



FALL 2019



the  
**ECHO**  
**ST. MARY'S ACADEMY**

ALUMNAE & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER



**ST. MARY'S ACADEMY**

EDUCATING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1889

FOUNDED BY THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I approach my tenth year at St. Mary's Academy and my third year as Principal, I can truly say how transformative this school is to young women. In continuing to celebrate 130 years, I realize the significance of this milestone, it is not the number of years this amazing school has existed, but the number of years we have educated young women to serve and change the world they live in. Our world aches of division, poverty, violence, racism, and injustice, which our founding Sisters of St. Joseph call for all of us to meet head on; to stand up and tend to the needs of our world.

Our students are learning what they are capable of and are challenged to go forth and make a difference with the education they receive at St. Mary's Academy. I see firsthand students choosing to live a faith filled life in their involvement as leaders in our campus ministry and choosing kindness over hatred. I am proud of our Blue Tie seniors who choose to be positive role models and loving big sisters to the other grade levels, especially to our Red Tie freshmen who have shared in many different occasions how welcome they feel at SMA. As I walk the hallways, I hear productive chatter of students collaborating, debating, responding to questions in the classrooms, and craving opportunities to apply their knowledge to address social justice issues. Outside of class time, I am impressed by many of our Belles who continue to stay busy during the summer, after school, and on the weekends finding ways to make impacts in their own lives, in their own neighborhood, and for the greater good of our society through internships, enrichment programs, service opportunities, and self care.

Our students' hopes and dreams are the driving sources of inspiration for the faculty, staff, and me to grow every year, to provide a robust 21st century curriculum, and teach timeless values of love, integrity, resilience, and compassion. The beauty of Catholic education is always working through the lens of our Catholic foundation. All our students possess God-given talents, which we help to foster and grow. I look forward to many more stories of student success and many more years educating young women to make a difference in our world. Cheers to another momentous year!

*Mary Rose Batungbacal*  
Principal



## ST. MARY'S ACADEMY 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019



**Graduates of the class of 2019 were accepted to the following Universities and Colleges:**

Albion College, American University, Arizona State University, Azusa Pacific University, Benedictine University at Mesa, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, California Lutheran University, California State University Bakersfield, California State University Channel Islands, California State University Dominguez Hills, California State University East Bay, California State University Fullerton, California State University Long Beach, California State University Los Angeles, California State University Monterey Bay, California State University Northridge, Cerritos College, Colorado State University, Concordia Irvine, Dillard University, El Camino College, Fresno State University, George Fox University, Grand Canyon University, Holy Names University, Howard University, Humboldt State University, La Verne University, Langston University, Los Angeles Southwest College, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola New Orleans, Loyola University Chicago, Marist College, Mary-Baldwin University, Mills College, Mount St. Mary's University, New York University, Northern Arizona University, Otis College of Art and Design, Pennsylvania State University, Reed College, Regis University, Rio Honda College, Sacramento State University, San Diego State University, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, Santa Monica College, Seattle University, Sonoma State University, St. John's University, St. Peter's University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 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 Merced, University of California Riverside, University of California San Diego, University of California Santa Barbara, University of California Santa Cruz, University of New Mexico, University of San Francisco, University of Southern California, University of the Pacific, Vanguard University, Washington State University, Woodbury University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.



# SMA BUSY BELLES

## Project Destined

Project Destined is a non-profit program which administers a real estate based education focused on empowering underserved communities through training in financial literacy, total health and leadership development. Project Destined scholars gain exposure to all aspects of the real estate investment life cycle while gaining exposure to real industry professionals, analyzing real opportunities and helping to invest real capital into real estate within their own communities. Several students were part of the summer cohort including Danielle A., Blue Tie '20, Pascalyn C., Green Tie '21, Ayanna S., Green Tie '21, and Meah W., Blue Tie '20.



## Caddie Academy

The WGA Caddie Academy provides summer caddie opportunities to under-resourced high school students who ultimately hope to pursue an Evans Scholarship. Each summer, students come from across the United States to caddie at clubs in the Chicago area while living together under the guidance of current Evans Scholars.

Through Caddie Academy, students have the chance to earn money, meet role models, and learn invaluable life lessons on the golf course. After successfully completing three summers, they become eligible to apply for the Evans Scholarship, a full tuition and housing college scholarship. In addition to caddying, participants take part in special activities including attending a professional baseball game, educational field trips, career talks, and standardized test training. Samantha G., Yadira H., and Vivian M., all Gold Ties '21, participated in this program.







## Internship at Payden & Rygel

Two students spent their summer interning at the investment management firm Payden & Rygel. Kennedy B., Gold Tie '22 and Demilynn V., Green Tie '21 had the opportunity to learn about the various departments at the firm, and even spent time in the trading room at the Downtown LA office.

## Urban Health Fellowship

Undergraduate and high school students are eligible for the Summer Urban Health Fellowship through Harbor UCLA Medical Center at Banning High School. The program gives students the opportunity to work in teams while learning about health care disparities and issues facing underserved and marginalized communities. Chia O., Gold Tie '22 shared this of her six-week experience: "Attending this program was the best decision I could have possibly made. All who attend share one common interest, medicine. We all want to contribute to society and we are all eager to learn about the deeper roots from which our help is needed. The theme for the program this year was immigration, so a lot of the activities and curriculum were based on this topic." Chia added she learned so much and was so impressed by all who are devoted to the program.



Chia, sharing with the audience the importance of mentorship and working with others.

Other Busy Belles included participation in:

**Economics for Leaders** For several years, thanks to the generosity of Elyse Kaiser, daughter of Joanne Marie (Blue Tie '48) and Marcel George, students have attended the Economics for Leaders Summer Program. This summer, three Green Ties '21, and one Blue Tie '20 spent time on college campuses (Yale, Brown, Emory, & Washington University) with like-minded high school students learning how to integrate economics into the process of decision making. All four enjoyed this learning experience, as well as living on college campuses with other high school students.

**CREATE & Sports Medicine Program** Gold Tie '22, Crystal A. had a busy summer attending two summer camp programs. CREATE is part of the ACE Program, which is currently in place at SMA. This summer experience allowed Crystal an opportunity to learn more about Architecture, Construction and Engineering with hands on, project based learning. The Sports Medicine Program, a long time favorite for our students, provided Crystal training for the care and first aid treatment of sports related injuries and CPR. These types of summer learning experiences compliment the students' school year curriculum.



# FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

## CLASS REUNION NOTICES

**CLASS OF 1969:** October 26, 2019 St. Mary's Academy & The Proud Bird. Please contact Ann Sanchez Reyes, [annreyes@pacbell.net](mailto:annreyes@pacbell.net), 310-618-0688

**CLASS OF 1970:** June 6, 2020 Golden Grad Luncheon, and Embassy Suites, LA International Airport South. Please contact Amalie Brown Orme, [amalieorme@gmail.com](mailto:amalieorme@gmail.com), 818-261-2622

**CLASS OF 1971:** July 30, 2021 St. Mary's Academy Hannon Dining Room. Please contact Mary Buck Zoller [maryzoller@aol.com](mailto:maryzoller@aol.com), 504-858-3379, or Barb Westerbeck Ferguson [barbara@fersmail.com](mailto:barbara@fersmail.com), 949-338-0851

**CLASS OF 1980:** Planning Now! Contact Antoinette Adeniji, [aadeniji62@gmail.com](mailto:aadeniji62@gmail.com)

**Is your class having a reunion? Let us assist! !**

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, contact Karen Vetter, Development Associate, at [kvetter@smabelles.org](mailto:kvetter@smabelles.org) or 310-674-8470 ext. 322.

## RECENT REUNIONS AND EVENTS

This summer, alums of all tie colors and several classes came together to create a beautiful masterpiece in our annual Belles & Brushes event. Led by Green Tie '97, Angelique Morales, 30 Belles painted, sipped, snacked, and socialized all while painting a lovely ocean view scene. Be sure to check our alum events dates for the next Belles & Brushes!



September 19th, alumnae gathered at The Proud Bird to celebrate our Back to School Alumnae Happy Hour. Belles had a chance to catch up with classmates and relax. Join us at the next event in January.



### SAVE THE DATE - ALUMNAE EVENTS

#### Alumnae vs. Student Basketball Game

November 15, 2019

#### Day of Renewal & Reflection - Advent

December 7, 2019

#### New Year Alumnae Happy Hour

January 23, 2020 - Eureka! Burger

#### Career Day

March 13, 2020

#### Annual Gala

April 4, 2020

#### Alumnae and Senior Tea

May 3, 2020

#### End of Year Alumnae Happy Hour

May 27, 2020 - Fiesta Martin

#### Graduation and Golden Grad Luncheon

June 6, 2020

#### Belles & Brushes

June 24, 2020



## RECENT REUNIONS AND EVENTS CONTINUED

In June, our annual **Golden Grad Luncheon** celebrated the classes of 1949, 1959, and 1969. Alumnae had the opportunity to enjoy the graduation ceremony for the class of 2019 before settling in the Library for a luncheon. Sr. Maureen Doherty led the afternoon in a blessing, and alums heard from Jeanne Fisher, our Director of Development. Student Ambassadors were on hand to provide campus tours and speak about student life. Many thanks to Alumane Association President, Madelyn Murray, Red Tie '67 for sharing with our Golden Grads all the exciting activities of which alumnae can participate. Pictured left, are members of the Green Tie class of 1949. Pictured below are alums from the class of 1959.



**Belles & Books** gives alumnae an opportunity to connect with current Belles through their summer reading. This year's incoming freshmen and sophomores read John Green's "Turtles All The Way Down," and the juniors and seniors read Michelle Obama's "Becoming." In early September, alumnae came back to campus to enjoy classroom discussions with students about the books and their experiences reading them. Sharing and learning from each other, and the unique perspectives brought to discussions from students and alums made for a wonderful day. Many thanks to the alumnae who joined us!



The **Green Tie Class of 1989** gathered at SMA to celebrate their 30th class reunion with a **Paint & Sip** activity in the Art room.





# FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

## CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNAE

**D**orothy Wooldridge Gram, Gold Tie '58 is a generous supporter of St. Mary's Academy at the St. Mary's Circle level (\$10,000-\$49,000). She has remained involved with her Gold Tie class throughout the years. The Wooldridge sisters, Rosemary, Green Tie '53, and Dorothy, enjoyed their time at SMA. Dorothy has expressed how much she wants to support her Alma Mater because of what SMA does for the current students. As a Licensed Family Therapist and School Psychologist for more than 30 years, she understands the importance of supporting students and families. Dorothy has also held many philanthropic leadership roles, including President of the Assistance League of San Pedro.

St. Mary's Academy would like to thank Dorothy for her continuous contributions to Tuition Assistance and for supporting our events with her always fun and spirited presence. She is truly an invaluable partner in serving others. Thank you, Dorothy, for being part of the SMA Family!



## ALUMNAE DIRECTORY UPDATE

Beginning in January 2020, SMA is partnering with PCI to update our alumnae database and provide a new alumnae directory. Up-to-date alumnae information is essential for developing career placement guides to benefit our students and alumnae as well as determining our ranking in national evaluations. You may be contacted by PCI in order to confirm your contact information, please know all of this is voluntary. You should expect to receive an email or postcard from PCI requesting you to confirm or update your contact information early in the new year. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Fisher, Development Director at [jfisher@smabelles.org](mailto:jfisher@smabelles.org) or 310-674-8470 ext. 209. Thank you for helping us keep all of our alumnae up to date and invovled!

## THE JOAN BARBER PAVILION DEDICATION & BLESSING

On Friday, September, 27, 2019 The Joan Barber Pavilion (formally the quad) was officially named and blessed, with many of Joan's former classmates, family members, friends, CSJs, SMA Board members, and current student body in attendance. Joan, Green Tie, class of 1953, had shared prior to her August 2017 passing, St. Mary's Academy was named in her Trust. It wasn't until after her passing that we learned SMA was named as the primary beneficiary. Over the summer months a portion of her gift was used to transform the quad into a more upscale, college-like socializing and dining space, with fresh colors and lovely landscaping. The current students have shared how much they enjoy the space and it's been noted before and after school hours, students are spending more socializing and study time in the Pavilion. In addition to exterior and interior upgrades and beautification campus projects, an endowment for financial aid and scholarship has been established with Joan's gift. Joan's planned gift is a testament to her love for her Alma Mater and may she rest in peace knowing a lasting mark through her kindness is making the world a better place.



## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### Supporting SMA Ways to Give

#### 2 Matching Gifts

Many companies may double or even triple gifts made to non-profit organizations. If your employer has a matching gifts program, you can maximize the value of your contribution by following the company's process for identifying St. Mary's Academy as your recipient.



#### 1 Monetary Donations

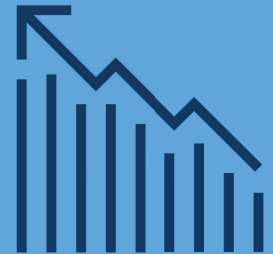
Gifts or pledges of cash or checks may be made directly to the school at any time. Gifts can be made online as one-time or recurring gifts, or mailed directly to the school.



3

#### Stocks/Securities or Real Property

By transferring appreciated stock to St. Mary's Academy prior to selling it, the capital gains on the amount of appreciation is avoided and the donor receives a tax deduction for the full market value.



#### 4 Planned Giving

A bequest is usually the simplest kind of planned gift. It is a provision in a donor's will which names a charity (in this case, St. Mary's Academy of Los Angeles) as a beneficiary of a portion of the donor's estate. The estate then receives a charitable deduction for the total amount designated to the school. As circumstances change, the bequest can be altered by the donor.



#### 5 Endowment

An endowment is a permanent fund that is restricted and of which the principal is preserved. Contributions to St. Mary's Endowment Fund are invested and a determined percent of the portfolio is used for purposes restricted by the endowment fund. Thus, the endowment becomes a gift that lives forever and helps the school maintain affordability by providing revenue to subsidize the operating budget.

Should you be so moved to partner in and/or continue in St. Mary's Academy mission of educating young women/our future, consider one of the ways to give seen above.

All gifts received go towards providing and enhancing our current and future students' high school educational experience.

If you are new to our school community or a long time partner, please know you are always welcome to stop by St. Mary's Academy for a visit and to spend time walking the halls and visiting classrooms to experience the enthusiastic teaching and learning, as you are part of the SMA family!

Wishing you peace and good health, & may our heavenly Father bless you always.

*Jeanne Fisher*

Director of Development, [jfisher@smabelles.org](mailto:jfisher@smabelles.org), 310.674.8470, ext.209



# IN REMEMBRANCE

## REST IN PEACE

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



Peggy Brice Adin '65

Margaret R. Allen (mother of  
Joan Allen LeCesne '63, Frances  
Allen James '64, and Evelyn Allen  
Meade '66)

Sr. Juliet Berber CSJ '55

Ethridge Boyd (father of Karen  
Boyd '79)

Velasta Buford (mother of Board  
Member Gwendolyn Wood, and  
grandmother of Drew Wood-  
Palmer '15)

Martha Camacho '73

Craig Felch (brother of the late  
Sally Ann Felch '58, Leslie Ann  
Pittman '62, and Patricia Ann  
McKinnon '65)

Julia Scott Kelly '49

Joan Allen LeCesne '63 (sister  
of Frances Allen James '64, Evelyn  
Allen Meade '66)

Carmen Ainslie McClelland '35

Annette Marie Shawver  
Monreal '46

James Padden (father of  
Marianne Padden '74)

Mary Robinson (mother of  
Deirdre Powell '80)

Shirley Samuelson (mother of  
Susan Crume Lee '73)

Carolyn Garcia Seitz '56

Janice Smith '66

Carol Moore Trudelle '45

Patricia Wiechelman (mother of  
Mary Wiechelman '77)

## REST IN PEACE DEAR CSJS

**Sr. Adrienne Clare Pereira CSJ**, former St. Mary's Academy Principal (1976-1978, and fall of 2013), Development Department staff member, Board member, mentor, and most recently volunteer for the students' Christian Service Program, passed peacefully this summer after battling a lengthy illness. A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, at the age of 10, she and her family were evacuated to Northern California, due to the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. Sister Adrienne attended and graduated from San Francisco's Star of the Sea Academy in 1949 and was a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet since March, 1950. A Sister of many talents, she shared them in a variety of ministries, particularly here at SMA. Though low-key in style, her presence was impactful and Sr. Adrienne was always willing to try a new role. She was strong and confident, but never boastful or bragging. Her manner of giving was always gracious and full. She is dearly missed by the SMA faculty, staff, and especially the students. A void was felt as our school year began. Sr. Adrienne Clare is remembered in our good thoughts and prayers and we pray for the repose of her soul.





**Sr. Patricia (Pat) McCarthy CSJ** Green Tie '53, passed away after an acute illness late last year. Educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, she entered the CSJ community in 1953 and made her final profession in 1961. During her many years in ministry, Sr. Pat freely shared her artistic gifts and many talents with students of all ages; elementary grades through the retired CSJs. A teacher and counselor at her Alma Mater from 1986 to 2005, Sr. Pat is fondly remembered by many SMA Belles. She taught several subjects, but she excelled in art and often said about art, and life in general, "don't be afraid to color outside of the lines." Sr. Pat's last "teaching assignment" at SMA was leading the first "Belles & Brushes" alumnae activity, held in the summer of 2017. She led the alums in a lively canvas painting project, using all four tie colors for the hot air balloons featured. We greatly miss Sr. Pat's fun and creative spirit, and pray for her soul's eternal peace.

**Sr. Thomas Bernard MacConnell CSJ** passed in June at the age of 93. Principal of St. Mary's Academy from 1962-1965, Sister was the last "full school year" principal of the Slauson Crenshaw campus. Sr. Thomas was born and educated in the Bay Area. It was during her college years she was called to religious life. Beginning as a Postulant at St. Mary's Academy in 1947, she made her final vows in 1953. Due to Sister's giftedness and willingness to serve wherever her talents were needed, her ministry life was full and varied. Teaching elementary through college aged students, serving as General Councilor, working in the Congregational Archives, and being named as local Superior to the Sisters who worked at Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital were a few of her assignments. However, her most memorable ministry assignment was that of setting up and opening the Spirituality Center for the LA Archdiocese. Sr. Thomas Bernard served faithfully in many ways during her ministry and now we pray for her eternal reward.



**Sr. Ernestine Muñana CSJ**, St. Mary's Academy alumna, class of 1936, and member of one of only two Yellow Tie classes, recently passed away at the age of 103. Sister was one of the oldest members of the Los Angeles Province. At the age of 5, she and her family left Mexico and moved to Oxnard, CA. Prior to entering the Community, Sister attended Woodbury Business College and then worked as a secretary for several years. Once in the Community, her primary ministry was teaching business courses, and Spanish. Sr. Ernestine had a love of travelling and was fortunate to accompany high school and college students on trips to Europe. In recent years when asked how she felt about her life, she responded she had "great gratitude for a life of service that has prepared countless students for the world and life as it comes." Her friends and the dear CSJs at Carondelet Center will miss her beautiful spirit and the conversations she shared while walking the halls of the Center. We pray for her well deserved and eternal peace. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, particularly our dear Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and St. Mary's Academy alumnae, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.





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