WINTER 2018 🔵 🔵 🛑 🧲







# **ST. MARY'S ACADEMY**

EDUCATING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1889 FOUNDED BY THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

# **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

earest Alumnae and Friends of St. Mary's Academy, It's a blessing to welcome you into the Spring Semester! I wake up every morning excited and grateful to start and end my work day with my SMA community. I would like to take this time to share the following highlights that occurred this past fall semester. The environment in the classrooms has improved due to an upgraded heating and cooling system. Student attention and performance has been positively impacted due to this facility enhancement. In every course, writing across the curriculum has been implemented to further progress students' composition and analytical skills. A parent started a Toastmasters chapter on campus to improve our students' public speaking skills. Several career pathway field experiences allowed our students to engage in learning outside the classroom at local medical centers, schools of engineering, art museums, and performing arts events. As we prepare all of our students for the next phase of education, our Director of College and Guidance Counseling and Senior Academic Advisor, Tyesha Hemmans, orchestrated a successful on campus college fair. We are also proud of our seniors who have received early college acceptances!

Our enthusiastic Green Tie freshmen class can boast they earned their ties in record time. Their energy and positive spirit has been a wonderful addition to our school community. As with tradition, the Blue Ties displayed their talents at the Sophomore Show through singing, dancing, and reciting spoken word. The performances connected to the theme "Travels Around the World" while addressing current social issues. The Red Ties received their junior class rings, a symbol forever connecting them to our school and to all SMA graduates. As they prepare to become the newest alumnae members, the Gold Tie seniors will process under the floral arches on June 9, 2018, to take their place as the 127th graduating class.

The St. Mary's Academy community looks to God as our Light and Christ as our teacher. May we continue to be examples of living, loving, learning, and serving as we provide opportunities and experiences for our students to become "all of which woman is capable".

In gratitude,

Mary Rose Batungbacal Principal

## I want to thank everyone who contributed to the successes of this school year, especially Dr. Eugene Nah, who served as the Acting Principal while I was on maternity leave. I am grateful for his leadership and commitment to our mission. I am thankful for the SMA faculty and staff for their continued dedication to supporting and educating our





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The Echo is published by the Development Office of St. Mary's Academy for alumnae and friends.

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

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Career Day March 16, 2018

**Arts Week** April 16 - April 20, 2018

Spring Production: Murder Mystery April 21, 2018

> Belles & Brushes April 26, 2018

Senior Tie-Returning Ceremony May 23, 2018

Graduation June 9, 2018

Golden Grads Luncheon (Classes of 1968, 1958, 1948 and 1938) June 9, 2018

S.M.A.R.T. 6th-8th Grade Girls Summer Camp June 25-July 5, 2018 and July 16-26, 2018

# Councilman Holiday Gift Giveaway

Our Belles served as Santa's cheerful helpers to present gifts at the City of Inglewood's Christmas Toy Give Away, organized by Councilman George Dotson. This annual event held on the school's campus serves the families of the community who cannot afford holiday gifts.





# LAPD Stuffed Animal Drive

The Interact Club spearheaded a stuffed animal drive to assist the LAPD with their community relations program. As a schoolwide project, students collected new stuffed animals for police officers to distribute to children in the community.

# National Catholic Schools Week: January 28 - February 3, 2018

**SMA** celebrated National Catholic Schools Week with several activities that included students making Valentine's Day cards for the CSJ's at the Carondelet Center and creating their own rosaries while learning how this form of prayer can strengthen their faith. This year, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) launched the Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools to reconnect people with Catholic school communities. We thank those of you who contributed to this campaign! The week concluded with the Winter Sports Rally to honor the basketball, soccer, and cheer teams.





# World Changers Feed the Hungry

The World Changers Club invited our students during recess to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the hungry who visit the St. Margaret's Center in Inglewood.

# Blue Tie Retreat at the LA Food Bank

The Blue Ties focused on serving "the dear neighbor" during their class retreat. Our sophomores volunteered at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank by preparing food for families in need. An important component of this retreat was the time students spent reflecting on how this experience allowed them to live, love, learn and serve as a group.





# Undefeated Varsity Basketball Team

The SMA Varsity Basketball team concluded their season undefeated (8-0) and advanced to Division 3 CIF Playoffs! Go Belles!

# CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

# Health Careers Program

Tn its 14th year, the well-established Health Careers Pathway Program continues to draw students to our school while providing participants with a solid, health science foundation in preparation for their college studies. Most recently, the 12th grade Human Biology class visited the California Science Center to view the Body Worlds: Pulse Exhibit. This interactive display allowed students to observe 200 real human bodies in various stages of health and illness. One student reflected how she was intrigued by the entire exhibit and found the health tips about living a healthier lifestyle to be particularly educational. The transportation for this experience was made possible by the Catholic Education Foundation's Big Yellow Bus Program.



# **Engineering Program**

his year, the Engineering Career L Pathway Program has partnered with the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program for hands-on learning experiences and access to mentors for guidance in these career fields. In the fall, our students participated in an All Schools Day competition to design and build the strongest tower structure made from pasta and a Trades Day with PCL Construction Services, Inc. at the Banc of California Stadium. Students learned how to use the equipment to drill and saw, make cement and build walls. We are the only Los Angeles all girls school partnering with this wonderful mentorship program!

The University of California, Los Angeles invited our students to learn more about their engineering and computer science programs. During National Computer Science Education Week, students participated in an Hour of Code through USC's Viterbi School of Engineering, where they were tasked with creating various short animations using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Scratch programming language.



# **Arts Program**

A new course has been introduced into the Arts Program curriculum, Digital Photography. Instead of cameras, IPads are utilized to take, edit and share photos. One way to measure their understanding of photography is through "photo walks". Students locate specific and interesting subject matter and apply photography techniques discussed and studied in class.

Through our partnership with the Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre (HDDT), we have built an afterschool dance program offered three times a week for class credit. As part of this program, students attend professional performances and workshops throughout the Los Angeles area. Our dance students performed at the HDDT's annual gala held at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook!





# Film & TV Production

A fter studying the genre of silent films, the TV and Film Production class were challenged to use the concepts of silent film making to tell a story visually by emphasizing facial expressions and gestures to convey meaning. Students create and edit their films using the new iMacs with the Final Cut Pro X program!

# **Onward Scholars Program**

Through the generosity of The John H. and Cynthia Lee Smet Foundation, the Onward Scholars Program was established to support 12 Belles from the Class of 2022 to receive scholarship aid, mentoring and access to programs that will prepare students for the college application and matriculation process. Students who performed well in middle school and demonstrated leadership in their school and/or community were encouraged to apply. The school received over 50 qualified applications which was narrowed to the 12 finalists. We look forward to welcoming the new cohort to our SMA family! The on-site Onward Scholars Program Director, Mrs. Michele Rice, will guide the students through their four year journey to ensure their academic success. We look forward to sharing the upcoming successes of this new program!



# FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

## FIRST STEPS IN PLANNING YOUR CLASS REUNION

Today, access to social media allows us to never be more than a click away from long time friends and classmates. When planning a reunion, access to the cyberworld, via social media, makes the task of contacting others easy. But what about those classmates that don't follow Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat? How can they be located and contacted?

Recently the classes of 1962 and 1967 held very successful reunions, gathering dozens of their classmates as a result of their sleuthing skills. Madelyn Faustina Murray and Patty Bohache Strait'67, and Sallie Dunneboil Rodman and Anita Elduayen'62, shared the following tips on how to find those lost classmates.

- 1 Start with your class yearbook to create a list. If you don't have a yearbook, contact the school, the Development Office has a yearbook from just about every year starting with 1923!
- 2 You can also contact the Development Office to obtain their most updated list of the names and addresses of your classmates.
- 3 Create a spreadsheet and start filling in names and contact information.
- 4 Create an email account and/or Facebook account just for your classmates and start putting the word out on social media that you are "calling all classmates".
- **5** Google names and use sites such as anywho.com, Ancestry, Zabasearch, Whitepages and even Zillow.
- 6 Share the names of lost classmates with other found classmates. Hopefully, someone knows where other classmates are located.
- Keep updating the spreadsheet as you receive updated contact information.
- 8 The search may require making several phone calls and sending numerous emails. You will be surprised by who turns up!

Each discovered alumna is like finding a hidden jewel. Anita and Sallie shared how it was challenging, fun and sometimes a little sad (discovering which classmates had passed), but worth all of the work!

Once you have an updated list, Madelyn Murray, SMA Alumnae President, encourages you to share the list with the Development Office, to maintain current contact information for future reunions. Enjoy the hunt, the rewards are priceless! Happy reunion!







**CLASS REUNION NOTICES** 

CLASS OF 1948, please contact Sr. Margaret O'Rourke, CSJ at 213-477-2741 or morourke@csjla.org

CLASS OF 1949, please contact Sheila Banken at 310-375-7365 or Theresa Vicelja at 310-325-8957

CLASS OF 1958: October 22-24, 2018 in Rancho Mirage, please contact Gloria Sherno McConnell at 707-834-0329 or mcllosm@pacbell.net

CLASS OF 1968: May 2018, please contact Kathleen Shepard at 541-401-1648

CLASS OF 1968, 1958, 1948, AND 1938: June 9, 2018, SMA Graduation & Golden Grads Luncheon, invitations to be mailed. Questions, please contact Karen Vetter at kvetter@smabelles.org

CLASS OF 1969, please contact Ann Sanchez Reyes at 310-618-0688 or annreyes@pacbell.net

CLASS OF 1978: Fall 2018, please contact Annette Love at 407-222-1585 or lovea60@aol.com

CLASS OF 1983: August 10-12, 2018, please contact Sheryl Patton-Dandridge at 770-823-9889 or stmarysacademy83.com

CLASS OF 1998: June 30, 2018, please contact Tiffany Warrior at 232-371-0830 or Yared Salgado at 310-962-6842

# Is your class having a reunion? Contact Karen Vetter, Development Associate, at kvetter@smabelles.org or 310-674-8470 ext. 322.

## RECENT REUNIONS AND EVENTS

Orange County Regional SMA Alumnae Gathering: Marianne Padden, Gold Tie'74, shared her family's Balboa beach front home last summer to host a gathering for alums residing in the Newport Beach area and surrounding Orange County cities. The four tie colors and classes from 1944 to 1998 were represented. As the alums met and mingled, updates on all the great things happening at their Alma Mater were shared.



The Gold Tie Class of 1962 celebrated their 55 year reunion in the fall with a lovely and lively luncheon. Current 12th grade Gold Tie, Winter R. and Jeanne Fisher, Development Office, were invited to meet the members of the class and share with the group all of the great curriculum and activities occurring at SMA. Mary Vavrik and her reunion committee did an excellent job putting on the well attended – and enjoyed by all – reunion event. This class gave a significant commemorative monetary gift to the school.



# FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

## RECENT REUNIONS AND EVENTS CON'T

Last spring, the Red Tie Class of 1967 enjoyed a three day weekend of fun and festivities as they celebrated their 50th reunion. With many attending the Golden Grads Luncheon on the school campus (the day of the class of 2017 graduation), the Red Ties had the opportunity to reconnect with classmates and faculty and tour the school's halls and classrooms. Their reunion concluded with a Sunday brunch and a Mass that honored their deceased classmates. Patty Bohache Strait and Madelyn Faustina Murray, SMA Alumnae President, cochaired this very successful reunion. This class also gave a significant commemorative monetary gift to the school.



The Green Tie Class of 1977 held their 40th reunion in SMA's Hannon Dining Room.



The Green Tie Class of 1989 gathered at SMA in September with a taco truck lunch and tours of the school.



The annual Alumnae Association Advent Day of Reflection and Inspiration was held on the first Saturday of Advent in the school's chapel. Sr. Kathleen Mary McCarthy CSJ and Alejandra Angel, SMA Religion Department faculty member, led the retreat as the

attendees honored their beloved Belle Angels and Shepherds (loved ones who have gone before us). A warm and welcoming luncheon allowed the alumnae to spend additional time in community. This annual event is open to all of our alumnae.

To find out more about Regional Alumnae gatherings, class reunions, planning a reunion on campus, hosting a gathering at your home, or sharing information about a class reunion, please contact Karen Vetter at kvetter@smabelles.org.



The Green Tie Class of 1997 celebrated their 20th reunion in SMA's art room for a paint and sip activity and tours of the school in October.



## **REST IN PEACE**

Let us remember in prayer the following members of the SMA family



Nancy Hoelting Baran '50 Kathleen Siminski Bradfield '60 Linda Feinberg Callon '57 Alicia Delgado Clark '59 Stephanie Edwards Diehl (daughter of Mary Roberta Hensley Edwards '61) Maisha Dunn '88 Rachelle Figueroa '69 Mary Lou Hart Forbath '47 John James French (husband of

John James French (husband of Joan Schneider French '52)

Ardel Opsomer Glenn '50

Dorothy Lea Higi'49

Josephine Junor '57

Richard Killingsworth (husband of Mary Knabenbauer Killingsworth '60)

Jane Tonti Kobzeff '65

Kay Sloan Lehrmann '55

Lynne Parker Lins'59

Joellen Ward May 50

Judith Worswick Richards '58

Darnell Margin Stang '65

Lillian Thomas (former SMA Facilities Manager)

Jean Todd-Crowder '84

John Weldon (husband of Louise Bernuy Weldon '56)

## NOTEWORTHY ALUMNAE

## Dorothy Higi:

Archbishop Gomez presented Dorothy Lea Higi, Green Tie '49, with the highest Papal Honor bestowed on the laity in the Church. The "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" Award, loosely translated "For the Church and the Pope," is an honor reserved for lay leaders in the service of the Church.



Dorothy was recognized for this achievement and congratulated by the pastor of her church, Msgr. John Barry and the entire American Martyrs parish. Dorothy unexpectedly passed away late February. We pray for her soul and her family and loved ones.

## Carol McGarry:

Along with other parishioners at the St. James Catholic Parish in Redondo Beach, Carol McGarry, Green Tie '65, and her husband Tom were recognized at the Shining Stars in Christ Gala this winter. The honorees demonstrated



their commitment to their faith and longstanding service to their parish community. We would like to congratulate Carol and Tom!

# FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

# Support Our Endowment Program

Dear St. Mary's Academy Alumnae and Friends of the school,

Your thoughtfulness and commitment to giving this past year is so greatly appreciated. You have answered the call to support the school in so many ways - support of our students with the costs of their education, support of our unique career path programs and other curricular activities, support with our fundraising efforts and support of the school's day to day operating costs. Thank you!

As your circumstances allow, you may also want to consider another way to provide support through the school's Endowment Program.

St. Mary's Academy is fortunate that several years ago, as a way to invest in the future of the school, the Endowment Program was initiated. An Endowed fund is created by gifts from donors and the fund's principal is invested in perpetuity with a portion of the earnings available for support of the school's programs or projects. Currently, St. Mary's Academy has 17 Endowed funds. The majority of these accounts were started by alumna, alumna's families, a group of alums and/or friends of the school. The purpose of each account is designated by the donor(s) and named according to the wishes of the donor(s). Several current accounts are invested for student scholarships. The minimum amount to establish an endowed fund is \$20,000.

Our newest endowment funds were recently started by alumnae, Julie Harris Neiger (Red Tie '71), and Lynda Barros-Mitova (Red Tie '91) and her husband, Momchil Barros-Mitova. Both funds provide scholarships for deserving students. Julie and Lynda both expressed their appreciation for the education they received while at St. Mary's Academy. Their actions and personal commitment of giving back to the school with the initiation of an endowment allows for direct impact on the education and the life of current and future Belles. Thank you Julie, Lynda and Momchil!

If you and/or your classmates or family are interested in starting an endowment fund or contributing to a current fund, we are ready, willing, and able to assist you. For more information, please contact Jeanne Fisher, Development Director, at jfisher@smabelles.org or 310.674.8470 ext. 209.





## JOAN BARBER TRUST

Recently, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Green Tie alumna, Joan Barber '53. For several years, Joan was an active volunteer with the school's major fundraising event - Derby Day. This fun-filled event was held annually at Hollywood Park and raised significant funds for the school's many needs. Joan is remembered for freely giving her time and talent to assist with making the event a success each year. Now in her passing, Joan has shared the gift of her treasure by naming St. Mary's Academy as the primary beneficiary in her Trust. Joan is remembered in our thoughts and prayers, and may her soul rest in peace.

If you have or are considering naming the school in your Trust or Will, please let us know by contacting Jeanne Fisher at jfisher@smabelles.org, so we can officially recognize your intended contribution to the school. We would appreciate a record of your decision and to thank you for thinking of SMA.



## CYNTHIA MOORE HAXTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Last May, Green Tie '65 alumna Cindy, who was a dear co-worker and friend of SMA, passed peacefully after a short period of illness. A memorial fund was established by the school, her sisters Susan Moore Haffley '61, Colleen Rodriquez, Jane Moore, classmates and friends. The scholarship fund has provided several students financial aid to attend and continue their education at the school. Cindy's sisters give monthly contributions to sustain the fund. Nothing would have pleased Cindy more than to know her work in assisting students is being continued though this memorial fund.

If you would like to contribute to Cindy's fund or establish a fund in memory of a dear one, please contact us, so that we may assist you.

Jeanne Fisher Development Director jfisher@smabelles.org or 310.674.8470 ext 209

# ANNUAL LISTING OF 2017 CONTRIBUTORS

THE GENEROUS GIVING OF OUR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS SUPPORTS ST. MARY'S ACADEMY AND OUR STUDENTS TO BE ALL OF WHICH THEY ARE CAPABLE. THIS LISTING RECOGNIZES THOSE WHO HAVE MADE GIFTS BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2017 AND DECEMBER 31, 2017. THESE ARE OUR INVALUABLE PARTNERS IN MISSION FOR WHOM WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL.

# The Founder's Circle (\$50,000 and above)

**Bill Hannon Foundation** Catholic Education Foundation of Los Angeles Dan Murphy Foundation Daughters Of Charity Foundation Joan Payden Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet The Joan I. Barber 1999 Revocable Trust

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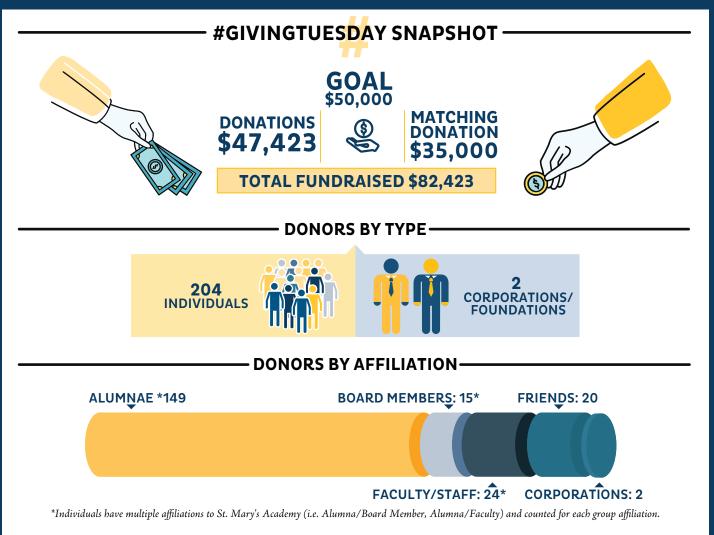
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