

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

ONLYX



SPRING-SUMMER 2015

RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION
JEANNE KNOERLE SPORTS & RECREATION CENTER



Photo Above:

The Saint Mother Theodore Guerin statue in Washington, D.C., was visited by staff and students of SMWC during the alternative spring break trip. (LtoR): Associate Director of Campus Life Christy Thompson; Master of Music Therapy graduate student **Jill Storm '12**; Junior Haylie Davenport; Campus Admission Counselor and Master of Music Therapy graduate student **Cathleen Flynn '13**; Sophomore Sydney Wilderman; Junior Kirstin O'Rourke; Master of Music Therapy graduate student **Julia Lopez-Kaley '10**; Freshman Jessica Reason; Junior Abby Abel and Junior Maribeth Allen.

Highlights

Front Cover:

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College ribbon cutting celebration of the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center on December 3, 2014.

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

NEWS FOR ALUMNAE/1 AND FRIENDS

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SUMMER

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President's Message



After a very long winter, spring has officially arrived at The Woods. Trees are flowering and many new green shoots are breaking through the landscape. This spring renewal and transformation reminds me of how we are transforming to meet the needs of our students.

In this issue, you will read about our process to launch an undergraduate nursing program and a new Pomeroy Wellness Program. You will learn how **Kristine Binder Nader '88** inspires and empowers young girls. You will learn about **Nancy Pence-Fritsch '95** who graduated from The Woods at age 62.

One of our most visible transformations can be found in the photographs from our Ribbon Cutting Celebration of the new Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center. The day was filled with excitement as more than 200 faculty, staff, students, alums, community leaders and friends joined us in our celebration. We recognized many of our friends and

donors who contributed so graciously to the Pomeroy Pride Campaign. The day culminated with our basketball team taking the floor of their home court - the Hamilton Arena, named in honor of **Susan Eichmuller Hamilton '66, '90G** and Wayne Hamilton.

As you read this issue, I hope you see yourself in these pages, whether it be as someone who has taken the knowledge gained at The Woods to improve our world or as someone who embraces our commitment to build upon our legacy. After all, these qualities connect all of us to the Woods community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue 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



JEANNE KNOERLE SPORTS & RECREATION CENTER RIBBON CUTTING



President Dottie King, Ph.D., with Honorary Campaign Chair Mary Clare "Mimi" Murphy Ariens '55 celebrating the naming of the Ariens Atrium, provided by a generous gift from her and her late husband, Mike.



Current SMWC student, Shannon Sonderman with grandmother Marilyn Sonderman; Mary Kay Campbell Watson '69; Mary Fran Roberts Bennett '69; and current SMWC student, Sarah Wichman at the tailgating event before the Clabber Girl Classic basketball game.



Alumnae Board member, Sirrea Hayes Whittaker '07, '10G; Brittany Gray '07; and President Dottie King, Ph.D., at the Clabber Girl Classic basketball game



Marcia Reder Schmidt '72 and Jerry Schmidt, co-chairs for the Pomeroy Pride Campaign to build the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center.



On December 3, 2014, one year after breaking ground, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College celebrated the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Over 200 supporters gathered in front of the Knoerle Center to witness the historic occasion.



Karen Skinner Lafkas '65 and husband Robert with Margaret "Peggy" Grimmer Rolf '73 and husband Eric.

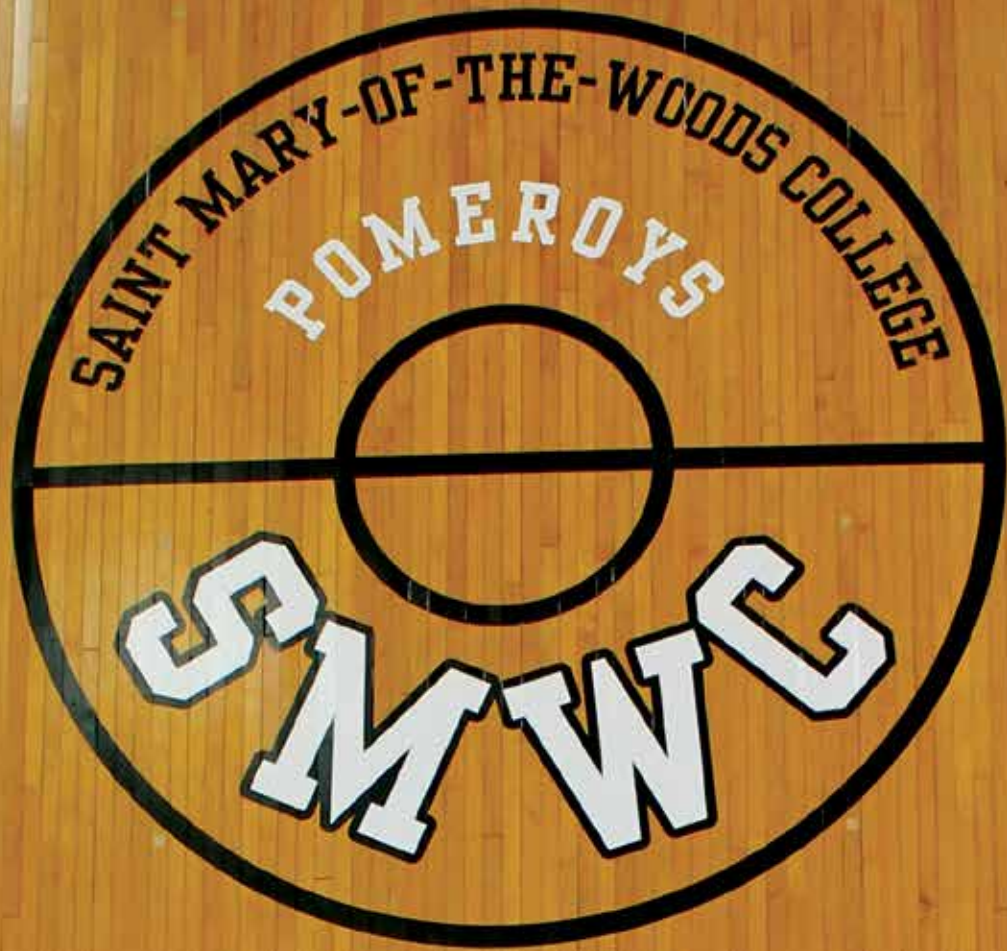


President Dottie King, Ph.D., presents plaque of honor to Brian Kooistra and Ralph Wagle, of Garmong Construction, at the VIP luncheon.



The Pomeroy basketball team presented Susan Eichmuller Hamilton '66, '90G and Wayne Hamilton with the game ball after the Clabber Girl Classic basketball game in the newly christened Hamilton Arena.

Restoring *Tradition*



Terre Haute Business Donates Time

Crispin Gives Talent to Sports and Recreation Center

It's impossible not to be impressed when stepping inside the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center on the campus of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

The 45,000 square foot building boasts a NCAA regulation-sized gym with seating for 1,000, an auxiliary practice gym, a 3,600 square foot lobby, locker and training rooms, a fitness center and athletic staff offices.

Everything inside is new and state of the art. Well, almost everything.

One of the center's most talked about features is also its oldest.

Mounted above the Pomeroy's new basketball court is a portion of the Pomeroy's old basketball court. Crafted into a one of a kind art piece, the College's original gym floor and center court emblem is now displayed inside the new facility.

"Moving into the future we wanted to do something special that would celebrate our past and acknowledge the athletes that played for The Woods," says

April Simma '03, director of major and planned gifts.

Simma says, although it was a great idea, that plan was easier said than done. As the College searched for a way to integrate The Woods original gym built in 1910 into the new gym, which opened in November 2014, she reached out to



John Crispin and Frieda Crispin '04, '07G

local Terre Haute restoration company, Hardwood Renovations. Simma says it only took owner John Crispin a few seconds to jump on board.

"He's a good friend to The Woods and a very generous person," Simma says. "I called him on the possibility of wanting to do something ... we wanted to turn the gym floor into a memento and possibly display the center court. He completely lit up."

For Crispin the involvement with the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center was more than just business; his daughter **Frieda Crispin '04, '07G** is a graduate of SMWC and also a former Pomeroy basketball player.

"His daughter came to The Woods on an athletic scholarship," Simma explains. "This was a way to pay it forward, and work in a way that was special, that was his expertise."

Crispin agrees, explaining that getting involved with the creation of a new gym had been a dream since the days his daughter played as a Pomeroy.

He explained that during Frieda's years as a student athlete the team was without a "home" gym. Frieda played just one season in The Woods original gym. The rest of her time was spent playing at various locations in the area. As a loyal fan, Crispin says he yearned for his daughter and her teammates to have one consistent location to call "home."

"I saw Coach (Deanna) Bradley struggle for years trying to find a place," Crispin says. "I couldn't give them a new court for the amount of money it would take so when this opportunity came up it was something I could do."

Crispin crafted a plan to not only remove the center court to be used as

I saw Coach (Deanna) Bradley struggle for years trying to find a place," Crispin says. "I couldn't give them a new court for the amount of money it would take so when this opportunity came up it was something I could do."



Angela Lorenzano Kiplinger '73, Jan Giddens Lorenzano '84 and Sister Ann Casper '60, '00G look with Alice Sherfick Shelton '87 at the dedication plaque below the center court art display in the Knoerle Center. Shelton's art sponsor gift was given in honor of her mother, godmother and aunt.



a display in the new Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center, but also planned to remove enough of the original hardwood to make individual keepsakes. The keepsakes were distributed to donors and attendees at the December game.

"It's really great to be able to give them a piece of the history that is symbolic and means something," Simma says of the 2,000 carved pieces. "It is a perfect gift for our supporters."



I'm not so much about having any great fame from it. I just wanted to do it for the girls," he says.

But before making his first cut into the maple hardwood, Crispin says he sought permission from the Sisters of Providence, who still use the original gym for storage. With their blessing he got to work, which was no small task.

"We spent 25 hours just taking out the floor," he says with a sigh and chuckle. "We spent another 25 hours on the little mementos, 25-30 hours taking out the rest of the floor and hauling it to the

shop. We decided we couldn't do it at my shop and get it out the door, so we hauled it back to The Woods. It was a process getting it out and getting the right people involved."

Just like teamwork is used on a basketball court, it's also used to assemble one. Crispin says friends from the Nashville, Ind., company Distinctive Hardwood supplied plywood used as the foundation for the center court reconstruction. Terre Haute company A Sign Stop was also called upon to recreate the original Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College logo that was once displayed at center court.

Once completed, Crispin's hardwork on the hardwood was hoisted and mounted onto the wall inside the new gym. The art, which resembles a puzzle piece, was displayed at a grand opening celebration on December 3, 2014. Frieda, who flew in from Colorado, says the emotion she felt that day was overwhelming.

"I can't even put it in words, it was truly the most amazing experience," she says. "I have had a lot of wonderful experiences at The Woods, and I can say that was the highlight of the time I was there and the time that I was away."

Despite dedicating finances and long hours on the project, Crispin brushes off

any praise, saying he had others in mind while he worked.

"I'm not so much about having any great fame from it. I just wanted to do it for the girls," he says. "The payoff is the personal satisfaction, to be able to save some of the old gym and for the girls to get a glimpse of history."

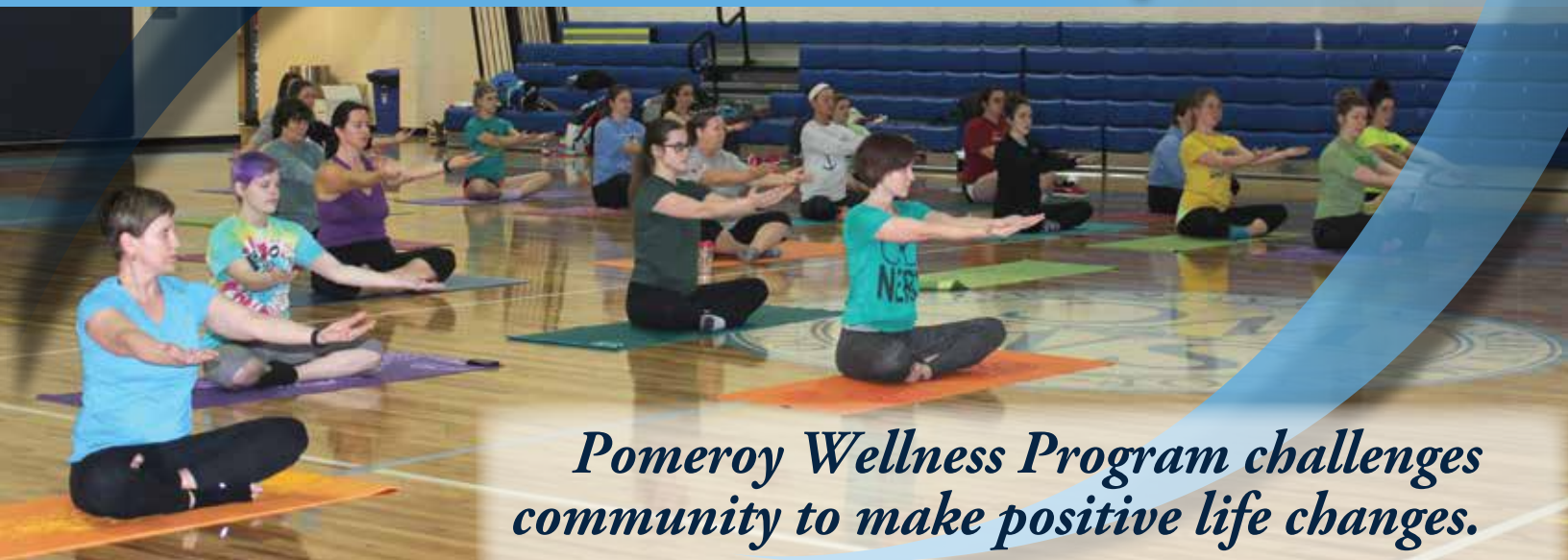
Crispin not only gave that to Pomeroy athletes but a full view of a bright future. Now with a new facility athletes will have a "home" court to call their own. Frieda says for student athletes the new gym is more than just a place to play.

"Now they can have home games in a brand new gym, their families can come, those athletes will take pride in their home court," Frieda says. "This is just amazing and for me, this is something that is my history and now my dad is part of it."

Although their histories with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College are vastly different, both father and daughter say their paths came together at the facility's December opening. Crispin says all the long hours and hard work paid off in that one moment with his daughter.

"I'm really grateful they gave us the opportunity," he says. "Every time I walk in the gym I'll think of that day and be real happy."

Get well and stay well:



Pomeroy Wellness Program challenges community to make positive life changes.

On one of the coldest days in January, over 100 Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College students, faculty, staff and Sisters of Providence arrived at the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center as early as 6 a.m. to participate in the official campus launch of the Pomeroy Wellness Program. Although their early morning entrance into the building from the frigid temperatures may have been more of a shuffle, this action symbolized a strong first step toward improving the health and wellness of The Woods community.

This step was made possible when the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Greater Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce foundation for the Pomeroy Wellness Program – a heart healthy model for better health in the Wabash Valley. The program is a partnership between SMWC and several other community organizations that joined forces in June 2014 to plan the implementation of the program including the kick-off event on Jan. 8, 2015.

The day of the kick-off, tables were set up in the atrium and lines had formed as participants took part in a voluntary pre-program health screen. Nurses from Union Hospital recorded the blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose of each participant, as well as height and weight. That morning, Woods community

members could explore exhibitor booths as well as participate in YMCA instructor-led group exercise classes including pilates, cardio and yoga.

Since the kick-off event, the auxiliary gym in the Knoerle Center has been busy at noon with people from the campus and community participating in free group exercise classes taught by instructors from the YMCA. Other classes to be offered as part of the Pomeroy Wellness Program include healthy cooking, gardening and financial wellbeing. While the official challenge lasts through April, the program is truly about creating a community focused on overall wellness.

“There is a culture beginning to form where we are thinking about our health and making healthy decisions,” states Jenn Kersey, wellness and sports marketing coordinator at SMWC. “I see people supporting and encouraging one another by taking group exercise classes, working out in Club ’64, walking during lunch breaks and eating healthier.”

Another successful initiative brought to campus by the Pomeroy Wellness Program is the Lifestyle Education and Food (LEAF) class. The first 8-week series brought 144 participants to campus as they explored how nutrition affects overall health and wellbeing while gaining resources such as food demonstrations, healthy recipes and grocery shopping tips.

“The results of the first LEAF series on campus were fantastic,” states Kersey. “I heard from people who lost weight, lowered their cholesterol, learned to cook healthy meals and even some who were able to come off of or lower their current medication dose.”

Those who will benefit from the Pomeroy Wellness Program are not limited to SMWC campus. All classes and events are also open to residents of western Vigo County. Even the three local elementary schools – Consolidated, Fayette and West Vigo – are participating in a Presidential Challenge from President Dottie King, Ph.D., in which the school that shows the most progress over three months wins a day of swimming at the YMCA.

“With all of this excitement, I believe the Pomeroy Wellness Program is off to a fantastic start and is helping our community begin an amazing wellness journey,” states Kersey.

The Pomeroy Wellness Program is designed to shape a healthier community. This initiative is a partnership between Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, The Maple Center for Integrative Health, Union Hospital, Terre Haute Children’s Museum and the Vigo County YMCA. For more information about the Pomeroy Wellness Program, please visit www.smwc.edu/wellness.



I can't say enough about the education here. It was an intensive and comprehensive education."

Nancy Pence-Fritsch '95 with son Governor Mike Pence and SMWC President Dottie King, Ph.D.

Nancy Pence-Fritsch '95 Shares Woods Experience

When asked how her life has changed since her son Mike Pence became the 50th governor of the State of Indiana in 2013, **Nancy Pence-Fritsch '95** explained, "It's a bit overwhelming but I am getting used to it."

She visited Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College to hear Governor Pence speak at a luncheon sponsored by the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce. More than 250 people attended the luncheon in the new Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center.

Governor Pence began his remarks by saying that he was a little nervous with his mother in the audience. He added that he was very proud of her decision to earn a college degree as a non-traditional student.

"All of my children were educated with a college degree or on their way at least, and it was a lifelong dream to get a college degree," she said and she did just that.

Earning a college degree had always been her goal. When she graduated from high school, her only option was to go to a teacher's college, as many of her family had done before her. She longed for a different path and went into the business world after attending secretarial college.

Pence-Fritsch learned about the Women's External Degree (WED) program from several women at St. Bartholomew in Columbus, Ind., who were already in the program. "It worked out perfectly for a mother with a family," she explained. "Coming to campus several weekends per month, we stayed in Le Fer."

However, as with many distance students, life happens. A few years into her studies, her husband passed away in 1988. In an instant, she took on a new role – single mother of six children. It was she who held the family together with faith and resilience. Making her family her top priority, school was on hold. Yet her

dream and determination of pursuing a college degree remained in her heart. After two years, she returned to The Woods. At the age of 62, Pence-Fritsch achieved her dream and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

She describes the experience in one word – "phenomenal – just phenomenal." She added, "I can't say enough about the education here. It was an intensive and comprehensive education. I felt so supported. I was helped with what I needed and direction I needed to take. The teachers and staff were fabulous."

Today, Pence-Fritsch is completely at ease and active in this season of her life. She writes a column for "The Republic," the newspaper in Columbus, Ind., and volunteers in the community as her schedule allows. Wherever life takes her next, this mother, grandmother and wife, the memories of The Woods will be right there with her – third finger, right hand.

Ring Day 2015

Ninety Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) students, including campus, online and graduate, participated in the time-honored tradition of Ring Day on Saturday, March 21, 2015.

During the ceremony in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, participants of the 93rd annual Ring Day heard words of wisdom from President Dottie King, Ph.D., and keynote speaker

Lisa Stallings, SP, '74. Afterwards, each student received her ring from President King, and they all joined together for the Ring Song before exiting the Church with their Woods rings proudly on their hands.



L-R: Tiffany Cherry and Tonya Williams



Michelle Jean and husband, Robert Jean, Ph.D., SMWC assistant professor of ecology



Junior Class Officers, L-R: Haylie Davenport, Mikayla Metheny, Artishmie Robbins and Alexandra Sarell



President Dottie King, Ph.D., **Brittney Shaner '13** presenting Alaura McKemie her ring.



Sarah Burnham receives her ring from her mother, **Sally Williams Burnham '06.**



Mother Sherry Max and daughter, Frances Garrett, each an inspiration to the other.



Cultivating Leadership in the ...

“AWESOME!” That one simple word describes the theme, goal and general feeling associated with the Wabash Valley Leadership Institute (WVLI). As a collaborative effort between Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) and the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce and with the support of community organizations and sponsors, the purpose of the WVLI is to engage and energize leadership efforts in the Wabash Valley.

“Leadership is something that can be developed in a person. People have to be empowered along the way and encouraged to believe that they can become leaders,” said President Dottie King, Ph.D.

The first cohort was hosted on the campus of SMWC from Nov. 9-14, 2014. Fifteen high-level executive participants from the Wabash Valley agreed to serve as the first cohort and gave feedback as the week progressed. Participants of the first cohort included executive leaders from local organizations including Duke Energy, Terre Haute Regional Hospital, United Way of the Wabash Valley, Work One, Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation and others.

“This week gave me a boost in my leadership skills by focusing on my strengths and weaknesses, plus it gave me a little

extra confidence that I needed,” said WVLI participant, Jennifer Isbell-Scott, a gas distribution engineer II at Vectren in Terre Haute, Ind. “It was also nice to get to know everyone on more of a personal level outside of the professional setting of day-to-day business.”

Through this weeklong program, participants study leadership curriculum, explore leadership skills and gain community knowledge in a measured environment. Participants engage in a variety of learning methodologies, including self-assessments, lecture, case study review, reflection, team building and peer coaching. Upon graduation, participants are capable of building a better team, using conflict resolution skills effectively and building personal leadership skills.

By having participants stay on campus, the WVLI gives them their own Woods experience and cultivates advocates for the College.

“The group as a whole enjoyed the experience,” said **Susan Turner ’14G**, SMWC senior director of advancement and alumnae affairs and WVLI program coordinator. “The most interesting take-away from the week is that they all agreed the overnight component was essential to the success of the program. While they all

enjoyed the sessions and learned valuable leadership skills, the real growth took place in the evening as they stayed at the Guest House on campus. By getting to know each other on a more personal level, they all felt they were better equipped to work together in the community.”

The WVLI was founded by **Susan Turner ’14G** and fellow Master of Leadership Development (MLD) student **Rachel Leslie ’14G**, SMWC chief external relations officer, as an outcome of their thesis.

“The WVLI fills a critical need in the region as the only leadership development program for professionals in the Wabash Valley,” said Turner.

With the WVLI, SMWC reinforces its commitment to and excellence in leadership programming. By partnering with the Master of Leadership Development (MLD) program at The Woods, the WVLI only increases the College’s opportunity to develop lifelong leaders. As part of the partnership, Susan Decker, director of the MLD program, led a session on governance as leadership.

Those who successfully complete the WVLI become eligible for 3 credit hours towards their MLD degree at The Woods.



By Betsy Wells

Wabash Valley

Isbell-Scott decided to take advantage of that extra perk of the program by enrolling in the MLD program.

“I had the opportunity to talk to several past students of their experience with the program and how it benefited them both personally and professionally,” said Isbell-Scott. “Between the weeklong leadership institute, getting a taste of the program and meeting past students, it really sold me to enroll in the MLD program.”

WVLI participants attended sessions on leadership identity, communication strategies, confidence, vision, government relations, creative leadership, community collaboration and resource management.

“I have been a part of several leadership programs in other communities, and I found that the Wabash Valley Leadership Institute took me several layers deeper than any other program that I had been a part of,” said WVLI participant and current Woods Online student, B.J. Riley, publisher at Tribune-Star newspaper in Terre Haute, Ind. “The diversity and depth of the segments was wonderful. I was able to learn more about myself, this community and my fellow classmates in that packed week.”

The group also participated in a team building exercise at the stables with the equine department and several horses. Additionally, Richie Parker, an engineer

for NASCAR’s Hendrick Motorsports, who learned to ride a bike, drive a car and succeed in life despite being born without arms and who has been featured on ESPN’s “Drive,” gave the keynote address for the week.

“As the Wabash Valley Leadership Institute continues to grow and evolve, I can see a lot of potential for future programing,” said Turner. “Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is carving out a niche for itself in the realm of leadership. By capitalizing on our strengths and growing these leadership programs, I can see us expanding our offerings including a leadership series specifically for women and students.”

SMWC presents the WVLI sessions twice a year. The weeklong Monday through Friday schedule requires overnight stays at the campus Guest House. Fifteen participants are chosen for each cohort. Individuals who have shown leadership skills in their professional and personal lives and wish to learn additional skills or refine those skills are the ideal candidates for this program. Basically, individuals who want to be AWESOME!

“As a general meaning, awesome is thought of as better than great,” said Leslie. “As we think about who we are as people, both as a professionals and in everyday life, some strive to be on top – better than the

rest to benefit the overall good. We believe that those who go through the WVLI want to be better than great.”

The WVLI is open to adult learners from across the Wabash Valley. This region consists of Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. The website is www.smwc.edu/wvli.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

1. (L-R) Lea Anne Crooks, Claudia Tanoos, Rick Burger, BJ Riley and Jeff Lorick participate in a team building exercise.
2. **Rachel Leslie '14G** (L) and **Susan Turner '14G** (R) present BJ Riley with his Wabash Valley Leadership Institute Certificate of Excellence.
3. The first cohort of the WVLI included: (L to R, Front Row) Marla Flowers, Lea Anne Crooks, Claudia Tanoos, Richie Parker, Jennifer Isbell-Scott, Kandi Hill-Clarke, Christi Fenton, Rick Burger, BJ Riley, (L to R, Back Row) Rob Coons, Lisa Lee, David Haynes and Jeff Lorick.
4. David Haynes, Christi Fenton, Jennifer Isbell-Scott, Marla Flowers and Troy Fears work together during a team building exercise which included using a horse in the SMWC indoor arena.

#FlatSMTG

In the last issue of Onyx, we provided you with your very own Flat Saint Mother Theodore Guerin in the hopes that she could journey with you. Many of you shared with us on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #FlatSMTG and several also emailed photos to flatsmtg@smuc.edu. Here are some those of photos!

Flat SMTG attended a Pomeroy game in the Knoerle Center with current students (left to right) Hannah Weaver, Vivian Hansen, Paige Harvey, Sarah Kenderdine, Hannah Loy and Gabrielle Lovins.



Paul Greif, son of **Connie Kreuzberger Greif '48**, writes "Visiting my mother at the columbarium at the University of Notre Dame. The spirit of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin is always with my mom."



(l to r) **Mary Walker Ulery '91**, **Kimberly Watson Skiba '09**, **Ann Worcester Bondi '86** and **Kristana Andrews '00** – all part of the Lafayette, Ind., Catholic Schools System.



Louise Brieger Hegarty '34, of Oakmont, Penn., with daughter Gail Hegarty and granddaughter Kirsten Fell. Gail wrote, "My mother did not graduate but only went two years due to the Great Depression. However, she loved her time at SMWC and still talks about it."

Please continue to share with us as we continue our 175th celebration. Visit www.smw.edu/flatsmtg to see what others are sharing and to download a printable Flat SMTG. We want to see her across the nation and around the world!

Flat SMTG attended the reception following funeral services for **Diantha Duvall Esch '60** in Vista, Calif., with alums (left to right) **Margot Rudge Sullivan '63**, **Rachel Emberle Ambrose '64**, **Sharon Duvall Holmes '64**, **Susan Maxheim Carter '64** and **Joann Kennelly '69**.



Janine McNamara '13, a Woods Online graduate from Arizona, took Flat SMTG to see beautiful landmarks such as Bell Rock, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Tonto Natural Bridge and Tuzigoot National Monument.



Michelle Tesar Barrentine '78 took Flat SMTG cruising on the *Coral Princess* through the Panama Canal.



Heather Tetzlaff Smith '92, self-proclaimed as Saint Mother Theodore Guerin's number one fan, is currently in her year of candidacy to become a Providence Associate. She writes, "I always felt like I was taking her with me everywhere, and now I literally can!" Smith, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1998, recently took Flat SMTG to a meeting at the Human Rights Commission with the city attorney to discuss accessibility issues in South Bend, Ind.



Maria Vega Prado Monhaut '80 with Flat SMTG in front of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin's window in the chapel in her home parish, Christ the King, in Tulsa, Okla.

By Betsy Wells

Crossing the finish line with confidence:

SMWC alum empowers young girls through Girls on the Run after-school program

Running shoes keep the beat as she sings and dances her way through a race, encouraging fellow runners along the way. Her tutu blows in the breeze and bobs with each step, adding a carefree brightness to any race she participates in.

It's easy to see how **Kristine Binder Nader '88** became known as the Tutu Lady. But her runner's spirit? That is the result of her involvement as a site coordinator and coach for Girls on the Run – Chicago, an after-school program for young girls that celebrates inspiration, achievement, spirit and perhaps most importantly, girl power.

"The messages that girls get are not always healthy – emotionally, spiritually and physically. All girls feel insecure at different times in their lives and all need the positive message that Girls on the Run teaches," states Kristine.

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a non-profit organization with program sites in over 200 cities across the nation. The vision behind the organization is a world where every girl knows her potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. This is accomplished through fun, experience-based curriculum, which creatively integrates running. Girls who participate in the 10-week program, which is offered twice per year, complete a 5K at the end, but they gain so much along the way. For

participants, the finish line is only the beginning.

"Girls need to know that real beauty comes from the inside out. When they feel good about themselves, it translates into other parts of their lives," states Kristine. "I want these girls to grow up strong and empowered, feeling like they can take on the world."

It's easy to see the commonality between the mission of GOTR and that of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Kristine speaks of The Woods with pride as she carries out values upon which Saint Mother Theodore Guerin founded the College.

"Having attended a Catholic women's college, I am a strong advocate for single gender education. The empowered environment that is created allows girls and women to discover who they are apart from gender stereotypes," states Kristine. "Coaching GOTR allows me to create a similar environment for the girls I coach. They can discuss issues that only other girls understand. There is no gender-related competition. It is important for girls to understand as they grow and develop that they can rely on each other for support and guidance."

In the GOTR program, girls learn to develop an understanding of oneself, set personal goals for exercise and nutrition,

learn how to let go of negative feelings, recognize the damage that stereotypes and discriminatory behavior can cause, along with many other important life lessons at this critical age.

"The goal is for the girls to complete the program with a stronger sense of identity, a greater acceptance of themselves, a healthier body image and an understanding of what it means to be part of a team," states Kristine. "For the girls, it is a fun place to learn, grow and feel safe. We teach them positive self-esteem and positive body image at a young age in a fun way. If they can learn to confront and deal with challenges in a healthy constructive manner, they will hopefully continue this for a lifetime."

It's difficult to put into words the impact that Girls on the Run has on everyone involved, including the coaches, participants and parents. When the opportunity presented itself to *show* the impact, Kristine gladly accepted the offer from Girls on the Run to participate in a filmmaking project for the program. It is nearly impossible to watch the video – see the girls showing their newfound confidence, hear the parents describing their daughters' transformations and feel the excitement that the coaches have for the program – without wiping away a few tears.

"We put together a 'red carpet event' for participants and their families to see the video. As it began, I saw the girls start to look for themselves and identify our team. I watched one of my older girls gasp and tear up as she heard her mom speak with pride about all that her daughters had learned from GOTR," states Kristine. "It was amazing to watch the participants watch themselves and feel the emotion of others in the video. When it ended, there was a collective sigh as many were moved to tears and emotionally lifted."

Kristine's pride for the program is apparent, and she attributes her Tutu Lady persona and positive race-day attitude to the work that she has done as a part of GOTR.

"I used to line up for races all serious about getting a personal record or beating the person next to me," states Kristine. "But that all changed with one little race."



That little race – a 5K sponsored by GOTR as a culmination of the training program for young girls – turned out to be a life-changing race for Kristine.

“I was just running it as another race because it looked fun,” states Kristine. “And, boy, was it fun! The girl power that day was overpowering! It was amazing. I was hooked. I had to find out more about this program.”

Two years later, Kristine found herself starting a GOTR program at St. Paul of the Cross, the Chicago school where she teaches fifth grade. The program has been in place at her school for nearly seven years now.

“I get excited each time we meet with the girls. They are filled with passion and energy that is explosive and contagious,” states Kristine. “Watching each girl cross the finish line makes me cry. I relive my own first finish line. I know their lives will never be the same. I know that GOTR not only changes the lives of the girls but of their families as well. Family members see these girls with new eyes. No one is ever the same.”

Kristine is a GOTR coach and site coordinator for her school, which runs a spring and fall session for third grade girls. She is also a SoleMate, who runs races and events to raise funds for GOTR. Kristine has run the Chicago Marathon several times to benefit GOTR and will continue to do so. She has become a spokesperson for GOTR and has been chosen as SoleMate of the Month and by the Chicago Area Runners Association as the Athlete of the Month. Most recently, Kristine was awarded the Superstar Award at the Girls on the Run-Chicago 6th Annual Spring Give for Girls for her years of serving as a committed volunteer in the program.

For more information about Girls on the Run, visit www.girlsontherun.org or www.gotrchicago.org.



Top Left – **Kristine Binder Nader '88** with a Super Rockstar Girls on the Run participant in Fall 2014.

Bottom Left – Girls on the Run, Spring 2012, Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill.

SMWC RANKED TOP BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College moved up the ranks from number 18 to number 16 as one of the best regional colleges in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report in its 2015 Edition of Best Colleges. For the 7th consecutive year, The Woods is ranked in the Best Regional Colleges in the publication's compilation of the nation's colleges and universities in this category. Among the 71 top-ranked Midwest colleges, SMWC was recognized for having one of the highest percentages of classes under 20 students at 92 percent and 41 percent of freshmen were in the top 25 percent of their high school class. Additionally, the College touts a 60 percent graduation rate.

HOMECOMING 2014 – GET WILD AND ASPIRE HIGHER

Get Wild and Aspire Higher – that was the theme of the 2014 Homecoming celebration at SMWC. Laughter and chatter were heard around the food tent as children played in the kid zone and faculty, staff, students and alums reconnected. Nearly 200 visitors participated in the Homecoming festivities on campus including soccer, softball, art, music, food and equestrian demonstrations.

SMWC STUDENT PLACES IN TOP 10 AT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) chapter at SMWC is a professional student business organization that emphasizes the development of its members into becoming the next generation of business leaders. Bethany Arrigo, senior accounting major at SMWC, joined PBL her freshmen year after a suggestion from her advisor. That decision eventually landed her in the top 10 at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) hosted by Future Business Leaders of America – Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA – PBL). Throughout Arrigo's college career she has advanced from Secretary, Vice President and now



Homecoming 2014 – Lauren Sullivan '09 and Erin Pugh '11, Big Sis and Little Sis Woodsies.



Bethany Arrigo



SMWC Honors Director and Associate Professor of Paralegal Studies Kathryn Myers, with honors students Dagny Gargas, Jacqueline Peterschmidt and Lacey Humphrey.

President of the club. She is also the Executive Vice President for Indiana PBL.

SMWC HONORS STUDENTS RANK TOP AT ETHICS BOWL

SMWC students never shy away from being the first or the only. When three honors students heard about the opportunity to compete in the Ethics Bowl at Marian University from SMWC Honors Director Kathryn Myers, of course they tackled it. The Ethics Bowl is an intercollegiate academic competition in which participants argue and defend the moral assessment of troubling and complex ethical issues that face society today. As the only all-female team and by far the smallest school, SMWC came in 8th place out of 24 teams at the 16th Annual Central States Regional Ethics Bowl.

SMWC EARNS INDIANA BOARD OF NURSING APPROVAL

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College received approval from the Indiana State Board of Nursing to pursue the launch of an undergraduate baccalaureate nursing program. SMWC will now seek approval from the Higher Learning Commission to allow the College to officially begin offering a four-year residential Bachelor of Science in nursing. Once approval is received, SMWC will seek national program accreditation from the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) as a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

The Woods continues to build upon its reputation of offering distinctive health-related programs to prepare students for careers in high demand. The proposed



176th Commencement – President Dottie King, Ph.D., with Alumnae/i Leadership and Service Award recipients Jessica Cornelius '13, '14G, Amanda Payton '14 and Noah Coley '15G



Dean of Students Jeff Malloy



Michael Boswell

nursing program mission and philosophy are aligned with the value-added education, a strong liberal arts foundation and the Catholic traditions and values of SMWC.

THE WOODS CELEBRATES WINTER COMMENCEMENT

SMWC celebrated its 176th commencement on Saturday, December 13, 2014. A total of 62 graduates from 15 different states walked in the ceremony – 20 with bachelor’s degrees and 42 with master’s degrees.

Jamie McCracken, associate professor of business at SMWC, delivered the commencement address. McCracken graduated from SMWC in 2000 with majors in accounting and mathematics, from Baker College in Michigan with

an MBA in Leadership Studies, and will graduate from Walden University in the spring of 2015 with a Ph.D. in management, concentrating in finance. In her ninth year at The Woods, she teaches a variety of accounting, tax and finance courses.

SMWC DEAN OF STUDENTS RECEIVES MIDWEST ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jeff Malloy, dean of students and Student Activities Committee (SAC) advisor received the 2014 Midwest Advisor of the Year award at the annual Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) Conference in Chicago, Ill.

As advisor of the Students Activities Committee (SAC), Malloy helps the committee plan and book entertainment

on campus for SMWC students. He encourages members to work together, network in the community and prospect for new experiences in order to provide outstanding entertainment to student populations.

WOODS ONLINE/MLD RANKED TOP BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is listed among the top online programs nationally in the just released U.S. News & World Report’s 2015 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 its Master of Leadership Development for best online graduate business program. The exclusive list includes rankings of more than 300 schools nationwide.

MICHAEL BOSWELL RECEIVES GRAMMY AWARD

SMWC Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choirs Michael Boswell received a GRAMMY award for “Best Choral Performance” for his work with Conspirare, a professional choral organization in Austin, Texas, on their album, “The Sacred Spirit of Russia.” This album was Boswell’s first project with Conspirare. As the title states, the album is fully comprised of sacred music of Russia and is entirely a cappella.

“The Department of Music and Theatre is very proud of Michael Boswell. Only those singers who are exceptional are invited to perform with this unique professional ensemble, which has had six GRAMMY nominations,” states Tracy Richardson, Ph.D., MT-BC, SMWC music and theatre department chair.



SMWC Photo Album

1. Our sincere apology to the Class of 1999 as their Reunion photo was unintentionally left out of the last issue of Onyx. Celebrating their Reunion 2014 were **Sarah Anderson Goodier, Rosa Salazar, Barb Stark Tracy, Kristen Shupe Shears** and **Melissa Griswold Titzer**.
2. Annual gathering of Class of '65 members at **Martha "Marty" Sullivan O'Neill's**, May 2014, Lake Zurich, IL. L-R: (Back Row) **Marty, Elizabeth "Liz" Benstent Tuttle, Barbara Fox Vanek** and **Mary A. "Bobbie" Barrett**. L-R: (Front Row) **Susan Shiel Newman, Mary Dempsey Garvey, Mary Elizabeth McGrath** and **Jeanne Heinen**.
3. It was a mini-reunion when Enrico Lipparoni, husband of **Angela Sylvester Lipparoni '81** (seated); **Susan Finley '78**, and her husband, Mike Pella; and **Anne Walsh Walton '78** and
4. **Mary Grace Sylvester '78** gathered in Sylvania, Ohio. Angela and Mary Grace were visiting from Italy and Japan, respectively.
5. Cheers! **Mary Kay Campbell Watson '69** and husband Al enjoying a beer at 10 a.m. at a monastery in Germany.
6. The grandchildren of **Ruthanne Schoettlin Otto '65** pose for a summer 2014 photo.



7. Members of the Class of '65 in Mission City, Mich., on September 6, 2014. L to R: (Front row) **Mary A. "Bobbie" Barrett, Ann Hoban Jean, Barbara Thier Morris, Kathleen "Kathy" Castiglia Greeves, Susan "Susie" Shiel Newman, Catherine "Cathy" Cunningham.** (Back row) **Karen Skinner Lafkas, Susan Seufert Orr, Barbara Roguski Mandal, Kathleen "Kate" Krider Satchwill, Madeleine Walsh Sullivan, Mary "Peggy" Smith Bodt, Nancy Hurrle Emmett, Eileen Janssens Nasif, Barbara Martin Fossum and Patricia "Pat" Pratkania Womack.**

8. On Jan. 3, 2015, **Rachel Eberle Ambrose '64, Joann Kennelly '69 and Juliet Muro Oeffinger '64** visited the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. They saw the Hollywood Movies Costumes Exhibit.

9. **Nancy Curran '67** married Janette Friel on July 31, 2014, in Eugene, Oregon.

10. This photo was taken on a Caribbean cruise celebrating **Joan Mellican Dickson '59** and husband Robert's 50th wedding anniversary with their four children, Kevin Dickson, Craig Dickson, **Angela Dickson Yildiz '91** and **Rebecca Dickson Sacco '92**, their spouses and their five grandchildren.

11. SMWC Reunion Class of 49: **Mary Dunn Giarratana**, SMWC President Dottie King, **Georgia Schneller Priebe** and **Lois Patton Olzawski.**

12. **Joan Reiter Carlsen '61** and Larry's grandchildren pose in front of a logging train in California. L to R: Sophie, Charlie, Grace, John and Annie.

13. On Dec. 13, 2013, James "Chip" Brewer (RHIT '05) proposed to **Mary Margaret Moffett '06** in Las Vegas. Five hours later, they eloped at the Little Church of the West, where her grandmother married jazz musician Corky Corcoran 40 years prior! The couple had a small ceremony on their one year anniversary at the Rose-Hulman White Chapel on Dec. 13, 2014.

14. California 1964 roommates reunited in Burlingame, Calif. Left, **Juliet Muro Oeffinger '64** and right **Joyce Schumacher Toothman '64** with Joyce's husband Gary.

15. Friends to the end. Freshmen roommates of 1947 enjoyed a June visit in Wilsonville, Ore., where **Luann Jeager McGreevy** now lives. **Micky Lane Dolcini '50** traveled from California for a grandson's graduation in Corvallis, Ore.

ARE YOU up for a

CHALLENGE?

With Reunion 2015 fast approaching,
you are encouraged to make a class gift today!

A Reunion class gift is a great way to commemorate your special anniversary.

All classes and their gifts will be recognized and celebrated at Reunion
and in the 2014-15 Annual Report.

Team up with your classmates and help support The Woods!

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By Betsy Wells



Left –
Beth Allard, Senior
Music Therapy major

Bottom –
Jalen Carpenter,
Senior Biology major

Changing Lives, *One Gift at a Time*

“They’ve done more than give me an education. They’ve given me the opportunity to take my education, go into the world and just hit the ground running. How do you thank someone for how they’ve changed your whole life? ‘Thank you’ is not enough,” said Beth Allard, senior music therapy major at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC).

Four years ago, Allard was coming to terms with the fact that, financially, attending SMWC and pursuing her passion was not going to be possible. That was before she received a call from SMWC offering her a full-tuition scholarship.

“I just sat down and cried,” said Allard. “To have the gift of an education this wonderful at SMWC... it has never worn off. Someone paid for that for me. Every day I am so thankful for all of this. That they saw potential and were willing to invest in one person to give them the chance to grow here, go out into the world and do well.”

Scholarships like the one that Allard received are just one of the many outcomes made possible by the Woods Fund. Also known as the Annual Fund, it is the most direct way to support SMWC. So far in the 2014-15 year, donors have given \$623,374 toward a goal of \$950k.

“Love first, and then teach. That is exactly what SMWC has done for me. The donors that make that possible have shown a love for The Woods, a love for learning and a love for a young woman trying to make something of herself. I couldn’t show more gratitude for that,” said Jalen Carpenter, SMWC senior biology major.

The Woods Fund is a vital part of SMWC’s mission. Gifts to the Woods Fund offset current operating costs and touch every corner of campus providing funding for student scholarships, facility enhancements, faculty and staff enrichment, technology advancements,



support for student services, athletics and more. It is through the Woods Fund that SMWC is able to support top-notch educational programs.

“Each gift, large or small, to the Woods Fund makes a significant impact,” states **Susan Turner ’14G**, senior director of advancement and alumni relations. “I am grateful for the support of our generous donors. It takes all of us working together, along with a little Providence, for our students to Aspire Higher.”

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Summer CAMP



June 22-June 26 & June 29-July 3, 2015



Whether you enjoy exploring a natural habitat, discovering the world of technology, riding horses, using your creative mind with art and photography, learning all about bikes or a career in the health field, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has a camp for you! The SMWC Summer Camps combine summer fun with hands-on learning.

All camps begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Before- and after-camp care, lunch and snacks are provided.

Girls and boys will learn leadership skills, make new friends, discover new interests and build self-esteem in a safe and beautiful environment at The Woods!

CAMPS FOR GIRLS:

TWIST – STEMsational Camp – June 22-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Oakley Academy – Environmental Science Camp – June 22-26

COED CAMPS:

Nursing Camp – June 22-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Photography Camp – June 22-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Equestrian Camp for Beginners – SOLD OUT

Equestrian Camp for Advanced Riders – June 29-July 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Art Camp – June 22-26 & June 29-July 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bike Camp – June 22-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



Enrollment is limited.

For a detailed schedule and to register online visit www.smwc.edu/camp2015.

Questions, contact Jenn Kersey at (812) 535-5142 or jkersey2@smwc.edu