialize with other Latino alumni, faculty and Christian Brothers. $25 per person for online RSVP; $30 at the door. Price includes heavy appetizers, beer and wine.

Second Annual Saint Mary’s College Global Economic Forum 5:30–8:30 p.m.  Location TBD
A panel of three experts on economics, business and finance will discuss the new economic reality at the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco. $12 for Commonwealth Club members, $20 for non-members, $7 for SMC students (with valid ID) and prospective SMC graduate business students. stmarys-ca.edu/alumni-events

San Diego Alumni Mixer and Networking Social 6–8 p.m.  Location TBD
Alumni from the San Diego area are invited to mix and mingle with fellow Gaels in downtown Los Angeles. For more details: stmarys-ca.edu/alumni-events

Continues Through November 20
June in a Box
8 p.m.  (2 p.m. on Nov. 20)  LeFevre Theatre
In “June in a Box,” by Octavio Solis Guest Artist In Residence, an old corrido comes to life, recounting the sensational 1934 kidnapping of June Robles, child of a wealthy immigrant family from Tucson. This magical ode to innocence, memory and the force that heals life’s scars features a jazz-inflected score, performed live. For performance times and tickets, stmarys-ca.edu/performingarts

Harvest Faire and Luncheon 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  Soda Center
The Saint Mary’s Guild Harvest Faire features a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings at noon and a sale of elegant clutter and holiday items all day. There will also be a raffle for a weekend at Tahoe, dinner for 10 and other prizes. $25; proceeds benefit the College. RSVP to Delores McGonigle at (925) 376-4339.

Chicago Alumni Reception 3–5 p.m.  Home of Jim Guyette Jr. ’91
Chicago-area alumni, family and friends are invited to a special Saturday afternoon reception at the home of Jim Guyette Jr. ’91.

Pat Vincent Dinner Dance and Fundraiser 6 p.m.  Soda Center
The 4th annual dinner dance and auction benefits Saint Mary’s College rugby. Music will be provided by Butch Whacks and the Glass Packs. $125 per person until Nov. 4 and $150 thereafter; $100 for GOLD alumni (2002-2011).

DECEMBER

Annual Sacramento Alumni Chapter Christmas Party 6–8 p.m.  Chicago Fire Pizza (2416 J St.)
Sacramento-area alumni, family and friends are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with fellow Gaels at Chicago Fire Pizza in midtown Sacramento.

Christmas Luncheon 11 a.m.–2 p.m.  Soda Center
Ring in the holiday season with the Saint Mary’s Guild Christmas luncheon. Enjoy cocktails at 11 followed by lunch and a raffle. $45, proceeds benefit the College. RSVP to Jeffry-Lynn Dunne at (925) 284-7750 or jlyndunne@comcast.net

La Virgen de Guadalupe 7:30–9 p.m.  Chapel
The annual Mass celebrates the patroness of the Americas, La Virgen de Guadalupe, with a liturgy and a reenactment of the apparition. A fiesta with music, dance and song will follow the Mass.

FEBRUARY

Ars Celebrandi: Moved by the Spirit 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  Hagerty Lounge, De La Salle Hall
Brother William Woeger, FSC, nationally renowned liturgical artist and founder of the Cathedral Arts Project at Omaha’s St. Cecilia Cathedral, will be the keynote speaker at this conference on liturgical arts. Presented by the Catholic Liturgical Arts Committee. RSVP at stmarys-ca.edu/lasallian-approach/clac/rsvp.html

MARCH

2 Saint Patrick’s Dinner 5–10 p.m.  Soda Center
Celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day with a traditional Irish dinner and an Irish band, piper and step dancers. Silent auction for one-week stay at Delmain Lodge, Kinvara, County Galway, Ireland; $40, proceeds benefit the College. RSVP to Milicent McCormick at (925) 376-3463 or mmodmmc@comcast.net
SMC Honored for Community Service, “Green” Programs

Saint Mary’s is well-known among graduates and the local community for its commitment to service, and now it has been recognized at the highest national level.

This year, the College was honored as a finalist on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Saint Mary’s was one of 17 higher education institutions out of 641 nationwide that were considered for a 2010 Presidential Award — the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for community service. Eleven, including Saint Mary’s, were identified as Presidential Award Finalists and six received the Presidential Award.

“Commitment to service, social justice and concern for the poor are essential elements of the College’s mission, and these concerns are woven into the academic experience of our students,” said Brother President Ronald Gallagher. “We are extremely proud to receive recognition at the presidential level for our commitment to community service in the Bay Area and internationally.”

SMC was recognized for its Lasallian mission, the community engagement learning goals in the core curriculum and two ongoing initiatives – the Trans-Global Executive MBA program, in which faculty and students work to empower nonprofit agencies worldwide, and for service to the Alameda Point Collaborative, a housing community for the formerly homeless.

Saint Mary’s was also named among the most environmentally responsible colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada in the 2011 edition of the Princeton Review’s Guide to 311 Green Colleges.

“Sustainability is part of the College’s academic focus, its public programming and our overall campus life. We’re proud to be considered a leading ‘green’ institution of higher education,” said Marshall Welch, the Sustainability Committee chairperson.

Notable sustainability efforts include a car-sharing program, energy conservation measures and a student-run vegetable garden that provides more than 200 pounds of food each week to campus dining services. Water conservation efforts save an estimated 4.3 million gallons of water each year through green plumbing in college restroom facilities. Sixty percent of the college’s annual food budget is spent on local items, and in the dining halls, all pre-consumer food waste is composted and students enjoy fair-trade coffee.

Who Are the New Gaels?

This year’s college freshmen never lived in a world without the internet, music has always been available via free downloads, and the phrase “Don’t touch that dial!” doesn’t mean a thing to them. These are just a few of the findings of a popular list called the Beloit College Mindset List that’s issued each year to remind us of just how different the world seems when viewed through the eyes of a college freshman.

So who are this year’s new Saint Mary’s students? They come to SMC with an eclectic mix of interests and reasons for choosing the College.

Take Marquez Butilla of Hayward, who chose the 3+2 Engineering Program to pursue his passion for robotics. Or Tomas Rodriguez of El Cerrito, who entered SMC’s Integral Program so he could learn to teach his favorite subjects, Greek and Latin. Or Scott Milne of Discovery Bay, who is pursuing a double major in business and music. He’s already in three bands and says he wants to be “the drummer and the manager.”

This year, the College enrolled 648 freshmen from an applicant pool of 4,853 — the largest group of freshman applicants in the history
of Saint Mary’s. It also enrolled 199 students who transferred from junior college or another college, including state schools that have been impacted by budget cuts.

Although they may be very different from earlier generations of Gaels, the new students list many of the same reasons as graduates do for choosing the College.

“I like the 4-1-4 model and Seminar, plus Jan Term and the opportunity to study abroad,” said Kayla Riley of Sacramento, an economics major who plans to go to law school. “And Saint Mary’s is a good place to learn critical thinking skills.”

James Lee of Palos Verdes, a business administration major, was drawn to the location. “At first I wanted to go to a school in San Francisco or New York City, but then I went to San Francisco. It’s so crowded. Here, if you want to go to the city, it’s just 40 minutes by BART, and you can come back to this nice atmosphere,” he said.

Chase Webb of Erie, Colo., is majoring in biochemistry and computer science and wants to be a medical researcher. “I like that it’s a traditional college experience, a Christian education and a setting that’s small enough to know everybody but big enough to see new faces,” he said.

New Students by the Numbers

- **3.55** average GPA
- **51%** students of color
- **37%** first generation college students
- **69%** involved in athletics
- **12%** as team captains
- **17%** honors students
- **20%** involved in music
- **19%** in leadership activities like student government
- **13%** in performing arts
- **54%** Catholic, with the rest representing the world’s religions, from Jewish to Protestant, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh
Saint Mary’s Hosts (SMC)² Math Camp for Gifted Students

Nineteen math whizzes from as close as Walnut Creek and as far away as Las Vegas spent a week at Saint Mary’s last summer for a math enrichment camp for gifted students.

The camp’s theme was “Serious Play — a look at the serious math behind child’s play.”

The young prodigies eagerly tackled the challenging branch of math known as combinatorial and classical game theory, a relatively new field made famous in the movie “A Beautiful Mind.”

Evans Hauser, a camper from Piedmont High School, relished the chance to get to know fellow math enthusiasts. “Normally at school, I don’t have a group of friends who are excited about math,” he said with a smile. Nathan Hill, from

New Faces on Campus

Richard Carp, the new vice provost for undergraduate academics, is an expert in interdisciplinary studies. His scholarly writings span the fields of material culture, art, philosophy, film and world religions.

Carp, who took office in July, said he was drawn to the College because of its liberal arts and religious traditions. “Saint Mary’s has a long and distinguished history in the Lasallian tradition, integrating religion, action for social justice in solidarity with the poor, and liberal arts as the arts of freedom,” he said.

He plans to bring an interdisciplinary and multicultural perspective to Saint Mary’s, encouraging collaborations across the schools. He will also establish a vice provost’s student advisory committee and will work closely with the Core Curriculum Committee on implementation of the revised core curriculum by fall 2012.

“The College is like a weaving,” he said. “The schools are the warp. The things we do — Jan Term, Seminar, international programs — are the weft that binds the weaving together and creates the pattern.”

He holds a B.A. in political science from Stanford University, an M.A. in religion and art from the Pacific School of Religion, and a doctorate in interdisciplinary studies from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He came to Saint Mary’s from Appalachian State University, where he chaired the departments of Art, Foreign Languages and Interdisciplinary Studies. He has also held leadership positions at the School of Visual Art at Northern Illinois University, the Kansas City Art Institute and the Art Institute of Southern California.

“We are very fortunate to have an esteemed academic administrator and scholar such as Dr. Carp join Saint Mary’s College,” said Provost Beth Dobkin. “He will bring insight from more than 25 years of administrative experience in higher education as well as a stellar record of commitment to the liberal arts and spiritual development of students.”

Carp said he appreciates the “open conversations about spirituality” at the College. He has been interested in both spirituality and theatre since his days as an acolyte in an Episcopal church in San Antonio and has played a number of roles, including Oedipus and Hamlet. “There’s an element of theatre in the service,” he noted.

Carp’s interest in spirituality intensified when he had a severe allergic reaction to a wasp bite at age 6 and had a near-death experience. The memory of it colors his view of the world even now.

For one thing, he said, he realized that the rest of his life was a bonus. “I live most of the time with a pretty deep sense of gratitude,” he says, adding a quote from Meister Eckhart, the 13th century German theologian and mystic: “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”

SMC’s Australian Hoopsters Go Global

For the past decade, the Saint Mary’s men’s and women’s basketball teams have enjoyed a strong relationship with Australia. More than a dozen players from “Down Under” have worn the SMC red and white. So it’s no surprise that several current and former Gaels represented Australia in international basketball competitions throughout the world last summer.

Headlining the list is Olympic and current Portland Trail Blazer Patty Mills, who joined junior Matthew Dellavedova and all-time leading scorer Daniel Kickert on the

Aussie training camp team that played in a number of international tournaments and will face New Zealand for the region’s berth in the 2012 London Olympics.

Senior Clint Steindl played in the Four Nations Tournament in China and, along with incoming transfer Matt Hodgson, in the World University Games.

SMC graduate and former women’s basketball standout Louella Tomlinson was selected to represent Australia at the World University Games in China. Finally, Adam Caporn, a former Saint Mary’s player — the first Aussie, in fact, to play for the Gaels — served as an assistant coach for the Australian side that played in the Four Nations Tournament and World University Games.

Matthew Dellavedova
Pat Kreitz, the new dean of library and academic resources, has a vision for the library at Saint Mary’s. “I want to help create a 21st-century learning and discovery space,” she said.

Kreitz, who took office in July, said it’s important to remember that students come to the library with a diverse set of needs. An Integral major may want a space in which to think quietly and deeply, while a business major may need a place that makes it easy to collaborate with partners in India — and everything in between. “That’s an exciting challenge,” she said.

Her top priority is fundraising for the Saint Mary’s Library and Learning Commons. She is also committed to “democratizing access to information worldwide.”

Kreitz came to Saint Mary’s from a position as director of technical information services and outreach manager for the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford, where she was responsible for the archives and special collections, publishing, graphics and media, Web development and support, and a science and technology library. Previously, she had worked in library and information sciences at UC Berkeley and UC Davis.

At SLAC, she also led an international collaboration of universities, labs, publishers and other information providers that developed the first virtual, integrated, worldwide information service for the particle physics community. This became, according to Tim Berners-Lee, the “killer app” for his then-new invention — the World Wide Web.

A first-generation college graduate, she received an A.B. in history and an M.A. in medieval history from UC Davis and a master’s in library science from UC Berkeley. And she is currently completing a doctorate in managerial leadership in the information professions (MLIP) from Simmons College in Boston. Her scholarly work includes publications on leadership, international collaboration and organizational diversity.

She is married and has “two children and three cats.” Her husband, Douglas Kreitz, earned an executive MBA from Saint Mary’s in 1988. In her spare time, she loves to cook and read “seriously lowbrow books” like murder mysteries.

Kreitz wants to design space in the library that encourages creativity and to upgrade the library’s technological capacity. Saint Mary’s library already partners with faculty to teach information literacy skills through workshops, like the popular “Ask a Librarian” series, that reached more than 2,000 students last year.

Her dream is to collaborate on the next generation of discovery and delivery, in particular what she calls “the holy grail of library delivery” — a one-click search for absolutely everything available on a subject, as simple as Google but reaching across all collections worldwide.

“Our students are born digital at this point,” she noted. “The internet has democratized access to information, but the challenge for libraries is to help people be even more productive in finding the right information.”

Richard Carp, vice provost for undergraduate academics. Below is Pat Kreitz, dean of library and academic resources.

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“Our students are born digital at this point,” she noted. “The internet has democratized access to information, but the challenge for libraries is to help people be even more productive in finding the right information.”
Kusum Singh sits in a sun-kissed corner of her kitchen with the warmth of a woman completely at peace. At 78 and newly-retired from a 27-year teaching career at Saint Mary’s College, she’s entering a stage where she can listen more clearly to her heart. “In every little thing, I find peace and joy,” said Singh, who spent much of her academic life studying the work of Gandhi. “I used to have to prepare so much for class. Now I just sit and enjoy my reading and writing.”

Finding peace hasn’t always been easy for Singh, who was told by a palm reader that she would die by the age of five. “My mother believed I wouldn’t live every time I was ill,” she said. But Singh always felt she had a guardian angel, whom she called on frequently. One of the biggest tests came at age 8, when Singh and her sisters were sent away during India’s struggle for independence. Because their father was a high-ranking government official, their mother felt they would be safer at a boarding school. But a teacher at the school was abusing young girls and Singh staged a nonviolent protest, much like Gandhi, himself, would have done.

“I sat in the temple and prayed, ‘My God, somebody has to come from Delhi and get us or I’m not going to eat.’” Soon her prayers were answered and she and her sisters returned home.

Singh’s next big test came at age 16, not long after India had won freedom from British rule. She married an Indian prince from Rajasthan state.

“My karma (destiny) was to get married quickly, belong to my husband’s family and produce sons. But to the consternation of my in-laws, I produced one daughter after another,” she said. Her mother-in-law was especially hard on her. “She treated me like dirt since I came without a big dowry due to my husband’s opposition to such customs.”

Those were difficult times for Singh, who says tradition mandated that she and her husband live in separate quarters — a practice called purdah. “My husband used to come through a secret passage to the women’s quarters, after the elders had gone to sleep.”

What initially attracted Singh to her husband was his rebellious character, which made him run away to Rabindranath Tagore’s University and join the struggle for independence. “When I met him, he had just returned from a demonstration and looked wonderfully fired up. It was love at first sight!” They soon moved out of the palace and into their own place in Edinburgh and then London, where her husband earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees and eventually a Ph.D. at the London School of Economics.

“I began to think of a college education for myself,” she said. “If I had been born male, I suddenly realized, I would have been sent to Oxford (like my brother) with a generous allowance.” Instead, she had to pursue her college education over a period of 27 years, through the untimely death of her husband and the subsequent marriage to his mentor, noted political science professor Bertram Myron Gross. Gross passed away in 1997 and Singh continued teaching Gandhian ethics and theory at Saint Mary’s College until her retirement last spring.

What she brought to SMC was both compassion and intellect. “Kusum has been an inspiration to all of us — her strong feminism, her balanced defense of the underdog, her pedagogical and writing practices,” said Saint Mary’s professor and poet Brenda Hillman. “I’ve been personally moved by her political and moral strength and by her graciousness in the hallways of Saint Mary’s.”

It was Singh’s courage in rising above her own cultural norms that Laura Garcia-Cannon, ’91 NBC-11 news anchor, recalled in her 2008 commencement speech at Saint Mary’s. “She told me ‘Laura, there is nothing you can’t do. There is nothing you can’t become.’ Those words have stayed with me and guided me through the struggles of pursuing a career in television news.”

Looking back, Singh sees stages that could only have occurred through divine intervention — like her meeting with Gandhi at the age of 2; her life as the bride of an Indian prince; her marriage to Gross and her ongoing study of Gandhi’s legacy, including a Fulbright Fellowship in 1991 and 2002.

“She best embodies a person who brings East and West — all the traditions together,” said Communication professor Mike Russo. “In doing so, we are able to understand the world we don’t know.”

Today, Singh looks forward to splitting her time between Moraga and India, where she’ll work as a resident scholar and write her memoir “From Purdah to Ph.D.: A Life Shaped by Gandhi.” Never far from her side will be her guardian angel, who, no doubt, will guide her through this next stage of life.

— Ginny Prior

Faith is not imparted like secular subjects. It is given through the language of the heart.

Mahatma Gandhi
The corner of Golden Gate Avenue and Jones Street in San Francisco might be called the intersection of desperation and hope. Each day a line of forlorn figures snakes around the block, waiting to trudge into St. Anthony’s Dining Room for a free meal. Hundreds of homeless huddle on the sidewalk, hugging the walls to stay out of the elements.

Brenda Martinez walked past this intersection in the Tenderloin district often last summer on her way to work at the General Assistance Advocacy Program, a bare-bones nonprofit agency that helps the city’s homeless and destitute navigate a tangle of social service programs.

She was one of three Saint Mary’s students who served needy clients in a new six-week internship program called the Micah Summer Fellowship that tested their youthful idealism, their leadership skills and their determination to serve others in the cauldron of the real world.

During the day, the students served in local nonprofits that help the needy, working closely with agency directors and administrators and designing a project they would leave as their legacy.

Throughout the fellowship, which is funded by alumni donations and administered by the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA), they lived together in a low-income part of West Oakland so they would be immersed in the kind of environment their clients live in every day.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

MICAH 6:8
Kendra Capece, Brenda Martinez and Lindsay Fukui (left to right) sit on the steps of the home in West Oakland that they shared during their summer fellowship program.
For Brenda, who had just finished her freshman year at Saint Mary’s, the learning curve was steep. But working with GAAP Executive Director Ruth Isaacson, she quickly mastered the alphabet soup of programs for the homeless and poor who populate San Francisco’s streets, and within two weeks, she was doing full-time advocacy work.

“I love fighting for these people and not letting the system take advantage of them, making sure the social workers are doing their jobs, speaking up for people who don’t have a voice,” she said.

Even though Brenda is just 19, she already has years of experience in helping people find a voice. “My parents don’t speak English well, and my mom is really ill,” she explained. “She always struggled with her doctor’s appointments. I know how hard and confusing it is to deal with public agencies.”

So when social workers refused to return the calls of her GAAP clients, she dogged them until they did. She arranged referrals to shelters, free meals, blankets, clothing. Her motto was “Don’t give up.”

Brenda learned how to surmount challenges at an early age. When she was just 13, her sister had a baby boy, and Brenda’s life changed. Her mother was battling diabetes and other ailments, and her sister wasn’t ready to be a full-time mom, so Brenda stepped in as a caregiver for the boy, who is now 5.

“I had to grow up really quickly,” she says.

That emotional maturity helped her handle the barrage of experiences packed into the six-week fellowship. One of them was being surrounded by homeless, often mentally unstable, people all day in her work and on the street.

“It’s a different world in the Tenderloin,” she said. “Coming from Pittsburg and Antioch, I’ve seen homeless people. You give them a dollar and walk away. But now I feel so comfortable and relaxed with them,” she said. “It has really opened my eyes to see this reality. I think now I want to work in the legal field, maybe be a lawyer.” Brenda’s supervisor, who is a lawyer herself, praised her young protégé’s ability to jump into the agency’s work and connect with clients.

“A lot of volunteers come in with the best of intentions, but it’s more challenging than they expect,” Ruth said. “Brenda knows how to direct her energy in a way that’s very productive for us. And she has a knack for talking with the clients. She’s got the people thing down, and that’s actually more important.”

For Brenda, who came to the experience with a passion for social justice work, the experience was all she had hoped for. “I want to have a career where I can help someone else,” she said. “It fills me.”

Just a block down the street from the GAAP office, Kendra Capece ’12 served at the St. Anthony Foundation, which looks out for the needs of the poor, the hungry and the homeless in San Francisco.

Like all St. Anthony’s volunteers, she worked in the dining room, where a steady stream of street people and the poor — 3,000 a day — come for a simple meal and a few moments of respite before heading back out to the Tenderloin. But the heart of her internship, and her biggest challenge, was serving as an advocate for the city’s poor.
“It’s been a lot, to be honest. The work we do — it tries your mind and your heart,” Kendra said. “My mom was a single mom. I’ve seen her sacrifice. But I’ve never experienced the level of poverty of the people in our West Oakland neighborhood and the people I work with.”

On her first day at work, Mayor Ed Lee released the proposed budget for the next year. It contained $8 million in cuts for programs that help the poor and homeless, so she had to get up to speed on advocacy work in a hurry.

“She had a speech ready but she looked around the packed chambers and said ‘I don’t know if I should do it.’” The huge crowd, the ornate chambers, the big-screen TV where her testimony would be projected — it was all pretty daunting. But she didn’t give up. Colleen modeled the testimony for her, and the next time the council met, Kendra was there, along with the other St. Anthony interns. She gathered her courage, stood up and delivered a reasoned and impassioned speech that ended with this message:

“We’ve all heard the saying, ‘Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps,’ but I beg to question, what if you have no boots? The services proposed for cuts are those which allow people to pull themselves up, and without them, we’re taking away any of their real chances.”

The other interns stood up and cheered.

“She learned about fear and how to handle it. Plus, she was able to be a model for the interns,” Colleen said. And she had the satisfaction of hearing, a week later, that the supervisors had voted to reinstate the entire $8 million in proposed cuts.

Across the San Francisco Bay in North Oakland, Lindsay Fukui ’12, served her fellowship at Elizabeth House, a transitional home for mothers with children who need a temporary place to live because of abuse, a breakup of their family or lack of funds.

Unlike the two agencies in the Tenderloin, the stately Elizabeth House stands in a quiet, leafy neighborhood. But the reality hits you at the entrance, where you pass through two locked doors before proceeding down a long hall where every room has a lock and key. A half-dozen families live behind those doors. Elizabeth House helps the women create a plan to finish their education and get a job so they can support their family.

“These women really just need some support,” Lindsay said. “I focus on helping them become not just more stable but better mothers.”

She quickly realized that in a small nonprofit, everybody has to pitch in, no matter how menial the task. In her first week, she was asked to inventory the freezers, file papers and check voicemail.
After just two weeks of training, though, she was entrusted with the intake interviews for prospective residents. “I’ve learned a lot about CalWORKS, Social Security Disability Insurance and Food Stamps,” she said. “They’re relying on me to ask the right questions.”

Lindsay also designed a database of past residents, worked on a Toys R Us grant application and persuaded a local clothing store to donate $150 for toys and books for the children.

For her fellowship project, she created an energy-saving competition called “Love Your Mother Nature” to teach the women how to conserve energy and cut their utility bills when they finally do have a home of their own.

Tina Humphrey, executive director of Elizabeth House, was impressed with Lindsay’s energy — and her organizational skills. “When she told me she wanted to design an energy contest for the home, I told her I needed a detailed outline and timeline for the program. I asked for it at 9 a.m., and she had it to me by 1 p.m., complete with graphs showing our PG&E use.”

“She’s learning real-life lessons,” Tina said. “The popular image of the underserved as down and out is not always the case, especially in today’s economy. To see that is a great experience for an intern. This is real life.”

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME IN WEST OAKLAND

In the West Oakland neighborhood around 10th Street, faded Victorians stand in various states of renovation and decay, and walls are covered with graffiti. On a nearby corner, Happy Time Liquors sits next to a resource center called The Lord Provides.

Kendra Capece remembers driving into the neighborhood on the first day of the program and thinking, “What did I get myself into? This is gonna be my life for six weeks.”

But all three students said the most surprising part of their fellowship was the warmth and humanity they found in their adopted neighborhood. “Every house has a chain-link fence and it doesn’t look welcoming. Yet there’s more experience of community here than anywhere else I’ve lived,” Kendra said.

It was here that the students met frequently at dinner with their CILSA mentors — Director Marshall Welch, Associate Director Jennifer Pigza and Community Engagement Coordinator Ryan Lamberton, who designed the Micah program — to discuss assigned readings and to share the events of the day, focusing on how they could turn even the most challenging experience into a positive life lesson.

On Saturdays, they served breakfast at the Oakland nonprofit World Impact, just down the street, and helped out around the organization. “The first week, we had to clean the bathroom,” Brenda Martinez recalled. “It was really gross, but we bonded.”

The students also reached out to the neighborhood in any way they could. On a trip to a nearby liquor store to buy cereal, Brenda recalled, they struck up a conversation with some locals on the street corner and promised to make treats for them. The next day, they returned with rice Krispie treats and cupcakes. The locals were amazed — and grateful. “If you ever need anything or anybody ever messes with you, we’ll help you out,” they said.

With every passing day, the West Oakland house seemed more like home. “It’s been a precious time,” Kendra said. “Six weeks to be engrossed in service and home life. This is our time to really grow and do the things we’ve never done before.”
Saint Mary’s unveiled the newly expanded and renamed Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art at a grand opening on October 2 that featured a special 100th anniversary exhibition of the paintings of William Keith. The $600,000 expansion of the Hearst Art Gallery has created two new galleries and increased exhibition space by about 50 percent.

Before the ribbon cutting, historian Kevin Starr, California’s librarian emeritus, delivered an address entitled “Thinking About William Keith: Some Centennial Considerations.” The event also celebrated the unveiling of a new book, “The Comprehensive Keith: The Hundred Year History of the Saint Mary’s College Collection of Works by William Keith.” The museum has the most comprehensive collection of Keith paintings in the world, and the exhibition features about 25 of the 180 paintings in the collection, as well as letters, articles and memorabilia, including Keith’s personal desk.

The museum expansion, which was the brainchild of Gallery Director Carrie Brewster, was made possible by a number of generous contributions, including gifts from the estate of Mary Torrey Dooms; the estate of Julia Bennett Armistead, mother of SMC art collections manager Julia Armistead; Charlene Harvey; and several anonymous donors. Funds were also raised during an event at the Clars Auction Gallery in Oakland on September 8 and through the sale of personalized commemorative bricks for the Art Courtyard.

“It’s like the stars were lining up to make this happen,” said Brewster.

With the expansion, the museum, which is accredited by the American Association of Museums, now boasts six galleries, including the Keith Room. The lower gallery has been renamed the Hearst Gallery. The upper gallery is named the Walker Foundation Gallery in honor of a significant pledge from the foundation, and the long gallery is the John and Julia Armistead Gallery.

Plans for the new space include an annual juried exhibition of work by Saint Mary’s students. “This will give us lots of opportunities,” said Brewster. “Now we can show our works from the permanent collection,” which includes about 4,500 objects. “It will also allow us to showcase the works of Bay Area artists and emerging artists.”

TERESA CASTLE

To donate to the museum: stmarys-ca.edu/supportsmcmoa. To purchase a commemorative brick: stmarys-ca.edu/smcmoalegacy. To order a copy of “The Comprehensive Keith”: stmarys-ca.edu/keith-book.
In the fall of 1872, a young painter traveled to Yosemite in search of inspiration for his art. After an arduous journey from San Francisco, he sought out a young botanist, who was living in a rustic cabin in the valley, and asked whether he knew of any vistas “that would make a picture.”

As it turns out, this simple visit was one of those magical meetings that change forever the lives of those involved — and may even have changed the face of the American West.

The painter was William Keith, who later became famous for his monumental landscape paintings of the West, and the botanist was John Muir, who was to become the father of the U.S. conservation movement. In those days, though, they were both just adventurous young men looking for their way in life.

Muir invited Keith to camp under the stars that night, and as they talked, Willie and Johnnie, as they soon called each other, discovered that they had a lot in common. Both had been born in Scotland in 1838, and both had immigrated to the United States at a young age. Later, both made their way to San Francisco, as free-spirited young men often did then, as now. But what truly bound them together was their passionate — even ecstatic — love of nature.
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That first meeting had been suggested by Ralph Waldo Emerson, a relative of Keith’s wife. Following his advice, Keith arrived at Muir’s door bearing a letter of introduction from a mutual friend that described him as a “kindred spirit” and offered this advice: “Melt and fuse your spirits in great Nature baptism, in which all Art and Science inspiration is born and replenished.”

The letter could not have been more prophetic. The two men formed an instant bond, and their life stories were inextricably entwined from that moment on.

Not long after their first meeting, Muir led Keith and two other painters into the high Sierra — or “The Range of Light,” as he called it — in search of inspiring vistas. On horseback, they rode past Vernal and Nevada Falls to Tuolumne Meadows. When their group started up the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River, Muir reined in his horse so the others could catch their first glimpse of Mount Lyell and the crest of the Sierra.

Keith recalled the moment in an article for Boston Advertiser in 1874:

“When it was getting on into the fall I set out for the Yosemite and from there went two days further up into the Sierras with John Muir—one of those remarkable men one often meets in California—a very good writer and a scientist.... When we got to Mount Lyell it was the grandest thing I ever saw.... The frost had changed the grasses and a kind of willow to the most brilliant yellows and reds....”

Muir remembered the scene differently and wrote that when they
rounded the bend and Mount Lyell came into view, Keith “dashed forward, shouting and gesticulating and waving his arms like a madman.”

On another occasion, Keith wrote about how he and Muir “came upon a beautiful waterfall—or rather four, one leaping and tumbling after the other. We started and ran, and clapped our hands in joy of this sudden surprise.”

Their passion for nature seemed to know no bounds, and they were compelled to express it, in words and in paintings, because for them, nature was not just an object of beauty, it was an expression of the divine. Although both had rebelled against their strict Presbyterian upbringing, they remained deeply religious. In adulthood, they embraced the writings of New England Transcendentalists like Emerson and Thoreau, who glorified an instinctual sort of spirituality wedded to the natural world.

They believed fervently that “nature as it actually existed was God’s handiwork,” said Alfred Harrison, author of “The Comprehensive Keith.”

In an era steeped in the values of the Industrial Revolution and Manifest Destiny, when others glorified man’s triumph over nature, Muir preached a gospel of reverence for nature in his writings, and Keith captured it on canvas.

Seeking inspiration, the two new friends set out on expeditions throughout the Sierra and beyond. Some of Keith’s most famous paintings resulted from these trips, including “Sentinel Rock” and the beautiful “Crown of the Sierra.”

Muir wrote glowing newspaper reviews of Keith’s early works, heaping praise on the six-by-ten-foot “California Alps” and “Headwaters of the Merced.” Keith, in turn, introduced Muir to influential writers and artists in San Francisco and supported him during his first forays into the lecture circuit.

Steve Pauly, who has impersonated both Muir and Keith during events at the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez, recounts how Keith calmed his friend’s nerves before his first public lecture in 1876 by bringing one of his large landscapes and setting it on the stage, with these words:

“Just look at the painting, Johnny; you will think you are back in the mountains, and you will immediately relax and be fine.”

Although Muir admired the transcendent quality of Keith’s paintings and labeled him a “poet-painter,” he famously took issue with the artist’s later style. Keith “always thought of himself as a student who had more to learn,” said Heidi Donner, public information manager at Saint Mary’s Museum of Art, and his painting style constantly evolved, becoming more impressionistic over time.

Muir, ever the scientist, campaigned for paintings that were “topographically correct,” but Keith argued that the goal of a landscape painter is not to reproduce nature but to recreate the feeling the landscape evokes in the painter.

“Both were students and lovers of nature, but where Keith saw color and atmosphere, poetry and romance, in mountain and vale, tree and sky, Muir’s eyes were fixed on the ever-changing processes of immutable law,” wrote Charles Keeler, a writer and naturalist who knew both men well. “So it was that he failed to appreciate his artist friend’s finest work.”

Keeler recalled how the two friends would engage in good-natured banter over their artistic differences in Keith’s studio in San Francisco.

“As [Muir’s] keen gray eye ranged over the pictures stacked in piles all over the place, he would fall upon a big careful objective study of a Sierra landscape. ‘Now there’s a real picture, Willie,’ he would exclaim. ‘Why don’t you paint more like that?’ With a look of defiance the big shaggy-haired painter would draw from the stack a mystical dream of live-oaks, with a green and gold sunset sky, and stand it up on an easel with an impatient wave of his hand.
What are you trying to make of that? You’ve stood it upside down, haven’t you?’ Muir would sally with a mischievous twinkle. And Keith would finally give it up with: ‘There’s no use trying to show you pictures, Johnnie.’

In spite of these verbal sparring matches, the two men remained great friends and true kindred spirits. As Keeler wrote, “The two Scotchmen...were big elemental natures, both of them,” adding that each treasured his “child-heart” and drew on it for inspiration. They would meet in San Francisco, share a drink and sing the songs of the great Scottish writer Robert Burns to each other. “Of all the friends Muir had, Keith was probably the closest,” said Pauly. Of the 23 paintings Muir hung on the walls of his home in Martinez, 20 were by Keith.

And they were more alike in their approach to nature than either might care to admit. “Muir had a rapturous approach to nature, even though he had a scientific bent,” said Harold Wood, a Sierra Club volunteer who curates information about Muir on the club’s website. In 1888, Keith was among the artists Muir recruited for a tour of the Pacific Northwest to create illustrations for “Picturesque California,” a multivolume work on the great sights of Western America that was published in serial form, to wide public acclaim. In their day, these serials were the equivalent of today’s television series – entertainment for the masses. They excited the public imagination and built support for Muir’s campaigns to preserve the pristine Western wilderness.

Keith joined in these early conservation campaigns. In fact, the idea for the Sierra Club was first hatched in Keith’s San Francisco art studio during conversations in 1889 with Muir; Dr. Joseph LeConte, the first president of the University of California; and Warren Olney, an attorney who later became a mayor of Oakland. In May 1892, they and several other conservationists organized an alpine club, which they named the Sierra Club.

Late in life, the two collaborated on Muir’s campaign to save the Hetch Hetchy Valley from being flooded by a dam to create a reservoir for San Francisco. In 1907, despite failing health, Keith joined Muir on an expedition to document the valley’s charms in an attempt to sway public opinion and halt the project.

In many ways, it was as if they had returned to the days of their youth, camping in the mountains, writing and sketching. In a 1908 article in the Sierra Club Bulletin, Muir recalled the trip: “The leaf colors were then ripe and the great God-like rocks in repose seemed to glow with life. The artist, Keith, under the spell, wandered day after day along the beautiful river, studying the wonderful scenery; and, after making about 40 sketches, declared with enthusiasm that in picturesque beauty and charm Hetch Hetchy surpasses even Yosemite.”

Keith also described the trip in glowing terms in a story in The Argonaut, but couldn’t help adding this note:

“Muir is a delightful companion to go off with [to the mountains]; agreeable, appreciating beauty thoroughly and all that, but I must say he’s a mighty poor provider....Sometimes when I’ve been away with him for three weeks without any sugar the whole time, I feel that I’ll never go on another trip with him — but I generally do, just the same.”

Although the campaign to save Hetch Hetchy Valley ultimately failed, Harrison notes that “the defeat galvanized the American conservation movement to push for the creation in 1916 of the National Park Service.”

Keith died in 1911, and Muir followed in 1914, too soon to savor that victory. By the end of their lives, though, the two men who had met in Yosemite in their youth were renowned across the nation. Keith had become California’s preeminent landscape painter and Muir was the leading voice for conservation in America.

Together, in their own ways, they opened the eyes of the nation to the glories of the Western wilderness and inspired people to see nature in a new light, not as something to dominate but as something to be revered. And protected.

As Harrison put it, “Keith’s mountain paintings are perfect visual equivalents of Muir’s verbal celebrations of the Range of Light.”
The little boy haunted their dreams. Both Dani Lucier '11 and Professor Shawny Anderson, unbeknownst to each other, had dreams about the toddler they’d met in Haiti while on a summer service trip not long after the earthquake there in January 2010.

“We both dreamed that he had died from cholera,” Shawny explained. “And that we could have done something to prevent it.”

The Saint Mary’s group of 11 students — in the seaport town of Les Cayes to help rebuild the house where the boy named Kerveng and his family lived — had noticed the children disappearing into a cornfield every day and returning with jugs of water. “So one day we went with them,” Shawny said. “And we saw the very marshy, muddy little river where they were getting water to drink and to bathe their babies.”

The family couldn’t afford to buy water from the town’s water vendor that jingled through the neighborhoods like an ice cream truck.

Concerned about the safety of the river water, Shawny and the students offered to install a rain capture system on the house; they researched the idea and visited a successful installation elsewhere on the island. “But we failed to convince the family,” Shawny said. “They considered it a waste of time and money and wanted us to rebuild their house, which was so rickety we were able to push it over with our bare hands.”

So, with deep misgivings, the team agreed to do what the family wished. But, then, right after they returned to Saint Mary’s, cholera broke out in Haiti for the first time in more than a century.

“That news hit us hard,” Dani said. The students couldn’t stop thinking about Kerveng,
or Kevin, as they pronounced his Creole name. “He was already really sick, with a huge, distended belly and cloudy eyes. He didn’t make a sound.” Every day, the students had played with Kevin and tried to make him smile. “Then about halfway through our time there, when we were all exhausted, he smiled — a huge, dimpled smile. It was just precious and it made everybody’s trip,” Dani said.

Determined to go back to Les Cayes, Shawny and her students planned a January Term trip, but it was cancelled for safety reasons, just as their initial plan to help with the cleanup in Port au Prince had fallen through because of the inherent dangers and the cost for security.

They tried to keep tabs on the family through a friend in Haiti and finally made it back last summer. “When we got there, obviously we had work to do, but the first task was to lay eyes on Kevin and make sure he was OK,” Shawny said.

And Kevin was OK, maybe even a little better. His family was now interested in the rain capture idea. Dani’s father donated the funds to buy a water filtration system. “My dad has such a soft heart,” Dani noted, quietly. “And he knows how passionate I am about this work and how much it has changed me for the better.” Aqua Sun International, the manufacturer of the water filter, gave them a steep discount on three filters, two of which went to other neighborhoods. In the end, the rain capture system and water filter installed at Kevin’s home was able to provide clean water to the whole neighborhood.

As the SMC team wrestled with the project, Shawny consulted a former student who had gone with her on a Jan Term service trip to Brazil in
2002. Jeff Hilliard '02 is a program examiner for the National Security Division of the Office of Management and Budget. He talked through the problem with her, drawing on his experience as a quartermaster officer in the U.S. army, serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and 2005 as the executive officer of a maintenance company stationed in Kuwait — “basically, a logistics person,” as he said. He was able to advise Shawny on what they needed.

Jeff cites Shawny’s trips for helping him make an easier transition than most to the rugged conditions and melting pot of Army life. “A lot of things I learned from Shawny helped me,” Jeff said. “At the age of 21 I learned how to walk in another person’s shoes. In the Army you deal with conflict all the time. I had already learned how to get people to talk to each other.”

And the preparation for the trips is a tutorial in logistics. As self-sufficient as possible, Shawny’s teams take basic tools, a large first aid kit, bedding, mosquito nets, media gear and their own food. They pack nonperishable quick-cooking staples and the special items they never travel without: Ritz Crackers, Clif Bars (specialty discounted for the Saint Mary’s group), Tapatio hot sauce and M&Ms. “Those big four-pound bags,” Shawny said, laughing. When it’s time to go, they lay everything out on the long ground floor hallway of Dante Hall and start packing up, two 50-pound bags per student.

Then there’s the mental preparation. “She makes it clear that it isn’t going to be your average go-see-the-world experience,” Jeff said. “You prepare for long days of traveling, working and surviving in very different, sometimes austere conditions. She makes sure you’re going for the right reason and really tries to talk you out of it at first.”

Of course, preparation also includes rigorous academic work — background on the history, politics and cultural environment of their destination, rudiments of the language. “It’s very difficult if you don’t know the language,” Jeff noted.

“And prior to every trip, we read ‘Pedogogy of the Oppressed’ by Paulo Friere,” explained Dani. “Friere implies that acts of service are not easy commitments, as it is not as easy as it seems to determine what ‘doing good’ really means,” Dani wrote in an article she co-authored with Shawny, published in the spring 2011 issue of Women and Language, an international, interdisciplinary journal about communication, language and gender. In it they addressed the conundrum of trying to respect the wishes of the Haitian family who refused what the team of volunteers knew in their hearts was the right thing to do.

Jeff and Dani are among more than 100 alumni who are on Shawny’s DIrT (Deep Immersion Relief Team) list — veterans of more than a dozen service trips to places like New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Dominica, Brazil and Haiti. They are called on for advice or to make donations for current trips, and they remain close to a mentor who has changed their lives.

“She’s always available to talk, to mull over decisions with us,” Jeff said, like the new adventure awaiting him and his wife Sara Sousa ‘02, a nurse practitioner in an endocrinology clinic, who’s been on two Brazil trips with Shawny. Jeff recently was accepted into the Foreign Service of the U.S. State Department.

He came from a military family and went to a Christian Brothers high school, so service is a way of life for him. “You want to do something to make a difference,” he said. “And it’s important to me to serve my country.”

Many students who go on these service trips come home deeply transformed.

Dani, a former Division 1 soccer player, now wants to devote her life to service and hopes to go back to school for a graduate degree in nonprofit management.

“It changed everything for me,” she said.
Why Teach

An update on five alumni dedicated to a challenging profession

BY KRISTIN J. BENDER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY HELEN CHAU

Abe “Doc” Doctolero’s mother wanted her son to be a doctor or a lawyer. But when he graduated in 1968, he didn’t see medicine or law as his true calling. Unsure what to do, he sought advice from a favorite political science professor, who greeted him with, “Hey Doc, how’s teaching and coaching going?”

The UC Berkeley professor hadn’t seen Doctolero in a while and just assumed his former student had gone into teaching. He’d always thought Doc had a flair for it and thought it only natural that he would become a teacher.

And that’s exactly what Doctolero decided to do, going on to earn an administrative credential and a master’s degree from Saint Mary’s College. When classes resume this fall, Doc will begin his 41st year in education, and while he promised his wife he’d have a retirement plan in place next year, he really isn’t going anywhere. He wants to stay in the classroom, where he feels useful and energized, despite the challenges that often come with teaching.

“It is the profession that really allows a person to affect another person’s future. It’s a heavy burden, but it’s a tremendous opportunity,” he said.
Abe Doctolero is the assistant superintendent of educational services with the Pittsburg Unified School District.

Doctolero started his teaching career at Jefferson High School in Daly City, spent about eight years as director of curriculum and instruction with the Contra Costa County Office of Education and last year settled in as assistant superintendent of educational services with the Pittsburg Unified School District. Over time Doctolero has maintained strong ties to the College and serves on the credential board of the Kalmanovitz School of Education.

Checking in four years later

Four years ago, he and four other educators, all Kalmanovitz alumni, got together to discuss the challenges they face and why they stick with it.

That discussion, which also included Deanna Early (now Deanna Peake), Chantal LaCrampe, Joe Ianora and Leyla Benson, appeared in the fall 2007 magazine and was titled “Why Teach?” With more than 18,000 California teachers leaving the profession annually, we wanted to check in with these longtime educators to gauge their satisfaction, challenges, fears and victories in a time of great social, financial and educational pressure in their profession. We also wanted to know how the College’s Lasallian mission to serve others has helped them be successful in their careers.

“I think the best thing about Saint Mary’s is their focus on making sure teachers are prepared to teach all students,” said Benson, who has been working as an alternative education principal in the Mount Diablo Unified School District for the past four years. Not only do you have to be highly qualified in your subject area, you also need know how to manage your classroom, Benson said. “My challenge is to reach every student in my room. That’s what Saint Mary’s teaches you. Every student wants to learn and you have to figure out how to reach every student.”

The deck is stacked against teachers

California has more than 6.2 million students, roughly 1.5 million more than Texas, the next most populous state, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. But the overwhelming size of the school system...
is just one challenge. California educators have the highest percentage of English learners in the nation, and the state has among the highest proportions of children living in low-income families, according to the California Department of Education.

At the same time, staffing levels in California lag behind other states, while the Golden State consistently falls below the national average in per-pupil spending. Not only do teachers have less money, they also have more students than in many states.

Teaching today also demands a higher level of technical skill, Doctolero said. “The game has changed tremendously in a very short period of time. A teacher now needs to be a master of content standards that apply directly to high rigor at a given grade level.”

**Why stick around?**

Even though teachers face significant challenges, the rewards are great, according to these five career educators.

“When students once again connect to school, earn grades they never thought they could, contribute a gem of an idea to a class discussion or just show up to school on a regular basis, it affords great joy and energizes us to stay the course,” said Benson, 29. “Nothing beats the feeling of being instrumental in changing a young person’s life for the better.”

Joe Ianora, the principal of San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, began his educational career in 1989 after earning his undergraduate and master’s degrees and two teaching credentials from Saint Mary’s. He marvels at how the demands of his job have changed.

“The biggest challenge for us is how do we create a 21st century learning environment for our students,” said Ianora, 45. “When we went to school, you learned reading, writing and arithmetic. With the kids entering school now, the jobs that they will have haven’t even been created yet.” That means teachers must teach universal skills that could apply to any job, he said. “The new three R’s are rigor, relevance and relationship.”

Ianora said many students glean those lessons beyond the classroom,
learning many of the skills they'll need to succeed. “They already Skype, they already text, they already (have) a lot of these skills,” he said. “And if they don’t know something, they don’t go to a book and look it up, they play with (the gadget, or phone or computer) and figure it out,” he said.

Ianora said many of the survival skills students need to succeed were laid out by Tony Wagner in his book, “The Global Achievement Gap.” Wagner writes that the essential skills are critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurialism, effective oral and written communication, accessing and analyzing information, and curiosity and imagination. Teachers have to incorporate those skills into their lessons.

“It’s no longer that (students) have to learn 15 chapters of Algebra II in their daily lesson,” Ianora said. “What’s more important is learning to communicate; your business partner or work partner might be in China or London. Teaching that is a different challenge.”

This challenge reflects a new paradigm. People like Ianora are no longer simply teachers or the sole keepers of knowledge but guides who point students in the right direction while also imparting knowledge. “And students are hungry for someone to help them through this process,” he said.

Chantal LaCrampe, a fifth grade teacher at Vichy Elementary School in Napa, especially enjoys guiding children when they’re young and eager to learn.

“It’s like this frozen moment in time,” she said. “They will hold your hand, they will cry if they are upset. By sixth grade they are more hardened by the world around them. I love the age group, I love the curriculum and I love the field trips.”

But the 31-year-old knows being a teacher these days requires tremendous dedication.

“As a teacher in this era, it’s all the more pressing that we build our classrooms as reprieves from the harsh realities of the outside world, and as a teacher you have a commitment to your students to give them the best education possible,” she said.
Simple advice for newcomers

“Stay positive,” said LaCrampe, who earned her doctoral degree at Saint Mary’s. “Use the standards as a guiding force rather than an absolute binding contract. I don’t limit myself to just using district curriculum, but I use it in combination with other novels and textbooks.”

Deanna (Early) Peake says the joys of teaching haven’t changed, even if her methods have, now that she’s teaching fourth and fifth graders at River Montessori Charter School in Petaluma.

“The students are able to express themselves in ways the younger children I used to teach could not,” she said. “I love that I can use humor with these 9- to 11-year olds as we go through the day, and that the students and I are actually partners in their learning.”

Just as her methods have changed over the years, so too have the students. “The children question everything and want to be involved in every aspect of planning their day, which can be exhausting emotionally. The endless negotiation, planning and re-planning, which are inherently part of the process, are also very time-consuming,” said the 45-year-old who earned a master’s degree at Saint Mary’s.

Her day begins long before she steps into the classroom. There’s email, lesson planning and reading papers before the sun rises. She arrives at school by 7:30 a.m., where she does everything from make copies to fetch crickets for the classroom gecko.

Teaching at a Montessori School in Petaluma is far different from when Benson voluntarily took a two-year stint at Stevenson Academy at Pittsburg High School. She taught 160 of the most at-risk students among the school’s 2,600 kids. They were chronic truants, kept in school 6:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and fed all their meals at school.

None of them really wanted to be there when Benson started. They said it was like prison and the day too long. Slowly, Benson changed their attitudes.

“Within a month, they were calling themselves the ‘Stevenson Family’ and they wanted to extend the program from ninth and tenth graders to eleventh graders, as well,” she said. Benson won the kids over by pushing...
them, encouraging their creativity and instilling in them a sense of pride and a desire to learn.

Benson kept their work and showed it to them periodically so that they could see their progress. “These are students who would just throw away their papers. I also allowed students to take ownership of the classroom: decorate the room so it became their space, a safe space.”

Benson earned her single subject credential, administrative credential and master’s degree at Saint Mary’s and recently became coordinator of fieldwork supervision for the single subject program at the college. She hopes to begin the doctorate program in education leadership next summer. Her career has exposed her to people from many socioeconomic levels, but she treats everyone the same and believes they all want the same thing: to learn.

“I personally believe every student is capable of learning and wants to learn,” she said. “It’s my challenge to figure out what I can do to connect each student to what I’m teaching in my room. As a teacher, you may not be able to purchase all kinds of lab experiments or have all the resources you may have had before, but what makes the most difference is the relationship they have with their teacher.”

**Guided by a common mission**

The five educators said they hold close the mission of the Kalmanovitz School of Education: Rigorous study, reflective practice, engaging students and treating them with respect and passion, keeping alive the educational ideals of St. John Baptist de La Salle, who founded the Christian Brothers and established the first Lasallian school more than 300 years ago. For all of them, the Lasallian motto: “Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve,” still resonates.

“Their mission and their philosophy really reflect my personal and professional approach,” said Doctolero. “I want to be a direct reflection of what they would like to see from their graduates.”

Kristin J. Bender writes for the Oakland Tribune, covering city governments, breaking news, education and investigative stories in the East Bay.
Immersed in a Mission of

HOPE
We hit the ground running as soon as we arrived, bleary-eyed, in Sri Lanka after days of travel. Participants in Vandu Paaru — an immersion program whose name translates as “come and see” — our group of three included Saint Mary’s Sociology Professor Cynthia Ganote, Instructional Technology Manager Carmel Crane and me.

We spent our first five days in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo seeing the Christian Brothers’ mission in action — from nursery schools, elementary and high schools to vocational training for the poorest Sri Lankans — and getting a sense of the country’s culture after the 28 years of civil war that had ended just two years before. The Sri Lankan Brothers, whether newly minted or long-committed, had a unique energy rooted in the positive impact they make every day in the lives of children who need them. Damian, one of the Brothers in Colombo, reminded me of our own Brother Camillus Chavez — cool, wise and insightful. (He regaled us with tales of his years living in a tree house in the Sri Lankan jungle with wild animals as pets.)

Our main assignment was to teach English in Mannar – a small, predominantly Tamil district in the north of the country. Long-standing political rancor between the minority Tamils, who speak Tamil, and majority Sinhalese, who speak Sinhala, was at the center of the long civil war that lasted from 1983 to 2009. The Sri Lankan constitution now identifies both Sinhala and Tamil as the nation’s official languages, with English as the link language. Government business and university education are both carried out in Sinhala or English, which severely limits the lives of the Tamil people unless they learn English.

Contrary to reports I’d heard in the United States, there were no good guys in the war that ravaged Sri Lanka. Crimes were committed by both the Sri Lanka Armed Forces and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), or Tamil Tigers, particularly during the final months of the conflict in 2009. Both sides attacked civilians and civilian buildings; there were shortages of food, medicine and clean water for civilians trapped in the war zone; and children were recruited by the Tamil Tigers.

Our eight-hour trek by van to Mannar took us to St. Xavier’s Boys’ College, serving grades one through 13. My typical day included four very different groups of students: mornings were spent with the La Salle Kids’ Campus nursery school, where I taught a group of 2- to 4-year-olds and another group of 5-year-olds, followed by an instructional session with their teachers. Then lunch time to prepare for my afternoon class with the boys at the LaSalle Children’s Home. The boys there — all war orphans who had lost one or both of their parents — were the silliest, most wonderful group of boys I have ever encountered. Despite their struggles, they were awe-inspiring, radiant and beautiful, exuding a sweetness that is, no doubt, both cultural and influenced by the Brothers.
Brother Santhiyagu

Even though the war ended two years ago, the effects are still very present for Brother Santhiyagu and the boys he serves as the deputy principal of St. Xavier’s Boys’ College, as head of the hostel where the 100 boarding students reside, and as director of the Brothers’ community in Mannar.

“The boys and many people have walked over the dead bodies. [Sri Lanka Armed Forces] have destroyed their properties, everything. We have lost everything,” he said.

Brother Santhi’s village, where his family still lives, was in the line of fire in the conflict. “My family is on the front line of the battlefield of the LTTE and the army — my village is in between battlefronts. So my village is completely destroyed.

We have lost our house. They have bombed our church. They destroyed the schools. The children are learning under the tree, no classrooms. My own family is staying in a temporary shelter. From zero level they have to start their life. They are farmers. They don’t get a salary. They are just ordinary people. So they have to start from the beginning.”

Brother Santhi and his family have been waiting for government support to rebuild their village since the end of the war, but that support has still not come. “The government is promising, OK, we will give you a house, for the Tamils. But in practice, it’s nothing,” he said.

Brother Stanislaus

Brother Joachim Stanislaus, now deputy director of education for the Mannar District, had served during the war as the principal of St. Xavier’s Boys’ College. The willful and determined Brother Stani, as he is affectionately known, stood up to the LTTE during the conflict. When they asked for a percentage of the small tuition each child pays to attend the school, he told them, “I’m very sorry. I cannot pay you even a cent.” When two of his students were conscripted as soldiers, he rode a motorbike to the LTTE’s center of operations, where he camped out for three days and agitated the Tamil Tigers until they released the boys.

Perhaps the most visible and lasting effect Brother Stani had on St. Xavier’s Boys’ College was instituting morning meditation as a way to calm the boys and ready them for learning.

“Before, they were a little more boisterous. [After starting the meditation program] they...
could handle things for themselves. That's another important aspect of this meditation. The child is the leader of himself. Power is not money or a gun or ammunition. Let the child know there is a power inside him. Let the child come to know there's a purpose. And this purpose cannot be viewed from outside.

**Brother Yohan**

After the war ended, Brother Yohan Soysa wanted to do something to ease the pain his region had suffered. He visited welfare centers to help the thousands interned there. He collected and delivered rice donated by local families to offset food shortages. And he brought into his care a group of older boys he'd been told were orphans. He didn’t know that they also had been child soldiers.

“They were given training, arms training, and some were involved. Because of that, the government didn’t allow them to go out of the camp,” he explained.

In all, 25 former child soldiers have been living with Brother Yohan since the end of the war, attending school and getting necessary documents, vocational training and licenses.

In January 2011, Brother Yohan found a way, through the support of a nongovernmental organization in the UK, to take in another group of 25 boys in what is now called the Lasalle Children’s Home. In their struggle to survive, it is striking how Brother Yohan and these boys have made a family.

“We found them. They had no father or no mother, and they lost everything. And that is where we started. Let us do something for these children.”

Each child had a sad story to tell. “They had even lived for days and days without food,” Brother Yohan said. One boy lost his arm and a leg when shelling from enemy forces struck him and his family while they stood in line for food. “His father got killed, mother was injured, brother was injured, and he was found in a pool of blood. He was lucky enough to survive. They had to amputate the leg and the arm.”

When asked how he found the courage and strength to take these boys in, Brother Yohan quickly dismissed the credit. “I am still proud to say it’s not me. It is God who has used me to do something good. I see a lot of changes in them. That is something we are happy about.”
This season the San Francisco 49ers are wearing the number 35 on their helmets to honor former 49er John Henry Johnson, who wore that uniform number throughout his professional career and as the first African-American to play football at Saint Mary’s College.

Johnson died June 3 in Tracy at age 81, having suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for more than 20 years.

In 1950, on Johnson’s first day of practice at Saint Mary’s, assistant football coach Joe Angelo called him “a swivel-hipped, broken field runner that could develop into quite a football player.” The young athlete, born in 1929 in the tiny Mississippi River delta cotton-farming community of Waterproof, La., turned out to be quite a football player, indeed. After a distinguished NFL career, Johnson was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987, the only Saint Mary’s alumnus so honored.

Today those credentials would attract dozens of athletic scholarship offers from major college powers. But that wasn’t the reality for black athletes in the 1940s. Johnson was interested in Saint Mary’s not only because the campus was close to Pittsburg but because the Gaels had played in a bowl game as recently as 1946 with all-America running back Herman Wedemeyer. “In the Wedemeyer era, they really cut it up,” Johnson said, years later. “He was a great football player. That was the place for me.”

When Johnson arrived in Moraga in the fall of 1949, freshmen were ineligible to play college football, so he spent the season playing on the freshman team and practicing against the varsity. By the time the 1950 season rolled around, the Gaels’ coaches knew they had a special player on their hands. The team’s preseason press brochure said, “His hip and knee action in open field is as graceful as a ballet dancer’s efforts…and makes him almost as hard to catch as a porpoise in the open sea.”

In his second varsity game, the Gaels were 31-point underdogs against the University of Georgia at San Francisco’s Kezar Stadium. But Saint Mary’s pulled off what would be the biggest surprise anywhere in the nation that season, holding the visitors to a 7–7 tie. The Gaels’ touchdown came on a 90-yard kickoff return by Johnson to open the second half.

“The hero of the piece was John Henry Johnson, the 191-pound Saint Mary’s sophomore,” according to the report in the next morning’s San Francisco Chronicle. “He was carried from the field on the shoulders of delirious Gael rooters at the end of the game, and no man deserved the honor more….He tackled viciously, blocked like a man possessed, and ran, head down, legs churning.”

Johnson was the first black athlete ever to compete against a University of Georgia team. The two schools had signed a two-year contract for games in California in 1950 and in Georgia in 1951, but Georgia officials would back out of the second year of the deal because they weren’t ready for a black player to take the field in Dixie.

But, as it turned out, Saint Mary’s had no football team in 1951. That January, school officials announced the elimination of intercollegiate football and baseball. Johnson decided to transfer, joining several SMC football teammates who enrolled at Arizona State.

After his senior season, Johnson was a second-round draft choice of the NFL’s Pittsburgh Steelers. But he wasn’t interested in playing for Pittsburgh and chose instead to go to a Canadian professional team in Calgary in 1953. Then the Steelers traded his NFL rights to the 49ers,
so Johnson agreed to return to the States for the 1954 season and became part of the legendary “Million Dollar Backfield.” He was the fullback, with Joe Perry and Hugh McElhenny at halfback and Y.A. Tittle at quarterback; all four are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In 1957 the 49ers traded Johnson to Detroit, and his new team won the NFL championship that year. In 1960 he was traded to Pittsburgh, where he had the best seasons of his career. He retired as a player after the 1966 season, ranked fourth on the NFL’s all-time rushing list.

After his playing career, Johnson settled in Pittsburgh, Pa., and held several jobs before retiring in 1989, by which time his health had deteriorated noticeably. After his wife, Leona, died in 2002, Johnson returned to California to live with his daughter Kathy, the oldest of his six children. Kathy authorized donation of her father’s brain to Boston University’s Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, where researchers are studying the connection between neurodegenerative disease and head trauma during football play.

John Henry Johnson possessed a combination of size, speed, strength and bone-crunching blocking ability that was unknown before his time and remains rare today. He was genuinely feared by his peers for his blocking.

“I was an aggressive player,” Johnson told Dave Newhouse, author of The Million Dollar Backfield. “I know I wasn’t dirty. I just enjoyed hitting.”

Newhouse put it this way: “Away from football, he was as nice and cozy as a warm soft bed. But dress him in football gear, and he was a bed of nails.”

– J.G. PRESTON

J.G. Preston has written about sports for print and radio for 30 years. He now works as press secretary for Consumer Attorneys of California and writes about baseball history at prestonjg.wordpress.com.
**Hundreds of Gaels Come Home for Reunion Weekend**

More than 400 Saint Mary’s alumni returned home this summer — that is, home to their alma mater. They came from as far away as Spain for the July 15–17 weekend of events.

“It was the same feeling driving through those gates,” Molly Murphy Burke ’86 said of her SMC homecoming. “It’s a safe, comfortable place where you can thrive as a person.”

A total of 642 guests, including 437 alumni, participated in the reunion. On Friday night, alumni were welcomed at the Kick-Off Party in the Townhouse Quad. Saturday morning began with a historical tour of campus led by Brother Raphael Patton ’63, followed by academic open houses and a family picnic. Afternoon sessions included an open mic with Hall of Fame inductee and SMC basketball coach Bob Hagler ’50 and a “Philosophy of Wine” class.

On Saturday night, alumni gathered on the Chapel Plaza for cocktail hour before moving on to class dinners and finally the big event — the Reunion Dance, which went on nearly until dawn.

“I see many students here tonight that I taught or that lived in my dorms, and that is fun for me,” said Brother President Ronald Gallagher. “They are carrying on the heritage of the College.”

Brother Dominic Ruegg ’41, now a retired professor, was one of many faculty and staff members celebrating their reunion. “The time has passed so quickly; it’s hard to realize it has been so long,” Ruegg said. He was joined by classmate Lionel Holmes in celebrating their 70th reunion.

“It is really comforting to still be inspired,” said Kory Hayden ’01, assistant athletic director of recreational sports. “It seems like yesterday and still a lifetime ago.”

Alumni admired signs of progress on campus as they reminisced about the past. Former basketball player AJ Rollins ’96 praised the recent additions to McKeon Pavilion and plans for the new Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center. He added that a liberal arts education has been important in expanding his horizons. “It was always open forum discussion,” he recalled. “It’s becoming a social planet, and Saint Mary’s has paved the way for me.”

Dan Ramirez ’71 remembered a very different Saint Mary’s during the tumultuous Vietnam War years. “There was a lot of unrest on campus with the potential that we could be drafted,” he recalled. But the anxiety and political fervor also strengthened the sense of camaraderie, Ramirez said. “All of that coalesced in the essence of brotherhood and fraternity.”

For basketball legend Tom Meschery ’61, his 50th reunion brought back memories of a trip to the elite eight, and of the special educational experience he found at Saint Mary’s. “We are small, there is personal attention, you are never left behind,” Meschery said.

— Caitlin Graveson ’11

**New Regents Announced**

Five new regents have joined the Saint Mary’s Board of Regents for fiscal year 2011–12. Dave Kelly ’62 is the board’s new president. Regents are ambassadors for the College, assisting with outreach and fundraising.

**Alumni Board’s New Members**

David H. Johnson ’84, president of the Alumni Board of Directors, welcomes five new members to the group that supports the College through outreach, service and engagement activities. Drue Hulmer ’91 is a returning board member.
2009
[1] Skylar Covich, who was recently voted president of the UCSB Political Science Graduate Student Association, is a teaching assistant at UC Santa Barbara completing his third year in a Ph.D. program in political science. Skylar remains active with Saint Mary’s professors and attended the 2011 summer Holy Cross Collegium, a Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life.

Barbara McLaughlin, EdD and family recently spent a month in England, Ireland and Scotland. They began in London, visiting family in Falmouth, Hornchurch and Watford. They were in Dublin at the same time as Queen Elizabeth but did not see her. However, their bus tours were hampered, their luggage was checked by security before they could walk to their hotel on McConnell Street and they encountered mainly peaceful demonstrations. Back in Scotland, they visited St. Andrews University, where William and Kate met, and walked the Old Course and got their photos taken on the bridge.

2008
[2] Natalie Boltz closed escrow on her first home in her much-loved hometown of Benicia in February. She and longtime boyfriend William Wulff recently adopted a puppy and love every minute of owning a home. After a much-needed career change, Natalie rejoined the wine industry and accepted a position as general manager of operations and hospitality at Reynolds Family Winery, joining forces with fellow alumna Suzie Reynolds and her talented husband, Steve Reynolds.

[3] Chris Burns reports that a group of lacrosse alumni will attend the WCC basketball tourney in Las Vegas for the second year in a row to support the Gaels basketball team. They look forward to this trip for many years to come!

Brandon Elefante graduated from Chaminade University of Honolulu with an MBA in the public sector in May. He works as a legislative aide for the City and County of Honolulu.

[4] Whitney Lopez just moved back to the Bay Area from Southern California to work with Rodan + Fields (the creators of ProActiv) as an event and recognition coordinator in downtown San Francisco.

Melissa Spahr reports that she will embark on a new journey after finishing two years as a Lasallian Volunteer in Philadelphia and the Bronx. This past summer she cycled across the country with fellow Lasallians (lvsride.com), starting in Oregon and finishing in New Jersey, to raise funds to end poverty. Shortly after the ride, she began graduate school at the University of California, Davis to study public health.

2007
Savior Charles got married on September 11, 2010. He has completed all of his course work at Cal State East Bay for the master’s of applied math program, also completing three of the comprehensive exams. He has already applied for graduation and has one more exam to take this fall before completing his master’s degree.

Coree Brown began her graduate degree in multilevel and regional politics at the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh this fall.

[5] Melanie (Johnson) Hayes, ECR ‘05 is an independent educational consultant specializing in the needs of gifted children, particularly profoundly gifted and twice exceptional children. She serves clients in the SF Bay Area and beyond. She is also the mother of 10-year-old gifted twins, one of whom is profoundly gifted and twice exceptional. She writes about her professional and personal experience with these amazing, quirky children in her blog: Life Among the Gifted: mjhayes.wordpress.com.

2006
[6] Allison Lenda MFA completed her memoir and it is currently under consideration by several agents. She was a finalist in the She Writes Passion Project contest and is working as a freelance writer and tutor.

[7] Mallori (Miller) and Anthony Macedo were married on June 11, 2011, in the chapel at Saint Mary’s. The bridal party included SMC alumni Stephanie Shannon, Christine Nerney, Devin Kraus, Melissa Hankins and Kyle Werner. The couple lives in Suisun City with their 3-year-old son, Andrew Macedo.

2005
[8] Janis Palana ME ‘06 ECR ‘06 is engaged to Frank Allocco, Jr. ‘00. Frank proposed to Janis in Disneyland and they are planning a San Francisco wedding in October. Janis and Frank met while teaching at Saint Mary’s School in Walnut Creek. She was the
science teacher and Frank is the current math teacher. She is busy with wedding planning and her new job as principal of St. Philip Neri in Alameda. Frank runs ASA (Advanced Skills Academy) Basketball, a large AAU basketball program for boys and girls grades 5–9, while coaching basketball at De La Salle High School.

[9] Sabrina Titelbaum is proud to say that she has three granddaughters (3, 1 and 11 months), all living in Madison, Wis. And now she finally has a grandson, who lives in Antioch. Jaden Alexander Wilson was born July 16.

[10] Christopher Walton MBA is wrapping up his first tour as a State Department Foreign Service Officer in Nairobi, Kenya, where he served in the economic section of the embassy. He will return to the United States for training before he begins his second assignment in Berlin, Germany, as a consular officer. His four children, three girls and one boy, have completed their first experiences living in Africa with great aplomb and are looking forward to a school year in Northern Virginia before their first European experience.

2004

Amber Ferrari and Jeff Ford were thrilled to welcome their daughter, Shelby Corrine, on May 1, 2011. While luckily spending a few months home in Ukiah with Shelby, Amber has been working for Kiewit since she graduated and is currently a project engineer at the I-405 freeway expansion project in Los Angeles.

[11] Delano Garner ML recently attended the French Open tennis tournament before spending some time in Myore, India. He has used the skills gained from the Leadership Program at St. Mary’s to become the leadership director for Garner Consulting, a professional development agency in the Bay Area. He balances his eventful business life with plenty of hiking, tennis and backyard BBQs.

[12] Katie Krueger recently graduated from the University of South Carolina with an MFA in acting. She is back in the Bay Area this summer performing with Woman’s Will (the all-female Shakespeare Company) in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at various parks around the Bay. In the fall, Katie will move to Sacramento to work with the Acting Company at B Street Theatre.

Vishruth Sarathy, Ashley Tani, Natalie Wilson and Milad Sarks, all currently living in California, visited Chennai, India in the summer of 2010 for a wedding. The ceremony lasted four days and was truly an amazing experience.

Maureen Sertich reports that since graduating with a B.S. in environmental science from Saint Mary’s, she received an M.S. in environmental management and sustainability and an MBA from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 2010. She has taken a new position as the sustainability standards specialist at Raymond James. Shams is busy as a financial planner for Parcify.com and Sarks is busy as a financial planner for Raymond James.

2003

[13] Bryant Adleson and Johanna (Sanchez) were married on June 5, 2010, at Saint Mary’s College Chapel. Their Saint Mary’s friends Christina Barrie, Daniel Brooks, Chris Kram and Mike Psara were all in attendance. They recently celebrated their first anniversary and are living and working in San Jose with their puggle pup.

Nicolette Clinton graduated with a B.A. in mathematics and received her master’s degree in education from the University of San Diego in May 2010. Nicolette completed her teacher certification studies at Sacramento State University and has been employed as a math teacher at Albert Einstein Middle School in San Diego for five years.

[14] Keli (Imoto) Manfred ’03 and husband, Mike, welcomed their daughter, Adeline Elizabeth, in November 2010. Adeline was recently baptized at St. Apollinaris Catholic Church in Napa, where fellow alums Jaclyn Verducci P ’05 and Sean Sullivan served as her godparents. Keli has been with Malley Imrie & Vasconi Insurance Services for eight years as a licensed commercial lines account manager. Mike is an estate planning attorney and partner at Gaw Van Male. During the past few years, Keli and Mike have traveled to Italy and France, Jamaica, Antigua and Yosemite but make their home in Napa with baby Adeline and her furry feline siblings, Joey and Ollie.

[15] Torin Simpson and Chris Gargano ’90 were awarded a Northern California Emmy Award for their work on the documentary style television show “Inside the Clubhouse: The Journey.” They both work for the San Francisco Giants and the show captured the Giants run to a World Series championship. Chris is the senior director of marketing and entertainment and Torin is the senior video producer/editor.

[16] Kar Wing Cathy Kwan reports that after being together for 11 years and married for five years, she and Tom Pham finally celebrated their union with their wedding on April 2, 2011, at the Kyoto Grand Hotel in Los Angeles. Cathy is an English and ESL teacher, as well as the chair of the hiring committee and advisory committee, at Los Angeles High School of the Arts. Tom is a supervisor for University of Southern California’s Sponsored Project Accounting Department. They reside in Baldwin Park.

2002

[17] Allyson (Wiley) Weekes graduated from Saint Mary’s and then attended graduate studies in commercial photography. Allyson was recently named SF Gate’s 2011 “Best Wedding Photographer” in its Best of the Bay competition. Allyson and her husband just welcomed a baby boy named Micah into their lives.

[18] Beth (Woisin) Pagliuca and her husband, Michael, welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Irellyn, into the world on Feb. 15, 2011. Irellyn joins big brother, Vincent, 2. The Pagliuca family is enjoying their life as a family of four.

2000

[19] Kelly (Cole) Deitrick and her husband, Shams Deitrick, had a baby girl on April 21, 2011. She is named after her grandparents — Stella Elizabeth. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 13 oz. The new family of three is very happy and the parents are so proud! Kelly is on maternity leave from her position as a merchandise manager for Parcify.com and Shams is busy as a financial planner for Raymond James.

1999

[20] Ken Blair and wife, Stephanie, welcomed baby Monika Kathryn Blair into their lives on May 7, 2011. Older sister Lily loves holding Monika. She’s a fun baby who makes lots of funny faces.

David Bertaina, an assistant professor in the history department at the University of Illinois at Springfield, published the book "Christian and Muslim Dialogues: The Religious Uses of a Literary Form in the Early Islamic Middle East." Professor Bertaina is married to Cheryl (Bignami) Bertaina ’99 and they have children age 3 (Joseph) and 1 (Anna). After successful careers in the pastorate and education, Donald Jones ME, ECR has been in private practice as a Christian pastoral counselor for the last several years. His office is located in Tracy. He specializes in biblical counseling. He and his beloved wife, Carol, have six grown children. Ted Warburton EE was named the California State Harbor Master of the Year for 2010 at the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains annual conference this past winter in Dana Point, Calif. Warburton works for the City of Brisbane and manages the city’s 580-berth marina along with the city’s community pool and aquatics programs. He resides in Brisbane, near San Francisco, with his wife, Olivia, and their small dog, Jojo.
1997

[24] Jennifer (Belloni) Winberry announces that after graduating from SMC, she went on to teach at Montessori de Terra Linda in Marin County, then taught first grade in Walnut Creek for 12 years. In July 2007, she married Matt Winberry in Lake Tahoe. She took the past year off to be with their daughter, Katelyn Elizabeth, who was born Aug. 18, 2010. She will return to teaching fifth grade part-time in the fall. She and Matt feel so blessed and love every minute with their daughter.

Elianna (Psycharis) Reker MS ’02 announces that a few years after graduation, she returned to Saint Mary’s and received her MS in health services administration in 2002. She worked for many years with seniors in skilled nursing and as a geriatric care manager for home care. She married Nick Reker ’01 in 2005; they have two children. She now stays home to take care of Melina (2 1/2) and Evan (7 months). Her days are happy and exhausting!

Tony White EE has just distributed his inaugural publication of “Verified Service Reports — Home Service Edition” in the west and south regions of St. Louis, Mo., in mid-July. Tony and Elizabeth White started this venture in October 2010 to provide St. Louis-area homeowners a resource for finding service contractors. White is also working on a similar publication for the Phoenix, Ariz., area.

1996

[25] Stephanie Carter is the office manager and assessment coordinator at Project Recovery Outpatient Treatment Program, the adult treatment facility for the Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse in Santa Barbara. She recently moved to Oak View, Calif., and enjoys posting her photography on DeviantArt.com (gallery name: 74rex).

[26] Heather (Hayes) Betz was married on June 25, 2011, in Fairfax, Calif., surrounded by family, friends and a few fellow Gaels. She and her husband, Christian, along with their two daughters, will make their home in western Michigan. Heather also graduated in May with her Ph.D. in Kinesiology from Michigan State University. She will begin as an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Albion College this fall.

Darci Motta was named Meeting Professional of the Year by the Northern California Chapter of Meeting Professionals International (MPINCC) for her involvement and dedicated volunteerism within the meeting industry and specifically MPINCC. Honored on June 8 at MPINCC’s annual gala, Darci is a senior conference manager for AAA Insurance Exchange in Walnut Creek. In addition to her involvement with MPINCC, Darci is also the Northern California Chapter president. Darci recently returned from Portugal, where she and her father visited the villages where her grandfather and paternal grandparents were from, researching their Portuguese ancestral roots.

Cindy (Neander) Cooper recently celebrated 15 years as an auditor for the SEC and serves on the SMC Women in Philanthropy Committee.

1995

William Kohnen MS and his wife, Sharon, along with their new daughter Wrysa, born April 3, 2011, move to the Philippines to be visited by James Kohnen ’86 MS ’88 ME ’03 and Patricia Kohnen in July. Bill and Jim are both graduates of the Procurement and Contract Management Master’s program. Bill currently serves as the purchasing manager for analog devices in the Philippines.

[27] Stephen Maloney has been selling business intelligence and analytics software for 16 years and currently works at SAS trying to help the state government with problems in public safety and education and with fraud. He is happily married to his wife, Jana, and has two kids named Petra and Chase. He is proud of SMC and its evolution since he graduated in 1995 and excited about the strength of the rugby program, too. In summary, he believes that “God is a Gael!”

[28] Paul Sheirich EE, after graduating from Saint Mary’s, spent 13 years with TriNet, a professional employer organization (PEO) in San Leandro, where he helped to increase the number of serviced employees from less than 2,000 to more than 120,000 in 13 years. As director of application development he was responsible for the implementation, enhancement and maintenance of all their PeopleSoft applications. Currently Paul does business, technology and project consulting and is a general partner with Global-ProManagement, a private equity firm investing in international outsourcing businesses. Also passionate about sports, Paul has invested in the San Francisco Seals amateur soccer team and has season tickets to the Oakland Raiders and San Jose Earthquakes. He and his family love to travel and have visited the Hawaiian Islands, Germany for the 2006 World Cup tournament, Northern Ireland to watch his son Ryan participate in the Milk Cup soccer tournament, to India, England, Austria and throughout the United States. He is on Facebook and LinkedIn. His photographs are on Flickr, and he writes the occasional blog on IT and sports.

1991

On June 27, Scott Eitelgeorge MA ’01 played as a guest guitarist for opening act Hormone during Judas Priest’s concert in Munich, Germany.

Ron Susa EMBA just completed his 31st year with Chevron on July 9. He remains married to Connie (23 years), with children Sean (21), a senior at the University of Oregon; Tyler (18), a sophomore at Oregon State University; and Cameron (18), a sophomore in high school. Aside from work, he keeps active in the community and is also an official with the Contra Costa Football Officials Association.

1989

[30] Jeff Peters was promoted to battalion chief in October after serving as a captain on the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department for the last 10 years.

1988

John and Anne (Recupero) Haus-carriague ’87 just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary by moving into a new home in Trabuco Canyon, Calif. Anne (aka “Dr. H.”) is chair of the math department at Santiago Canyon College, and John serves as associate athletic director at UC Irvine. Their son Matt (16) plays in the brass section of the Trabuco Hills High School Marching Band and son Will (13) excels in baseball and BMX freestyle riding.

1986

[31] Bob Lenz is CEO and co-founder of Envision Schools, a nonprofit that runs innova-
tive public college prep high schools in the Bay Area. He celebrated Envision’s first SMC graduate, Kaleb Lawson ’11, and the Envision high school graduation of three future Gaels in the class of 2015.

1985
[32] Jo Anna Philips EE is a popular author and speaker, and a former columnist/feature writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal. She produced and hosted Nevada’s first health TV show, “Health & Healing,” and a half-hour TV magazine, “Out and About,” as well as two radio shows that offered humorous commentaries and information. She is also a certified life coach and behavioral therapist who created her own clothing company, giovanna Activewear, in San Francisco while finishing her management degree at Saint Mary’s. She has two new books out, “How to Shop for the Perfect Relationship” and “The Savvy Shopper’s Guide to Thrift & Consignment Stores: greater Sacramento, Reno/Tahoe.” She splits her time between Reno and Sacramento.

Lavonne (Garrison) Moore EE ’85, MBA ’89 started a family after graduating. More than 20 years and three states later, her oldest, Rick, is a Buckeye at Ohio State, and Matt and Rachel are in high school in Virginia. She has spent the past 20 years of motherhood serving as a soccer and hockey mom; Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader; school, community and church volunteer; chorister; substitute teacher; and tennis team captain. The skills learned at Saint Mary’s have helped immensely. She and Richard, her husband of 26 years, reside in Roanoke, Va.

[33] Christina Reich is a senior business systems analyst for Contra Costa County. Her daughter, Sarah Reich ’11, just graduated cum laude from SMC with a B.A. in sociology. She now works for the Head Start program in Richmond, Calif. She is a member of the comprehensive services team, which assists children and families in improving the quality of their lives.

Bryan Smith, his wife, Kara, and their two daughters, Lourdes (3) and Perri (1), relocated to Washington, D.C., for work.

Ron Southwick EE and his wife retired from Pacific Bell in 2000 and moved to Hot Springs Village, Ark., the largest gated community in the United States. They both are extremely active as officers in their local VFW. They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in August with a trip to Reno (where they married) and a big family party in Valley Springs, Calif.
1984

Patrick Hester was promoted to Americas vice president at Hewlett Packard in the Laserjet and Enterprise Solutions organization. He has worked at HP in various sales, marketing and executive management positions across the U.S. and Latin America. He resides in Boise, Idaho, and has two daughters: Madeline, who graduated in June from NYU, and Samantha, a junior at the University of Colorado Boulder who studied for several months at the University of Santiago, Chile. He is an avid runner, cyclist and triathlete who has run the L.A. and Boston marathons, ridden in Ride the Rockies in Colorado and competed in the Boise 70.3 Ironman.

Former Alumni Director Giles Miller is the director of development for the East Bay Community Foundation, where he helps individuals and families achieve their philanthropic goals through donor-advised funds and legacy gifts.

John Mori and his wife had a child, Aiden, in February, who joins his older brother, Jayden, now 21 months old.

Tom Teel EE, EMBA ’87 traveled around the country for JWA. He moved to Seattle to be with the kids after they announced their triplets were coming. Since moving back to Santa Rosa (long story), he has retired. After some frustrating days and moments in “retirement,” he accepted an invitation to join the sales team at Smathers European, the local Mercedes-Benz dealer in Santa Rosa. He is thrilled to be active in a great dealership and getting back into the community.

1983

Gretchen (Perrett) and Steve Bradivica took their kids to Shilla, Peru, in April to visit their eldest daughter, Emily, an ’08 graduate of the University of Portland who is finishing up her second year in the Peace Corps. Although the poverty is extreme, we enjoyed our time in Peru, seeing where Emily has lived the last two years, meeting the children and families she works with and touring the famous Incan sites.


1981

Eduardo Torres is an associate professor of economics at San Jose State College in Stockton, Calif. This is a major life change for him after spending 25 years in corporate America as a private banker. He is married with one son and lives in San Jose.

1980

After 12 years as a school psychologist, Maria (Bruno) Gavidia served for three years as principal at Cipriani Elementary in Belmont, Cali., and is now director of special programs for the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. She lives in San Mateo with her husband of 20 years, Dagoberto, and her son, Giancarlo (Serra High School ’11), who is headed for SFSU in the fall. Older daughter, Claudia, a graduate of UC Irvine, lives in San Francisco, works for a start-up in Redwood Shores and is enjoying city life.

Elizabeth (Cesare) P ‘88 and Glenn Siegel ’77 celebrated their 30th anniversary in April. As they watched William and Kate’s royal wedding, they recalled that 30 years ago, as newlyweds, they watched Charles and Diana get married. Glenn and she met at Saint Mary’s at a Christmas dance in December 1984. They were married five years later on April 25, 1981, in the Chapel. Saint Mary’s holds many loving memories for both of them.

1979

Steve Caruso is the new president and CEO of Cottage Housing, Inc., a large nonprofit in Sacramento that operates transitional and permanent living communities for previously homeless families and individuals. He also became a grandfather on Nov. 15, 2010, with the arrival of Harper Maria Caruso to Steve’s son, Benjamin, and Benjamin’s girlfriend, Lindsay Wilson.

Jill Lucia ECR ’79 announces her new position as principal at St. Agnes School in Concord. She was previously an eighth-grade teacher there. She succeeds Karen Mangini, who had been principal for 21 years.

Brother Brendan Knaale ’40 reports that Brother Michael Murphy ME ’95, a Christian Brother who graduated from SMC in 1979, received his doctorate recently from the Sorbonne in Paris and accepted a post as professor at the Brothers’ university in Bethlehem. He was here for a visit this summer. You can contact him at mfmurphy@bethlehem.edu.

Lorna (Lynch) Willard has recently opened her own real estate firm, Rainier Realty Group, which specializes in bank-owned properties and residential resale. She has been in real estate for over 25 years and has worked with the major banks in liquidating properties for over 15 years. She resides in Lake Tapps, Wash., with her husband, Dave. They will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this October. They have two sons, Daryl (27) and Jesse (24). Daryl is waiting for entry into the Army Honor Guard and Jesse works at Children’s Hospital after graduating from the University of Washington.

1977

Pamela (Chisholm) and Bill Scholtz were married on Dec. 24, 2010, at San Francisco City Hall. In attendance were their three children, Maggie Scholtz and Nick and Claire Gould. Pam and Bill met on the East Coast in 2005 and traveled across the country in 2007, landing in Marin. Life is good!

Wendy Myers and her family reside in Snellville, Ga. Her daughter and son-in-law live close by with their daughter, her first grandchild! She is working as a consultant in the paralegal field.

Rita Richcreek recently joined McGuire Real Estate in Mill Valley. McGuire (whose CEO is Charlie Moore ’70) is a family-owned company and has a record of success in the greater Bay Area for over 90 years. She can be reached at (415) 389-5675 or realtor@ritarichcreek.com.

Steve Smith received the alumni magazine from SMC and was halfway through it when he realized it was addressed to his son, Alex Smith ’11. They graduated with the classes of ’77 and ’11 respectively; both were Integral majors. Alex is now getting his teaching credential for K-12 mathematics and Steve is in the process of retiring from teaching emergency responders and hazardous waste workers.

1976

Ronnie Binczewski has enjoyed living in Roseville, Calif., for the last 21 years. She established and operates Nautilus Montessori School (nautilusmontessori.com) from her home. Active in the early childhood community, she has presented at countless educational seminars and conferences and helped establish educational standards for the local school district. As an ordained minister since 1981, she also officiates at weddings, funerals and
memorials. Call and stop in for a visit when in the area!

Brad Flynn lives in Fairfield, Calif. He has five kids, all through college. Whee! Still married to Dorothy Simenc, a Santa Clara grad. He is president of Flynn Plumbing, Inc., in Concord. He enjoys surfing every other week (in the ocean) and sharing the joy of knowing Him.

1971

Dan Orth recently released the album “Treasure” and a YouTube music video, “I Want Yo’ Number,” with his pop music band, Patton Leatha. He is also the owner of Lounge Renown Records and executive producer of the album and music videos. In 1978, his band, the Phil Phillips Band, recorded five songs with rock guitar ace Joe Satriani. He also co-wrote the two classic rock songs “Cruisin’ the Strip” and “Super Dose.”

Tony Shelton is a professor of entomology and international professor of agriculture at Cornell. He has been fortunate to work in dozens of countries on their food security issues. His most recent travels have included India, China, Tibet and Bangladesh (and New Zealand and Australia when it is freezing in upstate New York!). Last year he was elected a Fellow of the Entomological Society of America. More importantly, he is anticipating the birth of his first grandchild in August. Fellow alums, stop by if you are in the Finger Lakes region. It has great sailing, biking, fly fishing and wineries...and no crowds.

1970

Dr. Fred Norman and wife Karen have relocated to Monterey, Calif., after celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary. Fred is retired after many years in family practice and geriatrics, and Karen retired after a long career as a teacher in Catholic schools in Stockton. Fred has recently reconnected with classmates Jesus Castañeda (best man at Fred and Karen’s wedding), John Devlin and Gerry Lyons.

1964

Bob Stammerjohan and his wife of 46 years, Judy, are beginning their 10th year of retirement in Turlock, Calif. In addition to enjoying their five grandkids and traveling, he designs websites for nonprofits and is an avid long-distance bicycle rider, including completing the 200-mile Davis Double Century two years ago.

1967

James Morphy has solidified his title as “lord” for the time being. Having landlord’d one small complex for 20 years, Jim and Alex acquired another apartment house just after retiring in June 2010. Aspirations for the next title, “land baron,” are patiently kept at bay while the current scenario finds its rhythm. And since Ireland passed a law in 1956 granting citizenship to people whose parents or grandparents were born in Ireland, James is also a citizen of Ireland as well as the United States.

1965

Jack (John W.) Carlson reports that in December 2011 the University of Notre Dame Press will publish his “Words of Wisdom: A Philosophical Dictionary for the Perennial Tradition.” Containing 1,172 cross-referenced entries, it is the only work of its kind in over 50 years. It will be published in both print and electronic (PDF) formats. A reviewer writes, “A good dictionary is a great thing. ... Students and teachers alike will be grateful to Dr. Carlson for taking up the challenge of John Paul II to appreciate and illuminate the ‘great tradition’ of philosophy.”

1964

Wayne Phillips M ’77 and wife, Katalin Voros, just got back from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Israel and Jordan. They swam in the warm Jordan River and the cold Red Sea. They went to Petra, filled with lots of flies. Visited with their grandkids in Hungary and got their passports checked passing through Slovakia to Poland (Krakow, Auschwitz, Birkenau). They much prefer Lamorinda.

1961

Paul Alvarado recently returned (with four other children) from the Naval Academy,
For more than 40 years, Jack McCaffrey ’51 was one of Saint Mary’s College’s biggest fans. Anyone who attended an athletic event, a 5th Quarter Family Picnic or another alumni activity probably met Jack. He attended most football and baseball games over the years and was an avid supporter of all things Saint Mary’s.

For 38 years, he was a teacher at Galileo High School in San Francisco. As an educator and a football and basketball coach, he took great pride in helping thousands of students better themselves through their work in the classroom and on the field. He recruited several students for Saint Mary’s College and is also responsible for connecting the College with Jim McDonald, who enjoyed a long career coaching football for the Gaels.

Jack’s roots as a volunteer are a family tradition. His father, Jim, was president of the San Francisco “Street Car Alumni” during the Slip Madigan years at Saint Mary’s. To be a member of the Street Car Alumni, you did not have to attend Saint Mary’s; you just had to be a football booster.

“Jack volunteered for everything,” said his friend Ken Vincent ’52. He served on the Alumni Board of Directors, spent time as an ambassador for the admissions office, worked at 5th Quarter postgame events and organized a train trip from California to Columbia University in New York in order to recreate the famous “Madigan” train of the 1930s, which traveled cross-country to Fordham University. He also worked as a playground director in San Francisco for many years.

Jack’s daughter, Catherine (Katie) Talbot ’95, and son, John McCaffrey ’91, attended Saint Mary’s College, along with Jack’s two brothers, James ’50 and Lawrence ’53, as well as his nephew, Chris McCaffrey ’84. Jack’s legacy at Saint Mary’s is one that will remain bright for years to come.

At his funeral Mass, “The Bells of Saint Mary’s” was played at the entrance and the exit.
The Animist
PAUL EBENKAMP

That amber would turn
on fossil was obvious
thought I from an income
concussion across proper channels;

looking down silken inlets, I found
a law to the worsening dream:
a matter of timing
scattered tightly into vast blanks
that became seams.

That wakefulness would bound
past instruction,
leaving us to act the restless,
decadent courier
dusting hindsightwise for the buried
deed—
that a surface, what
we cut up, sprouts half the time
this is taking
away.

Paul Ebenkamp, MFA ’09, lives in
Berkeley and works as a writer, editor, teacher and academic coordinator. Editorial works include Song of Myself: Selected Poems and a Lexicon of Walt Whitman (Counterpoint Press; co-edited with Robert Hass), Writing the Silences: Selected Poems of Richard O. Moore (UC Press; co-edited with Brenda Hillman) and The Etiquette of Freedom: Gary Snyder and the Practice of the Wild (Counterpoint Press). Poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Try!, RealPoetik, The Walrus and Mrs. Maybe.