

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

ONLYX

Fall-Winter 2015

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
NURSING
at The Woods



Fall 2015 arrived in full splendor at SMWC!

Highlights

Front Cover:

Kendall Fowler, a transfer student from Clay City, Ind., is now enrolled in the new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at SMWC. *Story on page 2.*

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SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FALL-
WINTER

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Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is a place that was conceived of in the heart of a Providential God and birthed through the sacrifices and toil of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and her five companions. Like children, we never tire of hearing the story of the bishop's request, of the journey to a new land, of the struggles to survive and of the faith and strength that made the vision a reality. When Mother Theodore proclaimed, "It is astonishing that this remote solitude has been chosen for a novitiate and especially for an academy. All appearances are against it," her next steps were forward ones, and I see little evidence that she ever looked back. The legacy that we have inherited from this courageous group of women and those who supported and joined their efforts is worthy of our admiration and gratitude. It is a fitting response for us to not only celebrate 175 years of advancing that legacy but to consider how our actions propel it forward. Our faith is in the same Providence, which has still never failed us, and our commitment is to the students of today and of tomorrow.

The 2015-16 academic year is well underway and has already been filled with many momentous occasions. The arrival of the Class of 2019 marked the beginning of our next 175 years and I often think about how our story will be told by future generations. May they find us to have been faith-filled and faithful to our mission!

Sincerely,



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



President Dottie King with His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Indianapolis. The Archbishop presided over the Opening of School 175th Celebration Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

**Important Information
about Future Onyx Mailings
can be found on page 24.**

ANSWERING THE CALL

Nursing Ranks Top in Hot Jobs Statewide

BY KATIE SHANE



It's at the top of the "Hoosier Hot 50," being called one of the most in demand jobs in the state – nursing.

This year the Indiana Department of Workforce Development released a list of the best and most sought-after jobs of the next decade. Registered nurses topped the list.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College works to be one step ahead when preparing students for the future, and the College is right there with the industry when it comes to Indiana's hottest job.

"What we are seeing is a variety of things; The Affordable Care Act has given more people access to healthcare than ever before," says Professor and Department of Nursing Chair Marcia Miller. "More people will enter into the healthcare system, and many people who haven't been taking care of themselves will now be coming into that system too. We need nurses."

With that need in mind the College has created opportunities for students to gain a degree in the health sciences. In fall 2013, the Healthcare Administration major was added to SMWC, both online and on campus. Students enter the major after earning an associate's degree in an approved applied science area and graduate with numerous career options.

In January 2014, Woods Online launched the RN to BSN degree completion program, designed for registered nurses who already hold an associate's degree to further their education by gaining a bachelor's degree.

This fall, SMWC began accepting campus students into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. And in 2016, The Woods will launch the Master of Health Care Administration (MHA) program.

With so many options to gain a degree and further their learning, Miller says students will no doubt leave The Woods prepared to fill a need that will only grow in the coming years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor estimates a shortage of more than 580,000 registered nurses by 2018.

Wasting no time giving students the skills they need to succeed and emerge as leaders, SMWC enrolled 16 BSN students. The program can support up to 24 students. Current students like Katrina Withers of Staunton, Ind., say the intimate class size is an asset.

"I think anywhere you go you want to be recognized as a person and not just someone paying tuition," she says. "At The Woods you are in a class with 16 students; if someone misses class they are asking



about you. We are a unit, and I think the smaller classroom makes it a close knit family atmosphere and it is the perfect way to experience college."

Small class size is not the only thing that sets The Woods apart from other programs. Miller explains while small, The Woods offers innovative technology and valuable partnerships. The newly renovated nursing skills lab puts students in a simulated hospital environment. As a partner of the Rural Health Innovative Collaborative at Union Hospital students have access to an off-campus simulation center. Miller explains the site features computer-driven high-fidelity mannequins that bridge the gap between theoretical learning and clinical practice.

"Being a new program we have the chance to use innovative programs," Miller says. "We have a faculty that is very flexible. We can take students feedback and make sure we are on target in the direction we are going. We have the ability to make sure students are confident in getting an advanced degree."

Clay City, Ind., native Kendall Fowler says she's wanted to be a nurse since she was young and searched for a program that was the "perfect fit."

"It just has been a whole journey for me," Fowler explains. "I knew that God wanted me to be a nurse, but it wasn't working out. I told God, I want to be a nurse and I am going to keep going until He shuts all the doors. Then I got

accepted to the SMWC nursing program, and I knew this is where I was meant to be."

Fowler says one of the many things that attracted her to the program at SMWC was access to technology and individual attention.

"I actually thought about it in class today," Fowler says. "At a bigger school you wouldn't be able to even speak, but here I can express my opinions and they are accepted ... when it comes down to it, I don't think I would learn as much at a larger school. Somewhere else my teacher would have to divide her time between so many other people, here in lab she went through step by step how to do a certain technique, standing right with me."

Not only are students feeling confident and motivated, but eager. Both Withers and Fowler's passion for their future career bubbles over as they talk about the possibilities. Still exploring options of pediatrics, oncology, psychiatric and others, the two women say the only thing they know for sure right now is they are beyond happy to be at The Woods.

"Being in this program, I am so grateful to be a part of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and to represent them; that is my focus," Withers says. "I want to make a difference as a nurse, I want my patients to remember me and feel good about the service that I gave them, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is making those dreams possible."

PLAN TO 'ASPIRE HIGHER' SET INTO MOTION

BY KATIE SHANE

SMWC Launches 2015 Strategic Plan

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College encourages each student to "Aspire Higher."

Leading by example, the College is now taking its own advice as it launches the 2015 Strategic Plan, appropriately sharing the title, "Aspire Higher."

The initiative, which rolls out along with celebrations of the College's 175th year, sets a vision and strategy for the future. Approved by the Board of Trustees in July 2015, President Dottie King, Ph.D., explains plans have been in development for four years and now is the time to set them in motion.

"We have been acting strategically for a while, well since the beginning of my presidency," King says. "We have been figuring out where we are and what are the most immediate needs."

One of those needs was to first revise the college mission statement.

With a clearer mission King says the College now has an outline and design for future ambitions and aspirations.

"It is so important to put everything together that we have learned and heard from faculty, staff, alumni and current students into a formal plan to see the steps that we need to take to accomplish those goals and creating a way we can measure our success."

Divided into three pillars, the strategic plan combines the institution's successful history with the desire to mold The Woods into a more competitive option for liberal arts higher education.

The first pillar is to elevate the distinctive, high-quality education that has been a hallmark of education at SMWC. Focus on health sciences is part of this goal, along with continuing to make student success a top priority, enhancing experiential learning opportunities and diversifying enrollment.

Secondly, the strategic plan calls to provide a college environment that is relevant to overall student success and enhances students' quality-of-life through improvements to facilities and an enhanced financial structure. Within this goal the facilities improvement master plan will be completed. A push will also be made to strengthen the College financially.

"While there is much work to be done we need to strengthen the College and the primary way to see that is through increased enrollment," King explains.

"You will see a really big emphasis on enrollment and financial strength. That is the only way for the College to impact its own future."

Finally, the new vision will build upon The Woods' Catholic identity and academic reputation. Plans will elevate the image of the institution through a renewed focus on outreach and partnerships: locally, statewide and nationally.

"The pillars are identified, but now is the time to get down into the level that puts the feet on the ground," King says. "We are working on development of goals, a timeline, metrics of success and accountability."

Heading that charge is Vice President for Advancement Karen Dyer. Over the

Divided into three pillars, the strategic plan combines the institution's successful history with the desire to mold The Woods into a more competitive option for liberal arts higher education.

next few months Dyer says three different committees will review each of the three pillars and create additional details and action plans, which will be presented again to the Board in February 2016.

"The plan gives us a road map and vision for the effort that we are doing and the things that we need to make a priority," Dyer explains. "As an institution we will decide, this is the way we are headed and what efforts need to be made towards singular aspects. These things are going to help the College move forward."

While distinct plans are still being formed for some aspects, the College has also been moving ahead in others.

In May 2015, the College announced plans to diversify by introducing men to the SMWC campus.

Specifically on the academic side, a new traditional BSN nursing major and the Master of Healthcare Administration will no doubt elevate the College, making The Woods a more competitive choice for prospective students.

Just a year ago the new Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center was opened, not only creating new athletic possibilities, but putting a new focus on health and wellness for students and faculty.

"We have made some huge strides with completion of the Knoerle Center; we knew that would be important,"

King says. "The next decision we made was the nursing program. The creation of the nursing program took a lot of approval; it took two and a half years and so far it has exceeded our expectations."

With large strides already made and a huge push aimed to become a reality in 2016, King says she looks forward to staying true to the College's strong history, while creating an innovative future.

"This plan is a continuation of a process and it is really gratifying to see it coming together," she says. "This is truly a work in progress, a working document and something to guide our momentum over the next few years."

A NEW ERA The Woods Welcomes Men to Campus

While celebration is underway of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College's 175th year, the College marked the milestone with a big announcement: the admission of men to the traditional undergraduate program.

"This decision was made as much for women as it was for men," explains SMWC President Dottie King Ph.D. "We remain committed to women and remain committed to strengthening the value of leadership in women and now men as well."

In May 2015, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to become fully coeducational. No doubt a large decision for the College, discussion and deliberation about the decision went on for a year. After the historic vote, male students were able to immediately enroll as commuter students and will become residential students in the fall of 2016.

While this decision marks a noticeable shift in the landscape of the campus, men are no strangers to the diverse programs and degree offerings of The Woods. Currently, the College offers coeducational opportunities in both the Woods Online courses and the graduate programs.

"We have been coeducational with the majority of our students, but it is still representative of a huge emotional shift for us," King explains. "We can no longer identify as a women's only liberal arts college."

King says the decision to enroll men was one that took long discussions

and extensive planning. When finally announced, the reviews were mixed.

"This decision, we did not make lightly or out of desperation," she says. "For us to do this, it involved a lot of discernment and this is the best thing for us to do in order to bring the best things for the College."

Not universally excepted, King says she witnessed both cheers and jeers from alumni and current students. While emotions ran high in some cases, others were quick to show support. After the announcement, annual giving increased from alumni and overall fundraising saw success.

"Across the board, whether the people that reached out to me with their opinions were nice or not, the range of opinions overall were very positive, but whatever the case this indicated a strong passion for the College," King says. "They weren't ignoring the decision, no matter the strong positive or negative it was an indication of care."

After the announcement was made, The Woods only had a couple of months to recruit male students, but received applications and admitted three new male students in 2015. King says each new student was a valuable addition to the campus population and gladly welcomed.

"They were all eloquent about why they made the decision to choose The Woods," she says. "They liked our legacy, the small class size, the campus. What we offer women is also attractive to men."

The coeducation decision pairs with other new changes coming to the College in the 2015 Strategic Plan. Three pillars have been identified with an overarching goal to increase and diversify enrollment.

These will encompass big things for both women and men at The Woods. The strategic plan outlines continued focus on academics with ideas for new programs and services including more focus on health sciences and more experimental learning opportunities. The plan aims to increase student success, continue the emphasis on The Woods Catholic identity and positioning the College to be a more competitive choice for men and women when choosing a liberal arts college.

Opportunities for prospective male students, who have eagerly been visiting the campus in anticipation for admission in the fall of 2016, will also be created through the strategic plan. Wasting no time, SMWC has hired a new male golf coach in September 2015. Terre Haute native Abe Nasser will lead the first-ever men's golf team. Nasser has already signed two players with other recruits in the pipeline.

With high hopes and a new strategic plan in place, King says the decision for coeducation will continue to elevate the College to a high standard and no doubt diversify the student population. She says small steps have been taken to date, with large strides on the horizon.

"It feels like the beginning of a new era and expansion of our mission," King says. "Our mission has always been to care for students beyond the education. High quality education remains the priority but beyond that we want students to value giving back to community, to take care in making promises to themselves and to the world... I think the world needs to have respect for both genders and we will be able to foster that."

ALUMS OFFER TIME,

Treasure, Talent to Increase Enrollment

BY BETSY ELLIOTT

College fairs, high school visits and other recruitment efforts are wrapping up for fall across the country for the over 130 alums that have joined the Alumni Enrollment Ambassador program at The Woods. Coordinated by **Molly Ellsworth '92, '10G** and **Jennifer "Jen" McGuire Drake '96**, the program is actually a resurrection of a similar program that used to be in place at SMWC. By partnering with the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs and the Office of Admission at the College, the duo has formed a program designed to increase enrollment by employing the time, treasure and talents of SMWC alumni.

"When Molly and Jen approached me regarding the Alumni Enrollment Ambassador program, I was thrilled that they wanted to serve as coordinators," states **Susan Turner '14G**, senior director of advancement and alumni relations at the College. "I fully believe it was providence at work. The staff member overseeing the program recently accepted a job in a new state, and I was worried how to move the program forward so it could truly help The Woods. In step Molly and Jen! By working together with the Admission staff, the Alumni Relations staff, these two dedicated women and our

network of volunteers, I think this program will continue to grow and do phenomenal things for the College."

Currently, approximately 137 alums have signed up as enrollment ambassadors and have received packets containing recruitment materials such as business cards for admission staff members, new promotional materials, SMWC posters and talking points. After visiting high schools, college fairs or speaking with prospective students, enrollment ambassadors then use a web-based form to report back to the admission office for future follow up.

"Alumni are passionate about The Woods. Harnessing that passion and focusing on enrollment seemed like a natural fit," states Ellsworth.

The goal of the program is to increase enrollment and continue to engage alums and to increase name recognition for SMWC. The role of an enrollment ambassador is to be in places that the professional staff cannot be and to engage with students and parents who might not otherwise know about SMWC.

"I am most excited about the energy this program has created in our alums. It is so wonderful for me to work with so many amazing alums who share the same passion I do for SMWC," states Drake. "In

the coming years, we would like to include the alumni clubs in our recruitment efforts and see them reaching out to local students in their areas."

Alumni have served at various college fairs outside of Indiana. Ellsworth has worked with alums in Indiana and has high schools covered in most every county in the state. Additionally, the Alumni Enrollment Ambassadors attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis with the opportunity to influence over 23,000 Catholic youth from around the country.

"The revitalization of the Alumni Enrollment Ambassador program is such a blessing to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College," states Turner. "I can think of no better people to tout the virtues of this place than our passionate alumni base. They have experienced first-hand the benefits a Woods education provides. Their love of the College is a wonderful marketing tool."

Alums interested in volunteering for the program may visit and sign up at www.smwc.edu/alumambassador or email Molly at mellsworth@smwc.edu or Jen at jennifer.drake@smwc.edu.

EACH and EVERY ALUM can do THEIR PART by SERVING as "EYES AND EARS ON THE GROUND" for SMWC.

Go to high schools and parishes to share experiences with counselors and advisors.

Share admission information with prospective students for the campus program, Woods Online, and the graduate programs.

Bring interested students for a campus visit.

Help recruit other Alumni Enrollment Ambassadors.

REUNION WEEKEND

2015

BY BETSY ELLIOTT



Alums from the Class of 1950 to the Class of 2010, and some in between and since, all reunited on campus for a weekend of activities including the 1965 Golden Jubilee Reception, Welcome Dinner, Strategic Plan Q & A with College Leadership, Walk in the Woods tour of campus, Reunion Banquet and Sunday Brunch. In the midst of those activities, alums could also explore the Roethele Art Studio, Linden Leaf Gifts, SMWC Bookstore and the Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Shrine.

For mother-daughter duo, **Josephine Eggers Cavanaugh '65** and **Julie Cavanaugh Pache '90**, coinciding Reunion years makes it that much more special.

"Experiencing it with Julie is doubly delicious. It's been a magical weekend, and it's just been a joy in my life to have all of our reunions correspond," said Cavanaugh. "I see her friends, and I get to show her off to my friends. So it's been a joy."

Her daughter has similar feelings. "Coming to The Woods always feels like I'm coming home. It always has since the first time I came here when I was a senior

in high school," said Pache. "Celebrating it with my mom is just a unique part of it. For two of my reunions, I brought my child with me. It was almost a gift to my mom that she could, instead of showing pictures of her grandchildren, say, 'Here's my grandchild.' It's just a neat thing to share with my mom because The Woods is so fundamental in who we are as women."

Celebrating her 50th Reunion, **Juanita "Jonni" Garcia-Maldonado Sayres '65**, says that she comes back to The Woods from her home in New York regularly for clarity and peace. "I'm always grateful for the education I received here. It's helped me wherever I've gone." After joining the Peace Corps upon graduation, Sayres has traveled to places including Tanzania, Cambodia and Afghanistan, taking The Woods spirit with her wherever she goes.

Karen Kelly Kiss '70, making a journey from Australia, traveled the furthest to revisit The Woods and her classmates. Originally from Connecticut, Kiss moved to Australia in her mid-20s but has come back to The Woods for every Reunion since 1985. She also stayed connected to her

Above: **Julie Cavanaugh Pache '90** and **Josephine Eggers Cavanaugh '65**

classmates and alma mater by serving as Class Secretary all the way from Australia.

This was the first Reunion that **Ann Marie Bisch Jansen '90** has attended, and seeing how much campus has changed left her nostalgic.

"I miss Foley Hall. It left our senior year. It's kind of sentimental," she said through tears. "I'm proud that we have a saint. It's nice to be back."

Another alum from the same class described the feeling of coming home. "You don't get that feeling of peace anywhere but here. You find yourself. You find a strength in yourself that you didn't know you had," said **Jamie Hunt Kauff '90**, emotion filling her eyes. "We can go months, years, whatever, but when one of us has a problem, it's like we've never stopped talking. You're still sisters. You're gone from here, but it's never gone from you."

TWICE AS NICE



Mary

Ruth

Alumnae Bring Blast From The Past To Golden Jubilee



It may have been decades since identical twin sisters **Mary and Ruth Berkebile '65** had visited the campus of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, but as they walked into their Golden Jubilee Reception in June 2015, it felt like no time had passed.

The two were greeted by happy memories, former roommates and fellow alumnae, but it was a blast from the past that the sisters brought with them that really took everyone back to their college days in the 1960s.

"We wore the same dresses that we wore to our senior recital," says Mary with a laugh. "We hadn't worn them in like 50 years!"

The gold custom Italian silk dresses may have been a little different from their heyday in 1965. Mary and Ruth say a seamstress had to take fabric from the skirt's bottom to add more room in the middle, but overall the dresses were as identical as the sisters themselves.

"We never threw them away because we knew silk is such a nice fabric," Mary explains. "We thought that it would be cool to wear them at the reception after we had worn them at the biggest thing of our lives and that was the senior recital."

"It was really a throwback to be able to do that," adds Ruth. "When we walked in the room and the dinner, I think a lot

of the ladies remembered what we had worn."

Dressing identical is nothing new for the duo, who says their mirror image style became a huge joke while they lived on campus at The Woods.

"We always like to dress alike," Ruth begins.

Mary continues, "We dressed as twins at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the whole time. The other students always asked if we would ever dress differently. So one day they came to our room, in those days you didn't lock your doors, and they took one of everything, but they missed one outfit, so we just wore that outfit, maybe for three days or so."

Outsmarted by the twins, their fellow students set a ransom for their clothes; dress differently just one time and the clothes will be returned.

"They said differently, so we wore a plaid skirt, flower blouse, different socks and different saddle shoes, everything was mismatched," Mary says. "Every half hour we traded an article of clothing. They wanted to tell us apart by our clothing, but the point was that they needed to get to know the person instead of the clothes. They finally figured that out."

Mary says the clothing joke continued for years and was even revisited at the class's 45th Anniversary party when

BY KATIE SHANE

their fellow students gifted the twins with matching outfits.

"They have had fun with it for years," Mary says. "It's a big standing joke."

Graduates of The Woods in 1965, Mary and Ruth are both accomplished musicians with a triple major in violin, voice and piano. They went on to continue their education, receiving Master's degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Southern California and then a Master's in Violin at Butler University in Indianapolis.

"We never stopped learning," Mary says. "We finally quit studying because there is only so much you can memorize, at least for us."

The duo worked as music teachers, church pianists and performers for years until Ruth became ill.

"The ring finger on her left hand, the finger couldn't move, we found out she had severe TMJ," explains Mary of the disorder, Temporomandibular joint dysfunction. "It was a terrible thing and she spent the next ten years in bed. She would whisper to teach students. It knocked our career on its head, we couldn't do anything."

Mary does most of the talking for the two sisters; Ruth's voice is quiet. She explains that while Ruth was fighting to regain her strength and health, the sisters coped by looking to the future, hoping and praying Ruth would be well enough to join Mary for the SMWC Golden Jubilee in 2015.

"We thought it was impossible," Mary says as her voice quivers. "We wanted to go because we thought it may be the last time we could go to a reunion. We are all getting to be old ladies, but we are all good looking old ladies!"

Both sisters giggle at Mary's comments, but Ruth becomes emotional again when talking about her illness. She manages to quietly talk about how grateful she was to attend reunion, summing it up by simply saying, "It still affects us to this day."

Now back home in Peru, Ind., the 72-year-old twins say they are still teaching and playing music every day. They rarely perform on a large scale, mainly playing at church services, but say they plan to reuse their golden recital dresses once again, next time as the wardrobe for their church parish photo.

"We don't know what life is going to be like for us in the next years," Mary says. "Maybe that is going to be our future; walking the heavenly streets in our gold dresses."

PRICE receives

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Award



Maria Price '87, of Louisville, Ky., received the Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Award for possessing similar purpose, devotion, community vitality and leadership as exhibited by the College's foundress.

"It's very humbling, and I feel most undeserving, and I feel full of gratitude. It's been overwhelming, so in all, I just tried to rest in the gratitude of the gifts I've been given and the ways I've been able to contribute," said Price. "This award to me is a challenge. It's a challenge to live up to the award and to live up to the wonderful attributes of Mother Theodore Guerin. There could be no greater honor than to be associated in any way with Saint Mother Theodore Guerin."

Maria currently serves as the executive director at St. John Center for Homeless Men in Louisville.

After teaching high school in Louisville for five years, she became a community organizer, working with communities affected by hazardous waste landfills and heavily polluting industries, educating the public on LGBT issues, or working to harness the collective power of labor, community, and faith communities to advance economic justice.

DAHM receives

Frances Murphy Rumely Award

Mary Dolores "Dee Dee" Mahoney Dahm '60, of Fort Wayne, Ind., received the Frances Murphy Rumely Award from the College for demonstrating outstanding dedication to civic, religious or educational organizations and leadership through her volunteer work for such organizations.

"I am very humbled by the whole experience. I was given many opportunities to do God's work," said Dahm. "Being involved has given me enthusiasm, and God provided me with good health. So that's my way of paying back, and I love it. I am joyful for what I do. It's a thrill to get involved."

Nominated by her fellow alums, Dahm has volunteered countless hours for organizations such as the Junior League, St. Jude School, Bishop Dwenger High School and the Christ Child Society. At Bishop Dwenger High School, she co-founded the Saints Alive – Dinner Auction. During its 35-year history, the dinner has become one of the most profitable high school dinner auctions in the country bringing in millions of dollars.



DISTINGUISHED ALUM AWARDS



Sr. Barbara Doherty '51

Sister Barbara Doherty – author, leader, lecturer, scholar, servant, teacher, theologian. She was the 13th president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1984 to 1998. Other positions have been as director of the Institute of Religious Formation at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, president of the Indiana Conference of Higher Education, served in Congregation Provincial leadership and national boards of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Women's College Coalition.

Doherty attended Providence High School in Chicago, where she met the Sisters of Providence. After graduation, she entered the Sisters of Providence novitiate in 1951. She holds a bachelor's degree in Latin, English and history from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a Master's degree in Sacred Doctrine from Saint Mary's College and a doctorate in Theology from Fordham University. She also received honorary doctor of letters degrees from Indiana State University and Dominican University. Doherty has studied and lectured in Europe, Asia, Central America, South America and Polynesia and has lectured on various non-Christian religions including Hinduism and Buddhism.

She retired as president of the College in 1998. Doherty served as coordinator of the Office of the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin from August 2007 until January 2011 and continues as co-chancellor of the College. Her own words



Mary Melanie Ousley Waller '78

provide an insight to the strength and grace of this accomplished woman.

"Please let yourself know as you view your life in retrospect – with whatever distance of years lies behind you – that the reason you are here today, in the place you are in your head and heart – the reason you have not be swallowed up in your own pain and struggle – is because the purposes of God are riding on your existence, the power and the providence of God are riding on your existence. With this knowledge, you cannot fail!"

Mary Melanie Ousley Waller '78, M.D., received her Bachelor of Science, magna cum laude in 1978 from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. In 1982, she received the Doctor of Medicine degree from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. While a medical student, she earned her Air Assault wings at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Upon graduation, Waller was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

She completed a surgery internship at Naval Hospital San Diego. After flight surgery training in Pensacola, Florida she served with the Marine Corps Air Station in Okinawa, Japan as a flight surgeon before returning to San Diego to complete a residency in urology.

After residency, she remained as teaching staff at Naval Hospital San Diego with academic appointments as Assistant

*Two alums were honored at the 177th commencement ceremony on May 2, 2015, with Distinguished Alumni awards. **Sister Barbara Doherty '51 and Mary Melanie Ousley Waller '78** were recognized for their professional achievements and dedication to their communities. This award honors individuals who have a love for The Woods, have a vision, which perpetuates our case, and are actively involved in helping the College achieve its mission.*

Clinical Professor of Surgery at University of California, San Diego and Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. In 1995, she was transferred to the East Coast spending two years at DeWitt Army Community Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 1998, she was selected as Urologic Consultant to the U.S. Navy Surgeon General a post she held until retiring from the Navy in 2002. Her next duty station was National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland where she was Chief of Urology and Urologic Consultant to the White House and Congressional Medical office. Her last duty station in the Navy was Senior Healthcare Policy Analyst at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C.

After retirement from the Navy as a Captain, Waller took a year off before returning to private practice in Dallas, Texas. In 2008, she returned home to practice urology in Illinois. She is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. She served on the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Board of Trustees from 2002-2011.

CLASS OF 1965

breaks record

BY BETSY ELLIOTT



“There is a magic about our class. We all like each other a lot,” **Nancy Hurrle Emmett ’65**, of Cottonwood Heights, Utah, said with a laugh. “We are a group like no other class. We currently have the highest percentage of giving in the history of the College. There’s a spirit to this class. This is the greatest group you’re ever going to see!”

At Reunion 2015, the Class of 1965 proved just how much spirit they had when they presented SMWC President Dottie King, Ph.D., with a check for \$1,045,000.

In 2014, for the first time in the history of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a jubilee class - the Class of 1964, gave a combined gift over the year of one million dollars. The exact amount was \$1,001,964. Shortly after, they challenged the Class of 1965 to beat their record. The Class of ’65 eagerly accepted the challenge, and at their Jubilee Reunion in June 2015, they broke it.

According to **Barbara Fossum ’65**, the class felt the goal was important to continue the precedent set by the generous gift given by the Class of 1964,

in hopes that other classes will gift as much as they can as well.

“We believe the gifts by the classes of 1964 and 1965 will help create an awareness among alums of the importance of their gifts to the survival and health of the College,” stated Fossum, of Estero, Fla. “Many of us, I think, did not realize how important alum support is, and we started giving late in our lives. We hope that expectations can be set with current students so that they start giving, even if in very small amounts, right after they get their first jobs. I, for one, wish I had started to give monthly right after I graduated.”

To the alums celebrating their 50th Reunion, though, their choice to give was about much more than the challenge.

“I give to the Woods in gratitude and because the world needs more people like the women I went to college with, and the Woods can make that happen,” stated **Barbara Mandal ’65**, of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Fossum mirrored those comments stating, “I would like other young people to experience what I did at The Woods. I received many gifts from The Woods, so I’m simply paying it back with the thought that my gift will help current and future students receive the same valuable experiences that I did.”

The Class of 1964 didn’t realize that they were starting a chain reaction when they set out on their giving journey leading up to their 50th Reunion, but the Class of 1965 has already challenged the incoming jubilee class.

“Our goal to raise more than the Class of 1964 started a friendly competition that rallied our class, kept us in touch with each other as never before and raised our percentage of giving to the highest level ever. So it was good for the Class of 1965,” stated Mandal. “But most important we carried on the legacy of the class before us to set the bar high for future golden-anniversary class giving. We’re hoping the Class of 1966 can beat us!”

SMWC PRESIDENT Torchbearer Recipient

BY DEE REED



BY KATIE SHANE

Dottie King, with husband, Wayne, and State Representative Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette, Ind.)

Women from across the state of Indiana who are pioneers and leaders. Women who have stepped forward, who have broken down barriers. As recipients of the 2015 Indiana Torchbearer Award from the Indiana Commission for Women, they are honored for their stories of courage, perseverance and compassion. These women have become true beacons of light and their stories of courage, perseverance and compassion create a lasting legacy. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College President Dottie King, Ph.D., is one of these women.

"A woman who leads by example to foster and promote leadership through her passion for life-long learning and her commitment to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College." This is how King was described as she received the Torchbearer Award. The awards were presented to eight incredible women September 30, 2015, at its annual ceremony held at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis, Ind.

King was selected for this prestigious award due in part to her leadership under challenging circumstances when the College announced that it would become fully coeducational in the fall of 2015. She and the board of trustees laid out a strategic vision for the College that will be

transformative with many opportunities to grow and remain a vibrant institution that will provide students with a high-quality, private liberal arts education.

King brings 29 years of higher education experience to her role as the 16th president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. During her tenure, the college advanced its ranking among the 2015 Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, SMWC is listed among the top programs nationally in U.S. News and World Report's 2015 Best Online Undergraduate Programs and included in the best online graduate business programs rankings.

She led SMWC through an \$11 million capital campaign to build a sports and recreation center. The facility opened in November 2014 and enhances the college experience for students and provides multiple opportunities to collaborate with the local community through health and wellness initiatives and other programs.

King places special emphasis on collaboration and has strengthened the College's local and statewide presence with involvement in many organizations and initiatives. Appointed by Congressman Larry Bucshon, King serves on the Indiana

8th Congressional District Higher Education Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Business-Higher Education Forum, a committee of business and postsecondary leaders that serves as both the chamber's policy committee on higher education issues and an opportunity for collaboration between these two constituencies.

She was appointed to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) Board of Directors, which sets the association agenda on federal higher education policy; actively encourages support of association priorities and initiatives; and oversees the organization's financial administration. She also works closely with Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann on an initiative to promote women's education initiatives through a joint partnership with the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana over the past two years.

King holds her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction/educational leadership from Indiana State University. She has delivered numerous presentations and published research on factors that encourage women to persist in their study of mathematics.

REUNION 2015



Class of 1950



Class of 1955



Class of 1960



Class of 1965 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Class of 1970



Class of 1975

CLASS YEARS



Class of 1980



Class of 1990 - 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Class of 1995



Class of 2000



Class of 2005



Class of 2010



SHARING THE WOODS WITH THE WORLD

BY SARA PALMER

The First Annual Week of Service celebrates SMWC's 175th Anniversary

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is an extraordinarily special place. No one ever argues that. Across the decades, with all the changes in culture and society, there has been one strong common thread at SMWC — a commitment to social justice. One of the strongest, possibly even greatest, tenets of the Woods mission is its dedication to service learning. In a world where we are given so much, it is by the grace of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin that Saint Mary-of-the-Woods alums, no matter what generation, are committed to giving back.

“The importance of service has been ingrained in us at SMWC,” said **Claire Thuning Roberson, Ph.D. '67**, former president of the SMWC Alumni Association, “which enables us to affect the world in a united purpose. There is no mistaking a Woods graduate; they know us by our actions.”

Thus the idea of the SMWC Week of Service was born. Alumni and students are constantly participating in service projects, but for one week in April, they all united across the globe to spread the words of

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and make a difference in their own neck of the woods.

“Alums were once students and the connection they feel to Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and SMWC is amazingly strong,” said **Susan Turner '14G**, senior director of advancement and alumni relations at SMWC. “Not only did the Week of Service afford them the opportunity to reconnect with The Woods and fellow alums, but it also gave them the opportunity to make their own communities a little bit better.”

From April 12-18, 2015, SMWC graduates, along with friends and family, participated in nearly 30 different service events in 17 different regions and internationally, proving that the drive to give back doesn't end when one graduates from The Woods.

“The Alumni Association was looking for a way to celebrate the SMWC's 175th anniversary by living out the College's mission,” Turner explained. “This project became a natural fit for them. A subcommittee, led by **Amy Frakes '94** and **Veronica “Roni” O'Conner '88**, formed

and the ideas began flooding in.”

In no time, event organizing started popping up all over the country. Indiana had many, of course, but then alums from Michigan to Florida, Ohio to Arizona, started getting on board. They reached out to their communities and their excitement began to inspire family, friends and even professional colleagues.

But then momentum kept going; the Week of Service started going international. SMWC alums living in St. Thomas, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, took this as an opportunity to help their small island community and support students who might be interested in going to college for a STEM career.

“We volunteered at our high school alma mater on April 16,” said **Anna Brown Comment '69**. “We officiated as judges for their annual science fair. We were so impressed with how well they explained their exhibits, from the exploding volcanoes to explaining plasma and its future in our world, and even uses of local plants and flowers in medicine and beauty products.”



DELAWARE



SMWC CAMPUS



DETROIT, MICHIGAN



INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

The excitement for the Week of Service truly knew no borders; it kept going until it reached alums living as far away as Florence, Italy. At the same time as SMWC graduates packed bags of food for Saint Agnes Parish in Naples, Fla., our Italy alums were helping feed and clothe the poor more than 5,000 miles away.

“As I look back on the Week of Service and how the SMWC community came together to help others, I get goose bumps,” Turner said.

Right next door in Illinois, a whole troupe of Woods alums, including **Gail Baker Zwaska '01, Katie Blair Baker '98, Frances Christian Olender '80** and Abbigale “Abbie” Kirchner, shared the mission of The Woods by packaging food for children fighting starvation in Nigeria. No matter how close to home or how far away, every touch matters.

“We don’t have to eradicate illiteracy, but we can volunteer an hour to read with kindergartners,” said **Molly Ellsworth '92, '10G**. “We don’t have to cure a disease but

we can volunteer at a children’s hospital. The College is rooted deeply in Catholic tradition and as stewards of our alma mater we embrace the principles of giving of our time and talents.”

The Week of Service wasn’t just about helping those in need -- it was also about empowering friends and family to take on Mother Theodore’s mission, as well.

In Detroit, Mich., **Kelly Moore Shultz '99** inspired women in her office to join her in service. Together they rolled up their sleeves to package 1,790 lbs. of beets that would be sent out to various service organizations throughout southeast Michigan.

“This was a rewarding experience and reminds us that service learning never ends,” Shultz said.

The 175th anniversary yearlong celebration inspired the idea for a Week of Service; however, the event now has a life of its own.

“There has been a spontaneous response from alumni who participated in

the Week of Service that this becomes an annual event,” Roberson said. “The passion and the pride that accompanied this event became a re-energizing catalyst and encouragement to local alum clubs.”

Heeding that call, the Week of Service will become an annual event. The next Week of Service is scheduled for April 16-23, 2016. The Alumni Association board is open to new ideas on how the Week of Service can become a springboard for other ways to connect SMWC graduates all over the world. They encourage alums to share their ideas with them and the Office of Alumni Relations.

Roberson, like many in the SMWC community, continues to be moved by the passion and dedication that came out of the first annual Week of Service. “Our formation at The Woods and the impact each alum continues to have on the world is a testimony to the education we received,” she said. “It’s a witness to Saint Mother Theodore’s life of witness, love and service.”



Rooted for TOMORROW

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

For the past year, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College students, alums, staff, faculty and friends have anticipated the 175th anniversary on Foundation Day — Oct. 22, 2015. Throughout the year, various events were held to celebrate: Barn Party, Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center Ribbon Cutting, Wine and Design, Week of Service, Opening Day Celebration and Mass, Foundation Day Mass, Board of Trustees Reunion, Donor Appreciation Dinner and fourth annual President's Gala. Additionally, the Vigo County Historical Museum and the Indiana State Museum both featured exhibits of the history of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The theme of the year of celebration — Rooted for Tomorrow — speaks to the College's commitment to the past with focus on the future. Here's to the next 175 years!



(L) - Western Head Coach, Sara Schulz, rides the mechanical bull during the 175th Celebration Barn Party. (R) Live music performed.



His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Indianapolis, presided over the Opening of School 175th Celebration Mass.



(L) - Tracy Richardson, director of Master's of Art in Music Therapy, sang at the Donor Appreciation Dinner. (R) - Virginia "Ginger" Smith '89, owner of Princeton Mining Company, receives recognition by President Dottie King, Ph.D., at the Donor Appreciation Dinner for her generosity.





Current and Former Board of Trustees gathered for the Trustee Reunion to celebrate SMWC's 175th Anniversary Celebration.



(L) - The a cappella group, Ball in the House, performed at the President's Gala.
 (R) - "An Evening in France" was the theme for the President's Gala, a fundraising event of the College.



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CAMPUS NEWS

Gioannini Fellowship

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) announced its first endowed fellowship for undergraduate research honoring the life of Theresa L. Gioannini, Ph.D., scientist, teacher and 1971 Woods graduate. Gioannini passed away in January 2014. Through the generosity and love for his wife, Jerry Weiss, Ph.D., established the Gioannini Endowment for Women in Science. With this endowment, SMWC is able to offer a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Gioannini's memory.

SMWC senior Dulce Chavez represented SMWC at the University of Iowa as The Woods' first recipient of the Dr. Theresa L. Gioannini Endowment for Women in Science. Alongside Weiss and Dr. Peter Thorne, Chavez conducted experiments at the Environmental Health Sciences Research Center at the University of Iowa.

Alternative Spring Break - Woodsies Lobby at Capitol Hill

Fourteen SMWC students and staff traveled to Washington, D.C., during spring break 2015 to volunteer at various locations and hand-deliver letters to Indiana senators.

The letters – an initiative of the Terre Haute chapter of Bread for the World, a not-for-profit based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to ending hunger in the U.S. by 2030 and reducing hunger worldwide – urge Congress to continue to support childhood nutrition programs. SMWC students lobbied at Capitol Hill and met with Legislative Correspondents of Senators Joe Donnelly and Dan Coats and Representative Larry Bucshon to discuss the funding of the child nutrition programs.

In addition, students volunteered at So Others Might Eat (SOME), St. Matthew's Cathedral Soup Kitchen, Catholic Charities Refugee Center and A Wider Circle. At SOME, they served in a soup kitchen and helped organize a clothing warehouse.

177th Commencement

The Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) 177th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 2, 2015. President Dottie



King, Ph.D., presented 91 traditional, online and graduate students with their degrees. The graduates represent eight states and one foreign country.

Indiana's 56th State Auditor and Chief Financial Officer, Suzanne Crouch delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa from SMWC. Crouch shared her experiences with the graduates – how she overcame adversity, triumphed after loss and kept moving forward despite not always knowing exactly where her future would lead her.

Homecoming 2015

On Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) alums clicked their heels together, saying "There's no place like ... SMWC." Over 200 faculty, staff, alums, students, friends and family gathered for Homecoming 2015, which carried the theme, "There's No Place Like Home."

The day provided a variety of events to enjoy including SMWC soccer and volleyball games, Beer & Brat Tent

complete with DJ and caricature drawings, Kid's Zone tent, wagon rides, a "ham" radio event, equestrian demonstrations, Chorale and Madrigals concert, Bats & Rats Tour with the Sisters of Providence and the Woodsie Dance Marathon.

Pomeroy Wellness Program Receives Award

The Pomeroy Wellness Program at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) is an innovative and collaborative program that has begun to shape a healthier community in the Wabash Valley. The efforts of the program were recognized at the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce 102nd Annual Meeting as the winner of the Community Health and Wellness Champion Award.

In the year since its inception, Pomeroy Wellness has been responsible for multiple improvements in the Wabash Valley and on the SMWC campus including fitness challenges, a 5K Pomeroy Color Run, Pomeroy Pedals bike share program, free fitness class offerings, access to the Wabash Valley Mobile Market and more.

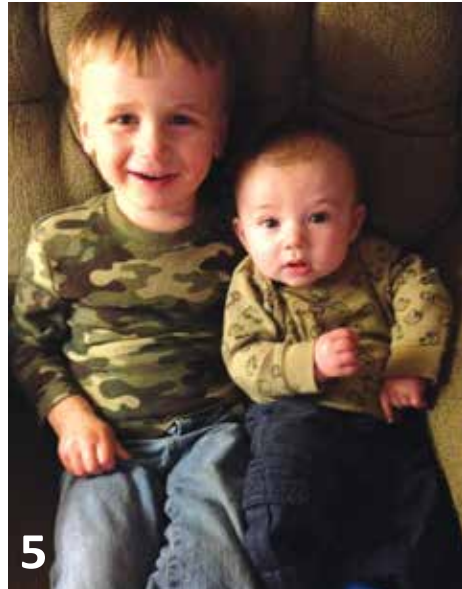


1. Dulce Chavez, environmental science/chemistry major and Gioannini Fellow, along with Dr. Jerry Weiss and Dr. Brita J. Kilburg-Basnyat.
2. SMWC students on Capitol Hill during spring break.
3. For the first time ever, commencement was held in the Hamilton Arena of the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center.
4. Heather Newman, **Ann Bumb '12G**, **Margaret "Peggy" Kelly Deputy '64** and **Susan Turner '14G** welcomed alums during Homecoming.

5. Both 2014 alums of SMWC, **Paige Leuthold '14** celebrated that her best friend, Danae Sallis, traveled 2,200 miles back to The Woods for Homecoming 2015.
6. President Dottie King, Ph.D., with honorary degree recipient, Indiana State Auditor and Chief Financial Officer Suzanne Crouch.
7. SMWC's Pomeroy Wellness Program received the Community Health and Wellness Champion Award. (l to r) Rob Hillman, president of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation; Tiffany

Etter, program manager at Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation; Dottie King, Ph.D., SMWC president; David Haynes, president of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce; **Rachel Leslie '14G**, SMWC chief external relations officer; Rick Rhodes, regional vice president of sales at Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation; and Jenn Kersey, SMWC director of events and strategic programs.

PHOTO



ALBUM



3

1. **Jennifer Ousley Nord '01** with her family. L to R: Macey, Molly, Kevin, husband Brad, Jennifer, Mackenzie and Corey.
2. **Melissa Wenzel Lemmons '01** with her family.
3. **Karen Quinn Walsh '82** and her family.
4. Indianapolis 500 race car driver, Ed Carpenter, holds #FlatSMTG with his mom, **Laura Livvix George '94**.
5. These two adorable boys belong to **Elizabeth Beyers Coley '10** and husband **Noah Coley '15G**. Henry is 2-years-old and Elliott James was born on January 1, 2015.



7



9

6. **Lauren Broderick Belt '11** at her wedding on June 15, 2013.
7. Bride **Audra Simel '01** at her wedding with her mother, **Penny Kaweck Simel '69**, and her sister, **Erica Simel Stevens '96**, in December 2012. Audra Simel says she kept her maiden name.
8. Dave Bowers and **Chanel Reeder Bowers '10** were married on October 11, 2014.
9. **Catherine Schueth Thomas '88**, her daughter, Rebecca, and Grandmother Liz Schueth at Rebecca's wedding to Attorney Kurt Hammel on January 3, 2015, at Ritz Carlton in Carmel, Ind.
10. These smiles belong to Eli and Railey Smith, grandchildren of **Barbara Clark Smith '72**.



8

11. Ann-Marie Kinscherff Pierce (daughter of **Joanne Marie Thomson Kinscherff '54, RIP**), **Margaret McElroy '63**, **Gretchen Griffith Clement '54** and **Margaret Clement Slawin '90** at a Clement gathering in Austin.



12



13

12. Grace Elliot and Reed Anthony Quadrello, grandchildren of **Linda Snyder-Lundstrom '76** and Matt. Great niece and nephew of **Sue Ellen Snyder-Weiler '83**.
13. The non-profit equine welfare organization, of which **Erica Simel Stevens '96** is the director, began a new training program this year: Equine Welfare Society in Keswick, Va. She and one of their trainers are shown here with two of their adoptable horses competing at a Virginia hunter pace.

Important ONYX Information

Do you want to continue receiving the Onyx magazine?

Dear Alumni,

We know you love receiving the Onyx each spring and fall in your mailbox. Over the years, we have heard stories of how excited you are when it appears and how important the magazine is to you. It is a labor of love for the editorial team at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, and we love that you love it so much!

As an outcome of the strategic planning process and in an effort to be fiscally responsible, the policy regarding those who receive a printed copy of the Onyx will be changing as of the spring 2016 issue. In the past, the Onyx has been mailed to every living alum with a current address on file. Moving forward, the College has made a decision that the Onyx will only be mailed to those alums donating \$25 or more per year to SMWC. The magazine without class notes will be made available online at a later date at www.smwc.edu/onyx.

Should you like to continue receiving a printed copy of the magazine, making a donation to The Woods is easy. Visit giving.smwc.edu or call our office at (888) 769-0013 to make your donation.

Sincerely,
SMWC Advancement Office

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Information about
Future Onyx Mailings!**

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For more information, please contact Senior Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations, **Susan Turner '14G**, at (812) 535-5143 or email sturner3@smwc.edu.

Reservation and deposit deadline is January 14, 2016.

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