

St. Mary's Academy
Alumnae and Friends Newsletter

The Echo

Fall 2016



From the Principal

Dearest Alumnae and Friends of St. Mary's Academy,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. It has been an exciting time of continued success and fresh renewal at St. Mary's Academy. Just a few months ago, St. Mary's Academy graduated the Blue Tie class of 2016, with 100% matriculation into colleges and universities across the country. Belles graduated with over 1.5 million dollars in scholarships for their excellence in the areas of academics, athletics and service.

This year, our goal is to continue supporting the success of our students with exciting new additions to our educational programming. We are proud to offer over fifty courses that are University of California (UC)/California State University (CSU) approved, which ensures that students receive a breadth of knowledge in preparation for college. SMA is proud to offer rigorous honors courses along with 7 Advanced Placement (AP) courses in AP Spanish, AP Studio Art, AP Calculus, AP Physics, AP English Literature, AP US History and AP English Language. We are excited to offer new courses this year: World Literature Honors, Music Theory, Statistics, Film and Television Production, and AP Physics.

We are happy that our junior Gold Ties will participate in our on-site SAT preparation courses. Our partnership with CollegeSpring helps our students have a better opportunity to be accepted into the college of their choice. Continuing the exciting news about college preparation, SMA is blessed to be a part of the Posse Foundation's network to nominate students to a program that has been called "one of the most comprehensive and renowned college access and youth development programs in the U.S."

The Career Pathway Programs continue to flourish and attract students to select an emphasis upon entering SMA. The Health Career Pathway incorporates the field of health care with laboratory sciences, multi-layered curriculum including language and vocabulary in the medical field, ethical and legal responsibilities and clinical partnerships with Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center, Torrance and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. With the addition of the new Director of the Program last year, Nancy Klipfel, M.D., the program has grown to add more hands on experiences such as how to conduct a proper eye examination and learning to suture the first week of school!

The Engineering Program was excited to offer its first summer Middle School Science Technology Camp. The students experienced national engineering curriculum that SMA has to offer from Project Lead the Way. This camp was an opportunity to engage middle school young ladies, by building rockets and bridges, learning computer programming, and creating their own original 3 dimensional designs on 3-D printers. It was a fun time to spark the minds of our future mathematicians, scientists, and engineers! Survey results showed they couldn't wait for what we have planned for them next summer.

We are pleased to announce the newly formed Business Program at St. Mary's Academy. The program prepares students for the world of business through coursework, fieldtrips and internships. Through partnerships with West Los Angeles College and Loyola Marymount University, students take business and accounting courses taught by college professors at SMA's campus and receive college credit. Through this program, students learn valuable life skills in financial management and accounting in preparation to pursue as a major in college.

The new Arts Program allows students to select one of the three pathways: visual arts, media arts or performing arts. We are thrilled to announce a new partner with St. Mary's Academy, Harmony Project. You may have caught



a glimpse of Harmony Project while watching the Super Bowl 50 halftime show this year where Gustavo Dudamel and Harmony Project's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) performed with students from all across Los Angeles. Harmony Project and St. Mary's Academy will provide a music course focused on voice and instruments during school and an after school club. What a wonderful opportunity for our students. I can't wait to hear the singing and the music throughout the halls of the Academy!

An important conscious theme of having an "Attitude of Gratitude" is being lovingly taught and spread throughout our school community. We are actively teaching our students through mini experiences, how gratitude is needed in all things, gratitude for God, their families, faculty and staff, friends and you. An example of this was during our 9th grade orientation where students received a mini lesson on gratitude and had the opportunity to hand write a thank you letter to their parents/guardians for supporting them and providing them a Catholic education at St. Mary's Academy—you should have seen the amazed faces of parents/guardians to receive a handwritten note and the loving tears and hugs—what a beautiful testimony to family it was!

This year, we are partnering with PowerSchool, which is ranked first in student information systems in the country and has millions of users. This system will allow faculty and staff to support and serve students more efficiently while providing real-time access to valuable data/information such as grades, attendance and homework trends.

St. Mary's Academy recognizes the importance of nutrition and its valuable connection to learning in the classroom. Therefore, we are partnering with a new food service, Bevaris, who have professionally, culinary-trained staff to serve our students freshly made and healthy food for breakfast, break and lunch (the faculty and staff are enjoying themselves immensely as well!).

Over the summer, St. Mary's Academy had a full physical plant facilities assessment and an energy audit conducted. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate how our loving 50-year young building is gracefully aging. With this assessment, our goal is to bring our school to the 21st century by having a sustainable building to continue serving students for 128+ years to come!

Amazing. Reading this back to myself, it is exciting, beautiful and humbling to see how much we have grown and continue to grow for those we serve, our students. With experiences such as these, their impact of service to our world community, the "dear neighbor", will be profound. Not one of the wonderful new experiences would have been possible without your friendship, prayers and generous support and for that your St. Mary's Academy thanks you.

May you be blessed with peace, love and joy always.

With an attitude of gratitude,

Nancy Portillo
Principal

The Echo is published twice a year by the Development Office of St. Mary's Academy for alumnae, parents, and friends.

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St. Mary's Academy (Inglewood, CA)
&
SMA Belles



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Nancy Portillo
St. Mary's Academy Alumnae
St. Mary's Academy Yearbook Staff

SMA Belles are Women of Distinction

UCLA Women Leadership Conference

A group of SMA Belles interested in pursuing college degrees in business were invited to the UCLA Anderson “Velocity” Women’s Conference to explore how “women develop momentum in their careers and maintain their energy in the face of challenges.” The students listened to presentations from dynamic female business leaders, renowned UCLA Anderson faculty, and current MBA students. The conference’s theme, *Velocity*, served to inspire women to “take flight” into their careers through learning and leadership. Authenticity, passion, risk-taking and confidence were important bits of advice given to the Belles!

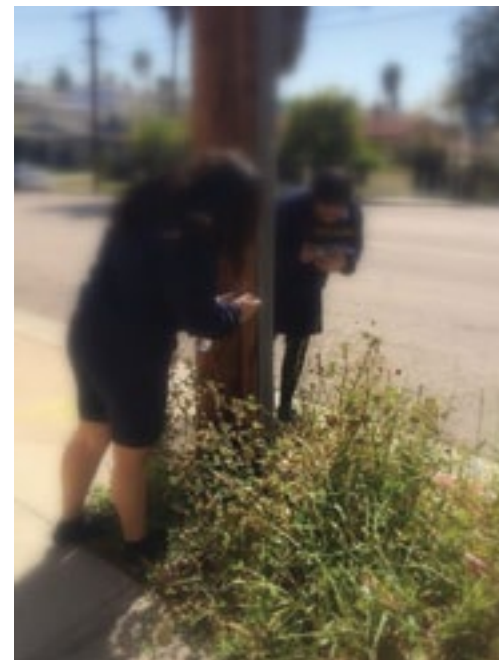


National Arts Week Competition

SMA’s National Art Honor Society participated in a nation-wide competition to design four pairs of VANS sneakers. Small groups of students submitted design proposals for each category: Art, Music, Local Flavor, and Action Sports. The students executed their designs on shoes provided by VANS.

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Community Health Project

The 9th Grade Honors Biology and Health Careers Program students participated in the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Community Health Project “Photo Voice” to provide our Belles with the opportunity to photograph environmental health concerns in our community. The Children’s Hospital staff visited SMA to review the students’ photos and discuss the environment in our community.



Science & Technology Learning Camp

Over the summer, twenty bright and energetic middle school students attended a four week tech camp at SMA. The students were exposed to a variety of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math activities. During the summer program, the students launched rockets, built bridges, created medals through 3-D printers and learned the elements of design. The camp culminated with a field trip to the Columbia Memorial Space Center and the T4T Center.

Career Day at SMA

St. Mary’s Academy hosted the bi-annual Career Day event on Friday, March 4, 2016 to educate our Belles about various career paths. This year’s theme *Find Your Future* enabled students to explore different professional fields through workshop presentations geared towards the students’ career interests such as law, medicine, engineering, business, social work, finance and education. Gold Tie Dr. Janalyn Glymph ‘74 provided the Keynote Address to include an inspiring message about her professional experiences in education within the Los Angeles Unified School District. A total of 50 women presented at our Career Day event to share their expertise, provide advice, and answer questions. 72% of the presenters were SMA alumnae! As part of the Career Day event, freshmen students attended a UCLA Admissions workshop and junior students attended a resume workshop led by Blue Tie Dr. Kathleen Harris ‘72. We thank each of the presenters for an inspiring experiential learning opportunity for our Belles!



SMA Belles are Women of Distinction

U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios Visits SMA

“There were three things that really drove us as kids, three things that to this day I value and it’s family, food, and faith.” – Rosie Rios

In May, SMA was honored with a visit from Rosa Gumataotao Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States. She is most recently known for leading the efforts for placing a woman on U.S. currency for the first time in over a century. Rosie Rios background resonates deeply with many in the SMA community. She is the sixth of nine children; her mother raised all nine children on her own and sent all of her children to Catholic schools and off to college. She spoke with the student body, faculty and staff about empowering young women to continue their education beyond high school. She spoke highly of those who work hard, giving time and energy to achieve success. Her visit truly inspired our campus community to continue the legacy of serving “the dear neighbor” and creating a successful future for SMA Belles. We thank Gold Tie Susan Donovan Manzo ‘58 for making this visit possible.



Coach Robert King recognized at the KJLH Proven Achiever’s Luncheon



“Proven Achiever: Robert J. King.” KJLH Radio. Web.

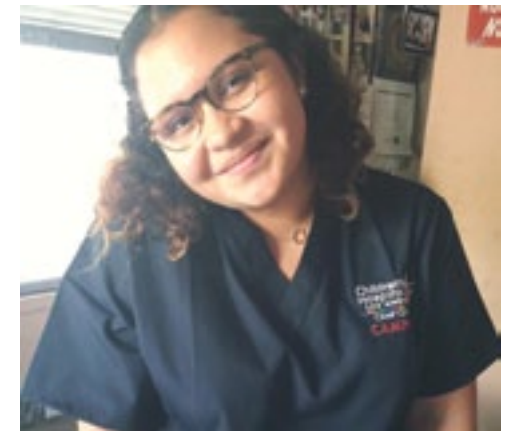
Robert King, the track and field coach at SMA, received the 2016 KJLH Proven Achievers award in recognition of his service to the local community and empowering young women to excel in their academic studies and athletic talents.

We are so thankful that Coach King continues to mentor and guide our student athletes to achieve success in all of their endeavors at SMA and beyond!

Busy Belles Gold Tie Edition: Examples of how our Belles spend their summer!

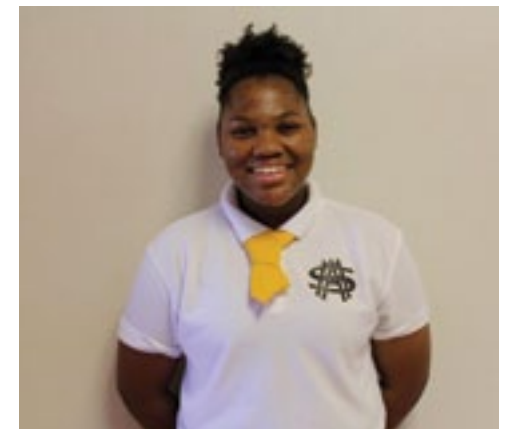
Gold Tie Kristin Tatum ‘18 spent her summer volunteering at Cedars-Sinai hospital once a week, attended a summer camp at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and was accepted into the Marist Pre-College Summer Program.

We are so proud that Kristin has continued serving the community in the Health Careers field!



Gold Tie Kyara Robinson ‘18 was awarded a full scholarship to the 2016 Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar (TASS) entitled “Are you an American Citizen? A History of a Complicated Question” at Cornell University. This 6 week-long educational program is geared for highly motivated sophomores.

We are so proud that Kyara participated in the 24th year of Telluride’s Sophomore Seminar!



150 Students Honored at Academic Awards Ceremony

The 2015-2016 Academy Awards Ceremony was held in May to recognize students who have consistently demonstrated a commitment to strive for excellence in the areas of academics, leadership, service and creative talents.

Blue Tie Laura Banks-Ordone ‘16 received the 2016 Engineering Award. She has been selected three times to participate in the highly competitive Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) by the United States Navy. This fall, she will be attending the University of Rhode Island to study Ocean Engineering.



Laura Banks-Ordone ‘16 with her mother Michelle Banks-Ordone ‘87 (far right) and her grandmothers

Blue Ties Class of 2016

On Saturday, May 28, the graduating class of 2016 received 5 Practical Bits of Advice from the Keynote Speaker Blue Tie Sr. Kathleen Kelly CSJ '52:

We can't walk the journey alone

Ask questions

Live a reflective life

Take risks

Be happy



Build Community • Be Leaders • Transform Our World • Give Back



The Blue Ties of the Class of 2016 have been accepted to over 70 Colleges and Universities including:

California State University-Long Beach
California State University-Los Angeles
California State University-Sacramento
California State University-San Diego
California State University-San Francisco
Clark Atlanta University
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
Florida Institute of Technology
Grand Canyon University
Hampton University
Hawaii Pacific University
Howard University
Marist College
Marymount University
Mount St. Mary's University
North Carolina A&T State University
Northern Arizona University
Pepperdine University
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
St. John's University
Texas A&M University
Tulane University
Tuskegee University
University of Arizona
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California-Irvine
University of California-Los Angeles
University of California-Riverside
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of Dallas
University of North Carolina
University of Rhode Island
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of the Pacific
Virginia State University
Williams College
Xavier University of Louisiana

The 127th Commencement of St. Mary's Academy

College & Carondelet Corner

Welcome to SMA's College Center

Tyesha Hemmans is the new College and Guidance Counselor at SMA! She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Masters of Arts degree in Educational Counseling. She brings over 10 years of College Counseling experience from both public and charter schools. Her mission is to implement a comprehensive guidance program that promotes the exploration of college and career goals while aligning to SMA's Integral Student Outcomes, *Live* and *Serve*. She strives to ensure that SMA graduates will have the necessary skills to navigate the college systems and advocate for themselves in a manner befitting of Women of Distinction.



5 Burning Questions with College Counselor Tyesha Hemmans

What is the most important lesson you have learned?

Be an active listener! Everyone has a want and need to be heard. Really listen before you respond.

What would people be most surprised to learn about you?

I aspired to be the first female mayor of my home city.

What was the last book you read?

I'm on the last chapter of *Tattoos on the Heart* by Father Boyle.

What was your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject in high school was Psychology. I loved it so much, I obtained my bachelors degree in it.

If you could give your high school self advice, what would it be?

There are so many things I would say...

1. Worry is negative faith.
2. Treat others as you want to be treated.
3. Try to make someone smile every day.
4. Don't procrastinate.
5. Visit your college counselor at least once a week!



St. Mary's Academy

Sr. Maureen Doherty CSJ celebrates 60 years of service

Sr. Maureen Doherty CSJ (Sr. Mo) celebrated her 60th Jubilee during St. Joseph's Week in the spring semester. A gathering was held in March at the Provincial House to recognize the 29 CSJs of the Albany Province celebrating 80, 75, 70, 60 and 50 years in the congregation. SMA held a liturgy to commemorate Sr. Maureen's commitment to living the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet by volunteering as the school's librarian. She works tirelessly, encouraging students to receive tutoring services as needed and ensuring students have a quiet space to complete their homework assignments and projects during breaks, lunch, and after school.



We asked our alumnae to share their fondest memories of Sr. Maureen and this is what they had to say...

"I recently visited St Mary's after about 20 years. I walked into the library and there was Sister Mo. I really didn't think she would remember me, but to my surprise she said, 'Of course I remember you, you used to wear red reading glasses.' St. Mary's will always be home!" – Dana Stubblefield Robinson '92, Blue Tie

"She taught me how to be a compassionate person who gives back."

– Melissa Ardon '95, Red Tie

"I always enjoyed my religion classes with her...before we started class 'breathe in and breathe out.'"

– Yared Salgado '98, Gold Tie



Yared Salgado and Sr. Maureen at Jubilee Celebration

"Oh Sister Mo!!! She was always so nice and I have kept in touch with her throughout the years. She was one of the most inspiring teachers I had. She saw something in me. Thank you Sister Maureen for your 60 years of dedication to the Sisters of St. Joseph."

– Brenda Hernandez '01, Green Tie

"I love Sr. Mo who always showed how much she cared about my family. Especially my daughters Renee and Robyn who attended SMA in the 90s. Whenever I see her now she still remembers who I am by name and the names of my daughters."

- Lillian Adams Rouzan '66, Gold Tie



1995 Class Yearbook Photo

From the Alumnae Association

Alumnae Corner: Blue Tie Kathleen Doyle Felix '44



Kathleen Doyle Felix exhibits the characteristics of a true Belle, a woman generous with her time, commitments and spirit. Born in 1927, Kathleen, affectionately known as “Kay” was raised in Los Angeles. Kay followed her older sister’s footsteps, Gold Tie Lois Doyle ‘42, and attended St. Mary’s Academy.

Kay vividly recalled on the day after graduation, how much she was going to miss her time at the school, “I just cried and cried, until one of my friends took me to the beach, which managed to cheer me up.”

In 1946, she met the love of her life, Eddie Felix, at a Kairos club event at St. Raphael’s parish. Three years later, they were married. Eddie was a graduate of Mt. Carmel High School. Together, Eddie and Kay raised 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. With 15 grandchildren, Kay indicated that “it’s been a full life.” In April 2015, Eddie passed away.

Over the years, Kathleen has been a devout volunteer. She helped raise monies for the Carmelites’ retirement fund, assisted with the archives at SMA, served as a Eucharistic Minister, and provided nursing care to the elderly at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Kathleen is retired and spends her time writing poetry and visiting her children and grandchildren during vacations.

Alumnae Corner: Green Tie Dolly Gee '77



Judge Dolly Gee, the first Chinese American woman to serve on a Federal District bench, was appointed by President Obama during his first term. She credits St. Mary’s Academy for providing an environment for independent thinking, leadership and good citizenship habits. Judge Gee recognizes that her education influences the work she does by “building bridges to promote tolerance, diversity and multi-cultural respect”. Judge Gee continues to keep in touch with many of her classmates and noted them to be “remarkable women” who received “the confidence and training to achieve our goals and overcome any setbacks”.

Dolly is currently the US District Court Judge in the Central District of California and is involved with The CASA Program, a federal, pre-trial rehabilitation program designed to reduce incarceration, prison time, and recidivism. The program identifies defendants with lesser crimes to meet weekly with counselors, judges and receive training in necessary life skills including financial literacy and nutrition. Judge Gee is truly “serving the dear neighbor” in her active role in The CASA program!

Senior Tie Returning Ceremony



The annual Senior Tie Returning Ceremony honored the 2016 Blue Tie graduates by recognizing the gifts and talents they shared with the SMA community. The ceremony signifies that our Blue Ties are strong, college prepared women ready to begin the next phase in their educational careers.

A former teacher, Roger Knight, was selected as the honorary speaker. He shared his wisdom and reflected on the fond memories he had while teaching the Blue Ties. At the end of his speech, Mr. Knight also “returned” the creative and fun ties he wore as a teacher to commemorate this special occasion! Following the ceremony, the Blue Ties attended a luncheon with a panel of recent alumnae graduates from 2010-2015 who shared their first year college experiences and provided important advice to our new graduates.

Congratulations to the Blue Tie Class of 2016 and welcome to the SMA Alumnae community!

Class Reunion Notices

The Green Tie Class of 1949 will be celebrating their 70th Class Reunion in 2019! The Class Reunion Committee members include Sheila Sullivan, Theresa McPolin and Dorothy Lea. For more information or to get involved, please contact Jeanne Fisher, SMA Development Director, at jfisher@smabelles.org or 310-674-8470 x209

The Green Tie Class of 1961 55th Class Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at the Hyatt Hotel LAX. For more information or to get involved, please contact Catherine Delmas Belt at 760-720-9424 or cjdelmas@juno.com

The Gold Tie Class of 1962 55th Class Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at The Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel in Costa Mesa. For more information or to get involved, please contact Mary Fitzgerald Vavrik at 949-680-7314 or marypegg@aol.com

The Red Tie Class of 1967 50th Class Reunion will be held between May 26-28, 2017. For more information or to get involved, please contact Patti Bohache Strait at red.ties.67@gmail.com or Madelyn Faustina Murray at 213-216-6717

From the Alumnae Association

Annual Golden Grads Luncheon

St. Mary's Academy welcomed back the classes of 1946, 1956 and the Golden Grads of 1966, the first graduating class from the Inglewood campus, to celebrate their golden anniversaries at SMA on Saturday, May 28, 2016. The luncheon was held in the Library following the 2016 Blue Tie graduation. SMA Faculty, Staff and Board Members gathered as a community to commemorate this festive occasion!



The Golden Grads were welcomed by Principal Nancy Portillo, Development Director Jeanne Fisher and Board President Norene Zapanta '65. Sr. Kathleen Mary McCarthy CSJ provided the Blessing for the luncheon. The event concluded with student ambassadors leading campus tours to showcase the various career path programs, unique classrooms and beautification developments that have occurred over the years at SMA.



Gold Tie Class of 1966 Celebrate 50 Year Reunion at SMA



The Gold Tie Class of 1966 held their 50 year reunion at SMA on Saturday, June 4, 2016, fifty years to the day they graduated. The school's Hannon Dining Room was filled with blue and gold decorations, their giraffe mascot, school uniforms, memorabilia and yearbooks. Classmate, Patricia Lumpkins James, catered the luncheon event and classmate Kathy Morgan Itzel underwrote the entire event, donating all proceeds to the school's JMO Emergency Fund, named after Kathy's late sister, Judy, a Gold Tie in the class of 1962. The JMO Emergency Fund assists current SMA students who have great financial needs. The funds cover the costs of incidental items such as school supplies, uniforms, meal tickets, etc. to support students to excel in high school. The day was truly one of spirit and fellowship! Congrats Gold Ties, class of 1966!

Class Notes

Do you have any accomplishments or experiences you want to share with your classmates?

Please return the remit envelope to let us know what is happening in your life!

Green Tie Patricia Hine Benson '37 lives in Meadowbrook Assisted Living and remains in contact with some of her classmates.

Red Tie Bernice Fijar Lynch Bajada '59 celebrated her 75th birthday in Jamaica with her entire family!

Blue Tie Betty Garcia Gludt '60 is now the Executive Director of Reachout Women's Center in Tucson, AZ.

Gold Tie Leslie Felch Pittman '62 is a retired RN who recently volunteered as the Program Chair for the Staff Retired Association for USC. She now spends her time traveling and enjoying life with her family and grandchildren.

Gold Tie Susan Forve Good '66 is teaching French at a public high school in Maryland. She has been married for 44 years and has 3 children and 9 grandchildren.

Gold Tie Brenda Woods Pembroke '70 is the published author of 7 books for young people and the recipient of numerous literary awards including the Coretta Scott King Honor for *The Red Rose Box*. Her next book *Zoe in Wonderland* is scheduled to be released in August 2016.

Rest In Peace

Let us remember in prayer the following members of the SMA family—alumnae, friends, former faculty and staff:

*Nancy Lee Clark Agler '45
Mary Ellen Najera Burkett '60
Corinne Clark Callahan '51
Rosalyn Giannelli Dickie '55
Sr. Therese Donahue CSJ '48
Carolyn Edwards Felando '59
Edward Felix (husband of Kathleen Doyle Felix '44)
Sr. Mary Gahwolf CSJ '41
Madeline Garibaldi (mother of Brenda Garibaldi '64)
Hon. Jack Goertzen (friend of SMA)
Ardnas Harris '85
Judy Jackson (mother of Veronica Jackson McBeth '64)
Marianne Johnson Heinlein '47
Danielle Howlett Judson '63
Phyllis Kirby Jones '44
Doris Jordan (mother of Raichelle Rai Jordan '86)
Howard Kaiser (spouse to Elyse Kaiser, son-in-law to Joanne George '48)
Dolores Leon Landy '48
Euro Kelly Lauderdale (father of Tiffany Perise Lauderdale '84)
Juli Dumas Lydum '56
Bruce McElderry (father of Christine McElderry Blantz '66)
Robert Mimiaga (husband of Annette Rios Mimiaga '57)
Marjorie Landis Nemec '54
Oscar Pallares (husband of Mary Reveles Pallares '50)
Niche Perry '86
Kathy Pinesett '85
Lorraine Puerling (mother of Christine Puerling '72)
Michelle Radle '70
Linda Dietz Ruisi '60
Mary Russell (friend of SMA)
Anne Schneider '62
Rosemarie Mundy Shephard '71
Mary Lou Melanson Stack '45
Margo Neeland Steeneken '71
Jeanelle McDonald Stehley '42
Michelle Humphrey Walker '79*

From the Development Office

Hello Alumnae and Friends of SMA!

How fast the past 12 months have flown by! It's been a year since I assumed the role of Development and Alumnae Department Director for St. Mary's Academy. During this time, I have met wonderful SMA alumnae and friends of the school. The many generous people who are on board with ensuring the students receive the best possible education and are afforded many 'outside of the classroom' learning opportunities, is wonderfully heartwarming. What a rewarding experience to be involved with such a giving community!

As I look back on the past year, I fondly recall –

The alumnae, in particular those who celebrated their class reunions held on and off campus; graduates from all Tie colors, stopping by to say 'hello', many walking the halls, or looking through yearbooks and other memorabilia; current SMA college students and recent college graduates sharing their experiences, and letting us know how much they miss their high school.

The SMA friends and partners, who provided vision screening to all the students, and new glasses to those who needed them; dental screening and dental care education; an opportunity to assist with a community environment health assessment; educational information for the entire student body, including a marvelous Career Day held on campus and a presentation from the Treasurer of the United States.

The various events held on the school campus with alumnae and friends – book club "Belles and Books", the annual Advent retreat, the Zero Reunion pancake breakfast, and the 50th year celebration of our current school campus.

As the new school year is beginning, I look forward to continued work on projects with the school's alumnae, friends and partners, Foundations, our students and their parents/guardians, our faculty, staff and Board members. Above all, I praise and thank our dear Lord for the many blessings He has provided St. Mary's Academy the last 127 years, and trust He will continue to grace our school community throughout the 128th year.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness of our school and your steadfast generosity. May you and yours be richly blessed this new school year.

My best to you,

Jeanne Fisher
Development Director

"Mardi Gras" Casino Night



The second Casino Night Fundraiser was held in February at SMA. This year's theme "Mardi Gras" created an exciting evening of colorful beads and decorations for our parents, alumnae and friends. Guests had the opportunity to participate in games including craps, roulette, black jack and bingo! The event included musical entertainment, a generous appetizer buffet, silent auction and raffle prizes. All proceeds from the event supported the needs of the school. *The next Casino Night Fundraiser, themed "Academics and Athletics", on Saturday, March 11, 2017 will support educational and athletic programs at SMA!*

Green Tie Class of 1965 SMA Beautification Project

Through the generosity of the Green Tie Class of 1965, the second floor along the Math and Science Wing was renovated with laminate wood flooring that compliments the furniture purchased by the Green Tie Classes of 1963 and 1973. This SMA beautification project helps create a space where students can reflect, relax, study and socialize with one another.



To learn more about how you can contribute towards beautification projects for our school, please contact the Development Director, Jeanne Fisher, at 310-674-8470 x209.

Staying Connected with SMA!

The Fall Echo will now serve as the "annual" notice to renew your membership dues. Please submit your membership dues through this Fall Echo's envelope or online at www.smabelles.org. We thank our alumnae for being active members in our SMA community. Your dues help to defray the costs associated with the publication of the Echo, alumnae retreats and participative activities held on campus. Please know you are always welcome to visit the school and as the spirit calls, participate in and assist with a variety of school/student activities.

Follow us on social media to remain current on events and Belle stories! To send us your contact information, please return the Fall Echo envelope or visit the Alumnae tab to "Update Your Contact Information" at www.smabelles.org.

From the Development Office

13 Students Receive Academic Achievement Scholarships



The June Kamimoto-Minami Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of June Kamimoto Minami, a graduate of the Blue Tie Class of 1960, who passed away in 2015. Her husband, Dr. Roland Minami, presented 7 senior Blue Tie students with this college scholarship at the Spring Awards Ceremony in recognition of their academic excellence while studying at St. Mary's Academy.



The "Mr. Pash Salehi Science and Mathematics Scholarship Award" is sponsored by Mia Jackson and Jasmine Anderson Taylor, graduates of the Blue Tie Class of 2000 and Mr. Pash Salehi, who served as chairman and teacher in our science department for 28 years. 6 students received this scholarship award at the Spring Awards Ceremony in recognition of their academic achievements in science and math.

These scholarship monies assist the students and their families with their 2016-2017 tuition.

To receive more information on how you can establish a scholarship award to support our Belles, please contact the Development Director, Jeanne Fisher, at 310-674-8470 x209.

127 Years in Educating Young Women, 50 Years in Inglewood

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Mary's Academy is committed to forming a Christian community that nurtures and challenges each young woman to attain her full potential. For 127 years, SMA has provided quality education and spiritual development in an atmosphere of empowerment for young women.

For the last 50 years, the school has been serving the Inglewood community as a beacon of hope for our students, their families and for all of us who have joined our energies and talents in making St. Mary's Academy the very best faith-based high school for young women in our area. In recognition of this important milestone, SMA held a *Golden Birthday Celebration* in May to honor the present and past SMA faculty and staff for their commitment to SMA's mission to form integral young women in service with others. We thank everyone who participated, whether it was attending the event or sending a donation to support this special anniversary for the school. All proceeds from the *Golden Birthday Celebration* and Keeping SMA Golden Tie Color Projects are helping the school to "Stay Golden" by enhancing the school's physical and technological infrastructure. We thank our alumnae and friends for their ongoing investment in supporting the traditions, values and spirit of SMA.



Keeping SMA Golden: Tie Color Projects

Total Raised: \$15,160!!!!

\$4,550

Raised towards Electrical Upgrades!

\$4,470

Raised towards Landscaping Upgrades!

\$3,200

Raised towards Technological Upgrades!

\$2,940

Raised towards Plumbing Upgrades!

**St. Mary's Academy
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LOS ANGELES, CA
PERMIT #816

Echo

Fall 2016



2016-2017 ALUMNAE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2016

15: ALUMNAE FALL MEETING

November 2016

16: BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

December 2016

3: ALUMNAE RETREAT
17: 0-5 YEAR REUNION

January 2017

18: BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES
28: ALUMNAE WINTER MEETING

February 2017

15: BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

March 2017

4: ALUMNAE SPRING MEETING
11: ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS CASINO NIGHT
15: BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

April 2017

29: ARTS APPRECIATION SHOWCASE

May 2017

17: SENIOR TIE RETURNING CEREMONY
27: SMA GRADUATION & GOLDEN GRADS
LUNCHEON

June 2017

10: ALUMNAE SUMMER MEETING