MOONSTRUCK OVER MAHERSHALA 16
Actor Mahershala Ali ’96 is having an amazing year, topping off a flurry of acting awards and nominations with the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. We knew him when.

10 MOM SAID
What is the best advice your mother ever gave you?

24 ANNIVERSARIES
Three signature programs celebrate anniversaries this year.
Saint Mary’s Snapshots
Scenes of campus and Jan Term travel from social media

Mahler Salinas Zawuia ’17 (left) and Kelsey Young ’17 set up a shot on campus during their “Dance for Camera” Jan Term class, where students learned how to photograph and take videos of dancers.

Eye-in-the-sky shot of the Chapel by Cameron Cabading ’18 and his drone. Noemie_sweet_treats Absolutely LOVE St. Mary’s!! #bestschool #SMC

Cassandra Marin ’17 shares an underwater view from a dive in Bonaire, as part of the Jan Term class “Living in Limestone: Caves and Coral Reefs and Culture in the Antilles and California.”

ESPN broadcast the men’s basketball team’s Feb. 11 home game against Gonzaga as its official featured game of the week. McKeon has never been louder! The Athletics Department planned a full day, from a Live College Game Day show at 6:30 a.m. to a pancake breakfast, barbecue, and beer garden. (SMC lost to the Zags after a hard fight, but Gael fans were out in force.)

Corrections: In “Listening to Students,” fall 2016, we inaccurately identified Professor Ted Tsukahara’s parents as immigrants. They were American-born citizens. “Our Utah family and our Texas family were not subject to the military order that placed us first at Santa Anita and then at Heart Mountain,” Tsukahara said. In the same article we misspelled Collin Pugh’s name.
**FEATURES**

Eduardo Garza ’91, a physician with an obstetrics and gynecology practice in Palm Springs, says Professor Greg Smith’s advanced human anatomy class, an unusual offering for undergrads, gave him a leg up in medical school.

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**12** Wrestling with Power  
*Women’s relationship to power in politics.*

**16** Moonstruck Over Mahershala  
*Actor Mahershala Ali ’96 has a breakout year.*

**20** Going Deeper  
*Anatomy class gave alumni a rare head start in medical careers.*

**24** Milestones in Education  
*Three SMC programs celebrate anniversaries.*

On the cover: Actor Mahershala Ali ’96 came to SMC on a basketball scholarship and found his true path to a successful career.
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM BUILDERS BUILD CAREERS

Before last summer, Ana Chena Davila ’19 had never had a real-world work experience. But after participating in a pilot career-building internship program developed by Saint Mary’s and Cisco, she found her groove.

“I got to experience working for the first time, with other employees across a range of ages,” said Davila, an accounting and French major. “The skills I acquired during the summer gave me more confidence in my ability to work in a corporation.”

Davila was part of a group of nine students who took part in the launch of the program, called ACES (Accelerated Career Entry for Students). The initiative gives students, particularly those underrepresented in fields such as information technology, the chance to learn about the information technology field and prepare for life after graduation. Over four years, students will be placed in full-time, paid summer internships at a variety of companies, during which they will learn about the firms’ organizational structure, network with mentors, and develop a job search plan. Cisco is the first ACES partner.

ACES reflects SMC’s Lasallian mission of student success through practical professional internships, as well as Cisco’s commitment to mentoring SMC students, said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Bethami Dobkin.

“This partnership illustrates Cisco’s recognition of the insight, creative capital, and intellectual power diverse individuals bring to its industry,” she said.

Computer science major Jalen O’Neal-Strawder ’19 found that the program challenged him to think on his feet.

“You don’t want to have just one skill—you want to be well-rounded, to be able to work a problem through,” he said.

“During the internship I was challenged to adapt: OK, this is the situation, so think it out, and let’s do it,” said Jalen O’Neal-Strawder ’19.

DISTINCTIONS

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT’s Online MBA Report ranked the School of Economics and Business Administration among the nation’s top business schools—No. 18 nationally among private colleges and No. 5 on the West Coast.

SMC’s class of 2016 had a four-year graduation rate of 65.8 percent and a six-year graduation rate of 72.2 percent for underrepresented minority students, both surpassing the national average.

THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL Region VII conference selected SMC as one of 10 schools to present an excerpt from a full theater production.

A GROUP OF SEBA STUDENTS ranked No. 1 worldwide during the week of Nov. 21–27 in GLO-BUS, an intuitive business simulation game.

A CALIFORNIA MUSIC EDUCATORS blind panel chose the Saint Mary’s Chamber Singers as the only such choir of soprano, alto, tenor, and bass singers to perform at its February conference.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, one of the country’s oldest learned societies, has elected Olivia Filippi Professor of Poetry Brenda Hillman to its membership. A nationally celebrated poet, Hillman is among 288 new Academy members, who include international and national scholars, artists, philanthropists, and business leaders.

PHI KAPPA PHI invited the College to join the honor society, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Membership is by invitation only for the top 7.5 percent of juniors and the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students, along with faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

THE CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING awarded SMC a $225,000 grant for a new teacher education program. The Kalmanovitz School of Education and School of Liberal Arts have been awarded $224,694 to develop a new special education teacher preparation program that students can complete in four years.
$2.7 Million STEM Grant
Supporting Hispanic and low-income science students

Saint Mary’s efforts to provide inclusive education to all students have again been rewarded: The College has received a $2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that it will use to support its new initiative, Pathways to Science (Caminos a Las Ciencias), a program designed to expand the curriculum and resources offered to Hispanic and low-income students, and to help those students enrolled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degree programs.

Funded through the federal Office of Postsecondary Education, the five-year Hispanic Serving Institutions Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics grant promotes the efforts of U.S. colleges and universities to expand access to higher education. The award will strengthen the Caminos program—which includes a partnership with two-year community college Los Medanos in Pittsburg—and boost the success of Hispanic and low-income students in STEM fields, according to School of Science Dean Roy Wensley.

“These are populations that are underrepresented in the STEM workforce, and that has to change,” Wensley said. “This grant will help us do that by funding key student services, faculty, and curriculum development.”

Saint Mary’s has also been an eligible Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution since 2015, which means the College can apply for the next round of grants in 2021.

MATH STUDENT HONORED
A Fibonacci sequence is a series of numbers in which every number after the first two is a sum of the two preceding numbers (1,2,3,5,8, etc.). We are surrounded by patterns yielded by such sequences—in the spiral of a sea shell, the pattern of a sunflower, and, as mathematics major and transfer student Elijah Soria ’17 discovered, you can see them in math equations.

Soria’s paper on the topic—“Some Properties of Generalized k-Pell Sequences”—was judged by mathematics professors as the best in 2015, earning him the Richard V. Andree Award, an annual recognition for undergraduates published in the Pi Mu Epsilon Journal, which promotes scholarship in mathematics.

Soria graduated midyear and began work this spring as a software engineer at Google. He hopes to eventually earn a PhD and begin a career in cryptography. —Maddi Larsen ’17

AN APP FOR THAT Bryce Cloke ’17, a mathematics major focusing on computer science, created an SMC campus app for students, which has helped pave the way for the official institutional app, SMC Mobile, debuting this fall. The mobile phone app provides a map, important phone numbers, Oliver Hall’s menu, the bus schedule, and other practical information.
Cloke, who is part of the team developing the new app, wanted to get more involved in the community and leave a legacy. Plus, the experience earned him iTunes developer status, which he intends to use to create more apps. —Maddi Larsen ’17
Student Numbers
Fall 2016 new undergraduates

711 first-years and transfers
59% female
51% student of color (national average is 38%)
41% male
25 average composite ACT

1118 average entering SAT (M+CR)
3.61 average entering GPA

LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS AWARD
Vice President for Mission Carole Swain—one of three winners of the 2016 Lasallian Volunteers FSC Awards in October—received the Johnston Faith Award, named for Brother John Johnston, FSC (1933–2007). The award recognizes supporters who have demonstrated great faith in the work of Lasallian Volunteers by sharing time, talent, or treasure. Swain also directs the Master of Arts in Education program, which emphasizes Lasallian students and the Lasallian educator fellowship programs.

EYEWITNESSES TO HISTORY
Students witnessed the peaceful transition of power in January when they attended the 2017 presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. with the Jan Term class “The Making of a President: Campaigns, Elections, and Inaugural Politics,” taught by Professor Monica Fitzgerald and Tim Farley, community and government relations director. “Much of history is realized in retrospection, but in every lifetime there are moments when you realize you’ve witnessed history while it’s still living and breathing,” said Carli Mac Mahon ’20. The 15 students studied the presidency and the electoral process; did research at the Library of Congress; and visited key historical sites, including the Mount Vernon Cemetery and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
Updated Pearls of Wisdom from Your Parents

Don’t sweat the small stuff, unless it’s carrying the Zika virus.

Nothing good happens after midnight, but a double-double at 1 A.M. comes close.

Just be yourself, unless, of course, you’re a jerk.

Don’t believe everything you read, and don’t believe anything you read online.

Stand up straight, to avoid “text neck.”
A

Christian Brothers High School (Sacramento)
De Marillac Academy (San Francisco)
De La Salle Academy (Concord)
De La Salle High School (Concord)
Justin-Siena High School (Napa)
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory (San Francisco)
Saint Mary's College High School (Berkeley)
La Salle High School (Yakima, Wash.)

MEETING OF LASALLIAN MINDS
Saint Mary's welcomed 450 K-12 educators from five local Lasallian high schools and two academies, including Saint Mary's College High School and Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, in January to share best classroom practices. "Eleven percent of SMC's entering freshmen are the product of Lasallian education," said Vice President for Mission Carole Swain, adding that the Lasallian Educators Professional Development Day allows the College to interact with critical feeder schools. Visiting educators attended Learning Lab sessions taught by College faculty on everything from technology in the classroom to educating urban youth.

CORPORATE POLITICS
Because management and entrepreneurship professor Michael Hadani was raised abroad and in the United States, he has a distinct perspective on U.S. corporate culture—one that he applies to his research. There's a lack of discussion about the negative aspects of corporate political activity, Hadani said. "Surprisingly, nobody talks about this."

Firms that are less socially responsible are more likely to engage in political efforts, and this goes against a capitalist market's competitive forces, Hadani said.

"Companies that opt to invest less in research and development and more in political activity are going to be less competitive because often they're trying to buy protection," he said.

Hadani tracks how politically active corporations, through lobbying or appointing politicians, are financially affected.

Even if strategic management could better tackle corporate political activity, there is some good news, he said. Media scrutiny can check corporations' political activity by making it harder for firms to use lobbying and donations to win government contracts.

"The media has a role to play to shed light on the opaque nature of corporate political activity," he said. "Public scrutiny can act as a kind of disinfectant." —Kyrsten Bean

Full Circle
Life has come full circle for Brother Christopher Brady. He has returned to Saint Mary's, where he first enrolled as a postulate in 1970. He remembers those early years as a time of great change as the school transitioned to being coed. “We ushered in women to the College, to academics, the dorms, the whole social life. It was kind of a happening place.”

For Brother Chris, religious life was already familiar. “My mom and dad knew many priests and were religious and I had two cousins who belonged to the Jesuit order,” he said, adding that two of his brothers had also explored the priesthood.

But it was the sheer joy the Brothers displayed at his high school, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, that influenced him to become a Brother. “They were very happy, content, full of life, laughed a lot, enjoyed one another, and were serious about their work.”

After earning his BA at Saint Mary’s and his MA in school administration from the University of San Francisco, he spent the next 27 years as a principal and eight as an administrator before returning to SMC to work in Mission and Ministry.

Brother Chris remains close to his family, including nephew Tom Brady, quarterback for the New England Patriots, who often joins his West Coast family for celebrations via Skype.

As rich as his family life is, Brother Chris finds it equally rewarding to be a Brother. “I never saw myself turning away from something…but turning towards something,” he said, “a rich life of people and happiness and smiles.” —Ginny Prior
FOCUS ON MEDIA
Saint Mary’s will be on the world stage this summer when it hosts the prestigious Media Ecology Association Convention June 22-25, an international event that brings together scholars from some 27 nations, said SMC communication professor and convention chair Ed Tywoniak. This year’s theme is technology, spirituality, and ecology.

“The purpose is to examine the relationship of media to the deepest philosophical awareness of who we are as human beings,” said Tywoniak. “The Bay Area really is the confluence of much of the spiritual essence of who we are as a nation...from the spiritual self-help movement of the Haight Ashbury in the 1960s, and a decade later, the beginning of the technological revolution right here in Silicon Valley. San Francisco and the Bay Area are still very much in the forefront of the convergence of these kinds of questions of technology and humanity.”

A springboard for conversation will be the papal encyclical from Pope Francis, Laudato Si, who wrote, “When media and the digital world become omnipresent, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply, and to love generously.” —Ginny Prior

Taking Flight
Enthusiast builds excitement for drones.

All his life, Cameron Cabading ’18 has been building—from remote-controlled cars to robots, and now drones. A transfer student from Diablo Valley College, Cabading has become a drone enthusiast, building, fixing, flying, or teaching about drones.

As a baby, Cabading looked for planes from his stroller. “I’d start hearing a plane and my eyes would go to where it is. I guess I still do that,” he said.

He is the co-founder of the Drone Club, where students learn to build and fly drones on a drone simulator and the real thing. Club members are building a movable course, which Cabading hopes to bring into the Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center for a race. He hopes for a Saint Mary’s–affiliated drone racing team that competes with other schools. “I want the Gaels to dominate the drone-racing circuit,” Cabading said.

While drones bring Cabading much happiness, the militarization of drones and using them as tools for counterterrorism deeply worries him. On his computer, he keeps a picture of a Yemeni man named Sheikh Abdallah al-Taisi, whose son was killed by a government drone strike while the pair traveled to a wedding.

Cabading wants to combat this by showcasing drones’ use for good. Several companies use them to help address the world’s problems, he said, like one Silicon Valley company that uses them to deliver medical supplies to Rwanda.

Cabading plans to join SMC’s 3+2 engineering program and become a drone technician, partly inspired by a recent campus lecture on drone-based aerial imaging. He credits individual attention from professors with helping him pursue working with drones. “This is the first time in my life that I’ve ever been surrounded by people who are actually interested in science, engineering, technology, and mathematics,” he said. —Jacob Turnrose ’18
Making of a Coach

How does breaking down chairs and learning about parking connect with making a difference in people’s lives? Women’s basketball forward Devon Brookshire ’16, MA ’17 said it’s all about becoming a complete person while going after a big goal.

Brookshire, a fifth-year player with the Gaels pursuing a master’s degree in kinesiology, is working with the athletics events and facilities staff to learn as much as she can about the inner workings of college athletics. All to prepare herself for her ultimate goal—to be a college women’s basketball head coach and make a positive difference in people’s lives.

“You have people at these critical points in their lives and can help them shape their perspectives and build important values that will carry them through life,” said Brookshire, who transferred to SMC from Northwestern University in 2014.

So Brookshire is focused on learning everything she can in an internship with Mark Papadopoulos, associate athletic director for operations, and Ed Arnold, director of event management.

“She has the will to learn, and she cares about people,” said Papadopoulos, who has years of experience in college athletics at numerous institutions. “It takes a special quality to be a coach. You have to be able to anticipate, think about things that normal people don’t. There are a lot of behind-the-scenes things that go into a basketball team and an athletics department.” —Mark Rivera

Person to Person in Vietnam

Professor goes inside secretive Vietnamese garment industry.

The often secretive Vietnamese garment industry is not easy to explore firsthand. But Professor Phuong Anh Nguyen, chair of the Department of Business Analytics at the School of Economics and Business Administration, has successfully analyzed it from a business perspective.

“My main goal is to look at continuous improvement practices. If it’s successful in Japan, in the U.S., can it be successful in Vietnam? Under what conditions?” said Nguyen.

Discouraged by the language barrier and the culture of corporate secrecy, few Americans have researched Vietnamese management practices, even though the United States is a major investor in Vietnam and its large export market, Nguyen said. Nguyen’s Vietnamese fluency helped her penetrate Vietnam’s business environment, leading to a research paper titled “How to Do Field Research in Vietnam.”

Nguyen first left Vietnam as a child in 1979, at age 5. “I was one of the boat people,” she said, referring to the refugees who fled by boat after the Vietnam War in the late ’70s. While her family was traveling, their boat was attacked by a Thai pirate ship. “They spared us but took our gold and cash,” she said. She lived in refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines, before moving to New Orleans.

Nguyen’s Vietnamese background has helped open doors for her research. “A lot of these garment companies approach human resources this way: They do good work, absenteeism is low, and turnover is low. You don’t learn these things unless you are able to visit. Face-to-face communication is a must,” said Nguyen. “It boils down to relationships. You have to be OK with that in order to do research in Vietnam.”

—Kyrsten Bean
**RUNNING FOR LIFE**

Gabe Arias-Sheridan ’18 became the first-ever Saint Mary’s cross-country runner to compete at the NCAA Division I National Championship last fall, where he earned a top-50 finish. His recent success came despite facing serious adversity as a foster child and a disappointing first two years running for the College.

Arias-Sheridan spent his first years at Saint Mary’s competing with uncertain legs. Underwhelming performances led to a decision: a commitment to improve. He recognized his opportunity and the chance to write history at a small school in Moraga.

“His maturity is what impresses me most,” said Marty Kinsey, SMC cross-country and track head coach. “If he continues on this path, he will go down as one of the greatest runners ever to come through the College.”

At age 7, Arias-Sheridan was taken from his biological mother and placed in foster care. After already being separated from his older brother, who went to a different foster care home, Arias-Sheridan was left alone five years later when his three sisters were adopted. The single mother who adopted his sisters would later adopt Arias-Sheridan, too, reuniting him with his sisters and giving him the family he had yearned for.

Now Arias-Sheridan uses sports as a way to draw strength from his powerful past. He’s a walking specimen of gratitude, courage, and perseverance—a reminder that it’s possible to summon the strength to break through the binds of misfortune.

“You get to be whoever you want when you’re playing a sport,” Arias-Sheridan said. “I know when I run, I forget about what’s going on around me—I forget about school, I forget about different stresses I have in life. That’s what running has done for me. It helps me be who I am.”

—Ryan Moran

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**Record-Setting Basketball**

*No. 7 seed in the NCAAs after historic season*

The nationally ranked Saint Mary’s men’s basketball team kept checking off the records and the column that said “first-ever” during a historic run over the 2016-17 season. For the first time in school history, the Gaels were ranked in the national polls all season, a record 19 straight weeks, reaching a school-record ranking of No. 12 at one stretch during the season.

SMC finished the year tying a school-record 29 wins, marking the first time in College history the team has finished with 29 wins in back-to-back seasons. Overall the Gaels finished 29-5 and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament, winning their first-round game for just the second time in SMC history since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

The first-ever column started to fill up and began with a national broadcast of ESPN’s College Game Day, live from McKeon Pavilion in February. The broadcast brought in over 2 million viewers for the day and was capped off by a sold-out McKeon Pavilion for a matchup with Gonzaga.

The national and local exposure didn’t stop there. Saint Mary’s was selected into the NCAA Tournament as a No. 7 seed, tying the highest seed it has ever received. Playing in the NCAA Tournament brought on more television time, with the Gaels showcased on a CBS national broadcast for the second time ever.

Saint Mary’s wrapped up the year collecting team and individual accolades. The Gaels finished second in the nation in defense, holding opponents to only 57.5 points per game. Senior Joe Rahon was named the West Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year and juniors Jock Landale and Calvin Hermanson were named First Team All-WCC.

As the Gaels put this historic run behind them, they are excited to pack McKeon Pavilion again with fans as four starters return to the court next year.

—SMC Athletics
BROTHER CHRIS PATIÑO FSC
Director of vocation ministry, Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans

“Don’t leave for tomorrow what you can do today.” Not sure if this quote can be attributed to anyone, but it captures some of the best advice given to me by my mom. Her hard work and determination made it clear that we had to use the gift of each day with purpose. As a woman of faith, she certainly taught us to give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed and not let any opportunity to do good go unanswered. My positive work ethic is due in large part to my mom’s words and example.

CATHERINE LI MBA ’08
Vice president, Digital Channels Technology, Wells Fargo & Company

My mother is my role model. What inspires me is her actions. She’s always said to me, “Don’t just accept ‘no’; get the ‘yes’ that you want, if you truly believe in it.” To illustrate, there was a very important assignment that had already been given to someone else at work. I knew in my heart I was better qualified to take it on. I persuaded my boss to give me one month to prove it, developed a detailed execution plan, and formed a team within two weeks. Fourteen months later I delivered the project successfully.

NORM PETERS ’89, MA ’03
Grower representative, The Wine Group

My mom, Sally Peters, had such a positive attitude and a great smile. So, while she never said it, her advice seemed to be: “See the good and share the beauty in everything.” In fact, as a mail clerk at SMC, she used to drop wildflower seeds on the barren dirt spots along her route. Her trail started blooming glorious flowers and no one knew how all the beautiful flowers popped up. She also worked as a secretary in the Athletics Department where many people remember her for her warm smile and ability to make them feel happy.

ADELE PANACCI ’09
Research scientist, Gilead Sciences

Follow your heart and make decisions based on what will make you happiest. Although it’s tough at times, don’t get wrapped up in what others may think about the choice you make. Especially now in a time of social media where our lives are constantly broadcast, it’s even more important to not make choices based on others’ perceptions. My mom, Nancy, does not have to remind me of this advice often because she has chosen to live her life in this way—living the life that makes her the most happy.

ANA RAMIREZ
Administrative assistant, Department of World Languages and Cultures

When I was growing up, my grandmother would tell me, “At the end of each day find something to be grateful for and you will be a happier and more content person.” As a mother of two young children, I find the advice true today. If we appreciate the little things, we become less self-centered and more joyful people. Gratitude helps us to stay focused on what actually matters and what things are worth letting go. When you are having a hard day, try making a gratitude list and you’ll be amazed at how much you have to be grateful for.
The power women have had over their work, their finances, their civil rights, and their physical selves has changed profoundly over the ages, but one enduring ability to affect the future and other lives is the influence and counsel they offer their children. So, we asked: What is the best advice your mother ever gave you?

**Samantha Joyce**
Professor, Communication

It is actually a quote from a popular song by Lukas Graham. “Once I was 7 years old. My momma told me—’Go make yourself some friends or you’ll be lonely.’” This is the advice I give my daughter Tabatha, age 7, and son Wyatt, age 5, on a weekly basis. They are probably tired of hearing it, but I want them to know that above all material things, friends are the most important “things” to have in your life. It is important to be friends with your siblings, parents, teachers, and those you are lucky to meet and call friend.

**Cameron Wiggins ’18**
Coordinator, Club Sports

The most helpful thing I’ve picked up from my mom is how to handle responsibility. My mother is one of the busiest people I know, and at any given time there are masses of people counting on her to make sure things get done and done well. She rarely ever disappoints. I’ve watched her efficiently and effectively juggle large work responsibility, positions at our church, friends, family, and still find time to make sure I’m doing well in school. Now I find myself managing my responsibilities in almost the same manner she does and it’s been a tremendous help.

**Paul Stich ’79**
CEO, Appthority

When I was a senior in high school, my mom suggested I consider attending Saint Mary’s College. I knew very little about the College, but after one visit I knew it was the right place for me. I am grateful to both of my parents for the education I received through the Diocese of Oakland. I was fortunate to study with the Christian Brothers and the Brothers of the Holy Cross. Somehow, even with 18 years of Catholic education, I was able to successfully avoid the Jesuits.

**Mitchell Woodrow ’16**
Assistant account executive, The OutCast Agency

Out of all the people in the world, my mom has influenced me the most to be the best and most authentic version of myself. Her advice to me has always been to have courage and faith, that when you fill your heart with love, challenge yourself, and seek to have and live by authentic convictions, you can make the world a better place. She always quotes the lyrics of a familiar song, saying she thinks of me: “With the power to be strong, and the wisdom to be wise, all these things will come to you in time.”

**Tammy Appling-Cabading ’05, MA ’07**
Director of marketing and communication, Kalmanovitz School of Education

The best advice my mother ever gave me was to get a college degree. She desperately wanted her only daughter to get a degree so that I would have options and have a career where I would be financially independent. I’m so appreciative of my mother for encouraging me to achieve that goal. Three years ago, I had the pleasure of watching my mother receive her undergraduate degree at the age of 65. I was one proud daughter!
WRESTLING WITH POWER

WOMEN’S RELATIONSHIP TO POWER ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM
Win or lose, Kamala Harris and Catharine Baker knew going into November’s election that a woman would end up in the positions they sought. Each was among the handful of California candidates to face another woman in a state or national race for political office, with Harris hoping to replace Barbara Boxer as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate and Baker looking for a second term in Sacramento as a Republican representing the 16th Assembly District—home to Saint Mary’s College.

Both Harris and Baker prevailed at the ballot box, but as women in positions of power, they are exceptions. Women remain far outnumbered by men in the highest elective offices and corporate leadership. More than half of the California and U.S. population, women make up fewer than 23 percent of California Senate and Assembly members and not quite 20 percent of those in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Just 5.8 percent of CEOs at companies listed on the Standard & Poor’s 500 index are women, and more than half of companies in a recent global survey had no women among their top executives. Though Hillary Clinton came close, no woman has yet served as president of the United States.

This scarcity and the 2016 presidential campaign give Jessie Ryan, a 2012 graduate of SMC’s Master of Arts in Leadership program and executive vice president at the Campaign for College Opportunity, less certainty about the prospects for women seeking the upper echelon of power, in politics or other arenas.

Ryan has run for office herself, heeding the message of empowerment her mother communicated to her as a child and winning a seat on the Sacramento School Board twice. She has also encouraged her own young daughter to see the future as limitless. But after the November election, Ryan said, “While I continue to tell my daughter she can be anything, I realize there are more systemic and cultural barriers than I believed.”

Ryan is one of the SMC alumni, professors, and students reassessing women’s challenges and opportunities to lead and exercise power. Among them is Professor Denise Witzig, director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program.

“We take a lot for granted. We think progress happens on its own, but it happens because people try to create a more equitable landscape.”

—PROFESSOR DENISE WITZIG
envision themselves in positions of power.

“Studies show women have to hear they should run five times before they consider it, whereas when a man hears someone casually mention it to him, that sparks the idea that he could be a good candidate,” said Ryan, who may eventually become a Sacramento City Council or California Assembly candidate. “This manifests as a leadership vacuum. Until women in office are proportional to the female demographic, we won’t have policy that reflects the needs of women and girls.”

The perceptions of others also inhibit women. Men and women can view powerful women with suspicion, Witzig noted, and Ryan has seen a similar reaction to mothers in politics. The self-reflection required in her graduate program convinced Ryan that elective office was her path to leadership. But as the mother of two young children, she heard one question repeatedly: Are you sure you want to do this?

“One of the most troubling realities is how often men view the ability to lead as compromised by being a mother,” said Ryan. “Yet the perspective is culturally different when you have women at the table rather than a table of men talking about what they perceive as the issues of women. Once in office, we can be incredible change agents and put forth policies that wouldn’t happen without our efforts.”

Some women in positions of political power, including Clinton, have been told they smile too much or too little. The corporate world issues similar criticisms about women pursuing leadership.

Bari Williams MBA ’03 recently became the head of StubHub’s North America business operations after serving as lead legal counsel at Facebook and has been widely recognized for her achievements and leadership. Nonetheless, Williams said, “As a woman, you have to be a good leader, but you always have to be nice. Sheryl Sandberg [Facebook’s chief operating officer] can be seen as direct, but it’s harder for women with less tenure or in lesser positions. Particularly as a woman of color, there’s an extra level of pressure.”

Women, however, are facing these obstacles head-on. Said Witzig, “They just do it. They have great determination. Empowerment sometimes happens when agency is given to you. In other cases, you have to take it.”

That’s exactly what Baker did in 2014, when she first campaigned for an Assembly seat. No one had asked the political novice to run, but she was determined to effect change in education in ways she didn’t feel she could as a parent active in the local schools. Looking back, Baker said, “I think it is essential that women run for office. There are problems that are just waiting for someone to address them. You have to be willing to take some risk. That’s a lot easier when you believe in what you’re doing. Find out what room you need to be in to have an influence and go for it. Believing in what you’re doing will give you the self-confidence.”

Williams is also among the undeterred. She explained, “My mother raised me to be results-oriented. I wasn’t allowed to say there was a problem unless I could also come up with a solution. Nothing speaks more powerfully than tangible results.”

Both she and Ryan completed Emerge California leadership training for Democratic women, and Williams has hosted and supported political candidates, including Harris. Williams said, “Leadership means different things to different people. You can lead personally or professionally. I do community service through

“My mother raised me to be results-oriented. I wasn’t allowed to say there was a problem unless I could also come up with a solution. Nothing speaks more powerfully than tangible results.”

—BARI WILLIAMS MBA ’03

“If we have the right candidate, I’m ready to get behind her. I’m looking forward to our first female president—America is ready for it.”

—KAVYA MADDALI ’18
a lot of organizations. To me, that’s a function of leadership.”

Williams and other SMC women also realize the importance of mentors. Stephanie Volkoff Green ’01, development manager for the California Women’s Foundation, had early opportunities to work with trailblazing women in politics, interning with the late U.S. Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald as an undergraduate and becoming a teaching assistant to the late Texas Governor Ann Richards during graduate school. More recently, Kavya Maddali ’18, Bay Area region deputy vice chair for California College Republicans, found a political role model in Baker while serving as her reelection campaign’s regional political director.

“Because I’m in a leadership role, I look for opportunities to help other women seeking leadership roles or to grow in their positions,” said Baker, noting that she has mentored both women and men.

Through the examples of others, their own experiences, and education, these women are finding their vision and voices of leadership. For Ryan, that means using her position to advance community members and empower girls.

“People often think a woman pursuing elective office is making a grab for power rather than leading,” said Ryan. “If you’re a strong leader, you amass some power. I view that as political capital. How you use it makes all the difference: Do you use political capital for yourself or to lift up others, to right an inequity?”

To Maddali, leadership requires collaboration. It’s a lesson she gained through Panetta Institute for Public Policy student leadership training and her role representing her class in SMC student government. It’s also a conception of leadership central to the thinking and teaching of SMC professors such as Ken Otter, co-director of the Master of Arts in Leadership program.

“In my view, a relational approach is a more effective way to be a leader,” said Otter. “On one end, people exercise leadership in terms of formal authority. On the other end is influenced-based power, which is predicated on a relationship that moves another person voluntarily. Though there are exceptions, I see women as more fully capable than men of that full spectrum.”

Ryan emerged from her master’s degree program with a belief that leadership is an act of giving and receiving power. She said, “At times, you step forward and say you need to lead, to be the voice that echoes.”

Will a woman come forward and take the final step to the U.S. presidency? Baker, for one, envisions this happening now that a woman has been the nominee of a major political party. She said, “I think and believe and hope that women are on the cusp.”

As an SMC student planning to pursue law school and legislative leadership, Maddali feels a similar optimism when she observes women now rising in political positions. She explained, “With people like [U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations] Nikki Haley and Kamala Harris, I’m incredibly excited. If we have the right candidate, I’m ready to get behind her. I’m looking forward to our first female president—America is ready for it.”

“Find out what room you need to be in to have an influence and go for it. Believing in what you’re doing will give you the self-confidence.”

—ASSEMBLYMEMBER CATHARINE BAKER
I still feel like one of those students. I do. I still am just a kid from Hayward who was fortunate enough to be able to land [at Saint Mary’s] and to keep moving on from there.”

—MAHERSHALA ALI ’96
Moonstruck Over Mahershala

Actor Mahershala Ali ’96 is having a breakout year, with critical acclaim and awards for his work and a new baby. Nevertheless, he made time to come home to Saint Mary’s.

ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON IN MARCH, about 30 High Potential (HP) students and Diversity Club members gathered in the College’s faculty-staff dining room. It was a cheerful occasion, with abundant smiles, laughter, and some nervous anticipation for the arrival of the guest of honor. Academy Award winner and former HP student Mahershala Ali ’96 was returning to Saint Mary’s for a special visit.

The Saint Mary’s alumnus had carved out time from an increasingly busy schedule to visit the SMC campus for an invitation-only screening of the Oscar-winning film Moonlight; a conversation in the LeFevre Theater with his first drama teacher, Performing Arts Professor Rebecca Engle; and a low-key reception—away from the media spotlight—recognizing students in the College’s High Potential program.

It has been a whirlwind year for Ali, filled with recognition for his achievements in film and television. He won the Oscar for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his portrayal of Juan, a drug dealer who befriends and becomes a father figure to a gay African American boy growing up in a tough Miami neighborhood in Moonlight. His performance garnered best actor nominations from more than a dozen major associations. But he also received an Emmy nomination for his television role as political operative Remy Danton in Netflix’s House of Cards and received widespread acclaim for his portrayal of the villain Cornell “Cottonmouth” Stokes in the network’s Marvel series Luke Cage.

Ali last visited the College in May 2016 to deliver the undergraduate commencement address. At that time he spoke with Engle about Moonlight, an exciting new independent project. Plans eventually took root for a campus screening of the film. With a successful awards season behind him—and before a well-earned vacation with his wife, Amatus Sami-Karim, and their new baby—Ali circled back to SMC to screen the film and say hello to some kindred students.

The side door to the dining room opened and the buzzing room grew quiet. Ali walked in, greeted the crowd with a broad smile now familiar to millions, and gave a warm embrace to Saint Mary’s President James Donahue, who referred to Ali as someone who exemplifies the very best qualities of a Saint Mary’s education. “We are extremely proud of your success and so happy to have you return for this special recognition of the High Potential program,” he said. When an unexpected lull came over the room, Ali asked the
Mahershala Ali, above and below, performs in the SMC performance of *Spunk*, an adaptation by playwright George C. Wolfe of three stories by Zora Neale Hurston. Directed by Professor Rebecca Engle, the performances were, Ali has said, “standing room only and standing ovations every time.” (Bottom photo by Karl Mondon). Ali, right, performs on the basketball court.

group why they were so quiet and jokingly reminded them that he was, after all, just another HP student like them. Laughter and applause filled the room.

“I really can’t describe the feeling of seeing all of those wonderful, beautiful faces and seeing them react to me being there. I still feel like one of those students. I do,” said Ali. “I still am just a kid from Hayward who was fortunate enough to be able to land here and to keep moving on from there.”

During the special reception, the College announced the establishment of a $30,000 Moonlight Scholarship, initiated by Ali’s visit and funded by private donors. The scholarship benefits four rising seniors and at least two incoming first-year students in the High Potential program. “Scholarship giving is one of the College’s most important financial priorities. We thank Mahershala for sharing his vision with us and inspiring donors to invest in students in the High Potential program,” said Lisa Moore ’96, vice president for Advancement.

Ali, who came to Saint Mary’s to play Division 1 basketball, was the first in his family to attend college. He hopes the Moonlight Scholarship will provide much-needed encouragement for talented but low-income first-generation college African American and Latino students whose families have little knowledge about navigating higher education. “I guarantee that if you talk to a few of them, I am sure you’ll hear that they have family who have never gone to college or people who have never stepped foot on a college campus.”

The scholarship is also important to Ali because he recognizes that limited financial resources can often stress families of HP students. “Some of these kids are a car breakdown away from dropping out of school. That happens, that really happens. And so this scholarship is essentially rewarding [them] for the effort that [they] put in here. I want to be able to say thank you. Those kids don’t hear that enough.”

Students at the reception appreciated Ali’s words of support, hearing about his experience as an HP student, and sharing time with him, which included advice for life after college. He also addressed issues of inclusion and diversity while at the College. “I had a good experience coming to Saint Mary’s, I really did. But I also know that it is a little bit different being a minority student,” said Ali, who recalled that he came to Engle’s attention when he was part of a panel discussion on diversity issues. “And so, I am just really pleased to come back here and share *Moonlight*, which is a story and a film that reflects the communities that some of these students really come from.”

“Seeing how the students connected with Mahershala, beyond his status as a successful actor, but as an HP alum and as a mentor, was inspiring,” said HP Co-director Tarik Scott. “Yes, there was an obvious
‘wow’ factor. But it was as if he was as excited to meet them as they were to meet him. He spent the next hour or so hanging out, sharing stories, laughing, and connecting on a common experience.”

Ali’s ease with his fellow HP-ers prompted more than a few to take selfies with the Oscar winner. “Meeting Mahershala Ali was an unforgettable experience that gave me encouragement to be successful at an institution such as Saint Mary’s, where I often experience a sense of otherness,” said Tamarah Thompson ’18.

“As a first-generation college student, hearing of his experiences 20 years ago and comparing to my own put into perspective how the challenges have been very similar, but also how—for both Mahershala and me—they have pushed us forward,” said Ines Sosa ’17.

“It was surreal to see a very accomplished person in his own right take the time to talk with us. It gave me a sort of a confidence boost to stay hungry and reach the goals I set out in front of myself,” said Kidus Solomon ’18.

“When first-generation college students can see what success looks like with a role model like Ali, it makes all the difference in the world,” said HP Co-director and Counseling Professor Gloria Sosa. “Students can then envision that they have the strengths and resilience to make anything happen, and that is exactly the mission of the High Potential program.”

Shortly after the reception, Ali joined Engle for the special screening of Moonlight, where a crowd of more than 350—performing arts and High Potential students, faculty, staff, donors, and friends of the College—gathered to watch the film.

Stepping out of the screening for a break, Ali said his takeaway from his remarkable year is to not focus on the awards, but to keep an unwavering commitment to his craft and to growing as an individual. “If you are not working on ways to improve yourself, you will find yourself stagnant as an artist. So, if anything, the award has reminded me to really do work towards being a better person, a better human being, a better artist, father, husband, and talent.”

After a standing ovation, the audience witnessed a lively postscreening conversation between Ali and Engle. The duo sat onstage and talked at length about the film, its authenticity as a portrait of urban life, how Ali related to the character of Juan, and his own journey as an artist.

Engle also offered questions from the audience. “What advice can you offer for beginning conversations about race, class, gender, sexuality across different generations?” asked Engle.

“My advice is that you have to step into that space, whether it’s in your dorm room with your roommate or in a more official setting,” Ali said. “But everyone has to step into that space without arrogance. But it’s not an easy fix. People are pent-up and angry, you know? And feel unrecognized, disenfranchised, and so they need to talk about it. We want people to be able to feel like their voice is heard and really be supported. Because we are different. We’re different! It’s OK! But we’re all equal in that we are different and unique.”

Engle’s last audience question made Ali smile: “What is your most fun memory of Saint Mary’s?”

“Spunk! Doing Spunk with you!” he said to his former professor. “It was like a world opened up. I wish you guys [pointing to the audience] could have seen it. It felt special, it really did.” As Engle and Ali embraced, the audience rose to their feet again in applause.
GOING DEEPER
Julie Pryde ’87 recalls spending countless hours in the anatomy lab, carefully separating nerves the thickness of dental floss from the fat and muscle surrounding them. Dissecting a human cadaver was a painstaking process, intricate and time-consuming. It taught her patience.

“If you want to be in medicine, having an understanding of the body at that depth is paramount. It makes you so much better as a clinician,” said Pryde, who earned her BS in biology and psychology at Saint Mary’s College and now is a senior physician assistant with Muir Orthopaedic Specialists in Walnut Creek, where she often functions as a second surgeon in the operating room.

It’s no pun to say that Pryde and others who have studied advanced human anatomy with Professor Greg Smith like to go deeper. These SMC undergraduates jump at the opportunity to do a full dissection of a human cadaver. The requirements of providing the experience—the cost of cadavers and instruments, a secure storage space, faculty with the appropriate training to design and oversee a course incorporating dissection—make it one rarely available to students at their academic level. Yet its impact is both immediate and long-lasting.

“It’s such a different experience than looking at a cadaver that’s already dissected, and it really enhanced what I got out of the nursing program,” said Kacey Hansen ’90, MBA ’08, whose dissection of a female cadaver coincided with clinical
courses covering obstetrical nursing and adult medical and surgical nursing care.

Hansen began her career at John Muir Health in Walnut Creek as an emergency department nurse and currently serves as the executive director for trauma and regional transfer center services. Her dissection experience proved invaluable during her first decade as a clinician. Hansen explained, “In professional practice, you have to think about what the patient will need based on the clinical presentation, and I had a great understanding, physiologically, of how the body works.”

For Rob Walters ’96, MBA ’12, dissecting a human cadaver was both an opportunity and an honor. The health science graduate—who now directs inpatient rehabilitation services at John Muir Health—recalled, “I felt privileged to be a part of the program. It was such an unusual opportunity. This was graduate-level work. It was just me and a partner, not 30 other classmates.”

He found dissection fascinating, but also intimidating at first. Walters said, “I was in a smallish room with a brand-new cadaver—a person—in front of me. I had seen dissected cadavers in class and had an idea where the structures should be, but every body is a little different. We were required to keep a log of what we did every day, so I also had to reflect on what I was doing. It was a very Lasallian approach to science.”

To Eduardo Garza ’91, a health science graduate who went on to study medicine at New York Medical College, dissecting a cadaver offered an early lesson in respect for the human body. It also gave him an appreciation for those willing to give up their bodies for the benefit of science and education. Most of all, it provided a head start in medical school.

“A full-body dissection is what you do in the first year of medical school, and I’d already done it. I knew the techniques. I was able to not be intimidated by the whole experience, which made my transition to medical school much easier,” said Garza, a physician with an obstetrics and gynecology practice in the Palm Springs area for the past 11 years.

Walters made a similar discovery when he began his graduate study in physical therapy at Emory University in Atlanta, feeling far more prepared than other students who had dissected only frogs, cats, and pigs as undergraduates. This confidence in his anatomical knowledge has carried over into his career. Walters explained, “As a physical therapist, you have to understand the body in a holistic

“When you stand over a cadaver trying to get a small nerve out, you focus. You know anatomy after that.”

—JULIE PRYDE ’87
SENIOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

“I also had to reflect on what I was doing. It was a very Lasallian approach to science.”

—ROB WALTERS ’96
MBA ’12, DIRECTOR OF INPATIENT REHABILITATION SERVICES
way, biomechanically how it’s supposed to work across a number of systems. I was able to relate what I’d seen underneath the skin, to know how the muscles are behaving when I put my hands on a person.”

Pryde also believes her experience dissecting a human cadaver had a residual effect on her educational and professional trajectory. She said, “It set me on the right track, and I’ve used the knowledge and experience to propel myself to another level.”

After graduating from SMC, Pryde studied physical therapy at the Mayo School of Health Sciences in Minnesota and became a senior physical therapist and athletic trainer at UC Berkeley. She also taught physical therapy classes at Samuel Merritt College in Oakland before returning to school herself to start a new career as a physician assistant.

“My graduate physical therapy program was so much easier because I’d done a dissection before. I was even asked to do the dissection for the following year’s class,” Pryde said. “It’s made my job easier now because I’m a physician assistant in surgeries. It makes joint and tendon injections easier, too. I can look back and think: Where is that nerve? Where is that tendon? Is it medial or lateral? Anatomy doesn’t change. Once you’ve got it, you’ve got it.”

For students of their era, getting to that point was challenging. Aside from illustrations printed in a book, they had no visual aids for guidance. In contrast, those in Smith’s advanced human anatomy course today—a much-updated version of the independent study the alumni remember—can turn to 3-D animations and stereoscopic videos of actual human specimens that look much like what they see inside a cadaver.

“The only way you really learned to do it then was to get your hands dirty,” recalled Pryde, who performed her dissections and other undergraduate work so successfully that SMC’s annual award for the outstanding Allied Health Science program graduate now bears her name.

But that is exactly why Smith and SMC students view the dissections as an indelible way to learn human anatomy. Pryde explained, “When you stand over a cadaver trying to get a small nerve out, you focus. You know anatomy after that.”

For more information on how to support the sciences, visit stmarys-ca.edu/soseq.
Unlike Homer’s *Odyssey* (eighth century BC) or St. Augustine’s *Confessions* (397-400 AD), Collegiate Seminar—which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year—isn’t exactly ancient. But the seminal works and ideas explored in the program’s Great Books–style discussion courses are etched in the memories of generations of Saint Mary’s grads.

Conceived amid a wave of enthusiasm for liberal education that swept the nation in the early 1940s, the program offers 65 to 75 sections each semester, with more than 155 faculty members serving as facilitators and co-investigators rather than “the sage on the stage” at the front of the classroom. They grapple together with heady texts and big ideas.
This year we celebrate significant anniversaries of three treasured Saint Mary’s programs. Collegiate Seminar, the study and discussion of the world’s great books, celebrates 75 years this year, while the Graduate Kinesiology Program marks its 40th anniversary promoting the understanding of human movement and physical well-being. And while education classes have been part of the College curriculum since 1929, the Kalmanovitz School of Education notes its 50th anniversary in its current configuration this year.

Graduate Kinesiology—40 Years

The Master of Arts in Kinesiology program focuses on the study of human beings engaged in physical activity and offers one dynamic degree with three concentrations—sport studies, sport management, and fitness management. Started in the summer of 1976 as Graduate Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, the program added a sport management concentration in 2008 and fitness management in 2011. Many of the more than 500 alumni now work as coaches, athletic directors, and fitness and sports professionals, including for organizations such as the Golden State Warriors and the Oakland Athletics; junior colleges, four-year colleges, and K-12 schools; and at their own nonprofits.

Kalmanovitz School of Education—50 Years

The Kalmanovitz School of Education (KSOE), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, is a unique, distinctive, student-centered learning community that inspires excellence and innovation through the departments of counseling, education, and leadership. Through shared inquiry, collaborative learning, and community engagement, KSOE empowers students to lead change according to the Lasallian principles of social justice and the common good. KSOE, which was founded as the Department of Education in 1967, has since added many programs, including the School of Education in 1986 and the Teachers for Tomorrow program and educational leadership doctorate in 1999, producing thousands of counselors, credentialed teachers, and leaders.
Supporting Leaders for Change

Karen and Tom Mulvaney became connected to Saint Mary’s through their daughter Meg, who graduated from the College with undergraduate (liberal and civic studies) and graduate degrees (education). “We learned about the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action [CILSA] and Saint Mary’s commitment to social justice and community engagement through Meg’s Jan Term trip to Rwanda,” said Karen Mulvaney. “We saw firsthand the impact of such a trip and we also knew that one doesn’t have to travel any distance at all to find meaningful engagement which can be as close as next door, down the street, or in the next town or state.”

The Mulvaney’s then established the Mulvaney Family Head+Heart+Hands Endowed Fund with a gift of $250,000 and a challenge to others to match their support. Since then, more than 150 people have stepped forward to meet the challenge goal, and Karen and Tom have matched their contributions with another $250,000. Collectively, $757,000 has been raised that will benefit CILSA and the College’s social justice and community engagement programs in perpetuity.

“The endowment will benefit generations of students with scholarships to support their service and leadership development,” said Jennifer Pigza, director of CILSA. “The Mulvaney’s give deeply of their hearts and their commitment to our students. It is a joy to share in this work with them.”

“We are honored and proud of this collaboration with Saint Mary’s,” said Karen. “The always-interesting result is that the act of engagement is a full-circle gift; everyone wins when we care about and for each other.” —Michele Prisk

SAPC—MAKE IT HAPPEN!
Support the most exciting priority facing Saint Mary’s Athletics: completion of the Student Athlete Performance Center (SAPC) and expansion of McKeon Pavilion, which has not been seriously updated since 1978. This $13.6 million project features dedicated facilities for varsity athletes, including a weight room, training room, and a new women’s volleyball locker room. And visiting teams will face even more boisterous fan support for the Gaels when the Moraga madhouse adds about 250 seats. Renovating McKeon and completing the SAPC will strengthen the entire Athletics program, increase competitiveness with West Coast Conference peer institutions, and help SMC retain high-performing student-athletes. For more information or to donate: stmarys-ca.edu/sapc.
When Clay McElroy graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1934, Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States. He was in one of the first classes on the new Moraga campus, football was big, and Slip Madigan led the Galloping Gaels. Today, McElroy holds the distinction of being the College's oldest donor at 103 years old.

Upon graduation 83 years ago, McElroy went to work for the Standard Oil Company of California, now Chevron Corporation, earning $65 per month and working his way up from office boy to service station attendant to human resources professional. His career took him and his family to Venezuela, Texas, Colorado, Utah, the Bahamas, and Mississippi, and back to California. There he became the personnel supervisor for the newly founded Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in the early 1950s.

Throughout his career, McElroy never forgot the values and influence of the Christian Brothers and the Catholic Church. He remembers Brother Albert Rahill from his time at Saint Mary’s College High School in Berkeley and philosopher Brother Leo Meehan. Taking stock of life and discussing their values, McElroy and his wife, Genevieve, decided to contribute to Saint Mary’s to help young people with their education.

For 21 years, McElroy has given annually to scholarships and an unrestricted fund supporting campus improvements, investing in campus technology, providing scholarships, and enhancing student life activities. “Continual donations are important,” he said. “Give whatever you can afford regularly for a long period of time.”

McElroy also doubled the impact of his giving by asking Chevron to match his gift. As a matching gift company, Chevron has matched the amount of McElroy’s gifts over the last several years so his $500 donation means $1,000 for Saint Mary’s. He is quick to point out that a call or email to your human resources department or a look on the website can determine if your corporation participates in a matching gift program. Even now, 41 years postretirement, Chevron continues to match McElroy’s annual contributions to the College.

McElroy also donates to several local organizations in his New Braunfels, Texas, community. He has set up scholarships with the Art League so 8- to 12-year-olds can learn to draw and paint. And his donations to Catholic Daughters of the Americas have established scholarships to help high school students attend college.

McElroy understands vividly the importance of community. In 2005, he lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. He and a neighbor fled 200 miles north ahead of the storm. Upon return, he slept two nights in a truck, then spent 10 days in a hotel while he cleaned up his property. He found four feet of water and everything ruined. With his sons’ help, McElroy moved to New Braunfels, near one of them, and enjoys his community, his three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He credits “faith, family, friends, and fun” for his long life and gets great satisfaction from giving to Saint Mary’s for so many years. “I like the feeling of helping someone else.”
ALUMNI EVENTS

JUNE 16  THIRD ANNUAL MUSIC ON THE LAWN
6–9 p.m. Chapel Lawn. Bring your whole family and a blanket for an evening of alumni bands, dinner from the Bay Area’s tastiest food trucks, and local craft beer and wine.

AUG. 12  13TH ANNUAL SUMMER WINE FESTIVAL
2–5 p.m. Soda Center. Join us for an afternoon of wine tasting and appetizers. Proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction support student scholarships.

SEPT. 23  SYMPOSIUM ON COLLEGIATE SEMINAR

For a full listing of upcoming alumni events, visit stmarys-ca.edu/alumnievents.

Alumni Come Home

See old friends and relive college days at the Alumni Reunion July 14-16. Check out what’s new—and reassuringly the same—around campus as you reconnect with classmates at the townhouse party, family BBQ, and class dinners on the Chapel Lawn. Special honored classes this year end in “2” or “7” plus the class of 2016.

NEW FLORIDA ALUMNI CHAPTER

Saint Mary’s kicked off the new Florida Alumni Chapter in Orlando last October with two events—a networking reception and an evening with President James Donahue (second from right), hosted by Lisa DeBartolo ’92 and Don Miggs (on either side of Donahue). More events are in the works this year for the Sunshine State, including in the South and East Coast areas.
Voice for the Voiceless

Journalist Rose Aguilar ’95 believes in giving a voice to those not often heard. When she addresses immigration policy, the minimum wage, climate change, or other issues, the host of the Bay Area KALW radio talk show *Your Call* incorporates the personal experiences of everyday people as well as expert opinions.

First Aguilar had to find her own voice. A single Saint Mary’s journalism course led Aguilar to her career choice, and she became a CNET technology reporter and radio host after graduation. Later, wanting to focus on politics and social issues, she joined *Your Call* as a producer.

Aguilar also decided to take a six-month road trip across America’s heartland to better understand Red State values.

Playful Work

Proving that work and play can coexist, John Koller ’95 (below left), vice president for marketing at Sony PlayStation, addressed alumni and current students in November at the annual Dine with Alums, an evening of networking and mentorship. A Sony employee for 18 years and vice president for four, Koller managed the release of the PlayStation 4, which achieved the highest sales for a first-day launch platform in gaming history.

1Day1SMC Secures 1,910 Donors

1Day1SMC, the College’s third annual online giving day, raised $341,675 from 1,910 donors in 24 hours on April 27—the best one yet. Alumni, Brothers, faculty, staff, students, and donors made it to the finish line, coming together for the future of Saint Mary’s to unlock all of the challenge gifts. For the first time, 1Day1SMC happened during De La Salle Week, when the campus community celebrates our founder’s vision to make an education possible for anyone with a desire to pursue it.
Wesley Cullen Gibson was born on Sept. 29, 1959, in Mobile, Ala., and raised in Richmond, Va. He died on Dec. 4, 2016, in San Francisco.

He received his MFA from Brown University and was the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, a Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant, and fellowships from the Corporation of Yaddo. He came to Saint Mary’s College in 2005 as a core faculty member of the MFA Program of Creative Writing, teaching workshops and seminars as well as undergraduate courses in composition, creative writing, Collegiate Seminar, and January Term.

A brilliant writer, his books—the memoir You Are Here and the novels Shelter and Personal Saviors—center on family, the ones we’re born into and the ones we create. His short stories appeared in The Village Voice, Mississippi Review, and Blackbird, his art criticism in The New Art Examiner. He was an editor for Bloom, a literary journal that the writer Edmund White described as the “most exciting new queer literary publication to emerge in years.”

Most recently he completed a novella set in the South about

WELL OF KINDNESS
Yusuf Nessary ’13 knows that big things can be accomplished through small first steps. Take the organization he launched in 2014, Zam Zam Water, which works to bring clean water to people who don’t have access to it.

“My father gave me a monetary gift on my 26th birthday and told me to buy something I needed for school, like an iPad,” he said. “But I didn’t need anything, and I’d been thinking about starting my own service organization. So I used that gift to start Zam Zam Water.”

Since then, Zam Zam has initiated over 10 water well projects in Afghanistan, Palestine, Rwanda, and Uganda. The group is all volunteer and supported solely by donations; even Nessary does not take a salary but instead works as an emergency room tech in Houston where he lives, as he finishes prerequisites for a physician assistant degree.

Born to Afghan refugees and raised Muslim, Nessary named the organization for a Saudi Arabian spring that Muslims consider holy. In the story, Hagar, Abraham’s wife, was wandering the desert with their son Ishmael, and he grew thirsty. At the spot of the spring, he began to cry and hit his feet on the ground, and the water burst forth. The Zamzam well is still in use today.

Nessary’s work has been noticed. In March, he participated in a conference at the Vatican to celebrate World Water Day, an event that gathered scientists, economists, academics, and service organizations to create a plan to combat the global water crisis. —Kate Madden Yee
Voice

people who know that some people have all the luck in the world while most everybody else has none at all. The work is brutal and beautiful and centers on a day in the life of an elderly woman, Ruby. It opens with a cat’s death, one that, although Ruby knew was coming, was still a shock. At one point Ruby wishes she could remember “just one thing clean and clear, its simple happiness, instead of everything tangling itself up into sorrow.”

A magnificent teacher, Wesley was known for his humor, his intelligence, and his ability to be both frank and supportive. He cared about precision, interiority, and emblematic moments.

So here is one: Two writers, longtime friends, go out after work on a Thursday night. They go to the place they always go to, one whose name they have, in all these years, never managed to learn. He orders a Manhattan, she orders a Diet Coke. They talk about family. About what they are working on or wanting to work on. About classes. He’s teaching one on voice. He isn’t sure voice can be taught. Yet he’s gratified. The graduate students have experimented, worked hard. Their voices are more supple now. I think I might want to teach this class again, he says. “You know. Make it my thing.”

“That’s a great idea,” she says. “Because voice is definitely your thing.”

Three days later he’s dead.

As I understand it—and I don’t pretend I do—he died sometime around 5 p.m. when there is a trace of milky blue light left in the sky. His death is described as untimely because it was and because what else can you say? And so? We gather in classrooms, in chapels, in living rooms, in bars. We remember him in silence. We remember him by telling stories. Then we open the books. And there he is—that voice, so singular, so clear, so tender and assured—fully present as he was, as if he were still near.
1947  
James J. “Jerry” Murphy was featured in a front-page photo in the June 3 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education as part of an article detailing the professional contributions of University of California retired faculty. Murphy, 93, was photographed taking part in an Atlanta conference of the Rhetoric Society of America, of which he is a Fellow. He taught at Saint Mary’s from 1950 to 1953 before going on to teach at Stanford and Princeton, then returning to California at UC Davis in 1965. While coaching the debate team at Saint Mary’s, he helped found the Northern California Forensic Association, which is still active today. He is the author or editor of 25 books in the field of rhetoric and literature.

1968  
Rev. Patrick Clements retired in December 2016 after 34 years as the president of Church Extension Plan, a church financing ministry of the Assemblies of God. Prior to his years at Church Extension Plan, Pat served in banking and later as an ordained minister as senior associate pastor at a church in Dublin, Pat and his wife, Connie, live in Salem, Ore., and have four grown sons and 12 grandchildren.

1969  
Joe Lisoni went on to UC Hastings College of Law (where he passed the bar exam on his second try). As rewarding as his law career was, Joe’s true passion is swimming. He is now retired, living in Solvang with his wife, Gail, and has been competing in the California Senior Games since 2012 when he won the silver medal in the 25-yard freestyle. In 2013 he won silver again in the 50-meter freestyle advanced division. In 2014, wishing to see his friends in San Francisco, Joe entered the San Francisco Mile, a 1,500-meter swim at the Olympic Club, and won a bronze medal. His time was 41 minutes, swimming 60 times across the pool. He is pictured here as a silver medalist in the 25-yard freestyle sprint in the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center in June 2016. Joe, who credits his four years at SMC as the best years of his life, says swimming has served as rehabilitation for his bipolar manic depression. He also notes that life does not end at 65.

1972  
John Smead was selected for the 2016-17 Orange County Grand Jury, a primarily civil grand jury that investigates public agencies, cities, and public officials. It is a year-long appointment that began on July 1, 2016.

1979  
Michael Beseda, former vice president of college communications and enrollment at SMC and vice president for enrollment and university communications at Willamette University in Oregon, assumed the duties of vice provost for strategic enrollment management at the University of San Francisco in October.

1983  
Christopher Major, president of Hayward Youth Academy and member of the Rotary Club of San Rafael Harbor, visited Migori, Kenya and Jinja, Uganda to expand youth baseball and educational chess in the local schools. Chris visited 10 schools in Migori, developing programs and speaking on the power of community service. Building social capital in the absence of physical resources is the goal and mission of Rotary service. African youth working together in service, and spreading the Lasallian mission of Saint Mary’s inspired many adults and mentors to do more for the disadvantaged. The highlight of the trip was visiting the Migori Muslim Primary School the day after the terrorist attack on the Turkish airport. During the outreach, Muslim students learned the mechanics of throwing, catching, running the bases, and the rules of the game. God is a Gaell! Pictured: A student holds a bat for the first time at the Migori Muslim Primary School in Kenya last July.

1989  
Steven L. Yeffa married Kristina Doman on June 12, 2016. They moved back to the Bay Area where Steve serves as CFO for SAFE Security, Inc., a nationally ranked company in San Ramon that provides customer account management services for security alarm monitoring contracts.
2004
Manuel Murillo married the love of his life, Bradley Azevedo, this year. They were married in front of a small group of family and friends in Provence in the south of France. Manuel also started working at Slack and, after 12 years in San Francisco, recently relocated to Melbourne, Australia. He lives there with his husband, and two dachshunds, Banana and Potato, where they live happily ever after.

2005
Adam Mills and his wife, Eleanor (Eldredge) Mills ’09, are so in love with their little Gael-to-be, Sofia Rose Mills. Class of 2038 here she comes!

2006
Catherine (Dawson) Thomas and her husband, Patrick, welcomed their daughter, Moira Beatrice, born on July 17, 2016. They are so excited with their little Gael.

2009
Lindsay Ciranni is happy to announce her engagement to Michael Calabrese. In 2012, Lindsay and Michael met while working for Verizon Wireless. Lindsay left to pursue a nursing degree and will graduate in May 2017. She is vice president of the student nursing association for her program and is currently employed by Global Information Assurance Certification, an information security certification entity that specializes in technical and practical certifications. Michael, a graduate of St. John Fisher College, is a supervisor at NYSOH Maximus. Their wedding will be in their hometown, Rochester, N.Y., in September 2017.

2010
Olivia Haro Yongue MBA ’12 and Marty Yongue ’06 MBA ’11 wed at Saint Mary’s Chapel on Aug. 27, 2016. Attending their wedding was a collection of 31 alums, with graduation years stretching from 1970 to 2016. Katie Pohlman, Hurleen Sidhu, Veronica Miranda, Alana Ubeda, Shuan Morris, Nicole Morris ’08, Melissa Miller ’14, Giuliana Carranza ’16, Ryan Christoi ’01, Jerry Vance ’70, Casey Chadd ’05, Bethany Demonre Chadd ’03, Tyler Stambaugh ’08, Dave Yongue ’06, Bennett Burns ’06, Everett Leberz ’05, Tom Espinoza ’06, Kevin Beecroft ’07, David Legnitto ’05, Robyn Wilkie Fritzsche ’06, Justin Fritzsche ’03, Alyse McConnell ’06, Ben Belletti ’07, Grant Gidaro ’06, Shaughn Daugherty ’07, Sunsie Haro ’08, Chris Burns ’08, Agustina Allende Burns ’08, and Pete Burns ’05.

2011
Paulina Perrucci honed her photographic skills at Spes in Paris and Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara after graduation. Her keen sense of fashion and style give her the unique ability to not only capture the moment but ensure it is perfect. She photographs fashion and weddings. Find out more at paulinaperrucci.com or andforevermorephoto.com.

2012
Elizabeth Novotny Walden and Eric Walden are the proud parents of Alexander Jerome Walden, born on Oct. 30, 2016.

2014
Justin Howard and Brianna (Lampe) Howard were wed at Saint Mary’s Chapel on Oct. 22, 2016, in front of 250 family and friends. Justin and Brianna met during their junior year of high school and continued their journey together at Saint Mary’s. Justin received an academic and athletic scholarship to attend SMC, playing soccer for the Gaels and helping the team advance to the Elite 8 his sophomore year. After receiving a BS in accounting and business administration and receiving the George McKeon Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, he began his career in accounting. He now works for Johnston, Gremaux & Rossi LLP in Pleasant Hill. Brianna chose to continue her family legacy (father Ed Lampe ’83, mother Lisa Kautz Lampe ’85, and brother Michael Lampe ’12), earning a degree in psychology. She subsequently earned a master’s degree in speech-language pathology and now works for the Speech Pathology Group in Walnut Creek. Brianna’s childhood dreams came true when she married her high school sweetheart in the same place her parents wed in 1989. Some of Justin and Brianna’s fondest memories at SMC include traveling to Italy, France, and Spain on two Jan Term trips and cheering on the men’s soccer team.
McLain is a communications professional who enjoys freelancing for Saint Mary’s magazine and catching basketball games in McKeon Pavilion.

Sentimental Journey

“The pipes the pipes are calling, from Glen to Glen and down the mountain-side...” The beloved song “Danny Boy” has been shared for generations in my family. It tells a story of someone leaving their home in hopes of returning one day. As I heard the familiar tune echo throughout Kate’s Cottage near Kilarney, I knew the pipes had called me home. Here I was sipping a Guinness in the home of my ancestors, surrounded by a community of people that I will forever consider my family—the Saint Mary’s Gaels.

A bit of Irish luck came my way last May after Mass when Father Tom McElligott told me he was planning an alumni trip to Ireland. I never had the chance to travel abroad during my years at Saint Mary’s and was thrilled to learn about this opportunity. From a young age, my mother had instilled in me a deep sense of Irish pride and I had always dreamed about traveling there with her one day. I heard many stories from my grandmother about our Madigan and Donovan ancestors from Galway and Cork. Finally, I was able to visit the setting of those stories. Six months later I was boarding my first international flight with “me mum” and fulfilling my dream of visiting the Emerald Isle.

Over 10 days our group of 22 alumni, faculty, staff, friends, and family toured Dublin, Cork, Kilarney, Galway, and Donegal. It was moving to learn about everyone’s connection to not only Saint Mary’s but also to Ireland. The bus became a place of camaraderie where Gaels of all ages bonded. Our Gaeltastic adventure was led by Father Tom and Philip, our quick-witted and lively Irish bus driver.

We immersed ourselves in the local culture and showed off our Gael spirit wherever we trekked. In Cork we drank the local Murphy’s stout, shopped at the famous Blarney Woolen Mills, explored Blarney Castle, and supported each other as we made the treacherous backbend to kiss the Blarney Stone. With cheers and luck, most of us were able to press our lips against the magical stone and emerge as eloquent speakers. Our day in Cork concluded with an educational tour of Jameson Distillery where we happily volunteered for a whiskey tasting—Slainte!

After visiting the breathtaking Cliffs of Mohr, we arrived in vibrant Galway. There my mother and I learned more about our Madigan ancestors. At Connemara marble I purchased a beautiful green marble shamrock pendant, mined from the site where my great-great-great-grandfather labored.

On one of the last days of our trip I was reminded of what it truly means to be a Gael. While traveling from Galway to Sligo to attend a Yeats poetry reading, I reached for a book of poems my mother gave me. Together we began reading Yeats’ poems aloud on the bus. After each poem, someone contributed a new idea or thought. Even though we weren’t sitting at a round table, we still created a circle of discussion on the bus. We might have graduated in different years and read different texts, but our Seminar experience united us.

I will always remember the pub lunches, the countless sheep on the hillsides, the rainbows, and, of course, our group of 22. As I looked out the airplane window heading back home to San Francisco, the end of “Danny Boy” echoed in my thoughts. “And you’ll bend down and tell me that you love me, and I will rest in peace until you come to me.” I was truly at peace, for I had returned to the home of my ancestors and shared an adventure of a lifetime with the best family I could have asked for—Gaels.
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BrothersVocation.org
Lasalle.org

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REUNION
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REFER A FUTURE GAEL.
Do you know an undergraduate who would be a great Gael? Tell them about Saint Mary’s.

Major learning. Minor pretense.
Justina Jew ’20 finds the force during Lightsaber Day in the Jan Term class “Fencing and Swords in History and Popular Culture.” The course examines fencing from all angles, from a medieval duel with 30 people to a side, to the sociology of duels and the relationship between fencing and communism.