

St. Mary's Academy
Alumnae and Friends Newsletter



The Echo

Summer 2015



Red Tie Class of 2015 at the 126th Commencement

From the Principal

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

For those of you who have the pleasure of knowing Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy, CSJ, she is one who makes you think and reflect. She often asks those connected to our school, "What gifts do you receive from St. Mary's Academy?" Depending on the time of day, where we are in the school year or just the moment, my answer may change; but there is always a genuine, organic answer—joy.

I see joy in our school. St. Mary's Academy is moving forward along with the city of Inglewood as it undergoes a transformative renaissance. The Academy is kicking off its first Endowment Capital Campaign, *creating tomorrow today*, which will support our mission of service to the "dear neighbor" and allow opportunities for more students to discover all of which women is capable as they live, love, learn and serve. I have also experienced forward movement and joy this year during our accreditation visit, which brought together all stakeholders;

Board of Directors, alumnae, parents, faculty, staff and students. St. Mary's Academy was recognized by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) for its commitment to excellence and continued student learning and awarded the highest six-year accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

I see joy in our community. St. Mary's Academy is grateful to have a community of friendship with faculty, staff, alumnae, parents and the Board of Directors, that continue to support our 126-year old mission of providing a dynamic education while promoting Christian values and a lifelong commitment to learning and service. We have been blessed to have had a wonderful Development Director and friend in Manny Villarreal, who has given to the continued growth in so many ways. His love of the Academy and the overall success of our students will continue to be a gift to us all as he reenters the classroom and shares his love of teaching religion at SMA.

I see joy in our students. St. Mary's Academy provides an environment allowing students to discover, grow and form academically and spiritually. Being a St. Mary's Academy Belle, the spirit of service is not only instilled upon you, but becomes a part of who you are. This past year, although each student is only required to give 80 hours of service in their high school career, the graduating Red Tie class of 2015 gave over

130,000 hours of Christian Service in varying organizations and earned over one million dollars in scholarships for both academics and service.

With your giving support and friendship, may St. Mary's Academy thrive as it continues to be a place of discovered experiences, discovered gifts and discovered joy, allowing young ladies to *create tomorrow today*.

In gratitude and friendship,

Nancy Portillo

Principal



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ron Banks
Ben Hayes
Olivia Le Bouff

For their love, support, and
years of service on the SMA
Board of Directors



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SMA has launched its first ever Endowment Capital Campaign (ECC) opening the door for more opportunities and greater successes at SMA. Find out more.

Photo on cover: Class of 2015 on graduation day.



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From the Alumnae Association

Dear Alumnae of St. Mary’s Academy,

You belong to an elite and important organization. You spent 4 short years at St. Mary’s Academy, but upon graduation day, you became a FOREVER ALUM. Your relationship to SMA is then everlasting.

Our school depends on your participation, involvement, and financial contribution. St. Mary’s Academy’s Alumnae are critical to the life of the school today and your participation can provide its own reward: Self-fulfillment and a continued tradition of Educational Excellence.

Here are some of the ways to engage with SMA, its students, and your fellow alumnae:

- Serve as volunteers for our on-campus and off-campus events
- Serve as mentors and role models for our students
- Assist with financial support, fundraising, and alumnae development

On-Campus Events:

- Belles & Books
- Career Day (Bi-annually)
- Annual Day of Reflection
- Open House for Prospective Students
- Graduation

Off-Campus Events:

- Derby Day
- The Ties That Bind & Build (Bi-annually)
- Athletics (On and off campus)
- Class Reunions
- The Donor Dinner (Bi-annually) by invitation



(Left) Paula Simoncini
(Right) Madelyn Murray

To learn more about the SMA Alumnae Association or provide feedback and ideas, please contact us mmurray.alum@smabelles.org or psimoncini.alum@smabelles.org.

We wish you all an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at many of our events especially our next major fundraiser, “Ties That Bind and Build”- an event honoring distinguished Alumnae on Sunday, Sept. 27th, at Mount St. Mary’s University Doheny Campus. Mark your calendars and watch for upcoming information.

Regards,

Madelyn Faustina Murray (Red Tie ‘67), President Paula Simoncini (Red Tie ‘63), Vice President



SMA Alumnae - “Belles & Books is Back

Join with SMA students, the SMA English department, and fellow Alumnae in our summer reading project: **Belles & Books**.

What’s required? *Read the Book and Show Up for Class*

During the summer, SMA Alumnae will read the same book as the students of their tie color and come back to the school for a classroom discussion, on **Wednesday, September 9th, 2015**.

We need at least 2-3 alumnae per class to share their insight in a teacher-led discussion of the selected book, with freshman, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. Sign up according to your tie color.

The books the school has chosen are:

9th Grade Red Ties	
Maus	Maus by Art Spiegelman, is based on a story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler’s Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father’s story and history itself.
10th Grade Gold Ties	
Sarah’s Key	Paris, May 2002: On Vel’ d’Hiv’s 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France’s past. Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah.
11th Grade Green Ties	
Ragtime	The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house.
12th Grade Blue Ties	
The Importance of Being Ernest	A satirical case of mistaken identities, “The Importance of Being Earnest” details the bachelor adventures of John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff and their trials and tribulations of love won and lost.

To become part of Belles & Books and become a volunteer reader/mentor with the students, please contact Madelyn Murray mmurray.alum@smabelles.org.



"When I first started at St. Mary's Academy in the fall of 2011, I would have never imagined the woman I would have become. Though excited to start high school, I was afraid of the unknown. Slowly but surely I developed a bond with my classmates who would become my sisters. With God, my family, my sisters, and the help of the amazing faculty at St. Mary's Academy I knew I could conquer anything that I put my mind to. I continue to set my standards high and because of this, finished with a full scholarship to Hampton University. I know that I can be anything I want to be. To my sisters, always follow your dreams, no matter high how they might be."

~Anaiah Brown, Red Tie, '15

Welcome to the Family!

You are now alums of St. Mary's Academy. Always remember, the knot in your ties represent our unbreakable bond. As you venture into the real world, continue to wear your ties proudly in the way you walk, talk, and carry yourself. We are Women of Distinction. We are leaders. We shape communities by providing service to the Dear Neighbor. We support and encourage each other through hardship and triumphs. We invest in the lives of future Belles to realize their dreams and achieve success.

Always remember, tomorrow is shaped by what you do today. Therefore, give thanks for each milestone however big or small. In all things, ask God to direct your path.

Red Ties be bold! Be Passionate! Be Joyful! Excite the world with your vision! Be inspiring!



Congratulations Graduates!

RED TIES OF THE CLASS OF 2015 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO OVER 70 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES INCLUDING:

ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY
AZUZA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO
CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS
CSU LOS ANGELES
CSU NORTHRIDGE
EMORY UNIVERSITY
FISK UNIVERSITY
FRESNO STATE UNIVERSITY
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
LANGSTON UNIVERSITY
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
MARIST COLLEGE
MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
SPELMAN COLLEGE
ST. JOHN UNIVERSITY
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
UC BERKLEY
UC RIVERSIDE
UC SAN DIEGO
UCLA
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

The 126th Commencement of St. Mary's Academy



Left: Green Tie Class of 1965 Above: (Top left) Stephanie Callej '65; (top right) Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy, CSJ; (Middle) Cynthia Haxton '65 & Manny Villarreal, Former Director of Development; (bottom left) Norene Zapanta '65, SMA Board Chair; Daniel Villa, Former Board Chair (bottom right)

Celebrating Golden Grads

What a magnificent event! Delicious food, velvety wine, scrumptious little tart shaped pies! Flowers and centerpieces all around. Tables draped and decorated in white, green, and red. Alumnae mingling and catching up with classmates. The 2015 Golden Grad Luncheon was truly special.

Dining among the Golden Grads of the Green Tie class of 1965 and Red Tie class of 1955 was a 1935 Red Tie graduate by the name of Carmen Ainslie McClellan. Carmen is 99 years old and travelled directly from Oregon with her family to attend. She was honored and presented flowers and a canvas photograph of her 1935 senior picture by Daniel Villa, now former SMA Board Chair.

The luncheon took place in the library immediately after the graduation. Speakers included Nancy Portillo (Principal), Daniel Villa, Norene Zapanta (new SMA Board Chair), Madelyn Murray (SMA Alumnae President), Stephanie Callej '65, and emceed by Manny Villarreal (now former Director of Development). Student Ambassadors guided alumnae on tours to see the campus and all its uniquely impressive qualities.

The luncheon itself was orchestrated by Cindy Haxton (Green Tie '65) and her committee consisting of the Development Department and volunteers Paula Simoncini (Red Tie '63), Sheryl Lange (Red Tie '67), Jeanne Fisher (new Director of Development), faculty, and staff. The event was catered by Casablanca Restaurant (located in Venice) and Gwen's Specialty Cakes & Catering (located in Inglewood). Special thanks to all who helped make this a beautiful and memorable experience.

For further information about Alumnae Association events and ways to participate, please contact: President, Madelyn Murray '67 at mmurray@smabelles.org or (213) 216-6717 or Vice President, Paula Simoncini '63 psimoncini@smabelles.org or (310) 545-3304. Also, check out the Alumnae tab of the SMA website at www.smabelles.org.

Tribute to Carmen Ainslie McClellan, Class of 1935

Written by Cynthia Haxton, Green Tie '65

Carmen Ainslie McClellan, Class of 1935, came back to her alma mater, St. Mary's Academy, with her daughter, Nancy McClellan, in the hopes of reuniting with some of her dear old friends. Alas, Carmen was the only one from the Class of 1935 who was in attendance at our Golden Grads luncheon on June 13, 2015. But what a treat for all of us! What a lovely and charming person Carmen is -- I only wish we could have had more time to hear her great stories of SMA during the 1930's!! You can see what a remarkable person she is in the lovely picture of Carmen with our SMA principal Nancy Portillo. Thank you for making our special luncheon an unforgettable event Carmen!

Photo: (Top) Nancy Portillo, Principal (left) & Carmen Ainslie McClellan (Right) at Golden Grads. (Bottom) Carmen's yearbook photo from 1935.



Derby Day A Day at the Races



Photo: (Top) Horse racing at the Santa Anita Race Track. (Bottom) American Pharoah winning the Triple Crown.

This year, Derby Day was celebrated at Santa Anita Race Track. 2015 marked the second year Derby Day was held at this location. With the city of Inglewood undergoing a city-wide upgrade and Hollywood Park Race Track permanently closed, Santa Anita has become the new home for Derby Day. Derby Day is an exciting event of racing, winning, refreshment merriment, and reminiscing with friends and classmates. For the diehard racing fan, Derby Day is perhaps the only day of the year where you can wear extravagant hats and clothes as those worn by Audrey Hepburn at the ascot opening race scene in the classic musical "My Fair Lady." For the newcomer, watching horses with long comical names and their jockies jet out the gates as they sprint down to a nail biting photo finish, is an adrenaline rush. Yes, Derby Day. As the kids say, "Fun Times."

Women of Distinction



SMA Belles Are Women of Distinction

Recognizing academic and professional achievements



Janai German, a 2015 Gates Millennium Scholar

When Janai German was called to the front office one day in mid-April, she had no idea her world was about to be rocked. “You have won the Gates scholarship!”

“The very first thing I thought was, ‘Yay! No debt!’ and that was followed quickly by immense joy and relief.”

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants only 1,000 full ride scholarships each year, and the application process is notorious for being long and tedious.

“People thought I was crazy for applying [to the Gates]—those

nine essays were a lot of work. Obviously now, it paid off, and I couldn’t be happier!”

Janai plans to use the Gates money towards her goal of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon.

“My family has a history of heart problems, so I’ve grown up really fascinated by how the heart works—it’s a small organ, but it’s what give you life.”

Janai will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall to study Biological Sciences.

Congratulations, Janai!

Update: The last Belle to be awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship was Briana Price, Green Tie Class of 2013. Currently attending UCLA.

Angelica Chima is Harvard Bound!

An ordinary late-March afternoon turned into anything but ordinary for Angelica Chima.

“I was taking a break from softball practice when I saw an email to check my Harvard portal [...] then I saw I was accepted and couldn’t help but scream. I think it scared my teammates!”

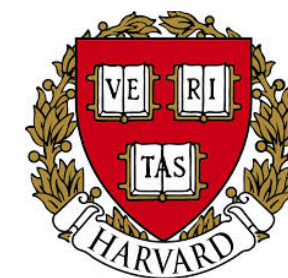
A naturally gifted student, Angelica has always been motivated to earn top grades and high test scores. Her four years of involvement and leadership at SMA allowed her

to develop into the well-rounded student a top university desires.

“I’m the first SMA student in quite a while to be heading to an Ivy League school, which is rewarding, but also extremely humbling.”

When anticipating the move away from home, Angelica is staying optimistic. “I’m nervous, sure, but I’m also kind of excited. I’ll get to experience East Coast weather and culture and just a different way of looking at things.”

While at Harvard, Angelica plans to study Biology and African Studies with an eye towards ophthalmology. Congratulations, Angelica!



2015 Top Academic Honors and Achievements

Taylor Montgomery
Four Year Academic
Scholarship Virginia State,
Posse Scholarship Program
Finalist

Angelica Chima
National Merit Scholarship
Corporation Commendation

Alexandrea Chima
National Merit Scholarship
Corporation Commendation

Drew Wood Palmer
“Outstanding Participant”
National Achievement
Scholarship Program PSAT/
NMSQT

Janai German
Gates Millennium Scholarship
Questbridge Scholarship
Program Finalist



SMA Belles Are Women of Distinction

Recognizing academic and professional achievements

Alumnae Achievements

Janet Clayton, Green Tie '73

My career as a successful journalist had its birth at St. Mary's Academy. I'm Janet Clayton, Green Tie class of 1973.

Three things happened in high school that steered me toward the news business: First, I took my first serious art class and realized I didn't have the talent to be a professional artist, as I had dreamed as a child; second, I took an aptitude test that asked me about activities I enjoyed—being in the know, talking to different sorts of people, writing. The test concluded that I should consider journalism as a career; third, I signed up for Yearbook and loved it. So when the time came for me to go to USC, checking my major was easy: Journalism. SMA prepared me well for working with words



St. Mary's Academy

Women of Distinction

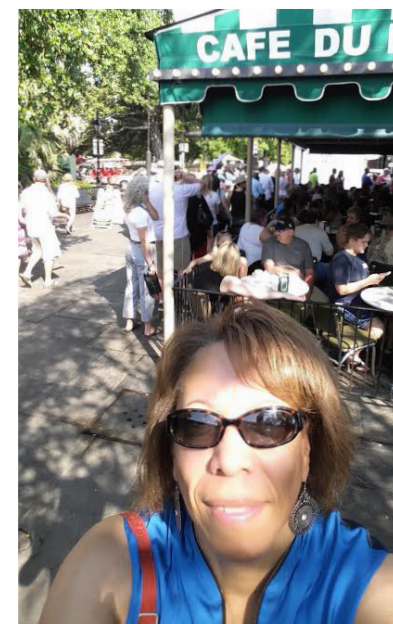


and storytelling. I was taught to be confident in an all-girl environment, where it was cool to be smart.

At USC, I wrote for the Daily Trojan. I worked during the summers at the Wave Newspapers. In my senior year, I was selected to participate in a program called the Washington D.C. semester. I was awarded an unpaid internship at the Los Angeles Times' Washington bureau simply by having the audacity to write a letter to the editor, who didn't know me, and asking for it. There's an important lesson there. You can't get a "yes" to an opportunity if you never ask.

After college, I worked at the LA Times in several positions, including reporter, editor of the editorial pages, and California editor. Those of us at the LA Times were driven by a passion for truth and a desire to afflict the comfortable and comfort the

afflicted. One day, I was talking to Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton, the next, interviewing a leader of a homeless encampment. It was often deadline-pressure work and long hours, but it was never dull. I even had the opportunity to do a live presidential debate on CNN. To think, it all started at St. Mary's Academy!



Alumnae, what is



your story?

Be featured in
the next ECHO



smabelles.org



"Like Us"

SMA Today

Big changes are occurring on the campus of SMA. Perhaps you've heard? SMA is preparing for a new era of academic excellence, higher enrollment, community outreach, technological advancement, sustainability, and greater visibility in the City of Inglewood and beyond. "How?" you may ask.

1. Expanding the SMA Endowment
2. Reconnecting with Alumnae
3. Building relationships with the city of Inglewood and surrounding areas
4. Building and promoting our Career Path Programs



New Director of Development

Director of Development - Jeanne Jagatich Fisher, MBA-HCM

Jeanne Fisher has been with St. Mary's Academy since 2002, when she was selected to design and implement the Health Careers Program. Prior to coming to St. Mary's Academy, she worked for 25 years in the health care field with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as a clinician and administrator. Throughout her professional career, she has been employed at nonprofit organizations that have been instrumental in serving and improving the health and education of the community.

Under Mrs. Fisher's guidance, the Health Careers Program has graduated close to 200 students and remains a popular

and attractive curriculum choice for incoming students. The professional healthcare relationships made, have allowed students to learn firsthand from numerous healthcare professionals. Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center -Torrance, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Mount St. Mary's University Nursing Program, have remained consistent supporters and partners of the Program due to positive relationships initiated under Jeanne's tenure. In her new role, she is looking forward to building relations with the school's current supporters and bringing on board new partners, while assisting with the continuation of the school's many successes. Mrs. Fisher has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Mount St. Mary's University and a Master of Business Administration, Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix.

The SMA Endowment - Creating Tomorrow Today

As of June 2015, St. Mary's Academy launched its first ever Endowment Capital Campaign. The committee plans to satisfy specific milestones over the course of three years. By satisfying these goals and objectives, the committee will create a gateway allowing for the perpetual growth of the Endowment.

The purpose of this campaign is to usher SMA into a new era of growth, expansion, and possibility. The SMA Endowment calls for new generations of women to be innovators, visionaries, leaders, problem solvers, and ambassadors for change. Each contribution is an investment in the educational, professional, experiential, and spiritual development of tomorrow's champions.

The expansion of SMA Endowment comes at the completion of the Fabulous Forum and the advent of Inglewood's largest expansion project, Hollywood Park of Tomorrow. Hollywood Park will draw over 6000 new residents to the City of Inglewood. The Forum and Hollywood Park will transform Inglewood into a destination city frequented by tourist and surrounding Southern Californian residents. While this expansion will impact the growth of St. Mary's Academy, the SMA Endowment will be instrumental in providing financial aid for prospective and current students to attend SMA.

By contributing to the SMA Endowment today, you become an active participant in building the future of SMA and young generations of Belles. You are providing students the gift of opportunity to transform their lives, pursue a college education, and become all of which women are capable. Your gift will inspire dreams, fortify ambitions, and cultivate talents. Your gift will broaden world views and create endless opportunities.



SMA Today: Career Path Programs

The Arts



Very few high schools in Southern California can boast they have a media room, classes in broadcast journalism, and a full blown recording studio equipped with a green screen. St. Mary's Academy is one of those schools. The exposure! The skills! The professionalism! The education the girls receive while creating newscasts for SMA Today, directing, acting, and filming videos of school plays and events, and capturing live action photographs using digital technologies is preparing them to handle the complexities and branches found within The Arts.

Engineering

*Written by Katrina M. Smith, MBA
SMA Staff*

I'll never forget the time SMA visited Loyola Marymount University, Fall 2014. On stage was a male, undergrad engineering student. As the girls sat in assembly for their orientation, he addressed them with a question. "Has anyone heard or know what engineering is?" Based on the nature of his question, he expected his young audience to be unfamiliar so he can then follow up with an informative motivational speech. The girls' response however left him puzzled. Everyone raised their hands.

"Wow, if I had engineering in high school, just think where I'd be in my field."

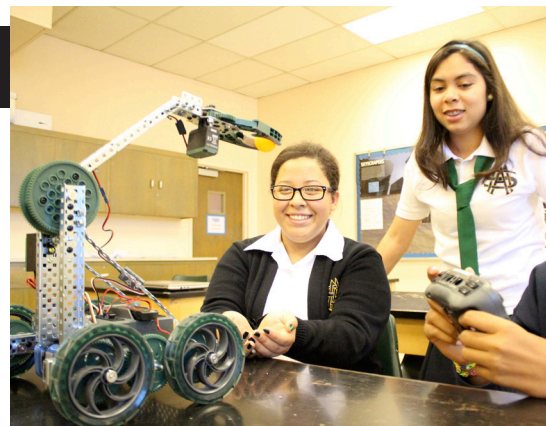
This is the reaction most people have when I tell them St. Mary's Academy has an engineering program, an SMA Robotics Team (SMARt Bots), and how the engineering program

is linked with STEM, USFirst, Raytheon, and is steadily working to build relationships with companies through alumnae. "Man, if I was in high school today, I'd go to SMA."

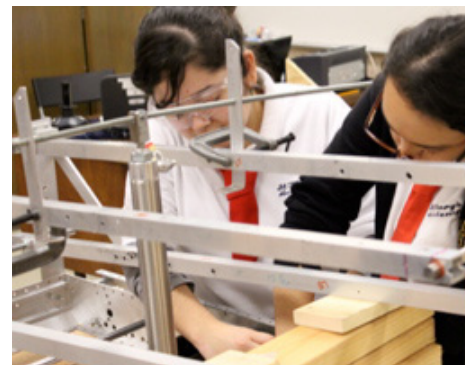
About the Engineering Program

Each year St. Mary's Academy is invited to the Engineer Week Games sponsored by Raytheon Corporation in El Segundo CA. This year we sent three students, one freshman and two juniors. Together, we competed with teams from other high schools to solve an engineering design problem. St. Mary's won the Mathematics Challenge portion of the competition. This is the second time St. Mary's has taken home an Engineering Week trophy.

This is the fourth year St. Mary's team, the SMARt Bots have



participated in the US FIRST regional robotics competition. Teams must design, build, and test a functioning robot in seven weeks time. Our robot successfully competed against numerous other high schools' robots. The tournament was held at the Long Beach Convention Center.



Health Careers

Recently, the 10th grade Health Careers Program Green Ties were able to meet and hear from Alumna Green Tie Buffy Grate, RN, Assistant Nurse Manager Postpartum, Women's Health, at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center, Torrance. During their monthly clinical visit to the hospital in May, Ms. Grate presented information to the students about her role in patient care and nursing management. After her presentation, and a question and answer session, Ms. Grate gave the students a tour of the Women's Health area, including newborn nursery. The students were particularly interested in how the newest and youngest patients were

cared for by medical and hospital staff. Earlier in the school year, the 9th grade Health Careers Program Gold Ties met and heard from Gold Tie Alumna Marianne Padden, Director of Risk Management, Compliance and Privacy for the medical center. She shared with the students how all hospital staff ensures patients' rights and safety. Both Alumnae allowed the students to deepen their understanding of patient care, while introducing the students to two different healthcare professions.

Our HCP students always enjoy hearing from SMA alumnae who are healthcare professionals. If you would be interested in speaking with the students, please contact Nancy Klipfel, Director of the Health Careers Program, at

nklipfel@smabelles.org.

Wenonah Valentine '72, Senior Project Leader of Health Communications, and Blue Tie Alumna, is providing a summer enrichment opportunity for interested Health Careers Program soon to be seniors, Blue Ties. In collaboration with the USC Diversity in Health Care Leadership Initiative, the students will have an opportunity to deepen their understanding of a variety of issues that impact the health of certain segments of our population, while gaining valuable research, team building, and public speaking skills. This will be the third summer Ms. Valentine has reached out to the Health Careers Program students, in offering them a valuable learning experience.



Healthy Ties

HCP Health & Mentorship Program

COMING SOON FEBRUARY 2016

This coming school year, while working alongside their professional Children's Hospital Los Angeles mentors, the St. Mary's Academy Blue Tie Seniors of the Health Careers Program will conduct research regarding various health issues impacting our communities. Please join our students as they present their research projects and conduct an afternoon of health education for all in attendance.

Stayed tuned to the SMA website for date and time.



CollegeSpring

POTENTIAL MADE POSSIBLE

New SAT class at SMA

St. Mary's Academy and CollegeSpring

Have partnered to provide an SAT prep program for 11th Grade Students.

Program Benefits

- Students work with college student mentors
- Practice with SAT Diagnostic Exams
- Receive instruction from SMA teachers

Class valued at \$1,200 Per Student



"For every 50 points students increased their score, the odds of going to a 4-year college increased by 10%!"

"Our students improved by over 170 points on average."

SMA Today: Athletics

SMA Athletics

The Athletic Department strives to produce champions in the classroom, in sport, and in life. This year the Athletic Department had great success with teams advancing to CIF playoffs.



Soccer

Lead by Coach James Wheaton, the soccer team advanced to 2nd round after a long hiatus from playoffs.

“Coming on to the soccer team my freshman year has been glorious. I’ve learned that each player has a different talent and when we bring them together that’s what makes us a talented team. We know that we hold a capability and not to let a clear-cut goal or score intimidate our next win. When we take a loss, we do get upset, but we are reminded that as long as we fought and improved, that’s a victory for us.”
~Micah Howard, Gold Tie ‘18

Track & Field

Dubbed “The Mighty 6,” Aliyah Hale, Kyra Anderson, Brianna Shufford, Keyshawna Myles, Mia Williams, and Anaiah Brown swept the Texas Relays winning the 4x200m, 4x400m, and breaking the meet record in the 4x100m with a time of 46.82. These six went on to earn Runner Up Division IV Champs and advanced to the State meet, placing 5th.



Softball advanced to the 1st round of CIF Playoffs.

Basketball placed 3rd in league also advanced to the 2nd round CIF Playoffs.



Alumnae in Sports

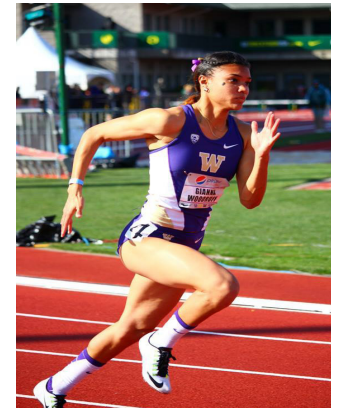
Our Alumnae continue the longstanding tradition of excellence in sports.



Congratulations to Gianna Woodruff
Red Tie ‘11

University of Washington (UW)
New Graduate 2015

2015 - All American First Team (DMR)
2015 - All American Second Team (400m H)
2014 - Pac-12 400m Hurdles Third Place
UW Career Best 400m 57.49



Casino Night



February 2015 introduced our newest fundraiser, CASINO NIGHT. The gym was decorated Vegas style with poker, craps, roulette, and black jack tables. With big money, high rollers, professional Vegas dealers, food, drinks, and musical entertainment, this event proved to be a great success for SMA athletic department. Our next Casino Night is Saturday, February 20, 2016 and will benefit the entire school! SUPPORT OUR BELLES AND JOIN THE FUN!



Coach Zunilda “Zee” Ogarro-Triplett, MSW,
Gold Tie ‘98

Seattle, WA University of Washington-Seattle, 1998-2002, BA-Sociology, University of Washington-Seattle, 2011-2014, Master’s-Social Work

“The superior education and enjoyable athletic experiences I received at SMA prepared me for the competitive and demanding academic and athletic atmosphere at UW.

I learned time management skills, humility, discipline, and the importance of keeping faith at the top of my list of virtues. I see it as my obligation to give back to my community and recognize that I am expected to set a positive example for young women who are on the path to success or need a little help finding their own path.”

SMA Today: The Arts



The Stepping Belles

The Stepping Belles, SMA's step team, is in its third year. For the 2014-15 school year, seven students performed in precision under the direction of Coach Velda Lewis. Over the years, the step team has been invited to participate in the Alpha Phi Alpha Western Regional Convention held at the Long Beach Renaissance Hotel. Together, with View Park and members of the Crenshaw alumni team, SMA kicked off the show. The step team has also performed for the Black College Expo, SMA Pep Rallies, and plans on performing in more shows in the Fall. With the support of alumna, Coach Lewis hopes the Stepping Belles grow and gain more exposure and visibility.

Alumnae, Friends, & Family

Do you belong to a sorority or fraternity? The Stepping Belles would love your support. Share your experiences us. Perhaps you may be featured in our next ECHO.



Alumna: Donna Simone Johnson, Green Tie '05

Donna Simone Johnson is a Green Tie from the class of 2005. She earned a BA in Theatre Performance & Directing from Vanguard University, an MA, in Dance Education from New York University, and an MFA in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts Film. Today she is a television and theatre Actress, SAG-AFTRA, AEA (Equity), and has performed in the James Franco Production "Magic Tower" (photo seen right).

"SMA gave me the confidence and drive to make excellence the goal. I found my voice and passion in high school, and went from tentative and hesitant to starring in plays and musicals by my junior and senior year. The voice I discovered while at SMA is my foundation as I breathe characters to life whether on stage, on film or in somatic study. Due to the intimate all-girls environment, I never learned to quiet or shirk my intelligence on account of being silenced by boys, nor was I steeped in environment where being muted was glorified. SMA produces bold, talented and successful women! I am proud of the legacy, and excited for what the next generation of girls singing and dancing in the halls will do to change the world.



SMA Theatre: Wizard of Oz

"Lions, tigers, and bears! Oh my!" Dorothy and her unusual entourage journey down a yellow brick road to tell a story of Oz few only know. This production was not the Judy Garland version most have come to know. Instead, the SMA Spring 2015 play featured the original story of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" as told by author L. Frank Baum.



Introducing

The Humming Belles

The 2014-2015 school year marks the first year of its inception conducted at the Colburn School.

Alumnae, Support the Arts!

What's your story? Tell us!

Want to see these programs grow?
Plant a seed and watch us flourish.

-SMA Endowment



Alumna: Chef Briana Musgrove

Briana Musgrove, Red Tie class of 1999, from Inglewood, CA is now an Executive Chef for Alaskan Dream Cruises and has her own company, Naturally Brie. Chef graduated from Johnson & Wales University in 2001 with an A.S Culinary Arts, in 2003 a BS in Food Service Management, and in 2005 a BS Food Marketing.

The Dear Neighbor



Community Involvement Recognizing achievements in service

Christian Service is integral to the mission of St. Mary's Academy, whose history and tradition is rooted in its founding Congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Encouraging service to the "dear neighbor" and working in partnership with others in order to bring about a world of peace, reconciliation and justice are essential elements of being a Christian woman.



Worthwhile Life

Written By Victoria Villa, Red Tie '15

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." I related to this quote all through high school by serving others because it made me happy. I had to keep busy weekdays and weekends, not only to complete SMA's community service requirement, but to also fulfill my requirement in making a difference in others' lives.

I began volunteering at the American Red Cross and Los Angeles Animal Shelter. At Red Cross, I taught others how to perform CPR and taught them what to do in case of any emergency. I was shocked and saddened by how people were not aware of these important things in order to survive. However, I was glad to see in the end how much

they've learned. At the animal shelter, I helped make dogs feel safe coming from negative environments and was always pleased to see their tails wagging as I came.

In Photos: (Top left) 2015 Red Ties posing with Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy, CSJ. (Top Right) Sister Kathleen Mary and her team making peanut butter sandwiches for the hungry.



Community Service Network

Below is a list of organizations where students have provided service. To add your organization and show your support, contact (310) 674-8470 or email Sr. Kathleen Mary McCarthy at kmccarthy@smabelles.org. Service to others not only helps reverence, appreciation, and acceptance, but further promotes student self-esteem, all of which support the philosophy and mission of St. Mary's Academy.

Christian Service Venues

Cheer for Children

LA Police Department

Algebra Club Cool Kids

Iglesia Belaarda

Inglewood Jr. All American Football and Cheer League

All Sports Medical Services

Tutoring at St. Mary's as well as helping the Development Office, Library, Special Events

Heal the Bay

Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Los Angeles

Pit Stop Packaging

Backyard Sisters

House of Yahweh

Alexandria House

St. Joseph's Center

Good Shepherd Center

South LA Shelter

LA Speech & Language Therapy Center

LA Regional Food Bank

South LA Animal Shelter

Holmes United Methodist Church Sunday School

HOPE HIV/AIDS Ministry Oasis Clinic

Whole Foods Market

S.A.Y. Yes! Center

Red Cross Blood Drive

West Coast S

Sports Medicine Foundation

SMA Sandwich Program

Annual Healthy Wealthy and Wise

Star Eco Station

St. Margaret's Center

Central Baptist Church



The Dear Neighbor



Alumnae in the Community

Karen E. Loquet, Blue Tie '80

Mrs. Karen E. Loquet Foster graduated with a BA and BS from Cal State LA. She is now a Customer Applications Branch Manager for LA County.

"I enjoyed my years at SMA, and through the passage of time at SMA, and life's lessons, I was able to discover the woman I am today! Today, I work for LA County, with over 33 years of service mainly in information technology, while managing some of the County's most critical systems. Recently, I was appointed as the first woman to lead and manage the Information Technology Customer Applications Branch, with over 350 budgeted positions and a departmental operating

budget for over \$445 million. I have had a very challenging and rewarding career so far. I enjoy mentoring my staff, and helping others to achieve their goals. I am also a wife, and a mother of one son, but what I love most is leading others, and being a change agent. One of my favorite verses from a song is: 'I was looking for a leader and (realized) the leader was me!' I believe this verse epitomizes the lessons we learned at SMA!"

Qiana R. La Croix, Blue Tie '00

LaCroix is a 2000 Blue Tie from Inglewood, CA. She completed her undergrad at Loyola Marymount University, majoring in Psychology and Spanish. She earned her masters at Pepperdine University, studying Clinical Psychology, Emphasis on Marital & Family Therapy. She is currently working at Tarzana Treatment Center as an MFT Intern. Currently at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Center as a Crisis Line.

"SMA's faculty helped me realize that I could do better than just 'good enough.' During my time there, I had great teachers who encouraged me to achieve what I didn't think was possible at the time, which was to push past the fear of failure and succeed. That experience has carried me through all other educational endeavors on my way to a career in Mental Health."



Shaping Communities

Our alumnae are positively shaping families, communities, and the world. Share with us how you have provided service to the dear neighbor so that your story can be recognized in our next ECHO



Ties That Bind and Build

St. Mary's Academy Alumnae Association
Invites You to a Benefit for Student Scholarships

Honoring Outstanding Alumnae

Sr. Suzanne Jabro, CSJ '64
CHARISM & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Peggy McCormick '70
SERVICE TO SMA

Christina McAlpin, MD '83
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Norma S. Kirkpartick '89
DISTINGUISHED DONOR

Sunday, September 27, 2015

10:00 am Mass in Mercy Chapel

11:00 am Doheny Mansion Tour

12:00 pm Champagn Brunch on the South Lawn

Mistress of Ceremonies

Val Zavala
VP News and Public Affairs Anchor, KCET, SoCal Connected

Mount St. Mary's University Doheny Campus

10 Chester Place
Los Angeles, CA 90007
\$100 per person

For more information and to reserve tables

Call (310) 674-8470 x209

Email jfisher@smabelles.org or visit www.smabelles.org

A Time To Remember

Farewell Mr. Salehi



Message written by Pash Salehi, SMA Instructor from 1985 to 2015

To my Thousands of my students: My Last Lecture

The number one and the most important thing in the universe is Love; and I love you all.

Thank you for all your love and support toward me and my teaching.

You have heard that life is a journey, but it is far more than that. Life is full of “anti-nodes and nodes”, it’s “oxidation and reductions”, it is “distances and displacements,” it is “combustion and synthesis” it is “organs and systems” and ultimately, is about “Evolution and Oneness.” The oneness that started from the beginning and connects everything, from atoms to molecules, to strings and cosmos,

and even every one of us with a special glue that is called Love. I love you. I am blessed to have thousands of daughters like you. Remember, you’re all connected to each other not by the color of your ties, but with the oneness of your love.

Thank you again.
Salehi



Photo: (Top) Pash Salehi, Joe Condrat, Roger Knight, David Riley, and Kelly Farland. (Right Bottom): Pash Salehi and Sr. Adrienne Claire Pereira



Message written to Mr. Salehi by Dr. Sylvia Durham, Blue Tie '96

Mr. Salehi,

I wish you the best on your retirement and the next chapter of your life. Thank you for your dedication to the art of teaching. Anyone can show up to a classroom for a “job” but it doesn’t make them a teacher... it doesn’t make them an educator...it doesn’t make them life changing...lives are not lived better because of those that show up and punch time cards....lives are touched by people that wear superhero uniforms under polo shirts and jeans. People that are superheroes aren’t thanked nearly as often as they should be for all they do but just enough to make them do it all over again day after day, year after year. While others choose to sit quietly by, these superheroes fight



for you, encourage you & stand up for you because they are fearless! Not out of necessity but because when they look at you, they see the possibility in motion...they see the potential for greatness that may go unnoticed to the untrained eye...it’s their superpower. Most importantly, these superheroes leave a legacy existing long after boards are

erased of that last trace chalk. These superheroes are remembered fondly long after pomp and circumstance. You, Mr. Salehi, are a superhero! You are by far my most favorite and the most memorable of all the instructors that I have ever had. Thank you for being an instrumental part of my educational journey. It is an immeasurable pleasure and a deep honor that I am able to say that I was a student of the incomparable Mr. Salehi. My joy is only belittled by my deep sadness that future students will not have the same privilege. Thank you for being my superhero.

Love & Blessings,
Dr. Sylvia Durham

Forget Me Knot: In Memorium

Blue Tie

Red Tie

Green Tie

Gold Tie

Together, these ties interlace to form a tapestry rich in history, education, tradition, and sisterhood. With each passing year, a tie is interwoven by the fabric of time. Fashioned by a heritage of empowerment, service to the Dear Neighbor, and love, colorful patterns emerge detailing the talents, gifts, and efforts of St. Mary's Academy alumnae, students, faculty, staff, and administrators. These patterns are an illustration and testament of SMA's mission and philosophy to empower and inspire women to take their place in an ever-changing world. On this day, we celebrate the lives of Belles long passed. Their memory, spirit, and vibrance are forever embroidered in this tapestry, a living legacy.

Rest In Peace

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

Robley Lau '33
Bernice Lieb '33
Sr. Mary Jensch, DMJ '45
Patricia Ross '45
Teresa Simonsen '45
Joan Nightingale '48
Peggy (Guthrie) Bivens '53
Teresa Janics '54
Janice Jackson '56
Roberta Smith '56
Patricia Kelly '56
Ann (Butcher) Tetoley '56
June Minami '60
Lucy Tralla '61
Marianne Stupy '63
Janifred Ruth Agnes Lyle '64
Camille Ann Albert '70

Attention Alumnae:

Are you an entrepreneur? Submit an Ad in our next issue of the ECHO.

Do you have a story to tell? Do you have a desire to inspire? Submit an article with a portrait or action photo and you can be featured in our next ECHO.



Photo: SMA students meeting Alumnae from The University of Notre Dame for a college presentation. (Left) Carol Anderson (ND Alum/recruiter); (Middle) Bonita Bradshaw (ND Alum/Coordinator); and (Right) Shawtina Ferguson (SMA Alum, ND alum/recruiter).

We thank you for your past, present, and future contributions. Alumnae support keeps SMA strong.

Please submit any alumnae updates and notices for publication in the Echo by email to Jennifer Ellspermann at jellspermann@smabelles.org While we cannot publish every item submitted, we will make every effort to include what we can. Submissions to the Winter 2015 Echo should be made by November 14, 2015.

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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Special thanks to the following for their contributions to this issue:

Publishing & Photography
Armstrong Printing Co.
LifeTouch Photography

Editing Team
Katrina M. Smith
Brianna Furlough '16
Alexis Green '16
Sallie Sanguinet Grippo '54

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Donna Simone Johnson '05
Qiana LaCroix '00
Velda Lewis
Karen Loquet '80
Sr. Kathleen Mary McCarthy, CSJ
Liz Mears
Briana Musgrove '99
Madelyn Murray '67
Pash Salehi
Paula Simoncini '63
Zunilda "Zee" Ogarro-Triplett '98
Victoria Villa '15
Gianna Woodruff '11

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Echo

Summer 2015

The SMA Endowment Capital Campaign



Inspiring Dreams

Fortifying Ambitions

Cultivating Talents

Broadening World Views

Creating Tomorrow Today

Call SMA at (310) 674-8470 for information on how you can contribute

Ralph's & Food For Less Community Contribution Program

An easy way for SMA to receive funds

Participants are required to register for the new term online at
www.ralphs.com starting September 1, 2015.

For your convenience, step by step registration instructions can be found at
www.ralphs.com. Click on "Community," and then "Community Awards."
Under participant click on the orange "Enroll Now" box.