

# ASPRE



THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY

SPRING 2013

building  
community  
through  
service



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## a letter from the president

Dear Friends and Alums,

The calendar says it is spring. But as I pen this letter, snow falls gently on the front circle. It has a quieting effect in the midst of business.

The act of being, just being, is not highly valued in our compulsively engaged society. We email. We text. We tweet. We blog. But do we stop to listen to the silence, to hear the whisper of God in our souls?

What wisdom we miss when we fill our minds and worlds with words and music and noise. Not that words or music are bad. No, they have their place—but so does silence and quiet contemplation.

Silence is something for which our students hunger. At a recent town hall meeting where the administration meets with the students to hear their needs and concerns, one request in particular drove this point home for me. Most of the student concerns regarded internet speeds and food services—the usual suspects. But one young man asked if we could teach him to meditate, to pray in silence.

As I reflected on his request, I thought of my own life. Meditation for me is not a casual activity, but an essential part of my day—as essential to my well-being as food and water.

We feed our students concepts and theories, literature and poetry. But, I asked myself, are we as intentional in feeding them from our rich tradition of prayer and meditation? I believe we must open the world of silence to them that they might hear that still, small voice of the Spirit — the voice that gives direction to their learning, conviction to their moral habits, and hope to face their fears, and the courage to live as the voice calls them. And, yes, I will be leading students in prayerful meditation in Maria Chapel.

Peace and blessings to you,

Sister Diane Steele, SCL, Ph.D., C'83

## MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Saint Mary educates students of diverse backgrounds to realize their God-given potential and prepares them for value-centered lives and careers that contribute to the well being of our global society.

**We value: community, respect, justice, and excellence.**



**International Service**  
USM alum Joe Weber's dedication to service  
has taken him half a world away.

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### Class Codes

A - Academy  
C - College  
N - Nursing

U - University  
M - Master's Degree

## Editor's Note

Beginning with this issue, you'll notice some changes  
to your venerable Saint Mary alumni magazine.

For starters: We'll be bringing you more content each  
year—more stories and updates on your friends and  
classmates, more news about your alma mater, and  
more opportunities to strengthen your Saint Mary ties.

As an alum, you'll receive three print editions a  
year—timed to the Spring Semester, Winter Break,  
and the start of the Fall Semester.

In between each of those editions, you'll get access to  
a brand new electronic version of the magazine that  
better allows us to take advantage of video and audio  
technology to truly bring you the sights and sounds  
from the Saint Mary campus. An added plus: You'll  
get the latest news and notes on your classmates that  
much faster.

This current edition also includes one of the new  
components of the revamped *Aspire*: a recurring Saint  
Mary Story that profiles outstanding alums and what  
they're up to today. We hope you enjoy!

The *Aspire* is published for the friends and alumni of the  
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KS 66048, 913-758-6308. Please send all alumni news items,  
such as a marriage, birth, death, new job, promotion, award,  
additional degree, etc., to the attention of: Alumni Relations  
at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048,  
913-758-6137 or [alumni@stmary.edu](mailto:alumni@stmary.edu). Please remember to  
include your class year, address, and phone number.



# EDUCATING WITH PURPOSE

**Joféé Tremain, C'04 & M'06, Lansing, Kan.**

**J**oféé Tremain was ready for a change. In 2001, she was an attendance clerk at Leavenworth High School when the principal (Jim VanMaanen, at the time) encouraged her to make the jump to teaching. “I started to research local schools to find the best fit for me,” she said. “I didn’t find one. I decided to fall back on my second choice.” The day she was scheduled to start cosmetology school, she ran across information about Saint Mary. “I was hooked instantly, just by the way the education faculty took care of answering my questions and assuring me that I would receive guidance as I embarked on this new journey... It was very important for me to find a school that would accept my human services credits, because I felt I was too old to start all over.” Change was nothing new for the Elberton, Ga., native. She grew up in a military family that moved around quite a bit. All the traveling of the military lifestyle “helps me now as an administrator,” Joféé said. “Being able to adapt, be flexible, make decisions and sticking to my decisions, accepting what I need to change and showing no fear of the unknown.” After leaving USM, Joféé threw herself into her education vocation, rising to the principal post at David Brewer Elementary in Leavenworth. Now, she’s taking on a new challenge: coordinator of alternative education programs in which she’ll direct a new joint alternative school effort for the Leavenworth and Lansing districts. Saint Mary education students will serve in instructional roles with the new program. “My current role requires me to think outside the box—be innovative, determined, thought provoking, engaging with families, and being able to see the positive in the midst of a storm. I learned this at USM,” said the current doctoral student. “My passion is for helping students, and leading the alternative program gives me an opportunity... It will be my personal mission to ensure success for every student.”



## TELL US YOUR SAINT MARY STORY

From success stories to tales of lives well lived to memorable trivia — we're looking for new subjects for the Saint Mary alumni spotlight. Send your stories to [alumni@stmary.edu](mailto:alumni@stmary.edu) with "A Saint Mary Story" in the subject line.

## *Then. Now. Tomorrow.*



## *Saint Mary at 90*

What happened in 1923?

- Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as president after the death of Warren Harding
- *Time* magazine debuts
- Listeners enjoy the first-ever radio-borne presidential address
- The original Yankee stadium opens its doors
- A loaf of bread cost nine cents
- The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth establish Saint Mary College, a junior college for women

Happy 90th birthday to Saint Mary! Yes, in 1923, Saint Mary started accepting students, beginning a decades-long tradition of inspiring talented students to find their purpose in life. Less than a decade later, SMC was a four-year institution, and well on its way to becoming the university you know today.

My how we have changed!

Visit [www.stmary.edu/90](http://www.stmary.edu/90) to enjoy an interactive history of Saint Mary, with plenty of big birthday updates coming throughout the year. And the upcoming Summer edition of the *Aspire* will focus on USM's 90th birthday, its history, and its future.

We look forward to our next 90 years!

## Your Support in Action

Thanks to you, we surpassed our \$8 million comprehensive capital campaign. Your gifts supported scholarships, renovations, and new programs.

The renovations of Berchmans Hall ground, first, and second floors to house our flourishing nursing program and our new Sister Kathleen Stefani Doctor of Physical Therapy program—as well as the very creation of the DPT—were the cornerstones of this capital campaign.

Our strategic direction of Catholic liberal arts with a healthcare focus continues to bring bright new students to our Saint Mary family. Currently, we have more than 100 nursing students on campus and another 130 online. The Master of Science in Nursing goes online in the fall of 2013 and in June, we will welcome our second class to the DPT program.

We are already planning our next campaign to finish the fourth floor of Berchmans, which will house our physician assistant program and enhance our athletic facilities.

As Mother Xavier Ross said, together we look forward to the good that is yet to be.





# Making a Gift to Saint Mary Via Your IRA

by Jane Ellen Liebert

During the “fiscal cliff” negotiations, legislation was passed allowing IRA holders to redirect their minimum required distributions (MRD) to not-for-profits tax free. You might recall that normally a distribution from your IRA is taxed as an ordinary income because the check is made payable to yourself. If you are at least 70½ years old and have an IRA account or were the beneficiary of an IRA from someone who was at least 70½ years old at the time of their death, you can redirect your IRA minimum required distribution to the University of Saint Mary.

I know first-hand the benefits of this legislation. I was beneficiary of an IRA from someone who was at least 70½ years old when they died. According to the terms of the IRA, I have to take a MRD from the IRA each year. Instead of taking the amount personally, I have it redirected to Saint Mary. I avoid paying tax on the money while fulfilling the requirements of the IRA and Saint Mary benefits from my donation. I just love this and have been doing it myself for three years.

By redirecting your MRD to Saint Mary, you avoid being taxed on this money because the check will be made payable to the “University of Saint Mary” while at the same time you fulfill your annual Phonathon pledge or make a much needed and appreciated extra donation to the university. If you are required to withdraw e.g. \$1,000 each year from your IRA and you do not depend upon this money to live, you can redirect that \$1,000 to Saint Mary instead. You avoid taxable income and Saint Mary benefits.

Seems like a win-win for all involved.

If this sounds like something you want to do, here are a few helpful hints:

- You can contact me, and I’m happy to share my experience in detail.

- Contact the company where your IRA is located before redirecting all or a portion of your MRD to Saint Mary. They will send you the paperwork. The most important part is to make sure that the check from your IRA account is made payable to “University of Saint Mary.” If you make the check payable to yourself, it will count as ordinary income and you will have to pay tax on it.

- Normally, you elect to have income taxes withheld. Since you will be redirecting your MRD as a donation to Saint Mary, you do not need to have income taxes withheld on the amount you are donating to the university.

- These helpful hints are for your information and are not to be considered as legal, tax, or financial advice. You should consult your legal, tax, or financial advisors to implement the benefits of redirecting your IRA and related matters.

- While this topic is fresh on your mind, consider listing Saint Mary as a beneficiary of your IRA. When you set up your IRA, you were required to list a beneficiary(s). Be sure to review your beneficiary. Saint Mary wants you to take care of your family first – a top priority. But for some folks, as one person said, “All of my family is doing fine, and are not depending upon my estate after I die.” So for this particular alum, they found it easy to list Saint Mary as the beneficiary of their IRA.

Questions? Contact Jane Ellen Liebert, C’97, development officer, 913-758-6126 or [Jane.Liebert@stmary.edu](mailto:Jane.Liebert@stmary.edu).

## Welcome Back to Jane Ellen Liebert



Jane Ellen Liebert, C'97, USM's new development officer, comes to us from St. John Catholic Church in Lawrence, Kan., where she served as director of development for 10 years. While there, she raised a total of \$16 million for the regular church offering, endowments, events, planned giving, and launched the first capital campaign in more than 50 years.

Also key: Jane Ellen is a Saint Mary alum, having graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in English. During her time as a student, Jane Ellen was Student Body President, Senior Class President, and recipient of both the Ancilla

Award and Students Appreciating Students Award. After graduation, she attended Pittsburg State University where she earned a master's degree in English.

Jane Ellen has already served Saint Mary in one capacity as Alumni Director from 2000 to 2003. Since that time, she has regularly volunteered for various events including SpireFest and Alumni Reunion and she was recipient of the Sister Mary Janet McGilley Service Award in 2010.

In her new role as Development Officer, Jane Ellen will focus on major gifts and planned giving and will spend 75 percent of her time meeting with our Saint Mary donors.

"I am very excited to be back at my beloved alma mater," Jane Ellen said. "What a blessing and honor. In a lot of ways, it feels like coming home, and I am anxious to get started. Wish me luck!"

## Annual Lincoln Event Expands to Month-Long Celebration

For 14 years, the Saint Mary Lincoln Event has captivated audiences on Presidents' Day. For the 15th edition, one day was simply not enough.

Thanks to grants provided by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities and the continued support of

Country Club Bank, the 15th Lincoln Event morphed into Celebrating Lincoln & the Constitution, a month dedicated to President Abraham Lincoln and his contentious take on the Constitution during war time.

The month opened Feb. 12 with Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, a national traveling exhibit housed in De Paul Library which examined Lincoln's Constitutional power during immense crises: Southern secession, slavery, and the role of the Commander and Chief during war.

The exhibit served as the perfect backdrop to the Presidents' Day event which featured Dr. Jennifer Weber, associate professor of history at the University of Kansas.



Dr. Weber, author of numerous works, including *Copperheads*—a recount of a Northern antiwar movement—provided a nonpartisan view of Lincoln's seemingly spotless historical reputation.

She contends that Lincoln's liberties with the Constitution established many protocols for modern-day presidents, especially the use of military force. His decision to suspend Habeas Corpus has drawn the ire of historians, though.

"Lincoln explored the complex legal question about suspending habeas corpus. Who has the Constitutional right to do so, Congress or the president?" Dr. Weber said. "Ultimately Lincoln decided it was his decision to make, and that remains a black-mark on his legacy today."

In addition to Dr. Weber's presentation, USM hosted a second lecture with David Von Drehle, Kansas City-based author and editor-at-large for *Time* magazine, on March 18. Von Drehle examined Lincoln's desire to craft the Emancipation Proclamation as a binding legal document, as he was convinced he did not have Constitutional power to free the slaves. After the presentation, Von Drehle signed copies of his bestselling book *Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year*.

# New Education Programs Offer Robust Opportunities

The graduate programs in education are adding new degree programs and concentrations, starting this fall.

The Master of Arts in Adaptive Special Education program, or SPED for short, officially received approval in February and classes will launch this fall. This is a homecoming of sorts for SPED, as USM previously offered a master's degree in special education as a consortium with Baker and Mid America Nazarene Universities. The original program graduated its last class in 2011.

The re-launch of SPED is for teachers who have current teaching certification, but want to attain special education certification. The program can be completed in as little as two years, and graduates will be equipped with a toolbox of knowledge to tackle the challenging yet gratifying specialty.

"We are extremely pleased to offer this program at the University of Saint Mary," said Dr. Gwen Landever, chair of the education programs at USM. "Special education is a high-need field right now, so there is a great demand for teachers to graduate and enter the field immediately."

The USM program will arm students with practical, real-world strategies for managing the diverse needs of students

in their classroom, Landever said — which is a point of distinction for the USM program.

It's also a great program for current teachers who wish to enter special education, as these individuals may be eligible for a waiver to teach in a special education classroom while completing the degree. Higher earnings potential and bonuses may await SPED grads.

Special education is the fastest growing field in education. According to The Center for Public Education, children who are classified with special needs including cases such as autism, cognitive delays, deafness, speech impairment, and more have doubled to tripled since 1993. The new degree program will train teachers to become experts in a high demand field.

The education program is also on the cusp of offering additional concentrations to its Master of Arts in Education and Teaching programs, respectively. Announcements regarding those two additions will be available later this year.

Contact Dr. Gwen Landever, chair of USM's education programs, at 913-319-3009 or [landever59@stmary.edu](mailto:landever59@stmary.edu) for more information.



## SHOW YOUR USM COLORS

Get your Saint Mary gear at the  
USM Spirit Shop  
Online @ [stmary.edu/shop](http://stmary.edu/shop)

## PHONATHON 2013

April 20 - May 2

*Our students look to talking with you!*  
Support Student Scholarships



# serve

## WITH PURPOSE



# ze



he Saint Mary Commitment to Service Links Generations – From Alums to Current Spires to Future Classes of Saint Marians

Service is a big part of what we do at Saint Mary. Our alums and friends know it well.

During their days on campus, Saint Mary students have no shortage of service opportunities—through campus ministry and First Year Experience today to groups like the Legion of Mary in years past.

Saint Mary students go out into the larger community to give of themselves, to help those less fortunate, to live the lessons of the Gospel. First Year Spires are twice as likely as their peers at other institutions to participate in community service or volunteer work, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement.

Service speaks to the university's greater mission of helping our students find their purpose and their role in the world. And it helps form the foundation upon which we develop the four core Saint Mary values: community, justice, respect, excellence.

# HEADING THE CALL TO SERVICE

by Sister Julie Marsh PBVM,  
Director of Campus Ministry

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## Why is Saint Mary committed to service?

It's part of who we are. It's in our blood, our institutional DNA. Our character, our core values speak to justice. Our

Vincentian heritage demands it.

And—more practically—there is no shortage of people in need or things to do.

In my capacity at Saint Mary, I lead the university's Campus Ministry. Campus Ministry has a three-fold mission: hospitality, spiritual growth for students, and providing service opportunities to expand students' understanding of the world and its people.

Hospitality primarily means developing trusting relationships—making students feel at home or comfortable physically and emotionally. It's only when they feel that level of comfort that they can explore God or the deeper philosophical questions about their purpose in life.

It is service, however, that ties hospitality and spirituality together.

Before graduation, students have ample and varied opportunities to experience the need for and value of service to and with others. The USM orientation process includes a day of service in such places as the Alliance Against Family Violence, United Way, Prairie Garden Farm, Boys Grow, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, and Xavier Elementary School, as well as work with the City of Leavenworth. The day of service ends with a retreat that requires them to reflect on the purpose of service.

Service learning opportunities continue in various academic classes throughout each of the four years.

"Service learning has multiple benefits aside from fulfilling a course requirement," said Dr. Brian Hughes, chair of USM's department of theology, pastoral ministry & philosophy. "It meets real community needs and helps form our students according to USM's mission."

I believe it is important for students to experience other cultures and economic levels, so Campus Ministry sponsors various trips to such locales as McGee, Ky., New Orleans, and Albuquerque, N.M. The trips not only provide opportunities to serve some of the poorest people in our country but also expand our students' understanding of other cultures from Native Americans to Appalachia, to the American South.

Service efforts on these trips range from providing respite care to single parents living in shelters to serving food at soup kitchens to reconstructing or winterizing homes. After one of the trips to Appalachia, several students (who, remember, frequently do not come from privileged backgrounds themselves) commented: "I can't believe that such a level of poverty exists in the United States!"



Sr. Julie Marsh, PBVM

We're a member of Rotary International in Leavenworth, a business organization whose sole purpose is local and international service. The connections we make with these professionals help us guide students into local service experiences. As advisor to the Rotaract club on campus, the college service club equivalent to Rotary International, I develop and encourage students' leadership skills as they prepare various service experiences.

Because the University of Saint Mary is deeply rooted in service, it created the Saint Vincent De Paul Service Scholarship Award in 2011 as a recruiting tool for incoming freshmen. Currently, there are two students active on- and off- campus in prison ministry, campus rejuvenating projects, and with the Alliance Against Family Violence. If one does not realize by the end of their years at USM that serving others is just part of living life rather than a task one chooses to take on, then they haven't been paying attention.

David Harley, one of the first USM Saint Vincent De Paul Service Scholarship winners, has been serving once a week for the past two years in the state prison in Lansing. He meets to pray, listen, and give hope to those incarcerated. At the beginning of the second year, David was presented with an enormous gift from the inmates—a crocheted queen-size afghan in navy, gold, and white yarn with the University of Saint Mary name and Spire logo printed in the center.

"It was incredible," said Harley. "I had no idea it was coming. One man did all the crocheting and others pitched in to donate money for the yarn. They told me how much they appreciated me coming week after week knowing I could be doing so many other things."

We never know how much our service impacts others. And those with whom we serve have no idea the impact they make in our lives.

## SERVICE IN ACTION: STUDENTS HELP COMMUNITY IN TIME OF NEED

**W**hen a planned service trip to Chicago went awry, three USM students made it clear they were more interested in helping others than experiencing the sights of the windy city.

Students Jenny Herbig, Liz Walden, and Jonathan Meyer dedicated a week to helping local schools, food pantries, and more Jan. 7-11, putting service into action.

The trio, along with Heartland Charity Volunteer Shala [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu)



Steffes, worked from morning until evening restocking pantry shelves, teaching children, cleaning resident facilities, and organizing poverty center donations at various locations across Kansas City, including Catholic Charities, Harvesters, the Ronald McDonald House, and Xavier Catholic School.

The week of service was a replacement for a planned trip to help impoverished families in Chicago—a trip derailed by logistical issues.

Herbig's favorite part of the week was spending time at the Leavenworth Youth Achievement Center, an after-school mentoring program for at-risk children.

"For a few days we got attached to the children and it helped to see them want to do well," Herbig said. "That one person can help another creates a chain effect. Hopefully we can inspire others to do more."

The group also restocked food pantry shelves and donated items at both the Seton Center and Catholic Charities, completing work in a matter of hours that would have taken these understaffed organizations weeks to complete.

Steffes planned the week's events after the Chicago trip fell through. She beamed with pride upon reflection of the trio's dedication to others.

"Service is about people understanding that the world is bigger than they are," she said. "Giving back is part of being a good citizen, to show God's love by helping those who need."

USM students continued their dedication to service during spring break March 10-16. A group of eight students traveled to Albuquerque, N.M., to work in food kitchens, maintain community buildings, and help the homeless transition to permanent housing.

## SERVICE MEMORIES

Our alums share some of their thoughts on service in the online edition of the *Aspire*. Read more at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

# SERVICE STORIES

## Saint Mary Alums Share How Service Impacts Their Lives

### Mary Morin, C'64 Elementary Education

**f**or Mary Morin, C'64, service hasn't been a once a month or once a week task. It's been a way of life. From helping to integrate schools in the South during the 60s, to case work with Catholic Charities, to today—and her routine trips to help the homeless with KCMO-based Uplift—the Saint Mary elementary education grad has built an impressive resume of service, starting with her time with the Legion of Mary during her days here.

The Oklahoma native started at Saint Mary the same year JFK was elected president. Her school days were marked by the height of the civil rights movement, and it influenced a lot of her on-campus (and off-campus) activities.

"I had classmates protesting in D.C.," she remembers.

"I went to Saint Mary because I wanted to learn more about my Catholic faith," she said. "In high school in Oklahoma, I was the only Catholic girl in a graduating class of 143... I picked Saint Mary out of a book. I had never been there before, but I went as a freshman and I loved it."

At Saint Mary, Sr. Mary Vincentia—the moderator for Saint Mary's Legion of Mary Group—was a big influence.

"Saint Mary shaped my life," Mary says.

"I got a lot encouragement from the Sisters to do something with my life."

After graduating, Mary went to Louisiana for two years to teach. There, she helped integrate St. Michael's in Leesville. Following her time there, she labored as a case worker for Catholic Charities in St. Joseph, Mo., helping unmarried mothers and foster children. Eventually, she landed in the Kansas City, Mo., School District, where she taught middle schoolers for 20 years. She retired eight years ago.

For Mary, retirement meant more opportunities for service. She started a prayer shawl ministry. She worked on mission trips to El Salvador. And, she ran a group through



Just Faith—an intense nine-month program that encourages participants to learn more about the world outside their comfort zones. It was through that experience that she hooked-up with Uplift.

The homeless aid organization travels around the city providing staples for the homeless population—everything from clean socks and underwear to toiletries and tooth brushes.

"I went out on an Uplift Truck in April of 2006, and realized there was a whole world out there I had never known," she said. "I love this work. It grounds me. I find, now, that I come home and say I have a roof over my head, I have food in my fridge, I have a warm shower and bed, and there are all these people out there who don't have that."

When Mary turned 70 in August, her birthday party was attended by 18 homeless men and women.

"We loaded them down with leftovers, and they wanted to have a picture taken with me," she said.

"I'm retired, but I'm busy," she said. "For someone to start out as an elementary ed major, I sure did get involved in a lot of social justice things."

"Sr. Mary Vincentia was an inspiration to me, and we're carrying on those lessons here. And that's what I think I need to be doing."

## "Saint Mary shaped my life..."

Mary Morin, C'64

# Joe Weber, C'00

## Pastoral Ministry

I pulled up in my old beat-up Toyota Tercel wagon, a student noticed an unfamiliar face and asked if she could help me out. I told her I wanted to study theology and play basketball, and she immediately walked me down to the assistant coach's office... I took a leap of faith, registered for what everyone said was a major that would keep me poor the rest of my life, and tried out for the team."

After graduation, Joe got into service in a big way, spending three years as youth minister at Prince of Peace parish in Olathe, Kan., working in soup kitchens, and volunteering with Catholic Relief Services in Zambia for a year and on the Caribbean for three.

Today, Joe's in Afghanistan with Catholic Relief Services, helping to serve CRS staff as they work to serve the local communities. He says he spends his days "in meetings, responding to emails, dealing with HR issues, budgets, and the like... On the weekends, I take a stroll down to the market and get to look at some of the most amazing world heritage sites on my way down there. Just out my back door is the Shar e Gholghola (City of Screams). Another mile away are the two famous niches carved into a cliff face that used to house the world's largest Buddha statues."

Joe credits his travels to the teachings of academic inspirations like Sisters McReynolds, Wood, and Callahan.

"I live in a mud hut and heat my bedroom with a wood stove," he said. "I can't go to the movies or a restaurant. But I'm part of a team that is providing an education to thousands of children; that's teaching hundreds of farmers how to get more from the earth. I'd rather do that than go to a movie.

"Really, giving of yourself is the meaning of life," he said. "The whole faculty and Saint Mary, not just the sisters understood that."



Joe Weber, C'00

Joe Weber's heart for service pre-dates his Saint Mary days. And post-Saint Mary, that generous heart has taken him half a world away.

Joe spent a few years at Saint Mary playing basketball and studying pastoral ministry and the liberal arts under such USM academic luminaries as Sr. Sally McReynolds ("She could fit Paul Ricoeur ideas and feminist theology into any conversation"), Sr. Kathleen Wood ("She never tried to make me who she wanted me to be. She just walked with me as I grew closer to being who God wanted me to be"), and Sr. Ann Callahan ("Sr. Ann made me work harder for one credit than I had ever worked for three").

"With basketball and school and my internship, I did not get too involved in service activities," Joe said. "But I was surrounded by sisters and teachers who saw service differently. It was not an activity to do a few hours a week so much as it was a way of life."

For Joe, who grew up in Utah and went to high school in Colorado, the path to Saint Mary was a bit out of the ordinary.

"When I was in high school, I decided I wanted to play college ball and study theology, but my family talked me out of it," he said. "I went to the University of Kansas with the idea that I would study business, but I was still pretty immature. I got lost in the system and was bored by my classes. As the debt piled up, I dropped out to think things over."

One day, he was driving down I-70 towards Kansas City and saw the freeway sign for Saint Mary.

"I pulled off the highway and followed the signs to the school. When



Photo Courtesy of  
Catholic Relief Services

# ALUMNICORNER

## class notes

### '60s

**Jean Marie Hiesberger, C'63**, Kansas City, Mo., received the Sister Mary Anthony Wagner Award from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

**Rosemary Wisniewski, C'63**, Washington, D.C., is proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Sophie Rosemary Miller on Jan. 10, 2013.

### '70s

**Mary (Sixta) Johnson, C'75**, Kansas City, Kan., is proud to announce that she is in her ninth year of substitute teaching for District 500 in Kansas City, Kan. Mary mainly does long-term positions in both art and preschool through fifth grade classrooms. Her oldest daughter is living in Lawrence, Kan., and is an assistant director at a local daycare/learning center, while her youngest daughter is living in Portland, Ore., and is currently a receptionist at a hair salon.

**Christine Vitt, C'78**, Columbia, Mo., is currently serving as the Missouri State President for the Missouri Federation of Music Clubs.

### '90s

**Maggie (Fitzgerald) Reilly, C'99**, Olathe, Kan., married J.R. Reilly on Nov. 11, 2011. Their first daughter, Kayla, was born on Nov. 29, 2012.



**Janelle (Martin) Hutchins C'99**, and husband Steve welcomed a baby girl, Amelia Kate (pictured above), on Oct. 25, 2012. Amelia is the granddaughter of **Patricia (Domme) Martin C'64**, and James Martin.

### '00s



**Melissa (Daniels) Montesano, U'06**, Gladstone, Mo., and her husband are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Vincent Louis Montesano, on Nov. 4, 2012.

**Rebecca (Forge) Evans, U'07, M'10, Michael Evans, U'06, M'09**, Leavenworth, Kan., and their daughter, Lucy Evans, are proud to announce the newest addition to their family, Oliver, on June 22, 2012.

### '10s



**Jenna (Schwinn) O'Neill, U'11**, Leavenworth, Kan., married Airman **Brady O'Neill, U'11**, on Dec. 26, 2012.

# in memoriam

## '30s

**Marie Catherine (Duffin) Garrison, A'38**, Nov. 24, 2012, Omaha, Neb.

## '40s

**Patricia (O'Brien) Walsh, A'41, C'45**, sister of **Betty (O'Brien) Markey, A'46**, and **Kathleen (O'Brien) Havey, A'48**, Feb. 16, 2013, Kansas City, Mo.

George Collins, husband to **Irene (Duffin) Collins, A'46**, and father to **Anne (Collins) Bertram, C'83**, Dec. 27, 2012, Leavenworth, Kan.

**Yvonne (Daigneaux) Clampert, A'49**, Feb. 15, 2013, Lansing, Kan.

**Dorothy (Cooper) Davis, C'47**, mother of **Elizabeth (Sugar) Davis, C'73**, **Jan Davis, C'79**, and sister of **Mary (Cooper) Hall, C'49**, Oct. 1, 2012, Marysville, Kan.

**Sister Mary Corita Conlan, C'48**, Jan. 1, 2013, Topeka, Kan. Sr. Conlan bettered countless lives during her decades in elementary education — including 38 years as principal of Mater Dei School in Topeka. Read more about the gifted musician at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

**Sister Mary Georgette Groh, C'49**, Feb. 8, 2013, Leavenworth, Kan. Sr. Groh spent 20 years working with children in elementary and secondary schools before embarking on a clinical pastoral care program. Read more about Sr. Groh's life at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

**Sister Mary Walter Swann, C'49**, Feb. 13, 2013, Leavenworth, Kan. Sr. Swann made her career in the healing arts, first as a nurse, and then as a decades-long hospital administrator. Read more about Sr. Swann's life at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

## '50s

**Cora (Mundy) Jech, A'50**, Nov. 2012, Pawhuska, Okla.

**Phyllis (Santora) Trombino, A'50**, Feb. 15, 2013, Kansas City, Mo.

**Frances (Grennan) Feasel, C'50**, Dec. 19, 2012, Fresno, Calif.

**Sister Georgeanne Desch, C'51**, Nov. 12, 2012, Leavenworth, Kan. Sr. Desch believed life is better when you give of yourself. She lived that philosophy leading schools and working in health care. Read more about her life online at [stmary.ed/aspire](http://stmary.ed/aspire)

**Joanne (Uhlrig) Devore, C'52**, March 30, 2011, Topeka, Kan.

**Sister Mary Siefken C'57**, Jan. 10, 2013, Leavenworth, Kan. Sr. Siefken is well remembered for her long and distinguished  
[www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu)

career as a teacher and school administrator and in health care. Read more about Sr. Siefken online at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

**Sister Mary Aloys Powell, C'59**, Nov. 22, 2012, Leavenworth, Kan. Sr. Powell ministered to those in need through a life of healing, first as a nurse, and then as an in-the-trenches hospital administrator. Read more about Sr. Powell's life at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

## '60s

**Sister Helen Forge, C'60**, sister-in-law to **Eleanor (Heim) Forge, C'37**, aunt of **Elaine (Forge) Jarvis, C'94**, and **Michele (Lane) Forge, C'80**, and great aunt of **Michaela Forge, U'10**, **Rebecca (Forge) Evans, U'07**, **Luke Forge, U'04**, and **Megan Forge, U'12**; Feb. 9, 2013, Leavenworth, Kan. Read more about Sr. Forge's life online at [stmary.edu/aspire](http://stmary.edu/aspire)

**Clara Faye Siefken, C'64**, Sept. 10, 2010, Hannibal, Mo.

## '70s

RoseMary Engemann, mother of **Christine (Engemann) Harris, C'74**, Oct. 25, 2012, Marthasville, Mo.

Robert E. Sixta, father of **Mary E. (Sixta) Johnson, C'75**, April 2, 2012, Kansas City, Kan.

**Barbara (Martin) Williams, C'75**, sister of **Helen (Martin) Swanson, C'73**, **Kathleen (Martin) Cinfo, C'76**, and **Judy (Martin) Kane, C'80**; aunt of **Jeff Swanson, U'07**; and niece of **Sister Mary Lenore Martin, C'47, M'57**, and **Margaret (Martin) Stuart, C'48**; Nov. 23, 2012, Cibola, Ariz.

## '80s

**Annetta (Heit) Meikel, C'82**, Feb. 04, 2013, Overland Park, Kan.

Frank Orr, father of **Francine Orr, C'86**, Feb., 2013, San Diego, Calif.

## '90s

Brian Henrich, brother of **Teresa Henrich, C'95**, Sept. 27, 2012, Minneapolis

## 00's

**Christina (Cortez) Johnson, U'09**, Oct. 30, 2012, Cold Springs, Ky.



## ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS

### Welcome, St. Louis Alum Group



Back row: Carolyn Konert Roettger, C'68, Sue Gonderinger Schoenfeld, C'68, Anne Martin Osdieck, C'64, Kathy Poell Odenwald, C'80, Jean Praechter Ameduri, C'69, Carolyn Hennessey Johnson, C'67. Front row: Gloria Lawrence Fairchild, C'69, Anne Lueckenhoff Doerr, C'75, Carolyn Boettcher Parmer, C'84

St. Louis is now home to another University of Saint Mary alumni chapter! A group gathered in 2012 and decided to explore creating a chapter, following in the footsteps of other alumni in both Kansas City and Denver.

And now, we're pleased to announce the USM Alumnae St. Louis Gateway Chapter!

Alumni from a variety of class

After discussing the numerous options for chapter purpose, meeting formats, and social events, the alumni group decided to form a chapter and focus primarily on the recruitment of students for the university.

Many of the alumni present had attended a recruitment workshop in late 2012 and identified several St. Louis-area

years met on Jan. 15, 2013. They were joined by Sharon Clay, alumni & events coordinator, and Jane Liebert, C'97 and active member of the Kansas City Alumni Council.

Catholic high schools on which to focus their recruitment efforts. Sharon Clay shared numbers reflecting that the university is making headway in the area.

The group also decided to contribute a St. Louis-themed basket to SpireFest this April.

Anne Lueckenhoff Doerr, C'75, was elected coordinator to lead the group. Carolyn Boettcher Parmer, C'84, is secretary and Gloria Lawrence Fairchild, C'69, is the group's treasurer.

If anyone is interested in joining the Chapter, please contact Anne Doerr at [aedoerr@gmail.com](mailto:aedoerr@gmail.com). And if you are interested in starting an alumni chapter in your area, contact Sharon at [Sharon.Clay@stmary.edu](mailto:Sharon.Clay@stmary.edu).



#### DID YOU KNOW?

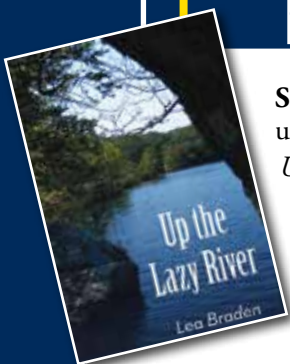
You can rent facilities on the Saint Mary campus for your special events? Call 913-758-6108 for more information!

#### publication *notes*

**Sandi (Parks) Ackerman, C'83**, Leavenworth, Kan., has released her first book under her pen name of Lea Braden, in November of 2012; the title of the book is *Up the Lazy River*.

It's available on Amazon.com Visit <http://amzn.to/11MfcUS> for more.

Send news and notes on your publications to [alumni@stmary.edu](mailto:alumni@stmary.edu)! Include a link to your work or an image of your publication's cover.



# RED CARPET SUPERSTARS

## Saint Mary Supporters Shine at SpireFest 2013

We had an amazing night raising money for student scholarships at the 10th annual SpireFest!

Guests enjoyed bidding on silent auction items while USM's own Cathy Newton, C'70, was the master of ceremonies for the evening. The band had everyone dancing and our annual SpireFest video inspired a lot of laughs. Six Saint Mary Choir students performed movie-themed compositions for the audience of about 300. Make sure to save the date for SpireFest 2014, April 12, 2014.

And a big thank you to our SpireFest Sponsors:

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Straub Construction  
Joe Synder and Marilyn Page C'72  
Marlene C'62 and Bill Trenkle

### Underwriters

Sharon C'65 and Tony Albers  
John and Letty C'62 Baker  
Sharon and Robert Doran  
Kathleen Fogart, C'82  
Marilyn and John Gordon  
Yoodle



## alumni calendar



### April 10 - May 15

USM presents *Life and Limb: The Toll of the American Civil War*, a travelling exhibit on Civil War medicine hosted by De Paul Library. Brought to you by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. Learn more at [stmary.edu/exhibits](http://stmary.edu/exhibits).

### April 20 - May 2

USM Phonathon

### May 11

Commencement



### June 7, 8, and 9

Classes ending in 3 or 8, it's your reunion year! Special dinners, tours, gatherings with classmates, friends, story-telling and more. Visit [www.stmary.edu/reunion](http://www.stmary.edu/reunion) for more info.

### Nov. 9

**KC Alumni Council Holiday Luncheon.** Join us at Starkers on the Plaza for lunch to reconnect with classmates and hear what is new at Saint Mary. Save the Date!

## Have an alumni event coming up?

USM's development & alumni staff will help you promote your event! Contact Sharon Clay at 1-800-752-7043, ext. 6108, or email [sharon.clay@stmary.edu](mailto:sharon.clay@stmary.edu) if you need invitations designed or social media promotion.



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# SAVE 2013 DATE June 7, 8 & 9 [stmary.edu/reunion](http://stmary.edu/reunion) Alumni Reunion