Inspirational
A lumna awarded highest civilian honor
The power of a network: Our pre-law program
Donor gives nurses a career advantage
As we head into a new semester, we are so grateful for our extended community of alumnae, friends and donors who so generously support our students.

This fall, thanks to the tireless efforts of our enrollment team, we welcomed a large group of incoming students to campus. It was a joy to see our students back on our campuses this fall. We were delighted to welcome our new students to Mount Saint Mary’s and look forward to getting to know them and supporting them across their years with us!

I’m excited to share that construction has started on the Wellness Pavilion. It is rewarding to see everyone’s efforts over the past years being realized with progress toward a new building that will transform our student experience. Our students’ physical, mental and emotional health will be maximized with these expanded, innovative facilities. They will be able to both pursue individual goals as well as have the proper space for team sports, exercise or dance classes, and areas in which to gather and collaborate.

Thank you to everyone who has given their support to this project. The Wellness Pavilion will benefit countless Mount students for years to come.

Last, but most certainly not least, we congratulate Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, ’69, JD, for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation’s highest civilian honor, for her lifetime of work. You can read more about her inspiring pursuit of social justice in this issue.

I look forward to the year ahead with optimism and hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Ann McElaney-Johnson
Alumna awarded top civilian honor
SISTER SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS, ’69, JD, RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

A fond farewell
HELEN BOUTROUS PHD, JD, IS RETIRING, BUT HER PROTÉGÉS ARE GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION

Riordan Foundation elevates nursing program
FROM THE FORMER MAYOR TO THE LEAVEY FOUNDATION: OUR SUPPORTERS’ GENEROSITY IS VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Getting to know you
AN OVERVIEW OF THIS FALL’S INCOMING CLASS OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Mount Moments
16
Spotlight
18
Accolades
20
Giving
21
Engage
22
Alumnae Community
24
Class Notes
28
Remembrances
29
Looking Back

Cover
ALEJANDRA CASTILLO ’22 REFLECTS THE PRIDE AND JOY FOUND IN ABUNDANCE AT COMMENCEMENT IN MAY
mount moments

Congrats!

2020
Commencement 2022: Four big celebrations

This year’s Commencement proceedings were held in May with cheers, noisemakers and photos being snapped everywhere one looked. The photo booths, with bubble-making machines, props and a camera on a 360-degree track that moved around the booth were huge hits with the graduates, who were understandably in the mood to party.

In addition to the three ceremonies for the Class of 2022, a large number of alumnae from the Class of 2020, whose Commencement was completely virtual two years ago, returned for their own proceedings to experience the thrill of walking across the podium in front of family and friends.

Official addresses were given by Leah Fitzgerald, PhD, FNP-BC, dean and Fletcher Jones endowed chair of nursing, for the nursing ceremony; Krishauna Hines-Gaither, PhD, the Mount's inaugural vice president for equity, diversity and justice, addressed all of the three 2022 graduating classes; and President Ann McElaney-Johnson, PhD, spoke to the Class of 2020.

Student speakers included nursing undergraduates Janelle Richard ADN, Julia Cecilia BSN, Brittany Irvin ABSN; graduate student Brian Gutierrez MSN; William Gonzalez BS in business administration from Weekend/Evening & Online College; and Scarlett Zambada BA, political science, cum laude.

Gutierrez spoke about the late Anthony Bourdain’s wish to leave something good behind, encouraging his fellow graduates to keep an open mind and to continue learning — not in a classroom, but from those encountered on life’s path. “Commit to being great. Continue to push your own limits. Pursue your wildest dreams. Love so deeply that it is tangible. Be certain to leave something behind.”

A special awarding of the Carondelet Medal, the University’s highest honor, was presented during the final undergraduate ceremony to Thomas J. Blumenthal, long-time member of the Board of Trustees and immediate past chair. Vernice Grajeda ’11, president of the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, welcomed each class of new alumnae to the Association.
Mount alumna receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

This past July, Mount Saint Mary’s alumna Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, ’69, JD, was recognized for her support of social justice initiatives as one of 17 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“We are thrilled to see Sister Campbell recognized with the nation’s highest civilian honor for her longtime leadership advancing social justice in this country,” says Ann McElaney-Johnson, PhD, president of Mount Saint Mary’s University.

Before the medals were awarded, President Joe Biden shared comments on each of the medal recipients. “For so many people and for the nation, Sister Simone Campbell is a gift from God,” he said. “Compassionate and brave, humble and strong, today Sister Simone remains a beacon of light. She is the embodiment of a covenant of trust, hope and progress of our nation. And I’m happy to call her my friend.”

The recipients’ official citations were read while Biden fastened the medals behind their necks. Campbell’s official citation reads: “Inspired by nuns in Catholic school, Sister Simone Campbell has dedicated her life to the suffering and the searching. For nearly 50 years as a nun and an attorney, she has led organizations that provide free legal services to the poor and advocate for workers and immigrants. Her moral courage helped pass the Affordable Care Act and guide the Nuns on the Bus tour across America to protect the impoverished. With humility and fearlessness, Sister Simone embodies the blessing of faith in God and our obligations to one another as fellow Americans.”

In 2012, Campbell launched the annual nationwide Nuns on the Bus tours to promote various initiatives. Then-Vice President Biden helped launch the 2014 Nuns on the Bus tour in Des Moines, Iowa.

Campbell is currently working with Understanding US (letsunderstand.us), which aims to end political polarization by bringing people with differing viewpoints together to engage in dialogue. When she learned that she would be receiving the Medal of Freedom, Campbell said, “I am deeply honored by this unexpected recognition, which highlights the important work of lifting up the experiences of ordinary people in our nation in order to make policy for all.”
Celebrating Title IX and Juneteenth, among other events, at the Mount

From the celebratory to the inspirational, every event was enthusiastically received. In addition to Title IX and Juneteenth, other events taking place on campus this spring included performances by the Da Camera Society and legendary chef Wolfgang Puck addressing business students on entrepreneurship.

The Mount celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX with an engrossing discussion moderated by our Legislator in Residence and Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell (far left). She was joined by (left to right) Kamilah Willingham, feminist writer, speaker and activist; California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom; Ange-Marie Hancock Alfaro, PhD, director of the USC Center for Feminist Research and Olympic gold medal swimmer/civil rights lawyer Nancy Hogshead-Makar.

Attendees enjoyed cultural and educational exhibits, speeches and food during the Mount's first Juneteenth celebration since it became a federal holiday. Left: African South International entertained with musical and dance performances. Right: Psychology professor Angela Benveniste ’09, DSW (left), stands with one of many audience members from Pops Club, which supports children of incarcerated parents; Benveniste serves on its board. To the right are psychology graduate student Tamara Martinez and her children.
Examining women's rights, role in history

The Center for Equity, Diversity and Justice and the Center for the Advancement of Women served as principal co-hosts of several events that served to solidify messages of leadership, breaking barriers and affirmation of our roles in advancing our communities, each other and the world. Various academic departments, such as education; film studies; and women and gender studies also helped sponsor events such as the screening of “Maestra,” a documentary on the role that young women played in Cuba’s 1951 year-long campaign to bring basic literacy to the entire nation.

Mount students, staff and guests celebrated the issuance of a quarter honoring writer and activist Maya Angelou, who spoke at the Mount in 1989.

Director Nevline Nnaji led a screening and discussion of her 1977 documentary, “Reflections Unheard: Black Women in Civil Rights,” about the specific struggles of Black women in the Civil Rights movement.

A virtual discussion and Q&A for the Mount community and the Women’s College Coalition featured Valerie Jarrett (left), President Barack Obama's senior advisor and now on the board of directors of his foundation, and her daughter Laura (right), a practicing attorney before becoming a CNN correspondent and anchor. Members from co-host Shero's Rise, an organization founded by alumna Sonali Perera Bridges ’98 that serves young girls from underserved communities, viewed the discussion together at the Mount.
Not wanting prospective first-years to have all the fun, current students took a great break from their studies with their own carnival with food and some friendly competition in the form of various games.

Scenes around campus

This spring saw the return of many student-oriented traditions and events, including the decades-old Athenian Day, in which teams of students, staff—and sometimes faculty—participate in a series of challenges like navigating a maze while blindfolded.

Admitted Athenian Day welcomed potential members of the fall’s incoming class and their families to campus to meet potential future classmates, current students, faculty and staff and be embraced by our Athenian community spirit. They learned about student organizations and academic programs while also enjoying food and entertainment.

Wellness Movement: Participants’ pedaling worked the blender attached to the front of the bike for some make-your-own-smoothies fun. Move More? Check! Eat Well? Check! De-stress? Check — as long as that lid doesn’t fly off! Sleep Well? After this day of fun? Check!
Sister Mary Williams, CSJ, held many roles at Mount Saint Mary’s University: Professor emerita of English. Department chair. Provost. Trustee. Most important, cherished friend, a role that lasted from well before she retired in 2003 until she passed away at age 92 at the end of July.

Williams maintained close ties with generations of Mount students, including a book club with students from the Class of 1975 that still meets. For them, the loss hits particularly hard. “The book club was Sister Mary’s idea and the class of ’75 took it on and others joined,” says Regent Elaine Kindle ’75. “Sister Mary drew a crowd, that’s for sure. She had a way of making each of us feel special. If you never met her, you missed the spirit of the Mount.”

“We will miss Sister Mary,” says Ann McElaney-Johnson, PhD, Mount president. “She touched the lives of countless students across the years — imparting her knowledge, sharing her wisdom, and encouraging them as they pursued their dreams. Indeed, Sister Mary had a brilliant mind, a loving heart, and an incredibly generous spirit. We at the Mount are deeply grateful for her many contributions to this University.”

Williams graduated from St. Catherine University (“St. Kate’s”) in Saint Paul, Minnesota, then spent a year in France at the University of Poitiers as a Fulbright scholar. She taught high school until she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Los Angeles in 1954. She joined the Mount faculty in 1961, only leaving to earn a master’s and doctorate in American literature at Stanford before returning to chair the English department, a position she held for years.

She retired from the Mount in 2003 and moved to her hometown of Pasco, Washington, to write “All Things New: The Story of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the Los Angeles Province” (Good Ground Press, 2014). She later returned to live at Carondelet Center.

At Stanford, Williams met fellow doctoral student Mariette Sawchuk. “Sister Mary changed lives — mine and many, many others,” says Sawchuk, now a Mount Regent. Williams introduced her to the University and offered a position teaching writing when she moved to Los Angeles. “Sister Mary was a gifted teacher, a wise leader, and a warm, supportive mentor. May she rejoice in the God she served so well.”

Shannon Green, director of the CSJ Institute, says that when Williams spoke at a luncheon on the importance of literature in the Catholic intellectual tradition, alumnae from all over Southern California showed up. “They all flocked around her afterward. People were so excited to see her and be with her. She had strength, grace and a fierce intellect.”

If you’d like to make a donation in memory of/to honor Sister Mary Williams, go to givecampus.com/z0hl3h.
A pair of Mount-connected Fulbright scholars

Central to both women’s message: Our differences highlight the many ways in which we’re connected

Emily Berry ’24

AT THE MOUNT: Master’s in clinical psychology specializing in marriage and family therapy with an ¡Enlaces! certificate showing proficiency in providing professional therapy to Spanish-speaking clients. For more information on ¡Enlaces!, contact Orlando Alvarez, faculty and program coordinator, at oalvarez@msmu.edu

FULBRIGHT WORK: Teaching English at Centro de Lenguas, Universidad Autónoma de Hildalgo (Language Center, Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo), Mexico

BACKGROUND: Berry taught elementary school in San Francisco for a year through AmeriCorps: “I really enjoyed the work with my students. Many of them were monolingual at the beginning, and it was really satisfying to watch them grow and become bilingual.”

“The majority of Spanish-speaking communities in the U.S. are from Mexico and … it’s important that I understand the culture. Only 5% of psychologists in the U.S. speak Spanish, so going to Mexico is a wonderful opportunity for me to better my language skills.”

A core value is the Zulu word: ubuntu, which means I am a person through other people. “In other words,” she says, “my humanity is tied to yours. I absolutely love that because it’s so true. We’re all connected.”

Yahtina Macali Soto ’07

AT THE MOUNT: English major. Currently getting a master’s at Fresno Pacific University in education with an emphasis on school library and information technology

FULBRIGHT WORK: Soto completed her work in the spring on cultivating indigenous culture and language, collaborating virtually with 75 other Fulbright candidates on various projects. Soto is planning to present her series of lesson plans in Colombia this fall.

BACKGROUND: Soto is a teacher librarian at Sonia Sotomayor Learning Academies in Los Angeles. She strives to boost the students’ esteem: “A lot of the children, they learn to feel less than, because they speak Spanish or an indigenous language,” she says. “I reframe their minds: that’s not a weakness, that’s actually a strength. Bi-literacy and bi-culturalism equals global competency. Remember that we’re all interconnected, and we all have a similar thread.”

Soto’s project focuses on self-determination. She teaches students to understand who they are and their place in the world so that they can connect to others. “It’s important that they understand their past and what they can use from the past to make a better future.”
Sister Darlene Kawulok, CSJ, DMin, was a nominee for the Pax Christi USA 2022 Teacher of Peace Award, which recognizes people whose lives and work exemplify the theme of Pope Paul VI’s World Day of Peace message, “To reach peace, teach peace.” In the end, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, Pax Christi chose its former co-president of Pax Christi International, Marie Dennis. However, Pax Christi USA Executive Director Johnny Zokovitch stated, “We know that every one of these candidates already qualifies as a ‘teacher of peace’ for all they are doing to live out their vocation to the peace with justice that is at the heart of the gospel message.”

David J. Riese II, PhD, a professor at the Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy and a senior scientist, cancer biology and immunology program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, wrote to Luiza Nogaj, PhD, professor of biological sciences and co-director of Global Women in STEM to thank her for her work in mentoring young scientists. Riese and his wife have supported Nogaj protégé Cathy Garcia’s predoctoral work at Yale University on the mechanisms by which obesity fuels pancreatic cancer progression.

Christian Teeter, EdD, associate professor of business administration, had a letter to the editor published in the Financial Times. His May 12 letter, “Education and training are key to fixing inequality,” was in response to an opinion piece, “Trade policy cannot fix America’s inequality problem,” by Alan Beattie, which was published the previous day.

The Western States Center, a nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon, works nationwide to build a future where all people can live, love, worship and work free from bigotry and fear. It has published a work co-written by Shelly Tochluk, PhD, professor of education, titled “Confronting Conspiracy Theories and Organized Bigotry at Home: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers.”

In late July, Routledge Press released “The Antiracist World Language Classroom,” co-authored by Krishauna Hines-Gaither, PhD, vice president of equity, diversity and justice. The book offers a roadmap for introducing antiracist practices into specific subject areas. Hines-Gaither is under contract with Routledge for another book on diversity, equity and inclusion, the first draft of which is due next June.

Four faculty members participated in a six-week course through the 2022 Virtual Exchange Academy. Mount attendees included Emerald Archer, PhD, associate professor and coordinator of the women and gender studies major; Alice Bardan, PhD, English department; Lia Roberts, PhD, professor and academic director, Center for Global Initiatives, chair, department of history and political science, and co-director, Global Women in STEM and Policy Undergraduate Research Training Honors Program; and Julia Tang, PhD, associate professor of psychology. The annual workshop centered on international virtual exchange program design and featured 80 professionals from higher education, K-12 and various nonprofits. Participants of the Aspen Institute program, part of the Stevens Initiative, included people from the U.S., Latin America, Middle East and North Africa.
Arte Público Press at the University of Houston has published “The Displaced,” a debut novel by Rodrigo Garcia ’17 MFA, who writes under the nom de plume Rodrigo Ribera d’Ebre. He has written “Urban Politics: The Political Culture of Sur 13 Gangs” (2013) and was the writer/director of “Dark Progressivism,” an award-winning documentary. Garcia is a 2022 recipient of a California Humanities grant.

The National Science Foundation awarded Verenis Lucas ’21 and Mahak Virlley ’19 honorable mentions for their graduate research fellowship proposals. Lucas is in a geosciences PhD program at the University of Idaho, where she is studying glaciers, and Virlley is in a PhD program in neuroscience with an emphasis in computational biology at the University of Texas Southwestern. Virlley taught lab and math courses for a year at Mount Saint Mary’s.

The American Cancer Society honored Michele Rhilinger ’79 with its Denise Noel Discovery Volunteer Award: “The heart and soul of the local Discovery Shop for more than 10 years, Michele Rhilinger is well known through the West Seattle community as a representative of the American Cancer Society. Through her talents in merchandising, she has created a standard for a very high level of appearance of the shop and an exceptional level of customer service.” Rhilinger has dedicated countless days to the shop and cancer patients. Her support of the Discovery Shop and American Cancer Society’s mission is respected by her community.

Following a national search, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón hired Tanishia G. Wright ’15 MSCP as the new director of the office’s bureau of victim services. The bureau will provide crime victims with clinical services to help them through the healing process. Wright will also spearhead efforts to expand services to victims regardless of whether their case is prosecuted or its outcome.

Albert Baker ’22, a film and media major in the Weekend/Evening & Online College program, received third place with Nancy Price from the California News Publishers Association for public service journalism for a digital piece in GV Wire titled “When Will Fresno Trustees Stop Playing Games and Focus on Student Learning?” The judge’s comment: “The numbers, from test scores to money spent per student, were compelling and displayed in a clear way. Great job offering local context with neighboring Clovis, in addition to the state and national numbers. The video was an outstanding summary of the issues.”

Three nursing students’ research poster, “The Roy Adaptation Model: The Key to Student Success in the Operating Room,” was selected as a presenting poster for the ’22 AORN (Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses) Global Conference and Expo in New Orleans. Alejandra Castillo ’22, Andy Guzman ’22 and Samantha Isozaki ’22 also presented their work at the Mount’s annual Academic Symposium as well as the Roy Adaptation Association International Workshop and Conference. The poster was displayed during the spring’s Admitted Athenians Day to demonstrate the level of achievement possible to visiting prospective students.
PRE-LAW PROGRAM SAYS FAREWELL TO ITS DIRECTOR

Confidence, hands-on skills and a powerful network prepares MSMU pre-law students to thrive in law school. Program alumnae return to continue their mentor’s teachings.
In the first week of law school, someone will stand up in front of your class and tell you to look at the students next to you. And then they’ll say that one of you isn’t going to make it to graduation — or maybe even to the end of the year.

Over the past 20 years, “Dr. B”— as many students affectionately refer to Helen Boutrous, PhD, JD — took over pre-law studies and created a dynamic, interactive program within the supportive environment the Mount offers and used it to get students up on their feet and ready to thrive in the high-pressure, competitive world of law.

The environment in law school can be a totally different experience from that of a student’s undergraduate years. “Law school is tough and competitive,” says Boutrous. “You have to arrive with the mindset and the confidence that you’ve got everything within yourself to succeed.”

Boutrous, associate professor and former director of the pre-law program, is scaling back her day-to-day responsibilities as she heads into retirement this fall. But, the program is poised to thrive with the help of Mount alumnae returning to teach and mentor.

“Mock trial and moot court taught me practical skills, such as public speaking, critical thinking and argumentation, and the substantive coursework enabled me to hit the ground running in law school.”

– Melanie Sava ’17, JD

LEARNING TO THINK AND ACT LIKE A LAWYER

At the heart of this pre-law program are the highly competitive mock trial and moot court competitions. Pre-law minors hone their litigation skills by arguing cases in simulated courtroom scenarios against students from other universities. Each experience steels them to handle unique challenges and pressures. In mock trial, they prepare, present and defend cases in front of a judge, while also managing objections thrown at them from the other team. In moot court, they study real case law to craft arguments for appeals in front of the simulated U.S. Supreme Court. Participation is intense and takes a big commitment of time. And it’s worth it.

“Both experiences teach them not only how to be a law student, but also how to be a lawyer. They are up on their feet, being quizzed

Professor Boutrous: A mentor for life

Helen Boutrous, PhD, JD, associate professor and former director of the pre-law program at Mount Saint Mary’s, arrived at the Mount two decades ago. Boutrous explains that she immediately felt a connection with her students. “Their dedication and the amount of work they are willing to do to fulfill their dreams is really impressive,” she says.

In addition to directing the pre-law program, teaching a full load of pre-law and American politics courses, providing academic advice and preparing the teams for different legal competitions every year, Boutrous helped her students through the entire law school application process, from raising funds for students’ LSAT courses to mentoring them with their personal statements.

“There could be nothing more fulfilling than seeing my students go off and succeed in their careers,” says Boutrous. “It is just a pure and utter joy.”

Boutrous has financially supported several Mount funds, including the pre-law scholarship fund. She is now bolstering the pre-law program by creating the Dr. Helen G. Boutrous Pre-Law Excellence Fund to help ensure its continued success.

“Dr. Boutrous was, and continues to be, a pillar of support during law school and as I progress further in my legal career,” explains Sarah Bessell ’06, who was part of the first MSMU Mock Trial team.

Boutrous decided to pursue a career in law after participating in a moot court competition herself during her undergraduate degree at UCLA. “I was both thrilled and infuriated by the experience. I knew I wanted more.”

After receiving her JD from the University of San Diego School of Law, she moved to Washington, DC, to work as a government attorney. While still working as a lawyer, she took a legislative process class from the PhD program at Georgetown University. “I took another class, and another, and ultimately decided to stop practicing and pursue my PhD in American government. I loved being around academics, and I was enthralled by the study of government process,” she explains.
Three pre-law alumnae return to the Mount to teach the next generation

Viridiana Aceves ’14, JD (top left) found a home with the Moot Court team after being pulled in last minute to substitute for a sick classmate — and the team made it to the quarterfinals. In 2017, Aceves graduated from Southwestern Law School and has worked in both personal injury and insurance defense law. Adriana Garrido ’11, JD (top middle) majored in political science with a minor in pre-law. In 2014, she graduated from Southwestern Law School and now works as an immigration lawyer in the Los Angeles area.

Aceves and Garrido both started teaching last fall. They are joined this year by Melanie Sava ’17, JD (top right). As a student at the Mount, Sava won four moot court and two mock trial awards. Those experiences prepared her for Yale Law School, where she graduated in 2020. She has experience working for a major law firm. Sava has helped coach Mount Moot Court teams since she graduated.

Sarah Bessell ’06, JD, was a founding member and captain of the first MSMU Mock Trial team. In 2015, she graduated from George Washington University Law School and earned an MA in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University. Now, she works as counsel at the Washington Lawyers Committee in Washington, DC, where she supervises the Committee’s Workers’ Rights Clinic.

“Mock trial competitions and moot court hearings encourage students to think creatively, gain public speaking experience and stand on their feet,” says Bessell. “Participation in these programs was integral in preparing me for challenging coursework at the graduate level.”

Celebrating Helen Boutrous

If you’d like to make a contribution to a fund celebrating Helen Boutrous’ impact on the pre-law program, please contact Carly Bidner, director of development, principal gifts, at cbidner@msmu.edu or go to givecampus.com/xld53c.

A reception recognizing Helen Boutrous’ tireless commitment to the pre-law program will be held during Alumnae Weekend on October 15. Contact Kevin A. Barry for more information at kbarry@msmu.edu.

by judges and marching around in their suits and litigation bags. It’s exhausting, but it’s such great training,” says Boutrous, who helped found the California Classic Moot Court and hosted its first edition at the Chalon Campus in 2009.

The Mount’s Moot Court and Mock Trial teams have competed in tournaments with students from across the country, winning 35 competition awards since 2005.

Mount Moot Court or Mock Trial participants who chose to pursue law have been accepted into law schools around the country, including the Ivy Leagues and every one of the top 10 law schools. Boutrous says Mount alumnae have excelled in law school and continue to thrive in the legal profession.

Sarah Bessell ’06, JD

THE NETWORK OF POWER

The Mount has a formidable group of pre-law alumnae affectionately referred to as the Network of Power. Over the last two decades, the program has cultivated a strong community of graduates who come back to coach current students and who are always on the lookout for opportunities to hire another Mount grad or connect students with internships. It’s incredibly inspiring and energizing for students to look at these successful female attorneys who, just a few years ago, were sitting where they are now. It helps them really understand that they’re built for this kind of work — and that if these women can make it, they can, too.

Current students are thankful for this community — whom Boutrous jokingly calls her army of lawyers — for their generosity to give back to the University and share their knowledge, despite their busy work schedules. “When I first started at the Mount two decades ago, I wanted
my students to feel like they have a community under them, with them, and working for them — and now, we’ve got that,” says Boutrous.

It is this Network of Power that gives Boutrous the confidence that the program will continue to thrive, secure in the knowledge that those she so expertly trained are ready to help and support the program as she turns over the reins. She knows that their pride in the program is motivation to ensure its continued success. And who knows? Maybe one of them will discover that their life’s passion is teaching, much the way their mentor, Dr. B., did.

“Mock trial competitions and moot court hearings encourage students to think creatively, gain public speaking experience and stand on their feet. Participation in these programs was integral in preparing me for challenging coursework at the graduate level.”

– Sarah Bessell ‘06, JD

“I teach my students how to give an opening statement, and then I have to go and do it for work. When I get nervous, I tell myself that if my students can do this, I can do it, too.”

– Viridiana Aceves’14, JD

Nicole Riesgo ‘05 (far right) was the first Mount student to win both Best Attorney and Best Witness awards. She has returned to help coach the teams virtually every year since she graduated.

Jaden Balsman ‘22 finished eighth in the Top Orator category at the Windy City Moot Court regionals. 
Nursing program elevated by Mayor Richard Riordan’s foundation

Nursing graduates rise above the competition as they start their careers

Main photo: Jennifer Lee in the operating room at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Top photo: Mia Lopez (left) and Ashley Amancio (right) also worked in the perioperative unit with Lee. Bottom photo: Rachel de Guzman, seen here with her preceptor, Matthew, worked in the emergency department at Providence St. John’s Health Center in Santa Monica.
Mount Saint Mary’s University’s nursing department has expanded and elevated its training offerings due to a grant from former Los Angeles mayor Richard Riordan and the Riordan Foundation. The $2 million grant to the Mount was focused on extending educational opportunities for undergraduate nursing, increasing the options for specialization in primary care, and strengthening the resiliency and durability of the nursing workforce through the Mount’s healthy health care provider pilot program and Wellness Movement.

Workforce development is one of the grantmaking priorities of The Riordan Foundation. In her 26 years as a professional grantmaker, Mary Odell ’69, the foundation’s current chair, has encountered many Mount nurses, often in management and leadership positions, at hospitals throughout Southern California. “Hospitals love Mount nurses,” she says. “The Mount’s reputation in the medical community is stellar.”

Under the leadership of dean of nursing Leah FitzGerald, PhD, FNP-BC, and Fletcher Jones endowed chair, nowhere were the results of this grant more visible than in the summer immersive program for selected rising seniors. The program enables students to complete internships within various hospital settings while earning a stipend. “This definitely gives our students a unique opportunity to further develop in areas that they wouldn’t have opportunities to explore,” says FitzGerald, “and it also is helping meet the nursing shortages in clinical areas.” The additional 500-plus hours of clinical time these students accrue during their internships also puts them four to six months ahead of typical new graduates, thus improving their candidacy for top openings.

Case in point: Samantha Isozaki ’22 was hired into the cardiothoracic ICU at UCLA shortly after Commencement, which FitzGerald says is unheard of for a just-graduated nursing student (for more on Isozaki and some of her classmates, see p. 11).

The summer intensive program started in 2016 with two students in one medical unit. This year, there are 23 students, five organizations and 10 specialties involved. Kassidy Fitzpatrick transferred to the Mount specifically for its opportunities and connections. “I’m so grateful to be in this immersion program because it has helped me solidify my decision about what I want to do with my career,” says Fitzpatrick, who worked in the intensive care unit at Providence St. John’s in Santa Monica. “I had a really good preceptor who guided me through my shifts and taught me everything I needed to know. This was an invaluable experience.”

“The fact that this program has been able to spread to different health care organizations and different areas of specialties really speaks to how innovative and mutually beneficial it is,” says Lauren Fujihara, program director. “This program gives hospitals an opportunity to learn about the students’ knowledge, skills and professionalism prior to their being hired.”

FitzGerald’s dream is to enable half or more of the nursing students an opportunity to participate in the summer immersion program. “We’re forever grateful to the Riordan Foundation for seeing our potential and investing in our program,” she says.

MORE IN MSMU.EDU/NEWSROOM
KEYWORD: RIORDAN22
Ever wonder what the makeup of our entering classes looks like? Here are some stats on our newest Athenians, including a brief snapshot of a few of our students, provided to us over the summer as they anticipated the start of their college journeys. Find more profiles on our social media pages!

Natalee Dalah
HOMETOWN: Los Angeles, CA
Summit View West School
MAJOR: Psychology, minor in creative writing

“I felt so supported throughout the whole application process, so I know I’m stepping into a nurturing learning environment. My aunt is an alumna of MSMU, and I’ve grown up hearing her stories about her time at the Mount.”

COLLEGE SEARCH ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: “Take the time to explore colleges and apply when you’re ready, and make sure to also enjoy senior year!”

Joy Manzano
HOMETOWN: Lomita, CA
San Pedro High School
MAJOR: Nursing, minor in psychology

“I knew I wanted to stay local for college. I ultimately chose the Mount because of the small, tight-knit community, welcoming atmosphere and nursing program. I’m excited to live on campus and be in the middle of all the action!”

COLLEGE SEARCH ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: “Keep your options open and do your research!”

Nichole Bondocoy
HOMETOWN: Ewa Beach, HI
Damien Memorial School
MAJOR: Biology

“My mom went to a women’s college in the Philippines, and I know that attending a women’s college is the perfect fit for me. Plus, the honor of receiving the Le Puy Scholarship allows me to receive my education and makes me proud to be a part of the Mount community. I’m really excited to explore Los Angeles, too!”

COLLEGE SEARCH ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: “Apply to and visit as many colleges as you can — have an open mind! You don’t know what’s going to be the best fit.”
Welcoming this fall’s first-year students!

Students come from 14 states (shown in purple) and the following countries and U.S. territories: American Samoa, Belize, Ghana, Philippines and United Kingdom.

64% First generation
57% Pell Grant eligible
65% live on campus

Annie Dominguez
HOMETOWN: Houston, TX
Mirabeau B. Lamar Senior High School
MAJOR: Business administration
“I’m so excited to come back to Los Angeles for college. I grew up here, and MSMU has always been my dream college. I visited a while ago and was blown away by the beauty of the campus. I am committed to my spirituality, and I know that the Mount will help me grow.”

COLLEGE SEARCH ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: “Stay on top of your classes senior year, and don’t give up — college is a possibility for you!”

MOST POPULAR PROJECTED MAJORS
Nursing
Biology
Criminology
Psychology
Education
Business
Sociology
A "happy accident" led Nzinga (Harris) Graham '04, MD, to Mount Saint Mary’s University, although she couldn’t have anticipated such a stellar outcome when her high school counselor lost her college applications. Fortunately, two colleges sent representatives to conduct onsite admissions at King/Drew Magnet High School in Los Angeles, and Graham met with then-admissions counselor Sonali Perera Bridges '98, MBA. After visiting the Chalon Campus, Graham knew the Mount was the right fit for her.

“I’d always been into the sciences and wanted to be a physician,” she says, “so I had to choose a place where that career choice would be supported. There’s no better place, in my opinion, with how well the Mount is connected throughout the U.S. and the world in terms of science and medicine in particular.”

Graham obtained her medical degree at UCLA and has held several roles at Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles, currently working in the urgent care department.

As a Trustee, Graham serves on the educational and student life committees. “I love being able to help mold what the college experience will be for young women and ensuring that students have the services they need.”

In addition to her work as an urgentologist at Kaiser Permanente, Graham is co-champion of its physician wellness program and is equally enthusiastic in her support of our Wellness Movement. Always our advocate, Graham testified in support of the Wellness Pavilion during last year’s public hearings, which ultimately led to a unanimous vote of support from city planning commissioners.

A donor herself, Graham believes it’s important for alumnae to give back when they’re able — in any amount.

“I’m just so grateful for the experience I had at the Mount,” says Graham. “Students are really looking for a place where they feel like they can fit and where their interests will be developed. The Mount was that for me.”
The Mount Fund and Brady Leadership Society
Contributions to the Mount Fund allow the University to direct support where it is needed the most. Those who contribute at least $100/month ($1,200 annually) to the Mount Fund are recognized as Brady Leadership Society donors. BLS donors receive invitations to an annual event hosted by the Mount president, as well as special educational opportunities and exclusive Mount updates.
For more information about the Brady Leadership Society, contact Kevin A. Barry, senior director of development, at kbarry@msmu.edu.

National Estate Planning Awareness Week
Good news! Based on the program’s popularity, Mount Saint Mary’s has again partnered with FreeWill to provide its online tool that allows you, our dedicated alums and friends, to write your legal will or living trust for free. This October 17-23, the Mount is celebrating National Estate Planning Awareness Week. Join us in the celebration by creating your will or living trust on or before NEPAW. Take 20 minutes to complete this vital task and protect the people you love and causes that are important to you.
Go to freewill.com/msmu today and get started on your free will or living trust.
For any questions, contact Maria Solano, assistant director of donor advising and philanthropy, at msolano@msmu.edu.

Qualified Charitable Distribution
If you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift of up to $100,000 to Mount Saint Mary’s University directly from your IRA account. A Qualified Charitable Distribution, also called an IRA Charitable Rollover, will satisfy all or part of your IRA required minimum distribution and offers excellent tax savings even if you do not itemize deductions. Double the impact you can make at the Mount with your QCD by signing a five-year commitment to the Wellness Pavilion. Use your QCD to fulfill that commitment, and the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation will match your gift dollar for dollar — doubling your impact!
For a quick and easy way to make this donation, visit the website Freewill.com/QCD/MSMU.
We encourage you to speak to your financial advisor to see if a QCD is right for you.
For any questions, contact Maria Solano, assistant director of donor advising and philanthropy, at msolano@msmu.edu.

Reunion Giving
Reunion is less than a month away! Do not forget to give to your Class Gift. Reunion cycles begin and end with Alumnae Weekend. If your class year ends with a 2 or a 7, please consider a gift before October 16 in honor of your reunion. If your class year ends with a 3 or an 8, please consider becoming a Class Ambassador to help engage your classmates and keep them connected with the University when your reunion cycle begins on October 17 in preparation for your 2023 reunion. We would love to get your class involved!
For more information, contact Kevin A. Barry, senior director of development, at kbarry@msmu.edu.

Giving Tuesday
Save the Date — Nov. 29, 2022
#Giving Tuesday, a national day of giving, kicks off the holiday season by celebrating the spirit of generosity. More information will be available soon! #MountGivingTuesday.

Support THE MOUNT
This spring saw the return of some beloved traditions ahead of Commencement. Graduating students enjoyed Senior Dinner on April 27, held since the 1940s as a welcoming event into the Alumnae Association. Campus Ministry followed with a Farewell Mass, participants shown here, on May 7.

On May 15, we were thrilled to bring more than 250 friends and supporters to the Chalon Campus to mingle, reminisce and look forward to the future.

“While we were apart, we felt your love and dedication to our students and this University,” President Ann McElaney-Johnson, PhD, said. “Your encouragement, commitment and support buoyed us during challenging times and allowed us to continue to be unstoppable.”

The President shared news of the Wellness Pavilion construction and announced a dollar-for-dollar matching challenge up to $5 million by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation.

The Mount community also presented the 2020 Carondelet Medal to Stephen Page, former Trustee and a strong proponent of global experiences for Mount students. We were unable to present the medal to him during that year’s Commencement, as is customary, since the proceedings were held virtually.

Celebrating Seniors
Charitable gift annuities guarantee you and/or a loved one one fixed income for life while making an impact at Mount Saint Mary’s University

Now may be the perfect time to do something good for you and the Mount. Effective July 1, 2022, the American Council on Gift Annuities has approved increasing payout rates for charitable gift annuities. The time may be right to consider this unique giving option.

**HOW IT WORKS:** With a gift of $10,000 or more, you can establish a charitable gift annuity at MSMU. A charitable gift annuity offers an effective way to supplement your retirement income with fixed payments for life at attractive rates. It may also offer advantages such as an immediate tax deduction, favorable tax treatment of payments and capital gains tax savings.

Contact us today for your annuity rate!

Sample rate chart: $25,000 charitable gift annuity for a single life

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<th>ANNUITANT AGE</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>65</th>
<th>70</th>
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<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
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<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$12,989</td>
<td>$14,300</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Deductions will vary with the IRS discount rate at the time of your gift. Assumed rate of 3.6%. Currently available to California residents only. If outside of California and interested, call the planned giving office for more information. Not intended for legal or tax advice; please consult your personal tax adviser.
1946

Patricia Fiedler celebrated her 98th birthday by visiting Chalon with two of her 12 children for a campus tour. Fiedler shared memories of her student experiences at the Mount with student tour guide Yesenia Roman ’22.

1969

The newsroom featured work by Sister Suzanne Jabro, CSJ, who created the nonprofit Border Compassion to assist migrants on the other side of the US/Mexico border.

1968

The husband of Geri (Ambrose) Dee informed us that she passed away in March. She and Dennis were married for 55 years and they loved to travel. In addition to trips to various countries, they purchased an RV in retirement and traveled throughout the U.S. Dee was also active in many groups, often serving in some capacity on their boards. A dietetics major at the Mount, Dee worked for several school districts during her nearly four decades of work as a nutritionist. She received her master’s from Cal State Northridge and was a registered dietitian. Her work was well recognized and appreciated. The California School Nutritionist Association created a scholarship in her name, and she also received the FAME (Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence) award, which is given to one K-12 food service director in the country each year. She is also survived by two sons, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

1983

Robert Feller has been working on his 14th book—a collection of his best short stories and poetry. All of his books are available on Amazon and at River House Books in Carmel, California.

1988

In January 2022, Denise Goosby published "Thank You Daddy! A Tribute to My Girl Dad — And Girl Daddies Everywhere." This is a spinoff to a book published in October 2021 titled "Scared Like Him: Seeing the Beauty in the Life You Live," which is available on Amazon.

1996

Kristina (Dam) Chadwick celebrated 17 years at Bristol-Myers Squibb and has been promoted to senior director, early development project lead—immunology. In this role, she leads cross-functional teams through the drug development process to bring needed medicines to patients.

1997

WithHealth founder and CEO Cindy Salas is San Diego Business Journal’s CEO of the Year. Now in its 17th year, the CEO of the Year Awards recognizes contributions to company growth, leadership and community involvement by top executives in the San Diego area. Salas, along with all the nominees, was highlighted in the winner’s edition of the Business Journal on July 18th.

1998

A newsroom feature relays how Giovana Brasfield is bringing diversity to the construction industry. After working as a vice president of project diversity and inclusion for the western division of Flatiron, she is continuing her work as a principal of Brasfield & Associates.
1999

Jenelle Benoit MBA, has joined the Alumnae Association Board of Directors. She is a marketing and communications strategy consultant leading Fortune 500 companies with marketing projects through Accenture Interactive. She hopes to build on the reputation of the Mount and ensure that students and faculty can proudly share their affiliation.

2003

After 19 years of classroom experience as a dual immersion educator, Veronica (Leon) Chavez now gets to fulfill her dream and work as the Burton School District dual immersion coordinator. She is currently working on building a 50/50 program at two elementary schools.

2004

Brícia Lopez, who majored in business administration at the Mount, is a partner overseeing operations and a chef in her family’s restaurant, Guelaguetza, three miles from the Doheny Campus. This spring, she led a cooking demo, “Oaxaca: The Food of the Region,” at the LA Times Book Festival, which is the largest book festival in the U.S. and draws 150,000 attendees.

In March 2022, Nury Yoo joined Faegre Drinker as a partner in the firm’s product liability and mass torts practice group and as a member of the firm’s food litigation and regulatory practice in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices. Yoo helps clients in the food and beverage, cosmetics, dietary supplement, OTC drug, personal care and alcohol beverage industries to navigate regulations, manage risk and defend against challenges. She comes to the firm from Keller and Heckman LLP, where she counseled clients in the food and consumer product industries.

2005

Encouraged from an early age by her mother and educated by female professors and scientists at Mount Saint Mary’s University, Heather Yonutas learned by example and dedicated her education to the pursuit of improving patient treatments. Throughout her career, she has helped to further uncover solutions in neurodegeneration tied to aging and neurotrauma, contributing to ALS research and more. Her first-hand experience with Lou Gehrig’s disease impassioned her career and she is now empowering the next generation of female leaders at Voyager as gene therapy and R&D programs lead at Voyager Therapeutics.

2006

Brenda Lopez has joined the Alumnae Association Board of Directors. She is the chief external officer at Magnolia Public Schools with over 15 years in education empowering educational partners as leaders in learning and life. While at the Mount, Brenda was the recipient of the Rockefeller Brothers Fellowship Award, which exposed her to a variety of valued opportunities.

2008

Monica Guardian works with businesses to establish training opportunities for young adults to prepare them for professional and technical careers. She is the director of education partnerships for the International Education Corporation.

2009

Eunice Salinas has joined the Alumnae Association Board of Directors. She is a tax specialist who loves helping people grow. Salinas wants to see mentoring opportunities increase through the Mount with our accomplished Mount alumnae supporting current students.
2011
On January 30, Sarah (Tuttle) Nichols and her husband Gannon welcomed the birth of their second child, a beautiful baby girl named Shannon Gracie. Nichols recently celebrated five years working at the Mount in Student Affairs. She is also finalizing her thesis for her master's in humanities. Big brother Declan, a current student in the Child Development Center on the Doheny Campus, is almost three and (mostly) dotes on his little sister Shannon. Gracie is very mobile and loves watching and playing with her big brother. She can’t wait to go to the Child Development Center with him next year.

2012
In January, Mariangely Solis Cervera became the City of Boston’s Chief of Equity & Inclusion. In this role, Mariangely leads the Equity Cabinet, which seeks to advance racial justice and social, economic, and health equity in the City of Boston.

2013
David J. Riese II, PhD, a professor at the Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy and a senior scientist, cancer biology and immunology program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has funded a fellowship in support of Cathy Garcia’s predoctoral work on the mechanisms by which obesity fuels pancreatic cancer progression.

Carlo Giovanni MBA is the new vice president of people & culture at Southern California Public Radio.

Justin Key MBA has recently received press coverage in Forbes magazine. The article focused on his career and the intersection of creativity and entrepreneurship as well as how his family has influenced him.

2014
Olivia Mayo graduated from the Mount with a double major in health care policy and Spanish. She pursued a Master’s degree in Nursing at the University of San Diego.

When she began her career in the health care field, she started as a nursing assistant before becoming a registered nurse working with acute and progressive care patients at Sharp Healthcare. Mayo was promoted to lead clinical nurse working on a cardiac floor that focuses on patients diagnosed with heart failure. She recently married her best friend of 10 years, bought a home, and now has a beautiful baby boy, named Mateo. Mayo continues to reside in San Diego. Her favorite places to spend time with her family are Balboa Park, the Embarcadero and Liberty Station.

2018
Sarah Counnas MBA is now a senior director of technology, communication and strategy at DreamWorks Animation, which produces animated films and television programs. The company, which is based in Glendale, California, is a subsidiary of Universal Pictures, a division of NBCUniversal, which is itself a division of Comcast.
In 2017, Taryn Zaragoza joined Relativity Architects as office manager and is now associate/operations manager. Her responsibilities include accounting, business development, facility operations, payroll, document management and special projects. Zaragoza also leads a growing administrative support team. She holds a business administration degree with an emphasis on management from the Mount.

A capstone thesis for a master’s in humanities titled “Len Deighton and the Utopian Tradition” led to Braden Hammer’s participation in two conferences in England over the summer — the Utopian Studies Society Europe (USSE) Conference at the University of Brighton and the Early Modern Words Conference at Loughborough University. He enthusiastically likens the first conference, which examines utopianism in literature, philosophy, sociology, history, architecture, politics, ecology, film, media and computer games, to “Comic-Con for humanities scholars.” Braden first presented his work at the Mount’s 2022 Academic Symposium. He thanks Millie Kidd, PhD, humanities program director, professor Wendy McCredie, PhD, and provost Robert Perrins, PhD, among others, for their support. Braden is the associate director of institutional giving and corporate partnerships at the Mount.

Ashlin Amano visited fellow alumnae Kristen Fregoso ‘17 and Alissa Oakes ‘19, who are both pursuing PhDs in the therapeutic sciences graduate program at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, the alma mater of the three women’s mentor, Luiza Nogaj, PhD, professor of biological sciences and co-director of Global Women in STEM. Amano was accepted into Brown’s School of Public Health but will spend this year obtaining her master’s at the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Another new Mount grad, Maria Avilez obtained a master’s in counseling psychology, specializing in marriage and family therapy. At the age of 18, with no guidance or role models, she initiated her personal development journey to create a better future for herself and her family. Now in her 30s, Avilez says that obtaining a master’s degree has launched her further into a healthier future.
Claudia Ann Reed (1949-2022)

Claudia Reed, longtime director of the Mount Libraries, passed away on March 10 from complications of congestive heart failure. She retired from the Mount on June, 2015, after 33 years in various library positions. She oversaw the expansion of the Mount’s online catalog of books and media, made available scores of important databases and introduced a basic email system for staff. She was named director in 1989. In 1994, Reed supervised the temporary relocation of the Chalon library to the Campus Center while Coe Memorial Library underwent top-to-bottom renovation to accommodate network wiring and other new technology. In 1999, she supervised the move of the Doheny library from Médaille Hall (Building 2) to its new home in the J. Thomas McCarthy Library, part of the Sister Magdalen Coughlin Learning Complex. A native of Vallejo, Reed was an accomplished poet and held master’s degrees from San Francisco State in English and UCLA in information science.

Mary (Weidinger) Young ’53 (1932-2022)

Mary (Weidinger) Young ’53 was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but came to Los Angeles at the age of nine. Originally a sociology major with the intent of becoming a social worker, she left the Mount before her senior year and didn’t return until the 1970s. She officially obtained her degree in ’79 in public administration but always identified as being from the Class of ’53.

She joined Culver Municipal Court in ’56 and served as court administrator for seven years, overseeing the administrative personnel. For a decade in the ’80s and ’90s, Young was a member of the Culver City chapter of Seroptimists International, which supports women’s empowerment through education.

A member of the Brady Leadership Society, Young gave to the University annually for more than three decades. Although she donated to various funds along the way, she consistently gave to support scholarships and, more recently, the CSJ Institute. Young appreciated the education that she received from the sisters and wanted to ensure that their history was preserved. She also received a scholarship as a Mount student and wanted to ensure that other deserving students had the same opportunity.

Alex P. Stogryn (1932-2021)

A supporter of STEM programs at various institutions, Alex Stogryn’s connection to Mount Saint Mary’s University was through his twin brother, Daniel, who taught in the physical sciences and mathematics department before he passed in 1998. Daniel’s specialization was in chemistry, but he also started the Mount’s computer science program. To honor his brother, Stogryn created the Daniel Stogryn Award for Excellence in Research to be awarded by the department chair. He and his sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Rudy, endowed the Stogryn and Zaveruka Families Scholarship in Physical Sciences and Mathematics for outstanding juniors or seniors.

A passion for STEM guided Stogryn’s own educational and career paths. He received his bachelor’s in physics from the University of Pennsylvania before pursuing both his master’s and PhD in physics from Stanford University.

Stogryn’s generosity to the Mount continued after his passing, with a planned gift of $1.7+ million to support the Wellness Pavilion and the Alex P. Stogryn Memorial Expendable Scholarship.
The genesis of the Doheny Campus

We picture the Doheny Campus today as an urban oasis of modern and midcentury buildings and most especially the 13 graceful Victorian homes for which the campus is renowned. Mount Saint Mary’s University is justifiably admired for its role in the historic preservation of the West Adams community. But 60 years ago, when the Mount launched its innovative Associate of Arts program, the preservation of historic Chester Place and surrounding St. James Park neighborhood was anything but a sure thing.

Estelle and Edward Doheny moved into 8 Chester Place in 1901 and over time bought the other homes behind the wrought-iron gates. When Mrs. Doheny died in 1958, her real estate was bequeathed to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with the understanding that the proceeds would be used for Catholic education. Downtown Los Angeles was undergoing a modernization boom in the 1960s that witnessed the destruction of hundreds of 19th-century homes to make way for office and apartment buildings. Cardinal James Francis McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, was in the middle of a building boom of his own and needed to fund new parishes and schools.

In spite of the uncertainty, the Downtown Campus of Mount St. Mary’s College (as it was then known) was taking shape. But the real estate situation was still difficult for the Mount’s administration. Even as the success of the Downtown Campus grew, the possibility remained of the land being sold. It wasn’t until the early 1970s that the Archdiocese finally agreed not to sell Chester Place. Additionally, Buildings 1, 7, 11 and 17 were deeded to the Mount. President Sister Cecilia Louise Moore, CSJ, and her advisors at last felt confident in developing a long-range plan. They marked the new phase by renaming the location the Doheny Campus.

— Victoria McCargar, retired Mount archivist
Celebrate our Founders, reconnect with classmates and friends, and make new connections! We encourage attendees to connect with their Class Ambassador(s) — or volunteer to be one — to plan additional events throughout the weekend. A listing of Class Ambassadors and more details on the festivities can be found on the event webpage listed below.

Who: You!
What: Alumnae Weekend 2022
When: Saturday, October 15
Where: Chalon Campus
RSVP: alums.msmu.edu/alumnaeweekend

SEE YOU ON OCT. 15!