



The Echo

Fall 2017

Message from the Principal

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

It feels like it was just yesterday when I started at St. Mary's Academy as a math teacher. I remember spending weeks tediously preparing for that very first day of school. I wanted my students to trust that I was there because I cared about their education and their overall well-being. That first year was exhausting physically and mentally. It wasn't until I started to truly learn to sit with myself and pray that changed my perspective on teaching. My conversations with God evolved from constantly asking for help to thanking Him daily for never giving up. Despite the long nights, I loved coming into work and being a witness to those special moments when lightbulbs went off for my students. Fast forward eight years later, and you find me in my new role as the Principal of this wonderful school, the place I learned to never give up and to be thankful everyday. I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to serve as the leader of St. Mary's Academy. I am proud of where we are today and want to continue to lead this school forward. My role as a teacher allowed me to take part in the development of hundreds of students and this role as Principal will allow me to effect positive change at a larger scale, allowing me to live, love, learn, and serve alongside my fellow colleagues, alumnae, partners, and friends of SMA to continue the mission of the school and inspire our students to be "all of which women is capable."



In gratitude,

Mary Rose Batungbacal

SMA Hosts Second Summer S.M.A.R.T. Camp



St. Mary's Academy welcomed 30 middle school girls for S.M.A.R.T. Camp (Science, Math, Art, Robotics, Tech) for the second summer in a row! Throughout the four weeks, the girls created environmentally-friendly science projects and played instruments made from recycled materials. They also created art inspired by various cultures represented in the Smithsonian Museums, opened their own art museum, and learned to program robots to navigate complex mazes. Our girls from last year's summer camp are excited to be incoming freshmen this year and we look forward to welcoming more campers to SMA in the future!

Congratulations to the Green Tie Class of 2017!

100% College/University acceptance, over \$1 million in College scholarships,

and over 13,000 hours of Christian Community Service.



College Acceptances

Our graduates have been accepted to universities across the country and internationally, including:

Boston College ~ Boston University ~ Cal Poly Pomona ~ Cal Poly San Luis Obispo ~ Chapman University ~
Colorado School of Mines ~ George Fox University ~ Gonzaga University ~ Howard University ~
Illinois Institute of Technology ~ Loyola Marymount University ~ Macquarie University-Australia ~
Marist College ~ Mount Saint Mary's University ~ New Mexico State University ~ NYU ~ Regis University ~
Spelman College ~ St. Johns University ~ University of Arizona ~ UC Berkeley ~ UC Davis ~ UC San Diego ~
UC Irvine ~ UCLA ~ UC Riverside ~ UC Santa Cruz ~ University of San Francisco ~ Xavier University

Class Reunion Dates

Blue Tie Class of 1948, please contact Sr. Margaret O'Rourke, CSJ, at 213-477-2741 or morourke@csjla.org

Green Tie Class of 1949, please contact Dorothy Lea Higi, at 310-545-2016

Gold Tie Class of 1962: September 23, 2017, please contact Mary Vavrik, at 949-680-7314

Blue Tie Class of 1968: May 2018, please contact Kathleen Shepard, at 541-401-1648

Green Tie Class of 1977: October 14, 2017, please contact Alicia Battle at aybattle41@yahoo.com

Gold Tie Class of 1978, please contact Annette Love, at 407-222-1585

Green Tie Class of 1989: September 16, 2017, please contact Christine Wood at cnwood0424@outlook.com

Green Tie Class of 1997: October 2017, please contact Angelique Morales, at 323-490-4169

Gold Tie Class of 1998, please contact Tiffani Warrior, at 232-371-0830

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

Rest in Peace

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

Ruby M. Armour (mother of Inger Armour Ong '77)
Joan Barber '53
Larry Donohue (husband of Sheila Dvorak Donohue '60)
Cynthia Moore Haxton, '65
Jill Hayes '72
Doreen Keltus Kent '38
Louise Siemen McGregor '45
Therese Musante McMahon '52

Josephine Wagner Moore '41
Sr. Nancy Munro CSJ '61
Latasha Palmer '91
Clara Weigel Sehi '38
Catherine Moran Smith '46
James Ward (husband of Elizabeth Hosta Ward '68)
Greg Zimmerman (husband of Loretta Murray Zimmerman '70)

The St. Mary's Academy School Community Remembers Two Dedicated Green Ties



Sr. Nancy Munro, CSJ

On May 17, 2017, after a period of illness, Sr. Nancy went home to her creator. She served as a former Principal at St. Mary's Academy from 1987 to 2000. Sr. Nancy, was a Green Tie, class of 1961, and graduated from MSMU and UCLA, where she studied and loved all types of art! She served not only as a high school teacher and high school principal, but also was an avid outdoors person, photographer, and globetrotter. One of her teaching assignments took her to Mexico, where she quickly picked up the language, and in no time was fluent in Spanish. Her love for photography started when she was in high school, where she spent many hours in the "dark room" at SMA, developing her artwork! Sr. Nancy lived life to the fullest and leaves behind many close friends. As one of her dear friends said, "perhaps the best way to describe Sr. Nancy might be this quote from St. Ireaneus, 'The Glory of God is the human, fully alive.'"

Cynthia Moore Haxton

After a very brief battle with pancreatic cancer, Cindy, Green Tie '65 and St. Mary's Academy Development Associate/Financial Aid Coordinator, passed away on May 24, 2017. For the past 8 years, Cindy worked diligently to make sure all students who wanted to attend the school, but did not have the financial means, were able to do so without the worry of covering the entire cost of tuition. It is safe to say Cindy touched the lives of over 90% of all the SMA Belles during her tenure! To honor Cindy, a Memorial Mass was held in the school's gym, which was filled to capacity. A few of her close classmates organized a beautiful reception held in the Hannon Dining Room. Cindy is remembered for her always positive attitude, friendly, cheerful disposition, and beautiful smile. She was kind to all and loved the Belles and her beloved Alma Mater. To honor Cindy, *The Cynthia Moore Haxton Memorial Scholarship Fund* has been established.

If you'd like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund,
or make a gift in memory of Sr. Nancy,
contact the Development Department - 310-674-8470 ext. 209.



**St. Mary's Academy
Development Office
701 Grace Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301**

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

EDUCATING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1889

FOUNDED BY THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

A Catholic, private, college preparatory high school, shaping young women of distinction who are committed to lifelong learning and service to the "dear neighbor"

Save the Dates: Upcoming Alumnae Events and Fundraisers

Balboa Island Gathering: 9/24/2017

Alumnae vs. Students Basketball Game: 11/17/2017

Giving Tuesday: 11/28/2017

Advent Reflection & Luncheon: 12/2/2017

Casino Night & Hawaiian Raffle Drawing: 2/10/2018

Career Day: 3/16/2018

Belles & Brushes: 4/26/2018

Golden Grad Luncheon: 6/9/2018

To RSVP for upcoming events, please visit www.smabelles.org/alumnaeevents/ !

STAY
CONNECTED!



smabelles.org/blog/

Live ~ Love ~ Learn ~ Serve

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