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A New President

I really felt that the inauguration captured the essence, the very best of Saint Mary’s. And I think the community got a very clear sense of who I am. It felt good to present myself in ways that were authentic to me. This event also brought together all the pieces of my life—my family, my friends and the people who have been part of my professional life for many years. It was a wonderful couple of days.
LETTERS

THE OLD SAINT MARY’S TRAIN STATION

I was just reading the fall 2013 Saint Mary’s magazine and taken by the photograph on page 2. It seems as though you are suggesting that the photograph is of Lionel Holmes ’41, but the photo looks much too familiar to me, although I could be mistaken. I think it may have been taken in the 1950s and that the student shaking the hand of the locomotive engineer is DeWitt James Robbeloth ’58. The train at that time no longer carried passengers, but it still ran by the campus but ended just about when those of us in the class of 1958 were about to end our senior yearbook picture.

Please check the files of The Colligan and see when that photo was actually taken, who took it, and who the student is.

Thanks,

MICHAEL MASE ’58
Portland, Ore.

WOW, HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

You’ve all made this “voice” of SMC into a most interesting publication. The article “WOW! Beginning With A Bang” in the fall Saint Mary’s magazine made me think back to my campus arrival as a freshman in 1951. I was from Ferndale—270 miles north of Moraga—but when I was accepted to attend, I put my faith in the Christian Brothers that indeed the college existed, for I had never seen it. In those days, campus visitations by high schoolers were pretty much limited to campuses close by, or perhaps colleges near relations that you might visit on holidays. I originally planned to attend Humboldt State College, 20 miles from Ferndale. But Joseph Bertain ’51, a senior from nearby Scotia—as convincing a Gael as ever I would meet—changed my mind. (A scholarship helped). Long after being accepted at Saint Mary’s, I took a July trip to the Bay Area to look over what I had chosen for my next four years. A bus took me from the San Francisco YMCA, where I stayed, to Orinda. I then walked from Orinda to the campus in the heat of a July day that parched my throat and feet. I recall meeting the then Dean of Students, Brother Cassian, and must have been given food and drink. A return trip by foot to Orinda had no appeal, and for the first time in my life, I hitchhiked. “WOW!” described today’s almost herculean task of moving freshmen, with their many boxes containing the necessities of life, into their new Gael “digs.” It took me back to August day in 1951, when my friend Hugh Bower, a junior Gael from Rio Dell in Humboldt County and my “chauffeur” (juniors and seniors could have cars), pulled up to the back of Augustine Hall, then housing both freshmen and sophomores of the 250 male student campus. He opened the trunk, and I pulled out my one suitcase and headed into the spartan quarters where not even a radio was allowed. Telephones? One on each floor in a central booth. Television? One set in the lounge of De La Salle Hall, the dorm for juniors and seniors. But the education! It couldn’t have been better.

I went from SMC to UCLA for graduate studies, gaining the chemistry doctorate in 1959. Always wanting to be a teacher, I found an opening in the “enemy camp,” with the Jesuits at St. Peter’s College in Jersey City, N.J., where I worked for 20 years. First I taught chemistry and later became academic dean, the first non-Jesuit in that role at the college. In 1981, I went to Western Connecticut State University in Danbury as dean of arts and sciences for six years, then acquired a library degree and remained at WCSU as a librarian until retirement in 1999. I am now deep into those retirement years, which Italians call la terza vita. It’s been good so far.

Thanks very much.

MICHAEL MASE ’58
Richmond, Va.

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The Saint Mary’s College Lahore Campus education requires learning that has meaning. The College’s rigorous education engages minds and spirit while awakening the desire to transform society. We are all learners—together, working to understand and shape the world. For more information, see saintmarys.edu.

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The Saint Mary’s College Lahore Campus is a private, non-sectarian university offering both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The College is located in the heart of Lahore, Pakistan, providing a unique educational environment that encourages independent thinking and growth.

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In 1960, Joe Casalnuovo ’50 and his wife, Lorraine, purchased what you could say was a little piece of heaven in Sleepy Hollow near San Anselmo. “We were looking for a place to build a home,” Joe said. “Just the name, Sleepy Hollow, sold me.” But the spot also was surrounded by golden hills—a perfect place to raise a growing family. The two-acre parcel they later bought six more and built their home in 1975 had once been part of Rancho Cañada de Herrera, a 6,658-acre land grant in 1838 from General Mariano Vallejo to a San Francisco Presidio soldier. Over time, the rancho was home to elegant mansions, dairy farms, a 1930s golf course and a secret storage site for WWII ammunition.

“We still turn up golf balls and pipes in the garden,” said Joe, a retired real estate attorney. And what a garden it is. The Casalnuovos’ now two-acre parcel is filled with a wondrous variety of fruit trees—from apples to figs, pomegranate, jujube and persimmons—as well as grapevines, holly, prickly pear cactus and herbs. “But the flowers are my pride and joy,” Joe said, smiling. On the sunny day we visited the Casalnuovos, Lorraine gathered for us large bouquets of dahlias, lilies, gladiolas and roses and bags full of fruit.

Joe and Lorraine now engage helpers in maintaining their expansive garden. Their grandson, Anthony Braddick ’14, stayed one summer to help in the garden and work on his educational research studies. Unexpected help came from torrential rains and a mudslide that carried the prickly pear down from the hillside where the Casalnuovos had planted it, to the edge of their garden where it’s easier to pick. “Mother Nature helped us out there,” Joe said.

Powered by solar panels on the roof, the sprawling, sand-colored Casalnuovo home where Joe and Lorraine raised eight children seems to belong in the landscape, and reflects the values the couple hold dear. “We disagreed with the architect over the construction of the house,” Lorraine said. “We wanted an open plan, with a big kitchen connected to the dining room.” They weren’t building houses like that then, but Joe and Lorraine envisioned huge tables full of relatives for holidays, with the kitchen open to all the festivity. The family photos everywhere in the house show how well their plan worked.

In fact, a wall in the den is covered with family photos, from Joe’s Italian immigrant father, his brother Sal, a beloved San Francisco barber, to the children and grandchildren who have filled their home with laughter and devotion. “We’ve been pretty lucky,” Joe said.
Mulvaneys Challenge Gaels
Engage ‘Head, Heart and Hands’ in support of service-learning

Tom and Karen Mulvaneys have seen first-hand the impact a Saint Mary’s service-learning experience can have on students, starting with their own daughter’s trip to Rwanda during the 2013 Jan Term.

“Rwanda changed me in ways I could have never imagined,” said Marguerite “Meg” Mulvany ‘13. “There is so much hope and love in Rwanda, that it is impossible to not be inspired by the people and everything around you.”

The course, taught by CILSA staff member Ryan Lambert and Professor James Losi, illustrates how CILSA’s Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action helps faculty shape courses that combine academic and service-learning leadership opportunities for students.

Meg’s parents witnessed the profound effect of her Rwanda experience on her life and, after learning about the benefits of CILSA, decided to create the Mulvany Family Head, Heart and Hands Endowment Fund, starting with a seed gift of $250,000. But that gift is just the beginning. They have also promised to match gifts to the endowment—up to $50,000 per year over the next five years, for a total of $500,000.

“We hope our gift can expand opportunities for more students, inspire other families to support the program and, overall, help Saint Mary’s students make a positive impact in society,” said Karen Mulvaneys.

Through CILSA, students and faculty logged more than 42,000 hours of service during the 2012-13 academic year. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics values every hour of service at $21.79, making CILSA’s contribution to the community last year equal to nearly $1 million, and at least $9 million over its 13-year history.

Now, the Mulvaney Fund will enable Saint Mary’s to expand CILSA’s summer outreach programs for students whose classes and work schedules during the academic year don’t leave room for their participation in service-learning programs.

The Mulvaneys’ gift is a powerful seed, said CILSA Director Marshall Welch. “It will continue to grow as other friends of CILSA provide additional contributions. As a result, this gift and the contributions of others to the Fund will further Saint Mary’s Lasallian mission, our outreach will expand and our student leaders will be empowered,” Welch said.

“It is a tremendous thing that Saint Mary’s is trying to achieve, in creating a culture of service in its students,” said Tom Mulvaney. “We wholeheartedly support that effort.”

You can be a part of this effort by joining the Mulvaneys in creating opportunities for students like Meg. Learn more about the Mulvany Family Head, Heart and Hands Endowment Fund and how to contribute: stmarys-ca.edu/headhearthands
Happiness and Poetry

A love for words and old typewriters

What makes you happy? Is it watching reruns of NCIS all weekend, gardening, kayaking or cooking authentic French cuisine?

Everyone has that specific “thing” that offers a taste of pure happiness, that makes waking up every morning worthwhile.

For Matthew Zapruder, Saint Mary’s new assistant professor of English, leaving the world of dreams and waking up early in the morning to drink a warm cup of coffee and write poems for a few hours is pure happiness. Now to the Saint Mary’s family, he hopes to bring his passion for poetry to his students and the community.

Zapruder brings an extensive poetic background to the English Department and the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program. He has published four collections; the most recent is “Come On All You Ghosts” (Graywolf Press), which explores the interplay between language and the world of dreams, and this spring Zapruder will hit bookstores. His work has appeared in “The New Yorker,” “Harper’s,” “The Paris Review,” “The American Poet,” and elsewhere, and won numerous awards, including the William Carlos Williams Award, the Sun Yat-sen Prize, the Patrons’ Prize, and the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program of the University of California at Irvine.

In this interaction, readers feel they are “finally grasping something that was elusive, just out of reach of language, for a moment.” The result is what he calls “the poetic state of mind.”

And he believes that state of mind is something everyone should experience. “Through the poem,” he said, “people can make contact with some necessary level of understanding about life that would not have been possible without the poem, or poetry.” It is in this mindset, and in these poetic moments, that Zapruder finds his happiness. “A poem,” he said, “is a machine for producing the poetic state of mind.” —Josephine Kirk ’14

West Coast Premiere Shines

The paradox of intelligence is that as we mature mentally, we ask more questions, only to find fewer answers. Playwright Laura Jacqmin—who came to Saint Mary’s in November for Performing Arts’ West Coast premiere of And when we awoke there was light and light—populates her play with such tough questions and complicated characters.

The play, set in Evanston, Ill., centers on the relationship between Katie, an ambitious high school senior, and David, a Ugandan citizen on the run and running out of time. After forming an online friendship with David because it’s the right thing to do and also because it might give her an edge on her college applications—Katie learns that he had been a child soldier. This revelation calls everything into question and threatens their friendship.

Katie, played by Kentaley McCurdy ’16, is forced to make decisions with people pulling her in different directions. Whether it’s her mom and dad, played by Hayley Letman ’14 and Joseph Klink ’14, or the lighthearted complexity of her English teacher, played by Oliver Reyes ’15, all the characters find themselves and are making the new Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center possible. The new state-of-the-art student fitness facility is scheduled to open in the spring of 2015.
Making Saint Mary’s History in Tennis

With just one year of college left, women’s tennis player Jenny Jullien returned to campus this fall with one thing on her mind. Make it count.

Last season, Jullien joined Alex Poorta as the only Gaels ever to be named West Coast Conference (WCC) Player of the Year. Jullien climbed as high as No. 17 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) singles rankings, making her the program’s highest-ranked player ever. And she joined Poorta as the only Gaels ever to compete in the NCAA Singles Tournament.

The native of Perpignan, France, came back to Moraga this fall with more success on her mind. College tennis is a spring sport for the team, and most players use the fall tournament circuit to prepare for what’s ahead.

To Jullien, the fall represented an opportunity to get better. She began the season ranked No. 22 and won her first two matches at the ITA All-American Championships. A few weeks later, she entered the ITA Northwest Regional at Stanford as the No. 6 seed and again made Saint Mary’s history, winning her first five matches to become the first Gael ever to reach the final of an ITA Regional event. That result earned her an invitation to the USTA/ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., making her one of just 52 players from across the country and one of just two from the WCC to make the trip east.

“ITA Regionals was a revelation for me,” Jullien said. “It was like, after three years, I finally realized I belong with the top players from the region. Not only could I compete with them, but I could also beat them.”

Jullien certainly isn’t finished making Saint Mary’s history. She began the spring ranked No. 7 in the country, raising the bar she’d already set as Saint Mary’s highest-ranked tennis player ever. She’ll again play the No. 1 spot in the lineup for head coach Lisa Alipaz this spring, and will look to continue her success, as well, as the Gaels try to punch their ticket to the NCAA Tournament for the fifth year in a row.

- Ben Enos, SMC Athletics

Maybe It Is Personal

Emotional intelligence in the workplace

“The first rule is to know thyself,” said Jessica Weatherford, managing partner at performance acceleration consultancy, Marble Arch, at a professional workshop offered by the School of Economics and Business Administration (SEBA) last fall. At the event titled, Emotional Intelligence: Your Personal Competitive Advantage, students learned how to better manage their emotions in the workplace and capitalize on increasing their professional self-awareness and empathy.

Indeed, becoming more aware of your mental state and the stimuli that affect it is at the core of emotional intelligence. If people become more aware and in control of their emotional states, it will be easier for them to express their emotions and react to interpersonal relationships with empathy and a level head, explained Weatherford.

While the advantages of having greater mental clarity in the business world are obvious, Weatherford’s seminar outlined specific, step-by-step processes to help professionals achieve this lucidity. Among these practices are the “Pivot Process,” a four-step mental exercise that can prevent workplace conflict before it starts and defuse it once it does, and the “Transformational Conversation,” an eight-step guide to addressing a problematic topic in a healthy, respectful way. Both techniques begin with professional self-awareness and empathy.

Weatherford also discussed the relationship between emotional intelligence and the success of managers and business leaders. “Empathy is especially important in the modern workplace,” she said Weatherford. “As global business continues to grow and we shift to a service economy, being able to understand what the person on the other side of the table is thinking and feeling is incredibly valuable.”

75 YEARS OF GIVING

The Saint Mary’s Guild—founded in 1939 to assist students and support the Chapel and the library—is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The organization’s primary focus in recent years has been fundraising to support two scholarship funds for undergraduates: the Annual Guild Scholarship Fund and the Brother Albert Plotz Endowed Memorial Scholarship. The Guild’s aim during its “Diamond” anniversary year is to bring the endowment back to its prerecession $1 million plus. Watch the Saint Mary’s events calendar for Guild activities.

TRIUMPH AND CHALLENGES

Ron Isetti says he’s never been happier. The professor emeritus of history who taught for 35 years at Saint Mary’s has just published his latest book—On These Promising Shores of the Pacific: A History of Saint Mary’s College.

“I get to do all the things I want to do,” said Isetti from his home in Palm Springs. “I love to read—I read. I love to write—I write.”

It took five years to produce this detailed account of SMC’s triumphs and challenges. If Isetti, once a Christian Brother himself, used notes from his earlier book on the Christian Brothers in California, plus archives at SMC, Mont La Salle and Rome.

The big surprise, Isetti said of his research, was how close Saint Mary’s came to going down then.

“Today, Isetti sees a distinguished faculty and a hearty spirit,” said Isetti. “The College dry, and we could have gone down then.”

“I set my mind down then,” said Isetti. “I said, ‘I don’t want to do this anymore unless we can do this.’

Today, Isetti sees a beautiful campus, a distinguished faculty and a growing enrollment. “It looks very much as it did when the College was founded,” said Isetti, “you can’t let the present state tell how you look at the past.”

At press time we’ve learned that Saint Mary’s Rugby is now ranked number one in the nation.
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

On Veterans Day, a memorial Mass in the Saint Mary’s Chapel honored the College’s and the community’s veterans. Joe Buenavista M.B.A ’04, a U.S. Navy veteran, read the names of fallen veterans, and, following Mass, Russ Harrison, a Marine Corps veteran and former chair of the SMC Board of Trustees, hosted a luncheon. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Benjamin F. Montoya, U.S. Navy (Ret.).

SPRING 2014

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AWARD

Professor Myrna Santiago received the 2013–14 Distinguished Professor Award from the Mexican Academy of Science and the Mexico—U.S. Foundation for Science. Under the auspices of the highly competitive award, Santiago gave a series of lectures on the oil industry at several Mexican universities in January, and conducted a seminar with and advised graduate students studying the topic. The sponsoring institution for Santiago’s activities in Mexico was the Center for Research and Graduate Studies in Social Anthropology. Santiago’s book, The Ecology of Oil: Environment, Labor and the Mexican Revolution, 1900–1938, was published in 2009.

COMMENTARY

Who Is Jerry Brown?

An exploration of his leadership and style

Is California’s longest-serving governor an idealist or a scrappy, bare-knuckles politician? A visionary trailblazer or a calculating opportunist?

A symposium at Saint Mary’s on Governor Jerry Brown: Leadership & Legacy examined the impact of one of the Golden State’s most iconic political leaders and found plenty of evidence for all those descriptions.

Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr. is “a bundle of contradictions,” said panelist Chuck McFadden, who studied the governor in depth for his recent book, Trailblazer: A Biography of Jerry Brown. “He’s an idealist, a gritty politician and one of the most opportunistic politicians to ever appear,” McFadden said.

Carla Marinucci, senior political reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, agreed that the state’s youngest and oldest governor is a study in polar opposites. “What can you say about a guy who worked with Mother Teresa and studied The Art of War by Sun Tzu?”

Brown’s youthful idealism could be attributed to spiritual interests—studying for the priesthood and exploring Buddhism, said panelist Ronald Isetti, professor emeritus of history. And a close Brown advisor, former Christian Brother Leroy Chatfield, worked alongside Cesar Chavez in the United Farm Workers movement. The result, Isetti said, is “apparent in [Brown’s] simple, almost monkish, lifestyle and his concern for social justice.”

The panel discussed the contrast between that young idealist governor (1975–1983) and the more subdued Brown today, who took a hard-nosed approach to eliminating the state’s $16 billion debt and has been accused of flip-flopping on such issues as gun control, labor rights and the environment.

BY GREG CLARK
Beer Culture

My appreciation for good beer and beer culture began at an early age. My mother is German, and when we lived in Germany, I couldn’t help but notice the importance beer had in that culture. The presentation of beer was often reverential and beer was given a place at the table. Where I returned to the United States in the early 1980s, this wasn’t the mindset for most Americans. Changing that has been my passion.

In the spring of 1997, I had the opportunity to serve my apprenticeship at the Brewery in Walnut Creek, Tabernash Brewing Company in Denver. The company decided that I should continue my brewing studies in Munich. After finishing the course, I managed to land a journeyman position deep in the Bavarian heartland.

In 2002, I was invited to brew for the San Francisco, my hometown. It’s here that I’ve been able to express myself as a brewmaster.

I’m happy to say that, after a quarter-century or so, we craft brewers have changed the American palate for the better, when it comes to beer. We now have a good beer culture in this country!
COURTNEY (CARMIGNANI) LOHMANN ’05, M.A. ’07
SMC Associate Director of Alumni Engagement

I prioritize by what’s most relevant to my life and what I care about—the causes or regions that are important to me. I scroll pretty quickly through information, unsubscribe from e-mails and hold things I don’t want to see on social media. And in terms of what news to pay attention to, it seems like you really have to dig to find actual facts these days. So much of it concerns personal information or speculation, with very little that is actually useful. Sorting it all out actually requires a lot of intentional effort.

CAROLYN HUNTER ’00
Community Involvement Manager, Tetra Tech Inc.

Technology does add a level of convenience to your life. Whatever you think about, you can get on your phone and Google it. But with all the information coming at us now, it’s too easy to lose that face-to-face human connection—the personal interactions that bind us together as coworers, friends and family. Could be we’ve gotten lazy, and I’m guilty of this, too. Instead of picking up the phone or walking over to someone, we send them an e-mail or a text message. I feel like we’re losing that interpersonal touch and aren’t spending any time together anymore.

SUNNY BRADFORD
SMC Director of Learning/Innovation Effectiveness

I filter for my commitments and responsibilities in both work and my personal life. The first thing I look for is information about the people who are dear to me—their joys, their crises. To me, it’s a kind of presence I want to exhibit. And I can make us appear inappropriately indifferent and impolite. Paradoxically, that flood will take your life, but your liberal arts may save you. Information technology annihilates time and space, making it necessary to know who are best at this specialize. This new postindustrial demand off limits with prejudice. Even when that helps deal with the flood, it actually requires a lot of intentional effort.

MICHAEL KREIZENBECK ’87
Political Consultant

That flood will take your life, but your liberal arts may save you. Information technology annihilates time and space, making it necessary to impose basic categories of organization upon the torrent. The people I know who are best at this specialize. This new postindustrial demand for specialization extends beyond work and invades social and family life. I put entire categories of information and certain hours of the day out of bounds with prejudice. Even when that helps deal with the flood, it can make us appear inappropriately indifferent and impolite. Paradoxically, analog understanding and forgiveness are a necessary remedy.

MICHAEL BRISBIN ’84
Attorney and Partner at Wilson Elser

With the explosion of the Internet, 24/7 news cycle, social media and electronic access to practically any news source, it’s difficult to find reliable information that is not sensationalized, slanted or simply wrong. I still receive home delivery from the San Francisco Chronicle five days a week and use it as a base for information. I also have a few go-to websites that I visit daily. I find it is important to be selective about the sources I reference and pick those that are objective, if I want objective analysis. or if slanted, to then understand the slant.

JOEL BAHR M.F.A. ’13
Marketing Specialist for School of Economics and Business Administration

This is scary to admit, but I manage through Twitter, and it’s a tightrope to walk. When describing it, I’ve called Twitter “my own personal newspaper,” and, you know, it really is. The people and news outlets I follow are tailored specifically to how I see the world. In a very real way, Twitter is giving me exactly the news that I think matters. There are times though when Twitter is an echo chamber, and my inherent follow biases limit my ability to see things in a nuanced way. I sacrifice hearing opinions that are challenging (or more accurate) for comfort.

REBECCA ADAM TEAMES ’02
Currently in SMC’s Teaching Credential Program

Because of my responsibilities as a full-time mom and my commitment to the teaching credential program, I really have to triage what comes my way. I make a conscious choice not to pay attention to information gathering while I’m with my kids during the day. I try not to be distracted by my phone, the computer or the TV. Then when I do have my limited time to do that—after the kids’ bedtime—I want to make sure that I get the cleanest, most efficient and accurate information possible, with the least amount of spin.

SARAH VITAL ’00
SMC Reference and Instruction Librarian

There’s so much to look at. It’s taken time to find resources I trust. I want to be curious, learn new things, but also not be overwhelmed. I can’t follow or subscribe to everything, so I rely upon a few information aggregators I like. I might watch a magazine’s Twitter feed to decide what articles I want to look at. Then sometimes I tune them out and unsubscribe for a while because it’s just too much. It’s a balance between curiosity, critical thinking and just basic survival. And I don’t know if I have an answer to it all quite yet.

BRAD FOLEY
SMC Associate Director of Portrait Engagement

My phone has become my No. 1 go-to for information. I use maybe six apps regularly for news and social media updates. I also have about a dozen podcasts for news, comedy, and sports. I listen to whatever I comme during the day. I try not to be distracted by my phone, the computer or the TV. Then when I do have my limited time to do that—after the kids’ bedtime—I want to make sure that I get the cleanest, most efficient and accurate information possible, with the least amount of spin.

MICHAEL BRISBIN ’84
Attorney and Partner at Wilson Elser

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IN OUR HIGH-TECH WORLD, ARE THE LIBERAL ARTS DEAD?

Jason Shellen vividly remembers the moment when his life changed. He had transferred to Saint Mary’s to pursue a degree in art and on a whim, he signed up for a Jan Term class in web publishing. Suddenly, he realized that this new technology could open up a vast audience for his art and his ideas. After he graduated in 1996, he put his newfound web design skills to work to help develop a digital publishing technology that gave...
millions of other people a greater voice; it was called Blogger. Later, he went on to help develop Google Reader, AOL’s instant messaging technology and a string of other digital start-ups. “That one class I took at Saint Mary’s opened all these doors,” Shellen said. In a way, Shellen’s journey is emblematic of the way technology has changed all our lives. And though we may not all be digital entrepreneurs, technology has so permeated our arts and thoughts that it’s almost impossible to think of life in the 21st century without it, from e-mail to the Internet and online shopping to social media.

**LIBERAL ARTS INSPIRE SMC HIGH-TECH ALUMNI**

Interestingly, Saint Mary’s graduates who are actually working in high-tech companies appear to particularly value the liberal arts tradition they encountered at the College.

In fact, Shellen, the art student-turned-tech entrepreneur, says it isn’t web publishing skills that led to his success so much as the entrepreneurial spirit and the habits of mind he acquired at Saint Mary’s. “What really helped me was learning the critical thinking, being able to look at a problem from all angles,” he said. “Problems in business are usually human problems, not product problems,” he continued, adding that “as students of the human condition,” Saint Mary’s graduates should have “a very good road map” to that terrain.

Shellen was among a number of high-tech wunderkind who returned to Saint Mary’s recently to take part in the Communication Department Leadership Speaker Series organized by Communication Professor Father Michael Russo. One of the speakers was Brandi Nabors, who earned an M.B.A. at Saint Mary’s in 2006 and is now chief operating officer of medical software provider Aventura Corp. For her, the College’s broad approach to education was a big draw. “I wanted to be a generalist,” she said. “Having that breadth of vision has really helped me in marketing.”

And Brandon Pierce, another tech veteran, credited the crucible of Seminar and SMC’s Lasallian tradition for paving the way to his success. Pierce graduated in 1993 with majors in communication and history, and has since held senior sales executive positions at Yahoo, Microsoft and Facebook, where he’s now director of mobile partnerships. “The foundation that I got at Saint Mary’s is something that I have today—the confidence to be able to think for myself and put ideas forth in a manner that is both collaborative and ethical,” he said. When these innovators speak of high tech, what seems to energize them most is not the next iteration of code but a larger vision of a world united through technology. Although they concede that there are dangers to such a world, as demonstrated by recent surveillance revelations, they see more promise than peril in the road ahead.

The greatest illustration of democracy in the world is access to information and the ability to have a voice, Pierce said. “Technology is going to make the world smaller. It’s going to give everyone a voice and an ability to share ideas, and that has profound impact on the future that we want to live in.”

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VALUE OF EDUCATION**

But our love affair with all things digital—and the vicissitudes of the Great Recession—has also led a growing legion of commentators to question the value of a traditional liberal arts education.

A new book by William Bennett, secretary of education under President Ronald Reagan, called The College Worth It suggests that more Americans should study science, technology, engineering and math instead of what he calls “irrelevant” subjects. Meanwhile, the web is full of stories about “The Best Majors for a High-Paying Job,” and the White House is pushing a plan to tie government aid for higher education to data on graduation rates and job placements. Some are even predicting that our educational tradition they encountered at the College.

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**AN INFORMATION EXPLOSION**

Indeed, as surely as Gutenberg’s invention of moveable type and the printing press unlocked knowledge long held by the Church and offered it to the masses, fueling an explosion of creativity in the Renaissance, digital technology has led to an enormous democratization of knowledge. About 2.4 billion of the world’s seven billion people regularly use the Internet, according to Forrester Research, including as many as 85 percent of all North Americans. And we’re just at the beginning of this revolution.
As Ed Tywoniak, chair of Saint Mary’s Communication Department, notes, such a staggering increase in access to knowledge is bound to impact educational institutions and views on the value of the liberal arts.

“All great paradigm shifts happen at the clash of large-scale historical shifts. What we’re seeing is the destruction of the 20th-century model of understanding the world and this new 21st-century paradigm emerging. It’s very exciting,” he said.

However, he also believes strongly that the liberal arts, particularly as embodied in Saint Mary’s curriculum, have an essential role in our tech-centered world. After all, as paradigm-shaking as technology is, it’s still just the conduit; the ideas and values that flow through it are the electricity that runs our world. And those ideas and values are embedded in the liberal arts.

“Saint Mary’s is the inheritor of a very rich tradition that began several thousand years ago with the flowering of the Golden Age of Greece and was kept alive for several thousand years through the Catholic Intellectual Tradition,” Tywoniak said. “The fruits of that liberal arts tradition are shared inquiry, which teaches collaborative learning, and critical thinking skills, which allow people to be lifelong learners.

“In the modern technical industry, that’s exactly the kind of person they want,” he said. “Someone who’s quick study, can adapt quickly, and who also can work in a team.”

Employer-Educator Compact last year, signed by 160 prominent employers and 107 college presidents who promised to promote public understanding of the importance of a “21st-century liberal arts education” that fosters “broad and adaptive learning, personal and social responsibility, and intellectual skills.” They also pledged to promote greater access to education, expand hands-on and applied learning, and advocate for “college as a path to both career success and civic responsibility.”

Their well-publicized action served as a reminder that the value of a liberal arts education extends far beyond job skills. After all, it is not the business of education to simply churn out cogs in the wheel of commerce. As Thomas Jefferson pointed out: “The liberal arts remind us that the common good.”

That doesn’t mean turning our backs on technology but combining the best of the liberal arts tradition and the opportunities created by technology.

Advocacy groups are beginning to rise up to spread the word about the liberal arts. Liberal Education & America’s Promise (LEAP) released an Employer-Educator Compact last year, signed by 160 prominent employers and 107 college presidents who promised to promote public understanding of the importance of a “21st-century liberal arts education” that fosters “broad and adaptive learning, personal and social responsibility, and intellectual skills.”

As Steve Jobs once said, “It’s technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the result that makes our heart sing.”
Let’s get this out of the way first. What you’re reading is not a rallying screed for Luddites. We’re cool with technology and everything it does to improve our lives. But we’re not alone in thinking it’s time to get a grip on how digital technology is affecting the human app.

The human app? That’s how educator Abbe Blum refers to the conscious biological entity known as the human being. She taught a Saint Mary’s Jan Term course called The Human App: Transforming Communication in a Post-Human World. The title, which she chose partly in jest, refers to the work of Duke University Professor N. Katherine Hayles, whose specialty is the relationship between science, literature, and technology. Hayles describes the post-human era as a time in which there is no essential difference between our old familiar corporeal existence and a computer simulation, between the human organism and cybernetic mechanisms, or between robotic teleology and human planning. Whoa! Are we there yet?
Luddites were early 19th-century groups of English craftsmen who destroyed textile machinery that threatened to replace them. Today, we use the word to describe anyone opposed to technical change.

Anyone watching news from the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January might have thought so, with all the buzz about wearable devices that hint at the human/cyber alloy science fiction writers predict: smart socks that map how a runner’s foot strikes the road, chip-implanted clothing that scans brain waves and heart rate, and ear buds that track your every move. It’s probably too soon to count on humans embracing these often-clunky devices, because they can peg you as something less than hip. Besides, we have enough problems with the technology we carry around with us today, Blum said. “Mobile devices, in particular, present a distraction and a fire hose of information that can get in the way of our being compassionate listeners, skillful communicators and mindful participants in the world,” she explained.

Look around. People are increasingly navigating a crowded world with their eyes “glued” to a mobile device, according to a study by Flurry Analytics, which has been measuring our use of such devices since way back in 2008, when the iPhone was a precocious one-year-old. They found that Americans spend more than two and a half hours a day looking at their smart phones or tablets. Advertising Age reported recently that American adults now spend more time per day using digital media than watching traditional television, averaging some five hours with their various devices. The fact that more people are watching television programs on their devices than on TVs may qualify that statistic, but never mind. The important issue may not be what we watch or how much time we spend glued to mobile devices, but rather, how and when we use them, and what we are sacrificing in the process. Anthropology Professor Dana Herrera ’97 teaches an undergrad- uate course in the Anthropology of Digital Cultures, part of the new digital literacy minor at Saint Mary’s. Her students last semester focused on what technology is doing to human relationships.

“Everything from day-to-day interactions with people, to how we craft our personas online, what it means to be female or male, and how age impacts how we benefit from and engage with technology,” Herrera’s students also had heated debates over whether it’s OK to break up with someone by texting. “We just don’t have an accepted social norm for doing this,” said Herrera. Remember the Dear John letter? We haven’t figured out how to do the tough stuff—humanely delivering bad news, for example—much less how to incorporate new technology into every aspect of life, Herrera observed. Blum devised her Jan Term course to specifically challenge students to think deeply about how to balance the exigencies of modern life with some pretty important, timeless needs—paying sustained attention, listening carefully and being heard. “That’s always been a difficult art, and I think it’s more difficult with the technology we have today.” So much so, said Professor Linda Saulsby, that it’s difficult to separate ourselves from our devices “and just take quiet, contemplative time to think,” she said. So, Saulsby and James Wood ’70, a former litigation attorney and the president of the Board of Regents, created a Jan Term course in which they and their students would do the unthinkable—disconnect, power off and unplug completely for

The Pew Research Internet Project found that 51 percent of American adults have a mobile phone, 55 percent own a smart phone, and 44 percent of all cell users have slept with their phones so they don’t miss a message.
people don’t like change, and technology has a particular ability to tweak us, which might explain some of the angst we feel about our digital environment, said Herrera. She would rather take a more holistic view of cultural change. People want to jump at the easy answer, the latest boogeyman, to explain social dissonance or violence, she said, when it’s really combinations of multiple factors that create societal reality.

So, is all this the fault of the iPhone and its imitators? Probably not. “Blaming everything on devices doesn’t relieve us of our responsibility to take control of our own lives and make intelligent choices about the things to which we give our conscious attention,” Herrera said. And while it’s too late to turn back—technical progress doesn’t work that way, and why would we want to, with so much to be gained—it is up to us to figure out how to bring balance to the relationship between technology and the human app, Blum said.

It begins with deciding who is leading whom, said Kirthi Nath, a filmmaker, artist and entrepreneur who also taught a Jan Term class with a related theme. “Are you on autopilot or are you part of the navigation?” she asked.

Balance is of particular interest to Nath. She looks at technology as a welcome tool for creative work, but recognizes both its promise and its limitations. The ability of technology to connect people across miles and cultural differences is particularly valuable, she said. “For those of us who are do-gooders, humanitarians, change agents, artists—technology can be a beautiful canvas for making the world a better and brighter place.”

However, it’s too easy to get caught up in the idea that technology starts revolutions. Nath said. “It’s just a tool. We are the force that brings change, that energizes and opens perspective.” Her course—Creative Presence: Cultivating Creativity in the Age of Information—focused on storytelling techniques through various media, combined with mind-body tools—like meditation, visualization and movement—that support creative practice.

Nath finds creative inspiration in social media, in text message exchanges with friends, and incorporates it into her art. And she views as a positive the ability of artists to share their work with others, unshackled by traditional gatekeepers.

However, our tendency to make ourselves constantly available because of smart phones doesn’t serve us, our creative work or the people around us particularly well, Nath observed.

James Wood pointed out that all great art, all great inventions, begin in solitude. “Not a state of being lonely, but being present with yourself, your thoughts and your ideas. Daring to take the risk of solitude creates the opportunity to make something significant,” he said.

Nath credits her awareness practice with keeping balance in her life and her work, but acknowledges that it can sometimes feel challenging. She pointed to “the juicy conversations” going on at Wisdom 2.0—a series of conferences, workshops and meet-ups that address what the organization calls the great challenge of our age: “to not only live connected to one another through technology, but to do so in ways that are beneficial to our own well-being, effective in our work, and useful to the world.” Wisdom 2.0 brings together a who’s who list of technical leaders, capitalists and entrepreneurs with experts in meditation and yoga to discuss how to live with greater wisdom, purpose, and meaning, while also using technology to build a healthy society.

“Technology is neither good nor bad,” Nath said. “It’s how we use it to nourish and support us in our lives, and how we understand when it’s healthy to disengage.”
In our modern, technology-driven society, fast always feels better; more is always more. Social media and 24-hour news channels provide the instant gratification of knowing something now. The Internet, which can be accessed not only from the computers in our homes, but the phones in our hands, can bring us copious amounts of information with the mere swipe of the index finger. But has it made us better, more truly knowledgeable? And what has it done to both our bodies and our minds, our overall sense of wellness?

“Generally, I think as a society, we are more aware of the term ‘wellness’ and maybe even what it is,” said Derek Marks, Saint Mary’s professor of kinesiology. “But I also believe we are still in the dark about how to achieve a certain state of wellness.”

What we think we know about eating well, being fit and looking our best has morphed into things like misguided diets; hyper-rigorous exercise regimens that increase, rather than decrease, stress on the body; and chemical-rich personal care products—all of which may, in fact, be having the opposite impact on our health. We may indeed be less well as a result of our efforts to achieve wellness.

“I believe we are bombarded with the idea that wellness can be bought or achieved over a weekend,” Marks said. “It is a way of living and not a quick fix, or one-size-fits-all approach to health.”

That’s why Marks initiated the De-Evolution of Wellness colloquium on campus last June, a four-day series of presentations that explored how our wellness habits have ‘over-evolved’ into making us sick, in some cases, and how de-evolving will help reverse this trend.

The lecture topics covered material such as myths about nutrition and fat
People are kind of lost," Lambrecht said. "They are so bombarded with information, but they don't know what to do with it. Where did our ideas come from about food and exercise? Are they actually valid?"

Lambrecht posed these questions to Marks as a student in one of his nutrition classes and recommended an e-book that she read by nutritionist Sean Croxton. Marks began teaching from Croxton's book in his class, and the idea for the colloquium was born.

Nathan Brammeier was one of the colloquium presenters, who talked about nutrition and fitness, and the myths that pervade our culture about both.

"Most people want to be healthy," Brammeier said. "But they don't know what a healthy lifestyle looks like. They are just unaware of the facts."

Lakshmi Angela Norwood, a yoga instructor who teaches in Walnut Creek and San Francisco, also said she has seen people "lose their ability to be self-directed and self-guided" when it comes to their approach to wellness.

Norwood sees people with good intentions about their health, but wonder "If it's going to do the right thing for them."

"It's a natural part of our drive to have an elevated experience, and there are things that get in the way of that," Norwood said.

"I believe because our society has become so reliant on quick fixes for so many things, we expect wellness to fall under the same trend," said Tomasa Macapinlac, wellness coach.

"I believe because our society has become so reliant on quick fixes for so many things, we expect wellness to fall under the same trend," Macapinlac said. "There's a desire that comes from loving yourself. It comes from the heart, not what society thinks it should be.""Macapinlac believes too many people approach nutrition and exercise as a means solely to improve their appearance.

Brammeier advocates for good sleeping habits—"as making sure each meal includes a protein, fat and carbohydrate.

"It's an easy measure, but it's not the only measure, and that has to change," Brammeier said. "I'd rather they do it because it's what they want; it's the new fad," Macapinlac said.

"People diet because they want to look good on the outside. Entertainers, for example—a lot of them do it for image. It's not really heart-centered. It's about how they appear to people."

Macapinlac says she sees too much equating of health and wellness with weight, in particular.

"It's an easy measure, but it's not the only measure, and that has to change," Brammeier said. "People need to focus on having a healthier lifestyle overall."
Jane Purinton: Always Learning, Always Teaching

The wife of Saint Mary's new president describes the enlightening and unpredictable journey her life, career and passions have taken.

It's a lot easier to plot your life story if you know who you are. At least that's what Jane Purinton's journey seems to demonstrate. Married to Jim Donahue, Saint Mary's new president, Purinton says she has had the opportunity to reinvent herself multiple times as the couple moved from west to east and back again in pursuit of ways to serve in higher education. But at the core of these transformations lies a solid sense of self.

We met for coffee at Cafe Louis, where she seemed completely at home. Saint Mary's reminds Purinton, who grew up in Maryland, of her early years at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. “That’s where I was really given permission and encouragement to seek and expand,” she said.

“College opened my eyes to a new way of thinking about the world,” Purinton has been politics and justice. Her passion for teaching, mentoring and justice has informed those adults in my world made all the difference in her life. “They were supportive and encouraging. Having those adults in my world made all the difference.”

It’s obvious that the role of teachers and mentors—including her parents—occupies a big space in Purinton’s heart, and the progress of her life and career illustrates that.

It was a mentor in the small but intimate Religious Studies Department at NYU, where Purinton double majored in religious studies and English, who influenced her to apply someday to the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Mutual friends at GTU would later introduce Purinton and Donahue.

Purinton isn’t shy about describing a rough patch in her life in which she found herself suddenly a single mother of a two-year-old, without a job or means of support. She decided to go back to school, studying computer science and math at Merritt College in Oakland. There, she met a cadre of other women students returning to school and careers whose inspiring stories and friendship have stayed with her to this day, and where she met another influential mentor. “If it hadn’t been for Mr. Olson, I don’t know how any of us would have made it through,” Purinton said. Olson took time with his students, who stood in line outside his office door “with stacks of code,” Purinton said. “We love about Saint Mary’s.”

NYU, where Purinton transferred as a junior during the waning years of the Vietnam War, was another eye-opener. “A wild and wacky place,” as she put it. “Kind of a rude awakening in those tender years.” For example, they didn’t have fire drills in their building, Purinton recalled, with a wry smile. “We had bomb scares. One night after three bomb scares in a row, everybody, in their pajamas, just went around the corner to a bar. There wasn’t going to be any more sleeping that night!”

What remained the same for her at both schools, though, was the influence of teachers and mentors who made a profound difference in her life. “They didn’t penalize me for my naïveté,” she said. “They thought enough of me to just be supportive and encouraging. Having those adults in my world made all the difference.”

Jane, this is for you.” And it was. I spent 11 happy years there with a boss who, again, was a really great mentor.”

Purinton also volunteered at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress and served as a mentor to Georgetown science students in a bitter dispute with neighborhood residents over voting rights. She has enjoyed watching those students return to school and careers whose inspirational stories have stayed with her to this day, and where she met another influential mentor. “If it hadn’t been for Mr. Olson, I don’t know how any of us would have made it through,” Purinton said. Olson took time with his students, who stood in line outside his office door “with stacks of code,” Purinton said. “We re-entry women adored him, and kept up with him for the rest of his life.”

Her computer training eventually led to a position at the Town School for Boys in San Francisco, where she did database work but two years later became the director of development at the school. By 1984, she had met and married Jim Donahue, who was teaching at Santa Clara University. When Donahue got a position at Georgetown University, the family moved cross-country and stayed there for 15 years. Purinton worked at Georgetown doing alumni relations and fundraising, participating in a major capital campaign, and “something she is particularly proud of—she worked on the Alumni College program, taking faculty on the road to offer seminars for alumni.”

After three years at Georgetown, a job opening at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C., attracted Purinton. In addition to all her other experiences, she had been a weaver, working in a studio and managing a textile store in Berkeley. “It was almost as if the ad said, ‘Jane, this is for you.’ And it was. I spent 11 happy years there with a boss who, again, was a really great mentor.”

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New Leadership for the Alumni Board

Getting graduate alumni more involved in Saint Mary’s will be a key focus of the Alumni Board for the next two years, under the leadership of J.P. Musgrove ’07, the board’s new president.

For the first time, under his leadership, the Alumni Board has put together a two-year strategic plan, which will be concentrating on improving the work of its various committees and putting extra effort into its newly established graduate alumni committee.

“Much of our focus this year is to reach out to graduate alumni, because we haven’t done a good enough job at that in years past,” he said. “The goal is to engage graduate alumni in a way that is meaningful.”

Another goal is to better employ technology in dealings with alumni. “One of our biggest challenges is figuring out how we can best find creative resources, systems and tools to reach a demographic of folks who pretty much conduct their entire life online—and those who don’t,” he said.

Musgrove, a baseball player while at Saint Mary’s, was recruited for the board after he and his wife, Rebecca, launched a nonprofit to provide financial literacy to campus athletes in 2011. “It’s not just about helping the school out, but it’s also about improving the experience that I’ve seen in a long time,” Carter said. “It’s not just about helping the school out, but it’s also about improving the experience for our alumni, and really helping to strengthen that connection between the alumni and the college.”

While much effort focuses on the alumni, in the end, it’s really about the students, as far as Musgrove is concerned. “We’re here to better the lives of the students. What we want and what we desire is that, when we leave the board, the legacy we leave behind is that the students will have a much richer experience than we had,” he said. “We want to provide them with all the tools, the resources and the skills to go out and be world changers.”
Breeanne “Breezy” Jackson ’04 can take the heat—and the mind-numbing cold. As an environmental scientist, Jackson has done everything from gather data in the blistering heat of a wildfire to her current job—teaching survival skills to research scientists in Antarctica. “The weather here can be very extreme, and we train to survive the worst kind of storms,” she said, adding that she teaches research scientists how to build snow walls, anchor tents in blowing snow and high winds, even survive in a whitout. In contrast, Jackson has spent the last few summers studying the effects of wildfires on ecosystems in Idaho and Yosemite National Park. Working toward her doctorate at the Ohio State University, she has applied for two grants to spend this summer working in Yosemite, where the Rim Fire had a powerful impact on her. “I remember riding my motorcycle back from a trip to town and seeing the smoke billowing up like an avalan to the sky. I guessed the size at about 80,000 acres. I was correct, but it doubled or tripled that size within days.”

Jackson’s love for adventure was nurtured at Saint Mary’s College, where she took full advantage of the Jan Term travel opportunities, including Ron Olivi’s Archaeoastronomy course in New Mexico. “We froze, stargazing in the desert winter, ate blue corn enchiladas in Santa Fe, and were welcomed into the homes of Hopi people during their festivals,” she recalled. As Jackson continues her graduate study, she’ll be looking for opportunities to grow. “Dr. Olivi always advised me to take a ‘deep breath,’ meaning, expose yourself to a breadth of topics, and go deeply in each. And my mom tells me to keep my options open. Their advice has served me well so far.”

**EVERYMAN, LABOR LEADER**

Estailed as an “everyman and model citizen,” John Moylan, who has served the union cause for more than 60 years, was honored by the Henning Institute at its annual awards dinner last fall. Moylan is a member of the board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to represent the San Francisco Pipers union. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge Authority and a director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

In addition to serving as the chairman of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to represent the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, Moylan is a member of the board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge Authority and a director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Moylan is also a member of the board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge Authority and a director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Moylan is also a member of the board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge Authority and a director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.
1966
To celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary, Bob and Joan Cone walked El Camino de Santiago. The 529-mile trail took them from the French Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 30 days. They also attended the 50th anniversary March on Washington, commemorating the event in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Bob was at the Aug. 28, 1963, march and remembered the spirit of that day.

1970
1 Michael Tucevich is approaching retirement from his career as a federal administrative law judge. He lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., with his 63-year-old daughter, Morgan (pictured). The two traveled to Thailand this past summer and spent three weeks there.

1971
1 Dennis Patrick Wood (pictured on board USS Nimitz) has been a clinical psychologist for the past 35 years, consulting with the Virtual Reality Medical Center in San Diego since 2006. He is also affiliated with the CrowneMedic Global Group in Coronado. Most recently, he has worked with U.S. Marines and soldiers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), using a form of exposure therapy that employs virtual reality, computer technology, meditation and biofeedback. Dennis retired from the U.S. Naval Reserves in April 2005. He and Joan still live in San Diego.

1979
Paul Stick has been appointed CEO of Ap- pliancy, a company in App Risk Management. Paul served as president and CEO of Dawson, an Internet security company that was acquired by Twitter in January 2012. Before that he was president and CEO of Counterpane Internet Security, which was acquired by British Telecom in 2006. Paul has also held senior executive positions with BIM, KPMG and McAfee.

1983
Louis A. Lotorto, Jr., appeared in Don’t Dress For Dreader at the Sierra Repertory Theatre in Sonoma from Sept. 6–29.

1994
1 Jim Prescott ECR graduated from the School of Education in ‘94 with teaching credentials, after a 30-year career with AT&T. He taught in San Mateo for several years and in 2005 was elected to the San Bruno Park Elementary School District School Board, where he served for eight years. Calif. State Senator Jerry Hill (left), meets with Jim (shown to right of Mrs. Kathy Prescott) on Nov. 20 and presented him with a state resolution honoring him for his years of public service in support of education, students and the community. It wouldn’t have happened without Saint Mary’s.

1996
Phil Gomes and his wife, Leticia, welcomed their second child, Dom, into the world in August. Their daughter, Zara, was born in 2005. Phil works as a senior vice president at Edelman, the world’s largest public relations firm, where he focuses on digital media, online communities and crisis communications. The family lives in Chicago.

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Kate held her child, Dom, into the world in August. Their daughter, Zara, was born in 2005. Phil works as a senior vice president at Edelman, the world’s largest public relations firm, where he focuses on digital media, online communities and crisis communications. The family lives in Chicago.

1999
Rich Acierno is getting ready for the upcoming Gael basketball season with nephews Austin Cales ’17 and Brandon Cales ’15, as well as Rich’s sons, Dylan and Bryan (future Gaels).

2002
Mark M六合 ‘03 and Erin M六合 ’02, ECR ’03 were married in 2004 and reside in Las Vegas. They have two boys, Peter and Nicholas, and two daughters, Alexandra and Johanna. Mark works in the family’s construction business. After five years of teaching, Erin is happy to stay home with the children.

To see additional Glimpses photos, visit stmarys-ca.edu/glimpses.
2004
Seven Megan (Barstow) and Daniel Quinn welcomed their first child, Carlton Harry Quinn, on April 25. They love being parents to their happy little boy.

After Michael Norberg of Santa Rosa, among the 256 graduates awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine at the school’s 122nd commencement. The ceremony was held at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts on June 2. Scott will continue his medical training in internal medicine at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia.

2005
Ben Frey has written a screenplay titled Mexico or Bust, in which a college graduate travels along the West Coast, road tripping in an RV and picking up his alumni friends on the way to an extraordinary adventure in Mexico. If you would like to donate to help make this movie happen, please e-mail him at jaimyness7@gmail.com. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Go GAELS!!

Andrew Moreno has been a project manager at the economic Visibility Corp. of San Luis Obispo County since 2012. He previously served as a grants manager at RH Associates, a specialized civil engineering and community development firm. Andrew was appointed by the governor to serve as a member of the California State Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians and has also been a member of the city of Fresno’s Personnel Board. Andrew holds a master’s degree in leadership studies and communication from Gonzaga University, as well as a master’s degree in environmental management and sustainability from Harvard University.

2006
Jennifer (Nicholas) Skog and Jon Skog ’05 welcomed their first child, Ethan Clark Skog, on May 12.

George Rufal married Ashley (formerly McDaniel) in an intimate ceremony at her family’s Lafayette home on Dec. 29, 2012. George is a senior paralegal at Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco and earning his MBA at UC Davis. Ashley is a senior therapist at Step-ting Stones Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and recently completed her MA in psychology with a dual concentration in counseling and industrial organizational psychology at Golden Gate University. They reside in Emeryville and share a commitment to providing advocacy for mentally disabled adults.

2007
In May, Michael Murphy EE graduated with an MBA from Rice University. With the support of his wife, DeeAnn, and three kids, 15-year-old Kate, 12-year-old David and 11-year-old Jordan, this accomplishment was a team effort.

2008
Linda Hsu successfully defended her dissertation on the topic of team diversity, conflict and performance in October 2013, completing her PhD in organizational psychology at Alliant International University. She has recently been promoted to a full-time program associate, specializing in organizational development at Kivrin Resource Development Associates in Oakland. In addition, she is a part-time leadership coach and management consultant. Hua also recently became engaged to fellow alum, Zach Farmer, who proposed at their five-year class reunion in July 2013.

2009
Shana (Dhillon) married Jaipal Nijjar in a Sikh ceremony at the San Jose Sikh Gurudwara on July 20. They met the year after graduation, and despite the fact that Jaipal is an SCU Bronco, they made it work. They are happily married and reside in Santa Clara with their Dalmatian, Marleau.

Vanessa Snyder became engaged to Josh Bobbit in May in Cambria. They met while teaching in Mississippi with Teach for America and married in July in San Jose, where they both work in education.

2010
Amanda (Gourley) ’10, MA ’12, and Ivan Pantaleon ’07 were married on June 22 at Saint Mary’s of the Angels Catholic Church in their hometowns of Ukiah, Calif. Ivan is an agent with Carol and Jerry Nayer State Farm Agency, and Amanda is a marriage and family therapist intern with Tapestry Family Services. Their bridal party included seven fellow SMC Alums (left to right) Serena Lee, Alex Nedrow, Danielle Egan ’05, Gina (Lamerdon) Coughlin, Chris Dowdy, Ray Egan ’03 and Nick Gonzofides.

Lisa and Jeff honey mooned in Cancun and now live in Scotts Valley.

2011
Elias A. Chauvin used the skills he learned at SMC to take his family’s mattress business, from the Honduras, to the next level by forging an alliance with worldwide bedding giant Tempur Sealy. He and his company were featured in the September issue of BedTimes magazine. Read the article at: http://bedtimesmagazine.com/201309/foam-de-honduras-launches-sawy-collection.

To see additional Glimpses photos, visit stmarys-ca.edu/glimpses.

2003
Scott Smigielski and his wife, Kim welcomed their second child, daughter Grier, in October.
Objects

To serve and care in the funeral business, it’s important to keep your heart at a distance from death.

I STARTED WORKING in the funeral industry about two years ago. I got a basic orientation: kindness, alertness, patience and compassion. We see the grief, but do not experience it. We are the MCs. The traffic controllers. We are the last word.

It was a baptism by fire. My first service assignment was to a couple who had lost their three-year-old to an asthma attack. Open casket. I was tasked with staying by the mother for the duration of the services. She couldn’t stand and had to be assisted from the chapel to the gravesite. And as we lowered her son’s casket into the ground, she did not scream. She did not sob. She just sat there, transfixed. She never once knew I was there. In fact, I don’t think she noticed the rest of the mourners, the more than 200 others, standing with her.

Since that day I have worked well over 150 services. Vigils, funeral masses, memorial services, graveside services and rosaries. Death has brought hundreds of people into my life. Mothers, fathers, sisters, daughters, sons, best friends, curious second cousins twice removed. Their grief propels my action, my loyalties and my service. But in the two years that I’ve served them, I’ve become something else. My movements are calculated, my words are practiced, my smile genuine, but worn. Death is one thing to the people left behind. It is quite another to me. It has become a sort of object, something to put your hands upon and look down the sides. Death is what I was trained for, and what I am committed to. And to remain so I have had to objectify it.

We are a combination of DNA, cells, water and atoms in a blessed mixture that makes us stand upright and breathe and think. We are machines who have mastered feeling, but in the end, we are still machines. I don’t like to say I have become desensitized to death, but if I didn’t, I’d be lying. It isn’t that I don’t want to feel; I just don’t allow it. Whatever part of me that controls what I feel or don’t feel has shut off. A safety mechanism. To protect the core processor, those neurons and the heart.

I have experienced grief at its every level, from its most extreme to its more subdued. I’ve watched fathers close the caskets of their sons, young girls stand on tiptoe to cry into the chests of their dead mothers, teenage boys assume the mantle of familial responsibility as their father is lowered into the earth. And each has stood out to me in some small, familiar way, as if to remind me that despite my machinery, despite the necessity and obligation I have to this defaulted mode, I am one in the same with them. Their grief is still present in me. It finds itself in me in other ways. I used to worry that being desensitized made me heartless, but it turns out it’s just the opposite. A computer will shut down unnecessary processes or programs automatically to ensure it remains performing at an optimum level. Such is the case with people. My safety response to death allows me to continue serving, smiling, caring in what small way I can. I can’t bring back the dead. I can’t mourn with those mourning. But I can provide some small measure of peace, as small as a rose or a smile or even just silence.

At the end of the day, I clock out, shut off the lights, set the alarm. I take off my coat and throw it in the backseat of my truck. And as I drive home and into those dark nights, I ask myself always if it was enough. And there’s always something there, some voice to say, “Yes, it is enough. It’s always enough.”

[ILLUSTRATION: JON KRAUSE]

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[ILLUSTRATION: JON KRAUSE]
Student Meets Lizard
Close encounters of the herpetological kind in Saint Mary’s Legacy Garden.