MAPPING THE FUTURE 13
A vision for the Saint Mary’s of tomorrow

16 READY FOR ANYTHING
Teachers for Tomorrow alumni are in it for the long term.

22 CUTTING-EDGE ANATOMY
Cadaver dissection and 3-D imaging
Sounds of Summer

The first thing you notice in the summer is how quiet it gets all of a sudden. There's still plenty of activity, but it gets quiet enough that you can hear the birds and catch glimpses of the wildlife that's been here all along. But now they sense the quiet and know that there's room for them. You see everything from birds to deer, to raccoons, coyotes, snakes, and lizards. You may not see them all during the academic year because the place is a beehive of activity. In the summer, there's still a lot going on, but it's a bit slower-paced. Instead of more than 4,000 people on campus, there are 1,000. The wildlife senses that. There are hummingbirds all over the place, and in summer you can hear them.
Dreaming of Italy in spring? Buy an MFA raffle ticket ($50 each) at stmarys-ca.edu/mfasupport beginning Nov. 1 and you might win the grand prize—a week in a four-bedroom villa in Tuscany. The raffle is Feb. 27; all proceeds benefit program scholarships.

MAGICAL ITALIAN VILLA
Our time in Umbria was highlighted by this most exquisite and magical villa. This authentic Italian home on top of a hill had wonderful and beautifully maintained gardens and very well-designed and spacious interiors. We so enjoyed lounging in and around the infinity pool and swinging in the hammock in the late afternoon light after long days exploring the lovely Italian countryside and towns. I would love to go back there someday.

LISA CHADWICK
Owner of the Dolby Chadwick Gallery
San Francisco

PRAISE FROM THE ROAD
Just finished reading the latest issue. Thanks, they just keep getting better!

RODNEY GETSY EE '91
Traveling the country in a rolling condo (aka motor home)

ROUNDTABLE: THE PLAN
SUMMER 2015
This was something I couldn’t predict—the idea that I would have to completely reinvent my life at age 92. In 2005 I lost everything in Hurricane Katrina—my Mississippi home and possessions, my friendships and associations, my well-being and spirit. Emigrating to Texas was challenging. I had to come up with a plan to start living again. I got involved in community and civic endeavors. I went to church, galleries, theater, the symphony, and the library. It was not long before strangers became friends—some, even benefactors. Ten years later, I have created a new life for myself.

CLAY McELROY ’14

Editor’s note: McElroy, now 102 years old, was recently honored by the New Braunfels newspaper as a 2015 unsung hero, a citizen who has served the community “often without thanks and recognition.” He has contributed to a local children’s gallery, to a scholarship to help kids learn to paint, to two local theaters, and he established two scholarships for Catholic Daughters, a ministry of the Catholic Church in his new town. Now, that’s a Gael!

I am from the class of ’82 and my husband is ’84. We have two kids that already graduated from there, 2012 and 2013 and one that will be a junior this year. No better place to be. My son (2013) just got married at SMC this past weekend to a girl he met his first weekend of freshman year!!!!

CLAY McELROY ’14

Nearly two-thirds of Saint Mary’s undergrads are on the Gael Force, making Saint Mary’s one of the toughest places for opponents.

Classmate Jim Abbate started Gael Force Freshman year ’82/83. Grown a little bit!

SAINT MARY’S MAGAZINE
AUGUST 10 AT 7:53PM TED PAPPAS

Saint Mary’s hosted several summer send-off parties for incoming freshmen, including one hosted by the Sacramento Alumni Chapter.

Welcome to the next best 4 years of your life!!! St. Mary’s remains near and dear to my heart.

JULY 28 AT 11:52AM WENDY MEYERS

Thanks to Saint Mary’s College @stmarysca for doing an article on me in the Summer 2015 issue of the Saint Mary’s Magazine. It is an honor to be included among so many #Gaels and #Alumni who are doing great things throughout the world! #smc #gogaels #saintmarys #briandetrick @gaelalumni @smccampusrec @BRIAN_DETTRICK
Teacher-turned-principal Dustin Gacherieu ’03, M.A. ’04, who was in Teachers for Tomorrow’s inaugural class, credits the program with nurturing his passion for service and kids.

13 Mapping the Future
Strategic planning for the Saint Mary’s of tomorrow.

16 Ready for Anything
Teachers for Tomorrow grads stick with teaching, thanks to thorough preparation.

22 Cutting-Edge Anatomy
Human anatomy class uses time-tested cadaver dissection plus 3-D imaging.
Student Ideas Matter
Counseling students design program to help older adults.

Students at Saint Mary’s contribute to their fields even before graduation. Last spring, Kimberly Burks, Michelle Hider, and Vanessa Touset of the Kalmanovitz School of Education designed a program to treat older adults struggling with alcohol abuse for the Community Mental Health and Trauma Interventions course’s final project.

Their work paid off. With help from Professor Steven Blum, they pitched the idea to Contra Costa County Health Services. The county was so impressed that it will implement it later this year as a $1 million, four-year pilot study that will employ two full-time staff members and three interns.

“Just because we’re students does not mean we don’t have new ideas to contribute to the field of mental health,” Hider said. “We wanted to create a program that could actually be implemented.”

The program is structured to serve up to 12 participants referred by their primary care doctors, the county’s psychiatric emergency services, or its Older Adult Mental Health program. The students’ proposal fit with the goals of California’s Mental Health Services Act of 2004—which offers care to marginalized communities—as well as the culture of Saint Mary’s, Blum said.

“They did the legwork they needed to do to research mental health needs in the county, and came up with a great idea,” he said. “This project is a remarkable expression of Saint Mary’s mission to equip students to engage the world beyond campus.”
—Kate Madden Yee

Steinbeck Fellowship Winner Candace Eros Diaz, M.F.A. Creative Nonfiction ’11 and Fiction ’12, has won San José State University’s Steinbeck Fellowship, which offers emerging writers of any age and background a $10,000 stipend to pursue a significant writing project while in residence at the university. Diaz, admissions coordinator for the M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing, is currently at work on a historical novel about her women ancestors.

DOBKIN HONORED AGAIN
For the second year in a row, Provost Bethami Dobkin was named one of the “Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business” by the San Francisco Business Times. The annual list includes some of the most accomplished leaders in the fields of law, technology, health care, finance, insurance, and higher education.

Under Dobkin’s academic leadership, Saint Mary’s has increased enrollment, raised the academic profile and retention and graduation rates, attained accreditation with AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), gained national prominence in the performing arts, and become eligible as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

ARCADE

Student Ideas Matter
Counseling students design program to help older adults.

Students at Saint Mary’s contribute to their fields even before graduation. Last spring, Kimberly Burks, Michelle Hider, and Vanessa Touset of the Kalmanovitz School of Education designed a program to treat older adults struggling with alcohol abuse for the Community Mental Health and Trauma Interventions course’s final project.

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Library Chemistry

It’s easy to visualize English or history majors bent over their research in the Saint Mary’s Library, which serves in many ways as their laboratory. But chemistry and other science students have a similar need to conduct library research in their disciplines, using complex tools only an academic library can provide.

Chemistry students, for example, rely upon reference tools specific to chemistry, said Linda Wobbe, head of collection management for the library. She assists with a chemical literature class that teaches undergraduates how to use web-based methods to search the scientific literature.

“It’s a myth that young people have a native understanding of web research,” Wobbe said, “particularly when it comes to the complex databases in which the library invests.”

One of these tools is a citation index that allows a researcher to use a seminal scientific paper and discover who else cites the article, said Chemistry Professor Steve Bachofer, one of the faculty who teach the chemistry literature class. “In this case, a simple reference can give you ideas on who in the world is pursuing similar research,” he said. “That’s information a student might not discover using conventional search term methods.”

Until recently, Wobbe had to search Chemical Abstracts, the primary online database of chemical information, for students and faculty. Now that database is available for all SMC users, who can search it themselves.

Wobbe often hears from students and alumni that the research skills they’ve learned give them an advantage in undergraduate internships and graduate programs in science and medicine.

A Cool Million from Facebook Exec. Live in Peace, a nonprofit organization founded and directed by Kalmanovitz School of Education doctoral student Heather Starnes, received $1 million from Facebook executive Chris Cox and his wife, filmmaker Visra Vichit-Vadakan, to help connect East Palo Alto youth and young adults to the tech community. The donation will support classes in arts, music, college readiness, and technology, led by college students, industry leaders, and local entrepreneurs.

“There is nothing more beautiful than to see communities come together for a common cause. We get to see the genius and talent of our youth and young adults,” said Starnes. While at SMC, Starnes also helped write “Catalyst Schools: The Catholic Ethos and Public Charter Schools,” which describes transferring a Lasallian educational model into the public sector.
DUBIOUS PATENT APPLICATIONS

BY GREG CLARK
HANDS-ON GENETICS

Twelve Saint Mary’s science students participated in a massive research project, coordinated by the Genomics Education Partnership (GEP), that produced a paper published in the May issue of the peer-reviewed journal G3: Genes|Genomes|Genetics.

Part of a 940-strong group of undergraduates from 63 colleges and universities, they performed what amounted to a massively parallel research project on the evolution of an unusual fruit fly chromosome that is difficult for computer software to sequence. In this case, the task is more easily accomplished, with fewer errors, by human beings.

Each of the students performed original research, and reviewed and approved the manuscript, drafted by professors overseeing the project, including SMC’s Vidya Chandrasekaran.

GEP is a collaboration among faculty from a growing number of universities and Washington University’s Biology Department and Genome Institute. Its mission is to introduce bioinformatics into the undergraduate curriculum and make research a regular part of the academic year.

FREE TAX HELP

Thanks to Armando Martinez-Lopez, ’12, low-income families received free tax preparation help—and saved more than $200,000—with 150 tax returns last spring through a volunteer program at the Monument Crisis Center in Concord. Martinez-Lopez, who returned to Saint Mary’s for his master’s in accounting in July, had done volunteer tax assistance through an SMC accounting class. Once working at the center after graduation, he arranged for SMC students to be certified in tax preparation and come help with returns.

The volunteers, who included CPAs and students from other schools, helped families receive tax refunds and also saved them money in tax preparation fees. “I had one client who said she was charged $200 and all she had was a W-2,” said Martinez-Lopez, who will offer the free program next year. “People already come to our family resource center for food and other services, so there is an immense amount of trust.”

Budding Researcher

Senior spends summer working at UCSF.

Brianna Bibel ’16 spent 10 weeks this summer investigating changes in the neurons of Huntington’s disease patients. The prestigious 10-week fellowship at the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Design at the University of California San Francisco was funded by the Huntington’s Disease Society of America.

Bibel’s research interest stems from her work with Jeffrey Sigman, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Saint Mary’s. During the summer of 2014, as one of 15 students awarded Summer Research Scholarships, she investigated an enzyme that activates and deactivates chemical messages in cells.

“Dr. Sigman is great about letting me talk through ideas with him and asking him lots of questions,” she said. “The most important thing I learned in working with him is how to be comfortable working independently. This is a very valuable skill that I would not be able to receive at a larger institution.”

Bibel’s research also uncovered an important personal insight. “I was planning on becoming a clinical physician,” she said. “However, I enjoyed research so much that my new goal is to pursue a joint M.D./Ph.D. and become a physician-scientist.”
JYOTI BACHANI
Professor, School of Economics and Business Administration
Margaret Mead wrote, “Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world.” Organizations are a human innovation that have given us computers, cellphones, cars, planes, cures for diseases, and many innovations. Yet basic human problems remain. Millions still die needlessly from lack of access to medicine for diseases that we already have cures for, or starvation when we throw away extra food. Let’s reinvent organizations that can solve problems to create an equitable and just world.

SANNA REINHOLTZEN
Executive assistant to President James Donahue
I have envisioned a day when I would be able to download my thoughts directly from brain to paper. No more handwritten words laboriously scratched out on paper, transcribed from the spoken word, or pecked out on a keyboard. This innovation would not be unlike the pensieve of Headmaster Dumbledore of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry—a bowl that safekeeps the headmaster’s memories. But rather than preserving the past, this device would FireWire thoughts to paper or screen. Fleeting and of course brilliant thoughts would be captured, no longer lost forever. I’m waiting. Or am I?

BROTHER CLARENCE SCHENK, 1932–2015
I predicted that Cinerama would last much longer than it did. I own five of the Cinerama movies and they had such a visual impact in the early days of television, using three 35-mm projectors running simultaneously onto a 146-degree curved screen. *This Is Cinerama* was the first production, which had a startling roller-coaster ride in the opening scene. It was followed by *Cinerama Holiday*, a production that traveled throughout the world’s major cities and monuments. Everyone still speaks about Cinerama as a superior film method, but ultimately the process cost too much. [NOTE: BROTHER CLARENCE DIED NOT LONG AFTER THIS INTERVIEW. PLEASE SEE PAGE 30 FOR HIS OBITUARY.]

CORA MANUEL
Assistant director of Financial Aid
I still cannot decide whether to be labeled a Trekker or a Trekkie, but growing up I was always fascinated with *Star Trek* and all of the gadgetry. Since the original series ended in 1969, many of those items have become reality. The communicator is now a typical cellphone, which now goes along with communications officer Lt. Uhura’s earpiece, which is now considered everyday Bluetooth. When any Starfleet captain ordered incoming communications to be put “on screen,” who would consider that videoconferencing would be a daily occurrence? I am still looking for the transporter, the holodeck, and warp drive. Where’s Data?

JOHN MACKEN ’62
Retired
As an inventor (36 patents) and physicist, I am working on one of the biggest mysteries of physics—the connection between gravity and the electrostatic force. Einstein attempted to find this connection for 30 years. Two separated electrons feel both an electrostatic repulsion and a gravitational attraction. However, the gravitational force is about a billion, billion, billion, billion, billion times weaker than the electrostatic force. Working with the wave properties of particles, I have recently derived several simple equations that show the previously unknown connection. Some of this work was published in April. This impacts our basic understanding of particles and forces.
“It’s difficult to make predictions, especially about the future.” Often attributed to Yogi Berra, sometimes to Mark Twain, Nostradamus, or physicist Niels Bohr, this quote points to the challenge of forecasting the future. Sometimes a Jules Verne or Gene Roddenberry will completely nail it, but more likely, it’s someone like the founder of IBM, who declared in 1943 that a few room-sized computers is all the world would ever need. Never mind a 1955 soothsayer’s notion that we’d have nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners in 10 years. So we asked: What innovation did you expect in the future, and did it happen?

GEORGE SCHMITT ’65
CEO and executive chairman of the board at xG Technology
Since I was responsible for building the first digital wireless network in the world, it would be about that industry. It was clear with SMS (Short Message Service), now known as texting, that the paging industry would die as it did in the 1990s—and that if we could get mobile phones cheap enough, everyone would have one and it would change the world as we know it. And it did. The relatively low cost of digital wireless networks allowed communications to become available in parts of the world that could never have fixed telephone service due to its cost.

CHERIE GRANT
Program administrator
When I was young, I wondered why there were no women in political positions. My dad was a precinct committeeman and my grandfather was a state legislator. It was obvious to me that women were involved in community service, but they were vastly underrepresented in government policymaking. Today, there are many more women participating in politics, including myself (I was on the Moraga Council from 1992-96 and mayor in 1996). Groups like Emily’s List help women empower women in the political arena, but more work needs to be done to involve women in the legislative process.

TED TSUKAHARA ’62
Integral tutor and economist
The idea of a people mover between San Francisco and Los Angeles came to me in the early ’70s—a driverless transportation system between cities that would reduce traffic accidents and deaths. It would be a magnetic or guided system of transportation pods where you got in and they went down conventional highways. Technology for magnetic movement is already available. If everybody were put into these pods, you could control traffic. There would be no accidents because human error (fatigue and drinking) would not be an issue. There would be some kind of control system governing the traffic.

SOLANGE BITOL HANSEN ’89
Planned giving director for Salvation Army
I remember using a pay phone at the courthouse one afternoon in the mid-1990s and seeing another lawyer walk by while talking on this huge cellphone. I had a vision at that moment of smaller, sleek cellphones that we would wear much like a headband. My glimpse at the future was fairly accurate. Cellphones are smaller, but I see people wearing the headpiece in their ears, not as a headband.

JAMES DONAHUE
President
Howard Gardner first identified the different styles of learning and processing knowledge in 1983 with his book *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*. It was an aha moment for me, and I expected it to lead to the development of educational curriculum and programs that would enliven the classroom and create a successful learning environment. Has it been realized? I have seen it in some schools—not all. But what I’ve seen in Lasallian education, especially high schools, has been impressive.
Winning New Coach

When Saint Mary’s Director of Athletics Mark Orr announced in March that Travis Clarke would take the reins of the Gaels’ women’s soccer program, he knew he’d found his man.

Yes, Clarke brought with him a winning background. In six years at Cal State-San Bernardino, he’d led the Coyotes to a 63-40-13 record with six straight winning seasons. He set program records for career wins (63) and single-season wins (14), and 17 of his players earned All-California Collegiate Athletic Association honors.

While such success serves as a strong foundation for the Gaels to build on, Clarke’s ability to identify and support high achievers in the classroom also speaks to his caliber as a coach of successful student-athletes.

Summer was a transition period for the Gaels, and Clarke welcomed former Santa Clara star and U.S. National Team pool player Tina Estrada as his associate head coach. Brook Johnson stayed on as goalkeepers coach, and the program began to take shape.

Communicating with the players he’d be inheriting was one of Clarke’s first priorities, and that started with a group of six seniors that make up the leadership core of the 2015 team. With that dialogue open, the Gaels began to chart a new course in year one under their new head coach.

“I think we were all anxious for him to come in and get started,” said Anne Whipple ’16. “Now that he’s here, it’s different. We think that’s good in that he has a good vision for our program. I think all the players are buying in. It’s a process. We all really like his honesty in that he tells us how it is and what we need to do to be successful.” —Ben Enos

UNDER ARMOUR SEALS DEAL

With the announcement of its partnership with global performance brand Under Armour, the Saint Mary’s athletic department occupies rare company in collegiate athletics. Under Armour will exclusively design and supply the footwear, apparel, and equipment for each of the Gaels’ 17 men’s and women’s varsity teams, making Saint Mary’s the first Division I all-sports partner for Under Armour on the West Coast. By partnering with Under Armour, SMC joins a roster that includes NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry; Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth; former Gaels star Patrick Mills; and programs such as Notre Dame, Maryland, Auburn, Cincinnati, South Carolina, and the Naval Academy.

Goalkeeper for Guam

Former Saint Mary’s goalkeeper Doug Herrick is doing his best to become the first Gael ever to play in soccer’s World Cup. The Seattle native led Guam to a pair of unlikely victories in Group D preliminary qualifying matches for the 2018 World Cup, one of the world’s largest sporting events. He was playing in goal for Guam’s 2-1 upset victory over heavily favored India, just five days after the team kicked off its qualifying matches with a 1-0 shutout win over Turkmenistan.
Norm Peters understands the allure of a supple Pinot Noir and a jammy, fruit-forward Zinfandel.


Peters’ earliest experiences with wine aren’t the kind of thing you put on a resume. As a resident adviser in Justin Hall in the late 1980s, the only wine he remembers students drinking was Boone’s Farm.

But after getting a bachelor’s degree in diversified liberal arts and a master’s in education leadership, Peters went on to combine a 15-year career in the classroom and the vice principal’s office with his love for viticulture.

It started with a phone call in 2005 from the owners of a construction company he’d worked for in his undergrad years.

“They said, ‘Hey, Norm, come out and run this farm and winery for us.’ They’d just gotten rid of vice principals in elementary schools, so I thought, ‘What have I got to lose?’ I loved agriculture and the fact that I would be outside working.”

Peters said he “took a beating” the first two years, but his bosses had faith in this Saint Mary’s grad.

“They didn’t care that I was a newbie,” he said. “I was a Gael.”

Peters worked hard to master the vineyard, and the wine got better with the help of a winemaking consultant. By year five, he’d turned things around.

Today, the Oakley father of three has come full circle with SMC, teaching a Jan Term class in winemaking. And with his business, Vineyard for You, Peters provides vineyard design and management services for backyard wine producers, including an SMC alum and a professor.

“I love grapes and love teaching,” said Peters, who sees it as a perfect way to give back to Saint Mary’s. “I’m just trying to stir the pot and get people excited.”
CULTURAL NIGHTS
Every spring, Saint Mary’s cultural nights sell out to students, families, and the SMC community. The Intercultural Center, founded 10 years ago to support diversity, organizes six nights—Expressions of Blackness, The Bash (LGBTQIA), Latino, Lu’au, Asian, and Arabian. “The goal is to educate people more about the values of our people,” said Taimane Tuiasosopo ’15, lead co-chair for last year’s Lu’au.

These popular evenings, which highlight the historical milestones, customs, and issues of these historically underrepresented groups, had themes last year ranging from Rocky Horror to Black Lives Matter.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Top-Secret Math
Erica Musgrave ’16 lands National Security Agency internship.

Don’t bother asking Erica Musgrave ’16 exactly how she spent her summer. One of the top college math students in the United States, Musgrave will say only that she interned for 12 weeks at the National Security Agency (NSA) in Maryland. “It’s classified,” explained Musgrave of the agency’s prestigious Director’s Summer Program internship that sent her, along with 24 other exceptional undergraduates from around the country, to perform mathematical research at NSA headquarters.

Musgrave does, however, have plenty to say about the superlative mentorship she’s received at Saint Mary’s. “Because of the small class size, you really get to know your professors,” she said. “I love knowing that I can walk into any of their offices at any time and get help or just talk.” Musgrave felt especially welcome as a freshman when her adviser, Mathematics Professor Ellen Veomett, invited her to discuss research internships.

“Erica is an extraordinary student,” said Veomett, who herself landed an NSA Director’s Summer Program internship as a University of Nebraska, Lincoln undergraduate in 2001. “As soon as you suggest something, she’s off and running.”

With Veomett’s guidance, Musgrave has participated not only in the NSA internship, but also a Carleton College program for women mathematics majors, a research program for women and minorities at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, and the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics. A star Gael softball player, she’s also earned a .982 fielding percentage and landed a spot on the inaugural West Coast Conference Softball All-Academic Team last year.

Musgrave plans to pursue a Ph.D. in math, preferably “at a school like Saint Mary’s, where the professors really want you to succeed.” —Autumn Stephens
When the Christian Brothers—a bunch of enterprising New Yorkers of Irish descent—landed in San Francisco, they quickly set out to read the signs of the times and bring to the 19th-century West Coast and Saint Mary’s College a rich educational tradition that reaches back to 17th-century France, said Brother Charles Hilken, professor of history and chair of the Bishop John S. Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture and Action. “And that’s exactly what we are doing today.”
Granted, San Francisco today is vastly different from the brawling, raw outpost of 1868, but it is also surprisingly similar. The Pacific frontier was marked by cultural change and tremendous challenge—also true for our 21st-century world that changes with maddening speed and complexity. All the more reason to read the signs of the times and plan carefully for the future.

Hence, the strategic planning process introduced by President James Donahue in 2013. “We are building on the strong foundation of the College’s profoundly relevant mission, which is to introduce students into the world of knowledge, guided by liberal arts learning, Lasallian values rooted in the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and our Catholic heritage,” he said. “We are staying true to this mission. We will make sure our students are well prepared to engage with the world, through rewarding employment, but also in terms of living purposeful, meaningful lives.”

The challenge is to evolve in a way that is consistent with the mission while meeting the needs of students today, Donahue said. So, together, the community of faculty, trustees, Christian Brothers, alumni, staff, and students developed key goals to guide the College’s progress for the next five years.

**Strong Academics**

Chief among them is raising the academic profile of the College—by promoting the centrality of the liberal arts and by investing in our faculty, said Provost Bethami Dobkin. “Significant research tells us that the greatest impact on the transformation of a student is a faculty mentor.”

That teacher-student relationship is at the heart of the education we provide, said Donahue. “The knowledge created in that context—in Collegiate Seminar and in January Term, for example—is unique and distinctive.” Under the new strategic plan, the College will explore creative ways to enhance the learning relationship, using technology without losing that distinctive core.

“We’ve made quite a mark in the world of online learning with some of our graduate and professional programs, blending online components with face-to-face learning and still maintaining quality,” said Dobkin. “Now we’re trying to do this at the undergraduate level.”

Teaching comes first at Saint Mary’s, Dobkin said. But while faculty are also expected to actively create knowledge in their own disciplines, “we haven’t given them enough support to do that,” she said. This year saw the first round of SMC research grants promoting faculty scholarship, Dobkin said, adding that this activity is highly beneficial to students. “One of the best things for students is being part of faculty research projects.” The strategic plan includes goals to create more high-impact educational opportunities like these for students.

**Faithful To Mission**

Along with raising the academic profile of the College, said Brother Charles, there also is a heightened attention to mission. “We want to call faculty and students to a deeper awareness of the spiritual dimensions of the educational enterprise, to an awareness of vocation and purpose in life and also the interconnectedness of all knowledge.” The strategic plan provides for retreat opportunities for faculty, staff, and administrators to reflect on their own sense of personal calling in light of the College’s mission.

The strategic planning process also highlighted the need to balance humility and modesty with proud promotion of our accomplishments. “We need to tell the stories of students and alumni who embody the success of our mission,” said Donahue. “We need to show the research and achievement of our faculty. When you are competing for highly qualified students, research opportunities, and support, modesty is a limited virtue.” The strategic plan calls for the College to get the word out and claim its competitiveness.

Built into the plan is a call to raise the academic profile of the College in a way that is consistent with our mission, Dobkin said. “We can provide an elite education without becoming elitist—without chasing after test scores and grade point averages, or rationing education only to the wealthy. We’ll keep admissions standards high enough to help predict success,” Dobkin said. “And we will continue to provide as much financial aid as we can.”

Keeping college affordable for promising students is an important element of the strategic plan. “We have to make sure students and families understand that the education we provide is worth the investment,” Donahue said, “and help students make prudent judgments about what constitutes a reasonable amount of debt.” This fall, Saint Mary’s will be making available to its students and alumni a free financial literacy program in an effort to help educate them and provide tools to manage finances...
the skills of information experts who help students “cut through the clutter,” as Dobkin put it. “Our librarians are fabulous instructors, as well as resource providers,” she said.

Having the right facilities for the campus overall is also a key part of the strategic plan. The campus master plan includes adding technically advanced classrooms, increased office space for faculty, and updates to existing buildings. “These aren’t luxuries,” Moore said. “These facilities are essential for the teaching, learning, and creative activity that define the Saint Mary’s experience.”

Currently, professors share offices, making it difficult to do research, conference, and collaborate with students. Many faculty offices are on the Rheem campus two miles away, making contact with students difficult. Work got underway this summer on 20 new faculty offices in the top level of the old campus power plant. When the proposed new library is built, it will set off a cascade of further developments, including the renovation of the old library building into a home for the School of Economics and Business Administration and other academic offices.

“The strategic plan really helps us prioritize how we use the College’s resources,” said Michell. “A lot of good ideas came out of this experience. This road map is extraordinarily helpful in identifying the steps we need to take to secure the future of Saint Mary’s, with concrete goals and key performance indicators to show that we are making progress.”

Investing In Hope

One important measure of progress, said Brother Charles, is that students leave here with hope for their future. “Current students have received a terrible message from society during the economic downturn—that there will be no jobs for them,” he said. “We have to help them envision a new world, create new jobs, and be the makers of the future.”

It all goes back to our powerful mission and our commitments to each other, said Donahue. “We will provide students with the skills and tools they need to live fully realized lives and develop as whole persons in society—mind, body, heart, and soul.”

There is ample reason for hope, said Brother Charles. “Here in this valley, there has been a spirit and a vision that are larger than any of us. Since 1928 good things have happened here and will continue to happen. Men and women who pass through these doors become better agents of change for a better world.”

Inspired Giving

More than 70 percent of Saint Mary’s students receive need-based financial aid today, said Lisa Moore ’96, vice president for advancement. “We are fortunate to be able to help make college education possible for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Could we do more? Of course. But that’s going to require alumni investing in the endowment, bringing it to a more robust level.”

Strengthening philanthropy is a priority in the strategic plan, with funding for a new library and learning commons accounting for two-thirds of the $60 million fundraising goal. “That facility represents the academic heart of Saint Mary’s,” Moore said. “It’s where students and faculty continue the work of the classroom—a laboratory for learning and collaboration, equipped with the technology students need now and ready for technology that doesn’t yet exist.”

Dobkin, who describes the proposed new library as an extension of the Seminar experience, also uses a current label—makerspaces—to describe the anticipated media labs and collaborative hot spots.

“This is how the world works today,” Moore said, “teams and collaboration. We need to prepare students for that reality.”

Center For Learning

A common misperception about libraries is that the Internet can provide everything today’s digitally savvy student needs. “Couldn’t be further from the truth,” Moore said. In the ocean of data available, a student’s ability to do effective research relies not only on access to technology and the specialized databases and resources only an academic library can provide but also on and loan repayment. “So far, many SMC students appear to be managing their debt well,” said Peter Michell, SMC’s vice president for finance. “And SMC alums have had a low default rate, even during the recession.”
READY FOR ANYTHING

Teachers for Tomorrow grads stick with teaching, thanks to thorough preparation.
Janis Allocco ’05, M.A. ’06 dreamed of becoming an attorney when she was a high school senior at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco. But she decided to attend Saint Mary’s—and dedicate herself to teaching—after reading a newspaper article on the college’s innovative Teachers for Tomorrow (TFT) program.

“I realized that I didn’t want to try to help these kids when it was too late,” said Allocco, who at the time was volunteering at the Children’s Center in the Tenderloin. The center provides services to homeless children and those from low-income families.

“I figured I should try to help these kids now,” she added, quoting a memorable saying in Christian Brothers schools: Enter to learn, leave to serve. “That was always what we were told in high school, and it goes along with teaching as well.”

Allocco was drawn to TFT in large part because students are placed in classrooms as freshmen, which “prepared me for anything that I would see” as a teacher. She teaches math and physics at the Catholic Carondelet High School in Concord. Previously, Allocco worked as an elementary school teacher, as a vice principal at Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception School in Walnut Creek, and principal of St. Philip Neri Catholic Elementary School in Alameda.

“Whether it’s an outrageous parent or a child who doesn’t have a lunch every day, Teachers for Tomorrow prepared me to handle those kinds of situations,” Allocco said. “You go into teaching ready for anything.”

In the ever-evolving world of California public education, TFT is no ordinary teacher preparation program. In five years, students earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree, plus a multiple-subject teaching credential, a state requirement for teaching public elementary school.

The freshman placements in public and private school classrooms are earlier than most public and private university programs. Meanwhile, the College’s small liberal arts setting makes it possible to have student cohorts or groups smaller than 20 members, allowing for a more intimate support system. Statistics have shown that these hallmarks of the TFT approach result in fewer graduates dropping out of the profession.

Students also receive close guidance and support from Saint Mary’s faculty members, whose teaching prepares graduates well to deal with new learning standards like the Common Core.

Even before Common Core was adopted by the state in 2012—part of a national move toward creating academic benchmarks in kindergarten through high school—TFT stressed the importance of integrating different subjects into themed lessons, a distinctive feature of Common Core.

Since 1999, 125 students have completed the TFT program, which concluded its 17th year last spring. Many of the graduates work in the Bay Area and are drawn to the Lasallian commitment to serve, including teaching in communities where the barriers to learning are the greatest.

The California numbers tell some of the story.

During the 2013-14 school year, there were more than 1.4 million English language learners in California public schools—nearly 22 percent of the total enrollment, reports the state Department of Education.

Three in five public school students in the state are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals, according to California Food Policy Advocates, a nonprofit
students who knew from an early age that they wanted to teach, often due to memorable experiences during their own grade-school days. “That is a clear pattern for TFTers,” Brunetti said.

Saint Mary’s first five-year program, TFT “hits at the core of the College,” said Marston.

“Saint John Baptist de La Salle himself wanted to bring the poor French children off the streets and give them an education,” she said. “We really try to do the work of De La Salle and help to prepare the students to go out and serve underprivileged communities.”

TFT freshmen are first placed at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School in Oakland. As sophomores, they spend their January Term—80 hours over a four-week period—at Cambridge Elementary School in Concord. As juniors, they are placed at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga, before spending their senior year at a Bay Area campus. TFT tries to expose students to a variety of schools in public and private settings representing low- to upper-income communities.

During the master’s portion of the program, students do a research project in which they review literature around a question and then develop a plan to incorporate the project into their own classroom.

“It’s different from other master’s projects, in which you study something and write it up,” Marston said. “They get to reflect on how their thesis impacts them as a teacher. Teaching is a reflective process, and the program strives to prepare TFTers to be conscious of this mindset throughout their careers.”

One of the biggest concerns among TFT participants is managing student behavior, Brunetti said. That’s not unique to Saint Mary’s students. But the early placements inspire confidence.

“They’ve had a lot of experiences in schools, and they end up being relatively good at dealing with that,” he added. “They have a better start than most teachers. Still, it really takes five years of actual
teaching before you have a handle on the whole thing.”

Other TFT alumni have gone from the classroom to the administrative ranks.

At Jensen Ranch Elementary School in Castro Valley, teacher-turned-principal Dustin Gacherieu ’03, M.A. ’04 credits TFT with nurturing his passion for service and kids. Gacherieu was in the program’s inaugural graduating class. He knew from the first grade that he wanted to teach. The first in his family to attend college, Gacherieu enrolled in TFT after meeting with Brunetti when he was still in high school.

Gacherieu taught elementary school for eight years—mostly fifth-graders, but also kindergarteners and a fourth- and fifth-grade combination class—before earning his administrative credential. He then went on to become assistant principal at Castro Valley Adult and Career Education for two years before assuming the principal’s office at high-performing Jensen Ranch last year.

“There are some guiding principles in that program that have shaped my philosophy on education and leadership, one being pro-student, as one of our professors would say—meaning that you do everything you can for the students that you serve,” Gacherieu said. “No matter who they are and where they come from, we help them in every way to achieve excellence. Students everywhere have needs, they’re just different depending on where you are.”

The Saint Mary’s placements, he added, “forced us to push out of our comfort zone and go into these educational settings where we got to work with students from different backgrounds.” Students go through the program as a cohort, meaning “you’re taking the same classes and having those shared experiences,” Gacherieu said. “You’re all going through the same trials and tribulations, but you’re helping each other and pushing each other to be better. That’s an extremely valuable part.”

Gacherieu grew up in Castro Valley, where the average household income tops $105,000. Leaving that world for Concord, for example, where average household income is $76,000, turns out to be a learning experience in itself for many TFT students.

“That was my first experience with the English language learner population,” he said. “It shaped how I worked with English language learners now in my own school. I have a different appreciation for them, for their heritage, and for their families.”

Indeed, teachers’ awareness of their

“It shaped how I worked with English language learners now in my own school.
I have a different appreciation for them, for their heritage, and for their families.”

—Dustin Gacherieu ’03, M.A. ’04

Dustin Gacherieu ’03, M.A. ’04, who taught elementary school for eight years and is now principal of Jensen Ranch Elementary School in Castro Valley, said he uses TFT’s pro-student guiding principle every day. He checks in with fifth-grade teacher Kelly Joslin (left) and teachers Edie Odell M.A. ’08 and Rebecca Shaw (above).
students' families and culture can be crucial to classroom success.

When the dismissal bell rings at Meadow Homes Elementary School in Concord, third-grade teacher Theresa Mejia ’05, M.A. ’06 opens her classroom door to a new group of students: her pupils' parents.

Some of them never graduated from high school and could be illiterate. Many residents of the city’s low-income Monument Corridor, where the school is located, speak only Spanish. Taken together, these factors can leave parents feeling at a loss to help their children succeed academically.

In a series of workshops throughout the school year, Mejia offers teaching techniques and strategies that parents can use at home.

“I’ll have them tell their kids a story about when they were little, and have the kids draw a picture and tell the story back to the parents to help reading comprehension,” said Mejia, who got the idea for the workshops when she wrote her master’s thesis on parent involvement. “If we’re learning subtraction with regrouping, I’ll show the parents how I teach it, and then I’ll ask them how they were taught to do it in Mexico or their home country. That way, the kids can’t tell their parents, ‘You’re doing it wrong.’ It empowers them.”

Mejia still relies on an old classroom management trick she learned in her credential course work. Nancy Dulberg, associate professor in the College's Multiple Subject program, suggested that teachers use a plush bird that sings when squeezed, telling their students to stop talking when they hear the bird.

The TFT students were dubious. “We all thought, ‘No way, that’s never going to work,’” Mejia recalled. “But I found a bird at Goodwill in my first year of teaching, and I’ve been using that strategy ever since.”
Four students station themselves at each of three gurneys bearing body bags. Inside are intact human cadavers awaiting incisions. As the students open the bags, the smell of embalming fluid fills the room. Now they’re ready to start. The students run their eyes and hands over the cadaver, looking for anything clearly unusual. Then, scalpels in hand, they make shallow cuts. Their tools are sharp, the skin thin. Carefully, they peel back skin from the upper body, exposing the underlying tissue.

That’s just the first day of Professor Greg Smith’s Advanced Human Anatomy class at Saint Mary’s College.

Though not for the squeamish, the course Smith introduced five years ago is so popular among biology majors interested in health care careers
“The most surprising part was opening the **ABDOMINAL CAVITY** and seeing all the **TISSUE** and **ORGANS** inside.”

—ZACH WEST ’15
that some have come to Saint Mary’s specifically to take it. Only 12 students are admitted to the course each semester—a restriction based on the number of available cadavers—and the workload is demanding. But the opportunity it gives undergraduates to fully dissect a human cadaver is a rarity, especially at an institution without a medical school affiliation. The experience can also provide an early edge for those who continue on to medical school, where most of their classmates will encounter a cadaver for the first time.

“Professor Smith is someone who can break down the concepts and vocabulary into components so you don’t just memorize them, you understand them. I think it will stay with me through the rest of my life,” said Zach West ’15, a biochemistry major currently applying to medical school, who took Smith’s course this spring.

Among the students who chose SMC because of the course is Nikita Chaudri ’15. Now in dental school at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco, she said, “I didn’t realize how interesting it would be to dissect a body. We all have the same organs and systems, but there are so many variations. I’m so thankful and grateful to have had this opportunity.”

“The most surprising part was opening the abdominal cavity and seeing all the tissue and organs inside. It’s amazing how complicated the human body is. I gained a lot of respect for all the tissue in our body,” West said.

Another student in the class, Ryan Keane ’15, has since started medical school at Georgetown University. He said of his dissection experience, “It’s so different seeing slides of muscles and the torso and actually laying your hands on them.”

Before they start dissecting, most students in Smith’s course are excited but nervous. Kathleen Lundeberg ’16 had never taken an anatomy class or seen a dead body. Keane tried to ignore his jitters about working with a human cadaver. Jennifer Tolcher ’15, who assisted Smith in class this spring after taking the course in 2014, asked her pediatrician father what it would be like.

Smith prepares students for the first cut. Weeks ahead, he sends them emails with a clear message: Appreciate that a person chose to give students access to a body. Once in class, he teaches important basics, including how to attach the scalpel blade and use the instrument safely. To alleviate fears, he advises the students to think of the cadavers as anatomical models.

“He didn’t just open the body bag and say ‘Here we go.’ He talked about how to respect and take care of the bodies. After that, it felt normal,” Lundeberg said.

Lundeberg’s growing ease is typical of Smith’s students. “This requires them to think about death and dying. That’s not something a 21-year-old usually does,” said Smith, a member of the state anatomy advisory board that oversees a program for donating bodies to science. “But when they begin to dissect, they’re focused on a task, using the tools, and learning. Only after the first class will they...”
“He not only allowed me to remove the CADAVER’S HEART, but also to open windows into all four of its CHAMBERS.”
—Ryan Keane ’15

say, ‘I can’t believe what I did today.’”

At the start of the semester, Smith also presents the students with a question: What did the body on the gurney experience in life? Smith said, “The mystery of what they’ll see and find is another one of their motivations to take the class. I have the death certificate but don’t share it with them until the end.”

He does, of course, teach them to understand what they will see. Smith’s lectures, which he organizes by regions of the body, teach students about anatomical structures and functions. For example, they learn about the blood vessels, nerves, and muscle tendons in the axilla area—the armpit—and how an injury can lead to motor and sensory loss. When the topic is the skull, Smith talks about the vasculature entering the cranial cavity where the brain is located and how the nerves of the brain exit the skull to travel to the parts of the body they control.

Tolcher, who calls the course her favorite at Saint Mary’s, explained, “Learning about the muscles and bones, their damage and repair, was fascinating to me. It definitely helped shape my career path. I was originally thinking about pediatric nursing, but now I’m interested in sports medicine.”

Keane sees invaluable connections between the course lectures and labs. He said, “You can’t learn through dissections alone. The lectures inform what structures you dissect and isolate. Often, we’d talk about something Monday morning and then see it in the lab in the afternoon.”

Even breaks during lab periods offer opportunities to learn. That’s when Smith tells everyone to stop their dissections and join in what he terms “Walk and Talk.” Crossing campus wearing their trademark scrubs, the students present abstracts related to anatomy and take questions from their classmates and professor. Just as they do when one group makes an unexpected discovery during a dissection, the students learn from each other.

“The class was great because you learn not only human anatomy, but also how to work with peers,” Keane said.

This spring, Smith introduced another learning tool to the mix: sophisticated stereoscopic software that provides 3-D images of anatomical structures. Though the students already could refer to an anatomy application on gurney-mounted iPads while dissecting, the new software shows structures in far greater depth.

Now, the students wear 3-D glasses while Smith projects images on a screen. With the technology, he can make small structures larger than life and isolate images to provide an even closer view.

“I use the 3-D software as a precursor to understanding,” Smith said. “For example, when students learn the locations of openings in the skull, I can rotate an image and give them an appreciation of how these relate to other structures. That’s like having a skull in their hands, but they’re looking at a computer image. When they go to dissect, they know what to anticipate.”

The combination of lectures, labs, learning from peers, and technology produces results: Smith said students in his class do well in medical school and other graduate programs. “The course is very rigorous and requires a lot of time outside class,” he said. “We cover a lot of material, but they can do it. This background serves them well in graduate school.”

The students are motivated to do the work, in part because of Smith. Chaudri said, “When your professor loves anatomy and teaching the subject, it makes you want to work hard.”

Even after all that’s asked of them during the semester, some students are eager to continue learning about anatomy. Keane wanted to do additional heart dissections, so Smith let him keep the keys to the cadaver storage room after final exams ended. Keane said, “He not only allowed me to remove the cadaver’s heart, but also to open windows into all four of its chambers. He encouraged us to keep exploring and was patient in guiding us.”

Lundeberg’s exploration of anatomy will extend even longer. She’ll work independently with Smith in the fall to dissect and learn more about the body’s pelvic region.

For some students, even that’s not enough anatomy education. West said, “I wish the course could be two semesters long so we could go into even more depth and more parts of the body. Friends had told me that this was one of the best classes that prepared them for medical school, but it still exceeded my expectations.”

The past in 3-D

Professor Greg Smith turns to the latest 3-D computer software to help guide students in their dissections, but using stereoscopic projection to teach human anatomy is far from new. That’s evident in Smith’s collection of educational artifacts, which includes a 1950s-vintage View-Master, a once-popular binocular-like device that made it possible to click through disks of photos appearing in 3-D. Even older is a stereoscope with plates to create 3-D effects that the University of Edinburgh used in 1906.

“There are extensive dissections and photographs, so they knew how to do 3-D even back then,” said Smith.
Quadrilateral

MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Nearly 200 alumni gathered with friends and family on campus June 26 for the inaugural Music on the Lawn event, featuring performances by Ryan Whitney ’01 and Shawn Brown ’98 (Shawn Brown + 9th Street). Gaels enjoyed a beautiful Moraga summer evening in front of the Chapel, as well as food trucks, park games, and a bounce house for children. The event was the first of several new Young Alumni programs focused on family and keeping recent grads connected.

Gaels Come Home

Over 450 alumni representing five Gael generations came back to Saint Mary’s in July for Reunion. Activities included hiking to the cross, historical tours, a family picnic, wine tasting, children’s storytelling, Mass, dinner on the Chapel Lawn, and dancing.
BY CAITLIN MCLAIN '15

Loma Prieta
Quake in ’89

MIKE MULLANE ’92
I was working as a bullpen catcher—warming up pitchers—for the San Francisco Giants. It was an exciting time. The Giants hadn’t been to the World Series in many moons and were just coming off a two-game losing streak in Oakland. I got to the ballpark at 11; the game was starting early because it was televised. At about 4:45 I headed down the tunnel from the locker room to the bullpen, and I remember hearing some noise. I thought it was an Air Force flyover. Then I saw that the field was moving. When the earthquake was over, the crowd started cheering and getting fired up for the game, but then they heard about the collapse of the Cypress Structure (a two-tiered multi-lane freeway in Oakland that collapsed, killing 42 people) and fires in the Marina District. When the game was canceled, we evacuated the clubhouse and the stadium.

SHARON WALTERS ’90, M.A. ’07, RETIRED SMC LIBRARIAN
It was a totally normal workday. I was at the reference desk in the SMC library. At about 5:04, I was standing behind the desk and I felt a gradual rumble. I was hoping it was just a small earthquake, but the shaking increased. The lights above were swinging and started to crash to the floor. The glass windows that surrounded the building shattered. I ran under the desk. Upstairs, all of the books and stacks were falling and it sounded so thunderous I thought the building was going to cave in or implode. Then everyone in the building ran out the front doors. After this devastating experience, everyone who was in the library stayed together in shock wondering what to do next. The building was secured with caution tape. We came back to work the next day and started cleaning up.

BROTHER MICHAEL MEISTER ’68
It was a normal October day close to 5 because we have Mass at 5:15. I was downstairs in Aquinas and came over to the Brothers’ residence before 5 because we have the liturgy in the living room. I sat down and began reading the San Francisco Chronicle when the room began to shake. I grew up in Northern California, so I knew I was experiencing an earthquake. I heard a big crash; the grandfather clock in the living room had fallen over. It was such a good shake that we canceled Mass. In the Chapel, the statue of Saint John the Baptist fell out of place and there were a few cracks in the bell tower. Luckily this was all before the Chapel was remodeled.

RECOLLECTIONS
EVERY CHILD’S EYES
A song written by Denis (D.J.) Loiseau ’77 and Irish co-writer, Maurice Byrne, is featured in a music video he co-produced for California CASA (Court Appointed Advocates Association), whose mission is to give abused and neglected children both a voice in court and the services they need for a stable future. “Their mission tugged at my heartstrings,” he said. The video, created as a volunteer recruitment and fundraising tool, dramatizes the true story of a little boy’s foster care experience and the gift of a permanent home. Loiseau, who discovered CASA 30 years ago while looking for ways to volunteer in his community, is senior vice president and founding principal of ABD Insurance and Financial Services. He has served as board president of Marin Advocates for Children which houses the Marin CASA program, and of California CASA.

Taking the LEAP
Avichai “Avi” Scher ’15 is accustomed to making graceful exits. With the help of Saint Mary’s LEAP program, the 31-year-old ballet dancer and choreographer—who trained at the School of American Ballet; danced with 11 different companies, including the Joffrey Ballet; and ran his own dance business, Avi Scher & Dancers—has left the ballet world and landed solidly on his feet in a new career with the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York.

LEAP is SMC’s national Bachelor of Arts program that helps professional dancers like Scher transition into meaningful work and develop other passions beyond long dance careers. “I started dancing when I was 5 and had a professional dance and choreography career for 10 years. The last year wasn’t very fulfilling, and I was curious about what else was out there for me,” Scher said. “The program helps you build critical thinking and writing skills, and it boosted my confidence.”

After working as an intern for CGI, Scher earned a coveted staff position as a track associate in the Commitments Group, which works as a liaison with CGI’s partners on philanthropic projects. “I was the only intern given a permanent contract out of my class.” He believes his dance experience landed him the job. “They needed someone who is completely accountable, very organized, and good at interacting with others—skills I developed from countless auditions and productions, fundraising, and running my own dance company.” —Lynn Armitage

A NEW ADVENTURE
Ron Turner ’79, former alumni director and major gift fundraiser, could have a second career as a stand-up comic. Or so it seemed at his retirement celebration in the atrium of Brousseau Hall in late June. He and Brother Dominic Berardelli kept a large crowd of friends laughing with their stories of travels together raising money for Saint Mary’s. Numerous others stepped up to the mic to attest to Turner’s love for and unflagging efforts on behalf of the College and its students. It was obvious that in his 32 years at Saint Mary’s College, Turner had formed strong friendships with students, alumni, donors, and colleagues, many of whom attended the celebration to wish him well on his new adventure.

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Avi Scher ’15, who works at the Clinton Global Initiative, is on a first-name basis with Chelsea Clinton, a board member for the School of American Ballet where Scher studied. She had attended some of his productions.
The Accidental Artist

Lisa Congdon ’90 never meant to be a fine artist, illustrator, or even an author. But fate had different plans for this history major and former elementary school teacher.

“When I was 31 years old, my brother asked me to take a painting class with him,” said Congdon, describing her journey to artistic celebrity. “I hadn’t picked up a paintbrush since I was a kid, but that class changed my life.”

While Congdon admits to being a “terrible painter” at first, painting quickly became a hobby. By day, she was the program director for a nonprofit organization; at night and on weekends, she perfected her talent in her art studio. That passion and dedication paid off. After five years, her art started getting noticed through her blog. “I got requests from people who wanted to buy my pieces or show them in galleries.”

In 2010, her career took off. Today, this contemporary artist and illustrator is well known for colorful abstract paintings, line drawings, and hand lettering. She also designs wallpaper and fabric, and has many blue-ribbon clients, such as Martha Stewart Living and New York City’s Museum of Modern Art. “I love making beautiful things that people get excited about.”

Congdon also creates art through the written word as the author and illustrator of six books, including one due out next spring. “Books have become a big part of my life and will continue to be,” she said. Her latest book of hand-lettered inspirational quotations, *Fortune Favors the Brave*, follows Whatever You Are, Be a Good One.

Lisa Congdon ’90 credits Saint Mary’s and especially the Great Books program with her love for reading and writing. Her new hand-lettered book, *Fortune Favors the Brave*, follows Whatever You Are, Be a Good One.

WRITE ON

In July 2014, a small group of graduates of the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program launched *The East Bay Review*, an independent literary magazine that publishes fiction, poetry, comics, essays, new journalism, and book reviews. “We saw there was a vacuum in the East Bay for independent journals,” said Editor-in-Chief Jeff Chon M.F.A. ’13, who teaches composition at SMC. Chon said the all-volunteer group thought, “Why not us? Why can’t we champion literature from this region and beyond?” The magazine, whose tagline is “This is the epicenter. Be about it,” publishes quarterly online issues.

EVENTS

OCTOBER

4–April 24 William Keith: The Hetch Hetchy Saga
Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art
14 Jazz Band Concert
7:30 p.m., Soda Center
24 Men’s Basketball Tip-Off Dinner
Soda Center
30 Henning Institute Awards Luncheon
Noon, Soda Center

NOVEMBER

5–8 Chaste (an awful comedy)
LeFevre Theatre
7 Pat Vincent Rugby Dinner
6 p.m., Soda Center
12 Dine with Alums
6 p.m., Soda Center

DECEMBER

5 Christmas Celebration at The St. Regis
6 p.m., St. Regis San Francisco
9 Sacramento Alumni Chapter Christmas Party
6 p.m., Chicago Fire Pizza, Sacramento
10 East Bay Alumni Chapter Christmas Party
6 p.m., 1515 Restaurant and Lounge, Walnut Creek

JANUARY

21 Beat the Zags Pregame Tailgate Party
McKeon Pavilion Lawn
23 Annual Car Drawing

FEBRUARY

13 Alumni Awards Dinner
Soda Center
27 M.F.A. Benefit Raffle
Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco

MARCH

WCC Tournament Alumni Parties
17 Annual Saint Patrick’s Day Luncheon
11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Dante Club, Sacramento

For more up-to-date information on the alumni events listed above: stmarys-ca.edu/alumnievents.
IN MEMORIAM

We lost a classic, bighearted Gael on May 4 with the passing of Joseph Louis Casalnuovo ’50. An enthusiastic advocate for young people and the power of education to change lives, he rallied his classmates to establish a scholarship fund for their 50th reunion in 2000. The former Saint Mary’s student body president convinced his classmates, a quirky mix of high school graduates and World War II veterans, that they could bring together their mostly modest contributions and create something powerful. And they did. The Class of 1950’s Millennium Scholarship Fund now totals more than $600,000, providing tuition for students in need.

Michael Willens ’04, the first scholarship recipient, said, “He was a great man and holds a special place in all our hearts. I am very thankful to have known him and thankful for the impact he had on my life.”

Joe was born in 1927 in San Vito Lo Capo, Sicily, and in 1934 he and his family came to San Francisco, where he grew up in North Beach. He met and married the love of his life, Lorraine Reiter, while at Saint Mary’s. He served in the U.S. Army; graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley; and practiced law for 36 years as a founding partner at Molinari, Casalnuovo & Berger, and on his own for 16 years.

Joe and Lorraine, both passionately committed to sustainability, lived for 55 years in Marin County, where they raised eight children and a lush 2-acre garden whose bounty they gave away in colorful bundles.

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It was a joyful celebration on July 10 when a large group of family and friends gathered at Queen of All Saints Church to remember Mary Candida Garaventa, a beloved matriarch and friend, who died on June 29.

This Italian mother of five—and "Nonni" to her 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren—was born in Colma on January 15, 1924, to Andrea and Maria (Devincenzi) Moresco and lived in San Francisco and later Concord, where she graduated from Mt. Diablo High School. She and her late husband, Silvio Garaventa, Sr., were married in Concord at Queen of All Saints Church and made their home in that East Bay city.

With their family’s success, the Garaventas created the Silvio and Mary Garaventa Foundation and made many gifts to colleges and universities, including Saint Mary’s, and to other organizations and needs, including ALS research.

A major donation from the foundation funded the building of SMC’s Mary Candida Garaventa Hall and the Garaventa soccer field and contributed significantly to the building of Filippi Academic Hall, which houses the Kalmanovitz School of Education. “They also contributed in many ways to other initiatives,” said Brother Dominic Berardelli, who knows the family well and was good friends with Mary.

The celebration, lovingly planned by her children, reflected “the gracious, patient, very warm and welcoming person that she was,” said Brother Dominic, who carried Mary’s rosary beads on a pillow in the procession. “She was a very religious woman who said the rosary every day.” Monsignor Richard Mangini officiated, with participation by Bishop Emeritus John Cummins and his eminence William Cardinal Levada.

Mary was a passionate cook “with two kitchens in her home,” Brother Dominic said, “and a huge table so she could fit everyone in the family around it for her dinners, especially on the high holy days of the Church.” The symbols of remembrance in the liturgy included a ravioli rolling pin, a focaccia tray, playing cards, and a Manhattan drink. Mary loved to play cards and had a beautiful singing voice. “She had great joy in life,” Brother Dominic said. “And family always came first.”

Mary is survived by her children, Louisa Garaventa Binswanger ’77, Silvio Garaventa, Jr., Cookie Garaventa Adler, Joseph Garaventa, and Linda Garaventa Colvis ’83. They like to think of their mother now singing with the angels in God’s loving presence.
1955
Thomas Spring has been a Marianist Brother for 63 years and has taught high school and college for some 50 years. In retirement he reads, walks, tutors math at Chaminade University of Honolulu, prays a lot, sings in the Chaminade Community Chorus, acts Chaminade Community's dramas and community Chorus, acts in some of Chaminade’s dramas and volunteers around the Chaminade campus.

1957
On Dec. 19, 2014, Larry DeAngelo finally had a chance to see a Saint Mary’s Gaels basketball game. The Gaels women’s basketball team played the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. At halftime, he had a chance to wish the coach good luck. Larry hadn’t been able to see a Saint Mary’s basketball game since graduating in 1957 and entering the Navy in 1958. He retired in Virginia Beach from the Navy in 1979. Although he has visited the West Coast many times, it was always in the summer or fall before the basketball season began. Larry thoroughly enjoyed the game, even though the Gaels lost. He hopes to be around for the next Gaels Reunion.

1972
Michael Genovese, longtime political science professor at Loyola Marymount University, author of over 40 books, and chair of the university’s Institute for Leadership Studies, has been named president of the World Policy Institute at Loyola Marymount University. The World Policy Institute is a renowned think tank focusing on crucial but neglected challenges and opportunities of an increasingly connected world.

1980
Angela Backers feels blessed to have served as an Alameda County prosecutor for 31 years, and last year was recognized with a national lifetime achievement award for integrity and excellence. In 2014, she was honored as the California District Attorney’s Association Instructor of the Year. Angela is the proud mother of Kate, who just graduated from college in Switzerland, and her son, Luke, who just began his college career. She has been married to the love of her life, Harold, for 27 magical years and is grateful every day for being a wife, a mother, and for being able to serve victims of crime. “Do what you love!”

1985
Rik Floyd EMBA has associated with Foster Thornton, LLC, a private fiduciary company based in the Carmel Valley area of San Diego. Rik brings decades of experience in business management and commercial real estate, as well as advising high net worth individuals, families, and small businesses. He recently became a California Licensed Professional Fiduciary and earned two management certificates from Cal State Fullerton. Rik also holds a B.S. in economics from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

2 Kevin Leader was appointed as the newest member of the Federal Reserve Bank Economic Advisory Council. Kevin is principal vice president and treasurer of Bechtel Corporation, a San Francisco–based global engineering and construction company. He joined Bechtel in 2001 as director of corporate finance. Before that, he spent more than 15 years in corporate banking, most recently as a managing director at Bank of America. He serves on the board of CORO Center for Civic Leadership, the Chabot Space and Science Center’s Foundation Board, and is a member of the Investment Committee for the Diocese of Oakland. Kevin has a B.S. in finance and accounting from Saint Mary’s College and an M.B.A. from Santa Clara University.

1986
The Nevada District office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has selected 3 Dave Archer, EE, EMBA ’88, as the 2015 recipient of the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, given to someone who has shown initiative, collaboration, and leadership in fostering the development of small businesses in Nevada in education, financing, or mentoring. Dave is president and CEO of NCET, a Nevada nonprofit that produces events to help individuals and businesses use technology. Dave also co-founded the Reno Angels and is chair of Entrepreneurship Nevada.

1988
Mike Brodick EE has been working as a logistics professional for the past 30 years. He received an M.B.A. in 2000 from University of Phoenix. Today, Mike is semi-retired, working with the Wounded Warrior Project and other veterans associations. He sponsored a benefit concert in August for the project and the Indy Fund.

1995
Steve Redding EE recently received a national safety award from the American Gas Association recognizing him for his outstanding contributions to improving the safety of Pacific Gas and Electric’s natural gas system. Steve, a resident of the East Bay, is the director of leak management for PG&E and has pioneered the use of cutting-edge technology at the company to keep customers and communities safe.
SNAPSHOTS

Bob Cone and his wife, Joan, recently completed their second Camino de Santiago de Compostela hike. They started with the Chemin de St. Jacques in France, which ends at the beginning of the Camino de Santiago. On their 61-day, 1,000-mile hike, they carried full packs, stayed in a variety of accommodations, met pilgrims from many countries, and strengthened their 46-year marriage. Anyone interested in hiking the Camino can contact Bob at bobcone1@gmail.com.

Pictured are Bob and his wife, Joan.

1966

FALL 2015
2002
6 Megan Bryan and fellow women’s lacrosse alumnae get their families together often! Pictured are the children of Carrie Moore Duffy, Heidi Eimers Vasarhely, Regan Lebherz Musgrave ’03, Jackie (Reiter) McMahon ’03, Liz (Roberts) Graziani, and Meghan (Jones) Whittacre ’00, ECR ’01.

2004
7 Jim Cooper ML was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2014 and took office on Dec. 1, 2014. Jim represents the 9th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Galt, and Lodi. Cooper served 30 years with the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department and retired as a captain. He also served for 14 years on the Elk Grove City Council as mayor and council member.

2006
8 Andy Hnilo was hit by a car four years ago in Los Angeles, he shattered his jaw, broke seven ribs, and suffered a collapsed lung. During his recovery, he developed a clay mask that restored his skin. He still markets the mask today through his company, Alitura Naturals. For more about Andy, look for the story about him in the spring 2016 issue of this magazine.

2007
9 Pat Cayabyab was recently honored to be among the top half of 1 percent of agents in the nation to be named to the President’s Council of Farmers Insurance. His agency has garnered other recognitions, but none as highly regarded as the President’s Council. Pat feels truly privileged to be a part of this prestigious group and believes Saint Mary's, where he graduated with a B.S. in Economics and Business Administration, played a large part in these milestones in his career.

2010
10 Juan Alvarado Valdivia’s (MFA) first book, ¡Cancerlandia!: A Memoir, was released in September by the University of New Mexico Press. With guidance from his mentors—Mari lyn Abildskov and Wesley Gibson (aka his memoir godparents)—Juan began to write his book during the second year of his M.F.A. studies while undergoing treatment for Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Comic and unsparing, ¡Cancerlandia! chronicles his journey back to the kingdom of the well, including his time at Saint Mary’s. The book is available for purchase through IndieBound, Powell Books, or Amazon.

11 Annalisa Diaz, a Saint Mary’s parent and employee, is proud to announce the marriage of her daughter, Alison Schienbein, to Daniel Clark on the Soda Center Plaza of Saint Mary’s College. Alison graduated with a Ph.D. in physical therapy from UOP in Stockton in 2013. Alison works at Lafayette Physical Therapy as a physical therapist and Daniel works at Lexus of Concord as a mechanic. Alison and Daniel met 10 years ago when they both worked in the Encina Plaza located in Walnut Creek. The happy couple resides in Pittsburg.

2012
12 Melissa (Campbell-McIntosh) Capozzoli and her husband, Jason, welcomed a baby boy in March. He joins three older sisters. Melissa and her family currently live in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., in northern Virginia.
2005
Melissa (McKeever) Barrow married Chris Barrow in Reno on Jan. 17. They had a Giants-Dodgers-themed wedding and continue to enjoy their fun-natured rivalry at home. Melissa also began a job at the Presentation Center nestled in Los Gatos, as its new manager of advancement.

The couple has enjoyed coaching their daughters’ softball teams this season, and the family has become even more softball-obsessed. Pictured are Chris and Melissa on their wedding day, complete with a personalized scoreboard at the Reno Aces Ballpark.
Window

I am sitting in a Starbucks at the intersection of Battery and Clay on a hazy Monday morning. I've claimed a coveted seat beside the window, a station from which I feel safe. It is my second week at a new job. It isn't going poorly, but it isn't going well.

On the other side of the glass, a woman in a wheelchair wears an off-white jacket and gray and pink tennis shoes, a plaid blanket on her legs, stocking cap perched on her head. In her lap is a Subway sandwich, a coffee cup, a paper sack, and then nothing.

In one hand she holds a red folder marked with blue Sharpie. It reads “NEED $, Can you help?” There is a list of suggestions: food, gift cards, and a third I can't make out. I don’t want to stare that long, don’t want to see her the way she wants to be seen. Instead, I sit sipping my latte.

I have been struggling with my own sense of power. I feel unseen shoved in a small stuffy office with a sticky second-hand keyboard and a printer that is always out of toner. I feel helpless. Useless.

The woman outside rips flakes of pastry from a butter croissant, tossing them to a party of pigeons. Three or four gather. A fifth stays all morning, even after the pastry is gone. Like the leper who came back to say thank you.

I take another sip of latte and stare into the screen of my Chromebook, the window through which I view a world where it is easy to hide what I don’t want to see.

One week later I am at BART. My hands grope for my wallet as I rush down the stairs. Why can’t I find my wallet? Three feet from the turnstile I remember I’d put it in my gym bag that morning. No money. No cards. I’m stranded in the city.

“Of course,” says the big man with the tan skin and dark hair, pulling two quarters from his pocket, handing them off with a smile.

“Thank you,” I say. “Thank you so much.”

Weeks later, I cross the intersection of Battery and Clay and pass the woman in the wheelchair. Today she is wearing a dark green sweatshirt, no stocking cap. I drop a “good morning” as I move toward the door and she catches it in her tiny blue eyes. I ask if she’d like something and she wonders if she can have a gift card. I hesitate, explain that I’m paying with an app on my phone. I’m not sure if I can get gift cards. We settle on an extra caramel caramel macchiato.

“My name is Cindy,” she says, offering a thin hand.

“Amanda,” I say, taking it.

The light in Cindy’s voice surprises me on a morning I was planning for clouds. She marvels that I can purchase coffee from my phone. I marvel at it myself. We chat and I end up telling her about the day I lost my wallet, the day I was stranded at BART.

“What did you do?” she asks, as if she believes I might not make it.

“I had to beg for money,” I say, the words just slipping out.

“Good for you,” says Cindy. “That takes a lot of chutzpah.”

I say I suppose it does, doesn’t it? And I think chutzpah is somehow a balance for humility.

I go into Starbucks, sit down by the window, and open my Chromebook. I write about my experience with Cindy. On my way out I order an extra caramel caramel macchiato and pay for it with my phone.
LIVE SIMPLY
TEACH PASSIONATELY
PRAY DEEPLY
STAND WITH THE POOR

10,000 of you will make this possible.
Be part of possible. stmarys-ca.edu/possible

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BrothersVocation.org
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TELL THEM ABOUT OUR ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE FALL PREVIEW DAYS.
Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2016.
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or (800) 800-4762
A Capitol Event

A capacity crowd of alumni, friends, and elected officials gathered at the state capitol in July for an event hosted by President James Donahue (center), pictured here with Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León (right) and Assemblymember Jim Cooper, M.A. Leadership ’04. The president invited state legislators to turn to resources available to them at Saint Mary’s College, and De León praised Donahue’s leadership in lobbying for Cal Grants.