

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

ONLYX

SPRING-SUMMER 2014

A PASSION FOR ACHIEVING SOMETHING GREATER
LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE
SURPASS YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS
TAKE RISKS WITH COURAGE
CREATE NEW DIRECTIONS

ASPIRE HIGHER

EXPAND BOUNDARIES
PREPARE FOR A LIFE OF PURPOSE
MAKE YOUR UNIQUE MARK IN THE WORLD
STRETCH BEYOND THE IMAGINATION



Photo above:

This year, the College is investing \$10 million dollars in capital improvements and new construction, which includes \$8.5 million of an \$11 million Pomeroy Pride Campaign goal being spent on the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center. SMWC continues to aspire higher seeking new grants, new opportunities, community involvement and in providing a quality education for all of its students.

Highlights

- 2** Aspire Higher: Rooted in the Past with a Vision of the Future
- 4** Aspiring Higher
- 6** "LEAN IN" Taking a closer look at Women and Leadership
- 8** Chorale and Madrigals Perform Live at Lincoln Center in New York City
- 10** What does ASPIRE HIGHER mean to YOU?

- 12** Campus News
- 14** SMWC Photo Album
- 16** Students Aspire Higher during Spring Break



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**SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
COLLEGE**

NEWS FOR ALUMNAE/ AND FRIENDS

SPRING-
SUMMER

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Kristy Fry
*Director of Publications
Editor*

Betsy Wells
*Communications Manager
Assistant Editor*

Sue Weatherwax
*Associate Director of Publications
Designer*

Dee Reed '08
Executive Director of College Relations

Karen Dyer
Vice President for Advancement

Rachel Leslie '14G
Associate Vice President for Advancement

Chanel Reeder '10
Director of Alumnae Affairs

Heather Scott
Assistant Director of Advancement Services

April Simma '03
Director of Major and Planned Gifts

Contributors:
Sara Palmer
Katie Shane

Please send correspondence to:
Office of Advancement
P.O. Box 70
Saint Mary of the Woods, IN 47876-0070
Phone: (812) 535-5270
Fax: (812) 535-5245
E-mail: alumnae@smwc.edu

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Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College empowers students to think critically, engage in lifelong leadership, and effect positive change in a spirit of service and social responsibility. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, the nation's oldest Catholic, liberal arts college for women, was founded in 1840 by Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and the Sisters of Providence. Today, the distance and graduate programs serve both women and men, while the undergraduate campus program maintains its historic commitment to women. The College continues to be sponsored by the Sisters of Providence.

President's Message

Aspire Higher!

You may have seen this phrase on our website and in our advertising. What does it mean?

Aspire Higher is our brand initiative that underscores the mission and values of the College to empower and transform our students. It speaks to every aspect of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College – academics, athletics, campus life and faith. It supports our values of excellence, community, diversity, integrity, knowledge and justice. Regardless of whether the education is delivered in our traditional campus program, online or a combination of both in our graduate programs, students seek to direct their passion, attain goals, improve their lives, stretch themselves beyond what they had imagined – to Aspire Higher.

Who better to know the value of a SMWC education than our graduates? This issue will introduce you to some incredible alums and how they aspire higher in their careers and communities.

You will learn about **Virginia "Ginger" Smith '89**, leader at a male dominated company; **Jan Giddens Lorenzano '84**, award-winning entrepreneur; **Amy Frakes '94**, manager at a global company; **Kathryn Martin, Ph.D. '63**, former university chancellor and **Cynthia Hux Martin '78**, philanthropist. In these pages, you will also read about **Stephanie Miller '13G**, community champion; **Jean Coffey Prather '00**, director of human resources; and **Eric Hubbard '11G**, advocate for women's leadership. One of my favorite sections is titled "What does Aspire Higher mean to you?" It represents a cross section of faculty, staff, students and alums that shared their thoughts.



These are but a few examples of SMWC's growing list of leaders, who impact their professions and their colleagues through their integrity and determination to exceed beyond what is expected – to Aspire Higher. I know you, like me, carry this mantra in your spirit. Aspire Higher is truly authentic to who we are as a college and what you do each and everyday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dottie L. King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dottie L. King, Ph.D.
President
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Aspire Higher

Rooted in the Past with a Vision of the Future

By Sara Palmer



Virginia "Ginger" Smith '89

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College isn't just a school; it's a force of nature. For nearly 175 years the College has turned students from all walks of life into leaders that make a difference. Women who were once denied the right to an education based solely on their gender found a home here. Students denied the right to earn a degree because of the color of their skin were never turned away from these halls. Even now, working adults with important family commitments can finally start the career of their dreams, thanks to the online and graduate programs.

The Woods has helped them all to aspire higher.

In fact, "Aspire Higher" has become a new motto for the College. Those who live in Terre Haute and surrounding areas can see the tag line on billboards, commercials and hear it on the radio. It

may be only two words, but "Aspire Higher" conveys an idea that is so much more.

Take, for example, **Virginia "Ginger" Smith '89**, Terre Haute native and president of Princeton Mining Company. A mother of three, Smith halted her education at SMWC to put the needs of her family first. Later, when she took the reigns of her grandfather's company, she realized that she needed a fuller understanding of the business world. She needed The Woods.

"I just had this nagging desire, it's part of my personality, really, to finish something that I had started 20 years ago," Smith said. She enrolled in the College's distance education program, then called the Women's External Degree program. "I knew I had to do it on my own, there wasn't anyone else saying 'you should do this.' I had to find the knowledge myself, and I had to do this myself."

That is only one example of how Smith, recipient of SMWC's 2013 Distinguished Alumna Award, aspires higher. As a woman leading a family company in an industry dominated by males, Smith had to elbow her way through staff meetings and fight for the respect that men were often simply handed. Under her leadership hard choices were made, but she stayed focused and committed, even when the stress threatened her health. On top of all of that, Smith also volunteers on many boards in Vigo County and beyond. She makes time to support the Wabash Valley Community Foundation, the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, St. Patrick's Parish and the Swope Art Museum, among others.

"My family has been in this community for generations," Smith explained. "My father inspired me to not just sit back and take without giving back. He also instilled in me the importance of not just sending a

check, but actually being involved, which I have tried to pass along to my children, as well."

For Smith, aspiring higher isn't just about service and business. "Aspiring higher means getting creative and not following a linear path," she said. "You have to keep moving and keep setting goals. The Woods enabled me to have the confidence to do these things."

SMWC alumna **Jan Giddens Lorenzano '84** also attributes her confidence to her Woods experience. For Lorenzano, aspiring higher means breaking the boundaries of your comfort zone to "push yourself harder, build confidence, and never let yourself or anyone else hold you back."

Lorenzano believes that strong leaders empower others by inspiring them to aspire higher, and, as the vice president of Bright Ideas in Broad Ripple, she has inspired many. A Blue Chip Enterprise award-winning company that provides custom-designed promotional products, Bright Ideas was a three-time finalist in Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Program and is currently a Growth 100 Company.

She thinks that "educating and praising" are the best means of motivating employees. "Good leaders do whatever it takes to lift them up so they can reach their true potential," she added.

Lorenzano isn't alone in her interpretation of "Aspire Higher." Helping others aspire to their true potential is also **Amy Frakes '94's** definition of the College's new motto. Frakes puts the idea of "Aspire Higher" into practice not only as a manager for purchasing at Caterpillar, Inc. (CAT), but also as a member of the SMWC Alumnae Board of Directors.

Celebrating the naming of the Kathryn A. Martin Library on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus were: (L to R) **Mary A. Barrett '65**, SMWC President Dottie L. King, **Marie Brendan Harvey, SP '51**, **Karen Skinner Lafkas '65**, **Kathryn A. Martin '63**, **Barbara Martin Fossum '65** and **Maureen K. Phillips '66**.

“Aspiring higher is not just about setting goals but executing the plan and working with others to achieve them,” she explained. “The Woods encourages students to step out on a limb, but still provides a safety net. It encourages you to take chances.”

Frakes took a chance when she began her career at CAT – as an employee in the mailroom. Even though she had a degree, Frakes started at the bottom because she knew, thanks to that Woods confidence, that she could work her way up into a corporate world that would allow her to explore many career paths. She was right. With promotion after promotion, Frakes proved to be a visionary in a company known for being a leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, which is known to be a male dominated industry.

Recently, Frakes took over a project that had been repeatedly attempted, but never successfully implemented. In only nine months the tech-based project has given the company a considerable competitive edge. “I found the root cause of why the project kept stalling out,” Frakes explained. “Now it’s been successfully implemented in 45 facilities world-wide.” By aspiring higher, Frakes not only helped a company succeed, she helped herself succeed.

Whether in the corporate world or as a volunteer, aspiring higher creates a ripple effect. There is no better example of this than education. When **Kathryn Martin, Ph.D. '63** aspired higher, she enhanced the future of thousands of students by serving as the chancellor of University of Minnesota Duluth from 1995-2010. Under her leadership many new buildings and additions popped up all over the UMD campus, including the \$26 million library, aptly named this past fall the Kathryn A. Martin Library in honor of her service.

During her tenure as chancellor, she also established several doctoral programs and nearly doubled the enrollment at UMD.



As a board of trustee member for SMWC, she helps Woods students aspire higher by giving her time, talents and treasure to ensure that the high-quality programs continue to move forward. In 1990, she received the Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Award, and in 2010 she was awarded the Distinguished Alumna Award.

Cynthia Hux Martin '78, another SMWC Board of Trustees member, also knows what it’s like to see her name on a building. Her family’s philanthropic efforts have been improving the quality of life in Terre Haute and the surrounding area for decades. The Hux Cancer Center and the Hux Heart Center, both at Union Hospital, are just two examples of the many ways Martin employs the essence of “Aspire Higher” in her own community.

“We focus our philanthropic efforts on helping people make their own lives better,” said Martin, whose family created the Hux Family Charitable Trust to help people improve their circumstances through education and health. “Our spirituality guides us. If you’re blessed, then bring those blessings to others.”

The Wabash Valley has experienced many blessings thanks to Martin. For her, aspiring higher means leaving the world a better place than you found it. She believes this is exactly the kind of work being done at The Woods. “To me, ‘Aspire Higher’ pulls in SMWC’s Catholic identity very well,” Martin said. “As alumnae, we need to come forward to be the students’ inspiration to aspire higher.”

Even though Martin is able to make a large impact in the community through her family’s foundation, she believes, like many other alumnae/i, that “Aspire Higher” isn’t just about the big things. It’s about doing everything you can everyday to inspire others, big or small, encouraging them to aspire higher. “You don’t need money,” Martin said. “You’ve got your heart and that’s all you need to inspire people.” Aspiring higher causes a chain reaction. If everyone aspires higher, people will tap into their true potentials, taking risks and changing perspectives, just as Saint Mother Theodore Guerin did when she crossed the Atlantic in 1840.

Who better encapsulates the essence of “Aspire Higher” than our Foundress? Even though she was afraid, and sometimes even doubted she was on the right path, she had a vision for something greater and stayed committed to her vision. By aspiring higher, she built a community, a college and a culture. She built The Woods.

So, as you can see, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College’s new motto isn’t really new. It’s been a part of the College’s mission from the beginning. It’s a practice that students learn inside these walls and alums confidently take out into the world. “It’s about empowerment,” Frakes said. “And not just empowering others, although that is important. That’s the best thing about Woods Women - we also empower ourselves.”



Stephanie Miller '13G

ASPIRING

By Sara Palmer

Stephanie Miller '13G's vision of success isn't moving up the corporate ladder or making a six-figure paycheck. She measures her success through the success of her community. Miller, a 2013 graduate of SMWC's Master of Leadership Development (MLD) program, aspires higher not only professionally, but she devotes her time to enhancing the quality of life in the Wabash Valley.

"We have a lot to offer here in Terre Haute, but sometimes it can be taken for granted," Miller of West Terre Haute, Ind., explained. "We need to be proud of where we are and who we are."

Miller, a full-time marketing professional for Police Technical, provides training to law enforcement in online

investigations and digital forensics. When her day there is done she switches hats, becoming the owner of the Hallie Hound Barkery, where she lovingly crafts healthy dog treats. Balancing these two worlds is not easy; it takes dedication, confidence and flexibility.

"Good leaders have to be open to new ideas and change," Miller said. "They have to be calm under pressure and confident, no matter what they are feeling inside."

She also manages to carve out time to volunteer for the Downtown Terre Haute board, the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, the Terre Haute Humane Society and the Wabash Valley United Way. Through her work in the Terre Haute Young Leaders association, she established the Bark in the Park

fundraiser, now in its sixth year. Thanks to her honed leadership skills, the Wabash Valley is growing more distinguished and innovative every day.

"I've always been involved in the community; it's just who I am," Miller explained. "I make the time to give back because I can and because I can see the long term effects."

In 2011, the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce named Miller the Terre Haute Young Leader of the Year, which came with a \$10,000 scholarship to SMWC's MLD program, where she developed the concept of her dog treat bakery. These all-natural treats can now be found at locations all over town, including the Farmer's Market and Baesler's Market.

By Sara Palmer

A year ago the person who inspired **Jean Coffey Prather '00** to aspire higher – her husband of 45 years – passed away.

“My husband strongly encouraged me to complete my degree at SMWC,” Prather explained. His support helped her obtain a bachelor’s through the Woods Online (WOL) program, formerly WED. While his death was one of the most traumatic events in her life, his memory and support helps her stay strong. “His encouragement helped me obtain the degree that eventually helped me obtain a higher position in my field, so now I can take care of myself.”

For many Woods students and alums, aspiring higher is not just about reaching for higher goals, but continuing that reach even when faced with unbearable loss. As the director of human resources at Green County Hospital, Prather found peace and success by encouraging others to aspire higher.

“I strongly encourage independence and obtaining as much education as one can,” Prather said. “I also advise that anything can be achieved if you set your mind to it and are disciplined.”

If anyone knows a thing or two about discipline, it’s Prather. While in the WOL program, she worked full-time and cared for her family. Even though she’s now graduated, she hasn’t stopped learning.

“I aspire higher in my profession by keeping my certifications up-to-date and taking continuing education classes,” she explained. “I also network with colleagues and serve on the board for the Wabash Valley Human Resources Association. A couple of years ago I was the president of our chapter.”

Between her husband’s encouragement and the support she received at The Woods, Prather knows that success first comes by believing you can achieve anything. “I share with everyone I meet



Jean Coffey Prather '00

how SMWC does everything possible to help women achieve their dreams and goals. To me, it is a magical place. I truly think you can feel God's presence there.”

HIGHER



Heather Ennis

By Katie Shane

Asked when she finds time to sleep, Heather Ennis laughs.

“I fit it in, but it’s not a lot,” says the senior commuter student from West Terre Haute, Ind.

Ennis not only lives by the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College motto “Aspire Higher” but she also takes it further.

As an honors student majoring in humanities and minoring in French and history, Ennis has taken advantage of everything SMWC has to offer amassing a long list of achievements and activities during her four years.

Among her proudest accomplishments, Ennis is a member of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, works part-time at the Rooney Library and holds the position of editor-in-chief of the College’s literary arts magazine, “Aurora.”

“That’s been the most important commitment to me,” Ennis says of “Aurora.” “It’s had a long legacy, so it’s a very integral part of The Woods... I have been very aware of the

publication’s history and feel a sense of responsibility to carry on this tradition.”

But Ennis’ college experiences go beyond the SMWC campus. Through the College’s partnership with study abroad programs, Ennis spent a semester in Ireland studying at the University of Limerick.

After graduation she plans to pursue a graduate degree in Europe.

It’s hard to believe that with such a long college resume Ennis still ponders adding to her workload.

“I always think maybe I could do more, but I have a full schedule where I can’t do much more,” she says. “I went to a small school for a reason and I have four years to make the most of it – to learn as much as I can, meet as many people as I can and grow as much as I can. I think that I have been able to do that at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.”



Sheryl Sandberg

“LEAN IN”

Taking a closer look at Women and Leadership

By Betsy Wells

A group of women and men gather for an executive-level lunch meeting. After being encouraged to help themselves to lunch and take a seat, the men take their food and sit at the table while the women get their food last and sit in the chairs off to the side. Even after being encouraged to come sit at the table, the women remain where they are, seemingly outsiders throughout the meeting. This

scenario is just one of many that Sheryl Sandberg describes in her #1 National Best Seller, “Lean In.” Sandberg combines personal experiences and statistics to bring light to many gender issues present in today’s work world, issues that Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College President Dottie King thought were very relevant to SMWC as a women’s college.

“When I first heard about the book, the national news was picking up on the fact that the author was making an assertion that at least part of the reason that women aren’t rising as high in corporate America and in other leadership positions lies within themselves,” said King. “And there were feminist groups that didn’t like that. They wanted to blame it all on the culture and stereotypes and so on. I

The author points out that when it comes to leadership, women have a different confidence in their own abilities to lead. They wait to be selected. They wait for somebody to tap them on the shoulder and say 'I think you can do this.' Perhaps that's cultural. Perhaps it's confidence. — President Dottie L. King

decided to read it because I thought 'this is something that's relevant to what I do everyday.'

Discussions and open dialogue about common experiences and controversial ideas – that is what King initiated as she launched "The Presidential Read." As a new program this year, "The Presidential Read" was designed to promote continued learning and leadership by encouraging current students to engage in an educational opportunity outside of the typical classroom environment and inviting staff, faculty, alums and friends to participate in the conversation. King chose "Lean In" by Sandberg as the inaugural book for "The Presidential Read."

"I hope students gain a bigger awareness of the psychology of women and what is distinct about how we lead," said King. "I also hope it becomes one of those things that we celebrate at The Woods, an inter-generational link. By having a dialogue across generations, I think that can help us to strengthen that link."

The title, "Lean In," is an encouragement for women to lean in to new opportunities instead of waiting for someone to tell them they are qualified. For "The Presidential Read," King explored and shared her thoughts through a blog. The blog was an avenue for online discussion about the challenges women face including confidence and support in leadership and inspiring women to achieve their goals and lean in at the table. Campus discussions were held in February for students, local alums, staff and faculty. The blog gave alums and friends across the nation a chance to join in.

When reading the book, King quickly noticed that the themes are important for men to understand as well. Sandberg discusses the differences between men and women when it comes to leadership, and King recognizes the importance these issues have for both women and men.

"I have a husband and four sons, and I would love for them to read the book,"

said King. "I hope to increase awareness with men and continue to find books like this one that men of The Woods would be interested in and find significant."

When Master of Leadership Development graduate **Eric Hubbard '11G** of Indianapolis, Ind., founder/director of Collegiate Alliance of Musicians and quality manager for Hawker Beechcraft Services, received the email to alums about "The Presidential Read," he was immediately interested.

"I am a father to two intelligent and capable grown daughters, and it bothers me to know that they will struggle with the subject matter being addressed in 'Lean In,'" states Hubbard. "As a leader, as a male and as a dad especially, I feel it is not good enough to just 'know better'; I have an opportunity to set an example for other males (and females) and to help add value to the learning process that presents itself in 'The Presidential Read.'"

In one of her blog posts, King tells readers just how important male influence can be in the lives of young women, stating, "The women role models in my life valued education and were proud of my accomplishments, but I received the most encouragement to dream big and reach high from male family members. My step-father and uncle stand out as two people who really encouraged me to think beyond the traditional female roles that were part of my world."

Hubbard describes the book as a very comprehensive, deep analysis of gender bias and associated subject matters. He was impressed by the author's ability to construct her thoughts and examples in such a way that so much of "everyday life" is captured, allowing anyone to relate to what is being read. After reading the chapter titled "Sit at the Table," from which the opening example comes, Hubbard started specifically watching the seating arrangements in meetings at his workplace.

"I hadn't really noticed before, but we have a conference room that has tables

and chair situated in the center of the room, facing one another, along with a table situated as "the head of the table" on one end ... imagine a horseshoe," he states. "Regardless of how early my female coworkers arrived for the meeting, they do not sit at the table; they will find one of the random extra chairs against a wall, and they will sit there. I never paid much attention to it until I read 'Sit at the Table.' Now I encourage female coworkers to pull up a chair and participate."

Similar to Hubbard, King also found that the relevance of the book was not only present in her position at a women's college but also in her personal experiences. On more than one occasion, King found herself in the author's experiences, scenarios and stories.

"The author points out that when it comes to leadership, women have a different confidence in their own abilities to lead. They wait to be selected. They wait for somebody to tap them on the shoulder and say 'I think you can do this.' Perhaps that's cultural. Perhaps it's confidence," said King. "I thought about the times in my life that I thought about taking a step and how I waited for someone else to tell me I could do it. I think that's really important for us to recognize about ourselves, and I think it's important for men to recognize, especially men who would want to encourage female leadership."

"Sit at the Table" is only one chapter of the book. Other chapters explore confidence, success and likeability, mentors, communication, equality, family and more. Everyone is invited to read the book and discover which moments speak to you. Discussion threads of the blog are available on the webpage of "The Presidential Read" <http://www.smwc.edu/lean-in>.



Photo courtesy of DCINY Production.

Chorale and Madrigals

Perform Live at Lincoln Center in New York City

By Dee Reed '08

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College's (SMWC) most talented voices had the spring break of a lifetime when they performed at the world-renowned Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City to commemorate International Women's Day. The SMWC Chorale and Madrigals joined nearly 200 choristers to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction under the baton of Hilary Apfelstadt, Ph.D., director of choral programs at the University of Toronto. The program, "Lust & La Femme Mystique: Carmina Burana and Music in Celebration of International Women's Day," was part of the Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) Concert Series on March 10, 2014.

The hours and hours of rehearsal paid off as the precision of the melodies filled the theatre and hard work became a reality. Michael Boswell, associate professor of music and director of choirs at SMWC noted that all participating choirs came well prepared. "There was a nice mix of mature voices and younger voices, which gave the choir a really

nice sound, one that was simultaneously warm and vibrant," Boswell explained. "To see my students up there singing and contributing to that sound in that beautiful space was truly special."

The opportunity to sing in this iconic setting was not lost on the students. "Singing in such a prestigious venue was overwhelming," said Paige Fath, SMWC junior music therapy major. "Looking out into the crowd, I had a phenomenal view of a couple thousand people, including our director, my loved one and a group of familiar faces of the Woodsies who were in New York for the alternative spring break. That performance would not have meant nearly as much if the people that I knew, love and respect had not been there."

In addition to the alternative spring break students, representatives of the SMWC faculty and staff including President Dottie King, Ph.D., were on hand to share this incredible experience. The bond of The Woods experience transcended generations as alums, many of whom were former members of the chorale, traveled from four states to support the young women.

Frances "Fran" Christian Olender '80 from Bloomington, Ill., shared her thoughts after the performance. "I wish I were on the stage with them. When I was in the group, we performed in Washington, D.C., I'll never forget it."

No one was more proud of the ensemble than beloved **Marie Brendan Harvey, SP '51** who looked forward to this for months. The College's deep tradition and long history of excellence in choral singing and vocal artistry is often attributed to her. She established the chorale at The Woods and from 1954 to 1983 served as the professor of music, voice teacher and chorale director.

"It is wonderful to be here," she said. "Their tone is so rich. They remind me of many of the young women I taught."

Other alums in attendance were **Barbara Bittorf Brennan '61, Barbara Curran '62, Michelle Hollis Davis '96, Barbara Millwater Herkner '62, Kathleen Wentland Lubeznik '80, Kathryn Martin '63 and Linda Roof Sheehan '62.**

The compositions in the program honored women in various ways including women writers and poets whose inspired writings provide unique perspectives on the world. Fath added, "The choir sent chills through me. It was beautiful and massive. Each singer had so much skill, yet different vocal colors. It was like I was surrounded and engulfed by sound."

Not only was the trip about artistic and creative expression, it was also a cultural experience.

SMWC was the only college or university choir invited. They performed with women's ensembles from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and the United States.

Jessica Claycomb, junior graphic design major, found the opportunity to participate with a diverse group of musicians a truly memorable experience. "I enjoyed getting to know and singing with so many strong women

and women of different ages from around the world."

Under the leadership from Sister Marie Brendan Harvey to Michael Boswell, the college has provided students with a wealth of musical opportunities allowing them to leave their comfort zones and stretch beyond their imaginations. Over the years, the group has performed in Carnegie Hall and other locations throughout the United States as well as Austria, Canada, France, Germany and Italy.

Boswell noted that beyond the challenges of developing as better musicians, the students learned that the world is full of opportunities and they are capable of pursuing them. "Some of our students had not traveled much, or even sung in a choir before this year, and they sang at Lincoln Center! If that doesn't teach them to aspire higher, what will?"




Michael Boswell, associate professor of music and director of Chorale and Madrigals with Marie Brendan Harvey, SP '51.


2013-2014 National Alumnae Association Board of Directors

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we have something for everyone.

Visit <http://spsmw.org/providence-center/events/>

What does ASPIRE HIGHER

Aspiring Higher means to never settle, even when you think you've reached your limit. It means to set high expectations and to be resilient.

Stephanie
Runyon-Thomas '13

To have confidence in oneself, to accomplish goals.

Amy Sonderman Woods '90

It means you always reach for the next level, going above and beyond. It comes naturally to those following Saint Mother Theodore.

Michelle
Barrentine '78

Aspire Higher means recognizing the talents and abilities you possess and putting them to work to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Mary Stevens Samm '10
Staff

Aspire Higher makes me think of standing out from the crowd. Daring to be different and lead others to new things.

Danielle King,
SMWC Freshman

To me it's simple; aspire higher means to follow your hopes and dreams and to make it happen.

Billi Jo McNeill '14G,
MLD

I aspire to help my students see the possibilities within themselves.

Jamie McCracken '00,
Faculty

To me aspire means to strive to be the best that you were intended to be.

John Rud,
MAAT Student

mean to YOU?

It means doing the best I can. I'm getting my Masters and Ph. D. in order to be a professor at The Woods!

Emily Pancheri '03

It means to achieve your goals and never give up in what's important to your life.

Jessica McManus,
SMWC Senior

Aspire Higher inspires me to work harder for the advancement of women in our society and world, for today and in the future.

Kirstin O'Rourke,
SMWC Sophomore

SMWC is not only a place to get an education, it is a place where you find yourself.

Stephanie Garringer,
SMWC Freshman

Being brave and confident enough to break down barriers and make what seems to be the impossible a reality for the taking.

Rachel Leslie '14G,
Staff

To me aspire higher means to always over achieve because you never know where it can take you in life.

Joanne Curran,
SMWC Sophomore

Aspire Higher means appreciating interdependence and innovation. My success intertwines with the creative people around me who inspire me to do better. We rise together.

Jessica Schmidt,
staff

Aspire Higher reminds me to have "higher" expectations and to focus "higher" by being aware of the spiritual impact of my actions.

Terry Barr '11,
Staff



Military Tuition Discount



2013 Winter Commencement



RN to BSN Completion Program

SMWC OFFERS MILITARY TUITION DISCOUNT

For military personnel and their spouses, earning a college degree just became a little easier. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College announced a tuition discount for military students and spouses enrolling in its distance education program, Woods Online. Those who have served in the military will receive the discount offering a special tuition rate of \$250 per credit hour.

THE WOODS LAUNCHES RN TO BSN COMPLETION PROGRAM

In December 2013, The Woods launched a new major program. The RN to BSN Completion Program seeks to help women and men who hold an associate's degree and nursing license complete a bachelor's degree. The courses are designed to be fully online and with no residency. A capstone practicum will involve clinical hours that will be set up at the student's current employment setting or one of their choice. SMWC

continues to build upon its reputation of offering distinctive health-related programs to prepare students for careers in high demand. A health care administration major was added in Fall 2013.

SMWC CELEBRATES WINTER COMMENCEMENT

On December 14, 2013, The Woods celebrated its 174th commencement with 60 students crossing the stage during the ceremony. **Tracy Collins Richardson '88, Ph.D., MT-BC**, director of masters in music therapy, delivered the commencement address. Richardson spoke to graduates about the meaning of being alums of The Woods. Reflecting on their past four years, she noted that those experiences have helped shape their values and character.

ALUMNAE/I LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARDS

During the December 2013 commencement ceremony, two graduating seniors received the

prestigious Alumnae/i Leadership and Service Award. The award recognizes outstanding students who have demonstrated exceptional service and responsible leadership during their time at The Woods.

The 2013 undergraduate recipient **Amber Slaughterbeck**, New Goshen, Ind., made a significant impact on sustainability efforts on the SMWC campus and in the local community. Slaughterbeck served the College as president of the Sustainability Club and planned and organized the Wabashiki cleanup project. Known as "The Turtle Girl," she worked to transport turtles safely across a busy four-lane highway. She has been involved at Turkey Run State Park, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department. She plans to use her leadership skills in her career as a Naturalist, where she hopes to change minds to believe that our environment is to be cherished.



Tracy Collins Richardson '88, Ph.D., MT-BC



Susan Turner '14G and President Dottie King



Amber Slaughterbeck '13 and President Dottie King



Environmental Science

The 2013 graduate recipient of the award is a leader in her Master of Leadership Development (MLD) cohort and in the Terre Haute community. **Susan Turner '14G**, marketing director for Vermillion Rise Mega Park, serves as the marketing chair for the Essence of Red Heart Health Awareness event. She also chairs the Industrial Parks in the United Way Professional Division. She is an active member of the Terre Haute Young Leaders and the Accelerate Board. As a grad of the MLD program, she believes that her experience has provided her a firm foundation of leadership, and will forever impact her life, both professionally and personally.

SMWC AMONG BEST 2014 ONLINE PROGRAMS

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College was listed among the top programs nationally in the January released U.S. News & World Report's 2014 Best Online Undergraduate Programs and best online

graduate business programs rankings. SMWC's Woods Online is recognized as one of the best undergraduate online programs as well as the Master of Leadership Development for best online graduate business programs. The exclusive list includes rankings of more than 300 schools nationwide.

HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH HIRED AT THE WOODS

Stephen Beeler has been hired as the new head volleyball coach. With the expected completion of the Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center, the College added volleyball as its eighth sport.

Beeler, a native of Terre Haute, Ind., comes to SMWC as the co-founder and director of the Crossroads Volleyball Club (COA) in Terre Haute. Beeler has been involved with the club as a coach and recruiter over the past 16 years. At Terre Haute South High School, he served as the junior varsity coach and varsity assistant coach from 1997 to 2004.

From 2004-2009, Beeler was also the head volleyball coach for the Terre Haute South Lady Braves and he currently teaches physics.

TWO NEW MAJORS ANNOUNCED FOR FALL 2014

SMWC will introduce two new majors for Fall 2014: Environmental Science and Health and Wellness. Environmental Science will prepare students to understand ecology, conservation, natural history, green technology and wildlife identification and management, all areas with future growth in the job market. This major offers two concentrations: Wildlife/Conservation and Chemistry.

Understanding and promoting better health are the focal areas of the new health and wellness degree. Course offerings include bioethics, biostatistics, biology, epidemiology, human anatomy, physiology, nutrition, public health, environmental health, global health and medical terminology.



SMWC Photo Album

1. Meet the next generation Woodsie! **Amanda Payne '09** holds daughter Regan Stella.
2. **Mary Eppig Kelling '63** and husband Michael pose with family during a celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.
3. Celebrating the Sept. 14, 2013, wedding of Robert and **Erika Schmid Stocker '94** are (seated): Erika, **Rosemary Krider Schmid '63**, (back row) **Margaret "Maggie" Kearney '95**, Betsy Krider Traub, SMWC adjunct and field/student teacher supervisor, **Katherine "Kathy"**
4. **Eugenia Cartin '65** visited **Jo Marie Wolf Charlson '65** while on vacation in San Jose, Costa Rica, in July 2013.
5. **Kathleen "Kathy" Rocap Williams '69** and **Eileen Rocap '36**, (RIP) at Eileen's 99th birthday party in July 2013.
6. The Class of 1965 friends enjoyed a Cape Cod Reunion in Provincetown, Mass., on June 5, 2013. L to R: **Barbara Martin Fossum, Barbara Roguski Mandal, Eileen Janssens Nasif, Barbara Thier Morris,**



Patricia Pratkan Womack and Catherine Cunningham.

- 7. These Woodsies met up in Phoenix, Ariz., to visit. L to R: **Diana Vasquez Kesheimer '74, Cheryl Erazmus Freeman '74, Jane Fox Bloom '71, Mary Clare Fox Dibb '74 and Lynn Moore Delehanty '74.**
- 8. Grayson Timothy was born in April 2013 to **Sarah Flak Feigel '09G,** and husband James. Grayson is **Anne Franklin Flak '78** and husband Mike's first grandson and the great-grandson of **Joan Birchler Franklin '53.**

- 9. **Anne Walsh Walton '78 and Susan Finley '78** celebrating at the wedding reception of Anne's son, Thomas Walton, in Shaker Heights, Ohio, in August 2013.
- 10. **Irene Niewiarowski Lemmens '50** with her two sons at the Baltic Coast near Riga, Latvia in August 2013.
- 11. **Barbara Graham '73** with her son, Gregory Braggs, Jr., and his bride, Jennifer Boris, on July 20, 2013.
- 12. Members of the class of 1964 got together on Sept. 23, 2013, in St. Joseph, Michigan. L to R:

Rachel Eberle Ambrose, Juliet Muro Oeffinger, Anne Longtine, Beverly "Bev" Snyder Thompson, Mary Ann Kelly Hellmann, Susan "Sue" Brennan Mounce, Pauline Gattie Busby, Rebecca "Becky" Caufield Peloff, Katharine Yang Montgomery, Gretchen Stipher Cain, Noreen Gorman Perrone and Rita Martin Bizzell.

- 13. Woods roommates from the Class of 1969 reunited in Ft. Wayne, Ind., in 2013. L to R: **Ellen Gildea Douglas, Anita Redoutey Bowlin, Barbara Wahnsiedler Klein and Jane Sitzman Clark.**

Students *Aspire Higher* during Spring Break

By Dee Reed '08



While many students spend spring break on a beach, others find ways to give back. A group of 13 SMWC students traded sun and sand for the alternative spring break trip in New York City. It was an opportunity to volunteer and learn about social issues affecting communities. They worked at Trinity Lutheran Church on the Lower East Side, Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc. and Most Holy Trinity – St. Mary in Brooklyn, N.Y., volunteering in a soup kitchen, immigration office and food pantry.

“Out of all three service sites, Trinity Lutheran was my favorite place to work because of the staff and the opportunity to serve others and prepare food,” explained Lindsay Whitehead, SMWC junior equine studies major. “Some clients wouldn't say very much to you, but others would come in with a smile on their faces and you could tell how grateful they were. It was a joy to be able to make someone's day with just a few kind words.”

Alternative trips provide a unique opportunity for students to participate in an intensive community service experience while increasing their understanding of cultural and social issues. Students gained awareness about poverty and provided hands-on assistance with issues relating to poverty.

Lead by Andrea Beyke, campus minister, noted this rewarding week was impossible to forget.

“Many students' view of the homeless and poverty were shattered - those stereotypes that the homeless are uneducated and can bring nothing to society were proven untrue.”

Immersed in the community, students lived at Trinity Church for the week. This allowed students to internalize their experience,

which can serve as a foundation for a commitment to social change.

“I was surprised at the variety of people that Trinity served,” said Marguerite Frazier, SMWC senior, equine business management major. “We served everyone from those who had no home, to those who weren't working and couldn't afford a meal, to those who were still working but had simply fallen on a rough patch in their life.”

Every alternative trip places a strong emphasis on reflection and group bonding. Students discuss their shared experiences and gain an understanding of social issues in a meaningful way.

Beyke added, “Each night at reflection, we focused on gratitude and each other's gifts. We began to recognize the unique abilities of each person and how they are used to serve others. As the week went on, we became more grateful for the things that we often take for granted.”

Whitehead commented on lessons learned. “I was reminded of how blessed I am to be surrounded by loving friends and family. It is so easy to take for granted running water, food, transportation, our education, technology and so on. This trip served as a reminder to be grateful for the many blessings I have received.”



THINK ABOUT IT...
SOMEONE HELPED
YOU
ASPIRE HIGHER

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, INDIANA

At SMWC, your degree meant more than a piece of paper. It stood for all those late nights of studying, the friendships you made, the faculty member who challenged you and the Sister who taught you to give of yourself. When you held it for the first time in your hand, you felt empowered. You had aspired higher and you were ready to take on the world.

Everyone knows they received help to be where they are now in life. It's the same for you. Whether it was a relative who encouraged you, someone who gave scholarship monies, a professor who pushed you or a friend who stood by you. Someone gave time, talent or treasure for you.

As you reflect on your own experiences at The Woods, please consider giving back and supporting the mission of SMWC. Give to the annual Woods Fund and help a student feel empowered and to aspire higher at The Woods.

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