From the President

Turning dreams into realities: Six Mount alumnae share how scholarships changed their lives.

Going global: Changemakers abroad

Mount Wellness: Our model gains national recognition

Giving back and looking forward: One alumna shares her story about why giving back means so much to her

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Carondelet Circle
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Endowments
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Alum Board
Board of Trustees
Regents Council
President’s Cabinet

2018-19 Fiscal Report

XENIA VIDAL MARQUEZ ’19
POLITICAL SCIENCE
Dear friends,

I am grateful for our community of students, faculty, staff, alumnae and friends who came together after the Getty Fire that surrounded our Chalon Campus on October 28. This experience united us in new and profound ways and proved, once again, that Mount Saint Mary’s University is truly unstoppable.

Fortunately, students and staff evacuated the campus safely, and our fearless Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet sheltered in place, protected by firefighters and other first responders. Thankfully, no one was hurt and the campus did not sustain any structural damage.

The experience, while frightening and unsettling, served as a reminder that when we come together as a community, no challenge is too great to overcome. I have been so moved by the resolve and compassion our students, faculty and staff have shown each other.

One week after the fire, students returned to class—all at our Doheny Campus. Faculty and staff came up with creative solutions to make sure academic and extracurricular programs could continue. Doheny residents selflessly shared their dorm rooms with Chalon students, offering welcome notes and warm embraces. Alums called to offer help, and sent care packages from near and far.

Over the past few weeks, I have witnessed incredible gestures and offerings of love and kindness that define the community we are—resilient, empowering, affirming.

This report shares a brief snapshot of the alumnae, donors, faculty and friends that make up our community. Your support of Mount Saint Mary’s changes lives—through career-altering scholarships, mind-broadening global experiences and new opportunities to model healthy living.

2020 will be a time to celebrate as we enter the final year of An Unstoppable Campaign for Mount Saint Mary’s. Thanks to all of you, it is already the largest fundraising campaign in the University’s history.

Thank you for helping build and sustain this exceptional community.

Sincerely,

Ann McElaney-Johnson
As these stories show, financial support can open doors for Mount Saint Mary's scholars. And that support doesn't just benefit our students—it also benefits their families, their communities and their future employers.

Too often, Mount students face financial challenges that leave their dream of attending college in question. Scholarship support is often the deciding factor for students to continue their education and graduate. Over 98% of our students receive scholarships annually from friends, foundations and supporters like you.

Six Mount alumnae share how scholarships changed their lives.

ALUM PROFILE

Kimberly Sanchez '09 always knew she wanted to make a difference in her community and in the broader world around her. She just wasn’t sure how. At Mount Saint Mary’s, she discovered her passion and pathway to that position of influence—through a career in healthcare.

Sanchez says without her undergraduate scholarships from the Mount—the Michael and Carol Enright Endowed Scholarship and the Elliot Family Endowed Scholarship—she wouldn’t have experienced the same career trajectory. “The scholarships I received at the Mount were life-changing,” she says. “Without them, I wouldn’t have been able to advance my professional career as quickly as I have.”

Quickly, indeed. Today, Sanchez is a clinical nurse specialist at Keck Medicine of USC, where she helped establish that role throughout the Keck system. She’s already earned a doctorate in nursing practice from the University of San Diego. And she’s conducting research that informs how nursing practitioners can better promote health and wellness.

Sanchez thinks back often to what she learned at the Mount—in and out of the classroom. She says being part of the Women’s Leadership Program enabled her to pair her clinical education with her desire to become a community leader. “The Mount is where I learned to use my voice to make a difference,” Sanchez says. “For me, I can make that difference through nursing.”

From her professors to her peers and to the donors who made it all possible, Sanchez knows the difference a supportive community can make. “I am where I am today because of what Mount Saint Mary’s did for me.”

I believe that giving all students a chance at a great education is vital. By establishing an endowed scholarship at Mount Saint Mary’s, I have been able to help these bright and enthusiastic minds get the opportunities they deserve to earn their degrees and become strong leaders.”

MICHAEL ENRIGHT, MICHAEL AND CAROL ENRIGHT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
Juggling responsibilities is nothing new for Danielle Batol Steele ’08. As an undergrad at Mount Saint Mary’s, Steele double-majored in business administration and psychology—and minored in leadership and women’s studies. She was also a leadership scholar in the Women’s Leadership Program and served as a student tutor and campus tour guide. She received financial assistance through it all, thanks to the Michael and Carol Enright Endowed Scholarship. “Without this scholarship, I couldn’t have graduated in four years,” she says. “With it, I was able to get fully immersed in the college experience.”

Steele made the most of her support. She graduated magna cum laude and was the Mount’s commencement speaker for her graduating class. Steele later earned a master’s degree in psychology and an MBA from Claremont Graduate University. She’s also certified as a project management professional by the Project Management Institute.

All that likely explains how Steele balances wearing so many hats today. She works as an information technology project manager at Arizona State University, volunteers often and is the mother of a toddler. But that’s not all. Steele also finds time to serve as Mount Saint Mary’s regional ambassador in the Phoenix area. She enjoys connecting with other alums in the region and appreciates the chance to give back.

When Steele looks back on her time at the Mount, it’s not the academic accomplishments that stand out. It’s the relationships she built with students and professors. “College isn’t just about the grades,” she says. “It’s also the connections you make that count. Those longstanding relationships are what help you make a difference in the lives of others.”

More than a decade after her graduation, Steele is grateful to remain active in the University community. She plans to establish her own scholarship at the Mount one day to help advance other students’ careers. “I still feel very much a part of the Mount family,” Steele says. “And I always will.”
CONFIDENT

CINDY BAEZ ’20
HEALTHCARE POLICY

Salina Sells ’12 is thriving in her dream job at Saatchi & Saatchi Wellness, a leading ad agency in New York City. Sells uses her expertise to elevate the brands of health and wellness companies like Proctor & Gamble. And she constantly applies the leadership skills she learned in Mount Saint Mary’s Women’s Leadership Program.

But Sells says her career path wasn’t a sure thing: “Where I am now might never have happened without my scholarships.” At the Mount, Sells excelled. However, by her junior year she needed financial help in order to stay in school. That support arrived thanks to the generosity of longtime University donors. Sells received both the Michael and Carol Enright Endowed Scholarship and the Elliott Family Endowed Scholarship, enabling her to continue her education.

That year at the President’s Scholarship Luncheon, she had the chance to meet, and thank, one of her scholarship donors, Michael Enright. “It was so rewarding to be able to thank Mr. Enright in person,” Sells says. “It felt like someone was investing in me and recognized my potential.”

Thankful to continue her studies and campus involvement, she soon joined the ADthenians, a campus chapter of the American Advertising Federation. Sells felt energized by the research and competitions she participated in through the club. Soon, thanks to connections at the Mount, she learned about a study away opportunity at New York University. The program gave her the chance to take classes at NYU and get to know the city. Sells was hooked. “I realized I loved it there,” says Sells. After she graduated from Mount Saint Mary’s with a degree in business administration, she moved to the Big Apple full-time. Among the things she took with her: “The confidence I gained at the Mount,” Sells says. “It’s what made me bold enough to pursue an advertising career in New York City.”

On her list of goals for the future: opening her own marketing agency to help locally based businesses reach their full potential.

potential recognized—and realized
Sadie Michelle Quinonez ’16 knows how important it is to invest in the lives of young people—she experienced the difference it can make firsthand. When she was a psychology student at Mount Saint Mary’s, Quinonez had professors who invested their time and talent in her journey. Donors invested their financial gifts to put a college degree within her reach.

“The help I received from the Payden and Rygel Endowed Scholarship allowed me to finish my education,” Quinonez says. “I’m so thankful for it and it’s why I plan to give back to students in the near future.”

Make no mistake—Quinonez is already paying it forward to the generation following in her footsteps. She serves as a senior therapist and case administrator for A Bridge for Kids, a nonprofit that finds funding, mentors and educational tools for teens who have the ability to attend college, but may not have the resources to get there. She’s thriving in the role, and was named “Therapist of the Month” there—just as she was in her previous job.

Quinonez—who has also earned her certification as a registered behavior technician—remains motivated by the education and encouragement she received at the Mount. “I got one-on-one attention from my professors, and I was always heard without judgment,” she says. That support is why Quinonez is back at the Mount today, pursuing a master’s degree in counseling psychology. Her ultimate goal: to earn her PhD and open her own practice as a marriage and family therapist.

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Endowing a scholarship for Mount Saint Mary’s has been wonderful. It is a joy to see students flourish and find success in the world, and know that you have made a difference in their lives.”

JOAN PAYDEN, PAYDEN AND RYGEL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
On the way to earning her bachelor’s degree in biological sciences and a minor in mathematics, Christine Doronio ’13 learned how to conduct scientific research. She practiced designing and troubleshooting experiments. And she became especially intrigued with epigenetics, the study of how and why certain genes turn “on” or “off”—essentially making us who we are.

Making Doronio’s path possible: a scholarship from the Hummer-Tuttle Expendable Scholarship Fund. “I know my education and career would not be the same,” she says, “without the scholarship that was made possible by Mrs. Hummer-Tuttle’s generosity.”

Today, Doronio is a fifth-year doctoral candidate at Emory University, a leading research university in Atlanta, working toward her PhD in genetics and molecular biology. Doronio aims to use her knowledge to encourage new generations of students, particularly young women, to enter the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Before attending graduate school, Doronio served as a tutor for elementary and high school students. The work sparked a desire to one day create a STEM program for younger students—one that meets them where they are.

“Building relationships, igniting dreams,” she says. “It’s so important to introduce real-world science education at a young age and expose younger students to different math and science concepts outside the classroom, to ignite their interest early.”

Doronio was interested in STEM fields before arriving at the Mount, but it was here that her passion blossomed. “A lot of that came from the one-on-one time with my professors,” she says. “That helped academically, of course, but I also really enjoyed the relationships I built. I still stay in touch with Dr. Luiza Nogaj, my academic and research advisor. She was such an instrumental part of my college career.”

And her professional career. In November 2018, Nogaj invited Doronio to come teach one of Nogaj’s molecular biology classes. The visit gave students the chance to learn about Doronio’s doctoral studies and epigenetics research.

For Doronio, coming back to the place where a scholarship helped propel her dreams crystallized something for her, too. “I’d love to pursue a career as a science professor at a smaller university like the Mount,” she says. “The personalized approach here is what helped me most. I want to be able to teach in the same way.”

It is a wonderful thing to support Mount students—they work hard, contribute to their communities; they are our future leaders. I encourage you to contribute to their success by giving to Mary Saint Mary’s scholarships.

MARA HUMMER-TUTTLE, HUMMER-TUTTLE EXPENDABLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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MARA HUMMER-TUTTLE, HUMMER-TUTTLE EXPENDABLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Someone once asked Genevieve Amado ’13 to describe her experience at Mount Saint Mary’s in one word. “My word was ‘transformational,’” she says. “The Mount gave me countless opportunities. They also made sure I could pursue them. Receiving a scholarship provided me with a pathway to pursue my career goals.”

Amado’s parents emigrated from the Philippines to come to the United States, and they nurtured her dream of becoming the first in her family to graduate college here. However, higher education was going to be a financial strain for the family and Amado would need substantial student loans to help pay her way.

That financial burden was lifted thanks to the John David and Nancy Sullivan Taylor Endowed Scholarship, which helped cover Amado’s tuition each year. Unburdened from financial stress, Amado dove into all the Mount had to offer. She became active in the University’s Accounting Association and the Sigma Beta Delta business honor society—both helped her learn practical business and networking skills. Even better, Amado’s campus involvement gave her the confidence to apply for an internship program at City National Bank.

As an intern, she became part of a team that conducted audits. She impressed her colleagues enough that the experience led to a job offer at the bank. “A week after graduating with my degree in business administration, I started my full-time job,” Amado says. “I’m still with the company six years later, and growing my career in the banking industry.”

Looking back, she credits her scholarship for creating a secure foundation that allowed her to pursue her educational and career goals. “I’m proud that I received that scholarship,” Amado says. “It changed my life and it gave me a sense of worth and belonging.”
Julius Reder Carlson, PhD, remembers well his student journeys to Argentina and Germany. He studied folk music in northern Argentina and researched the politics of Felix Mendelssohn’s music in Berlin. “Those trips are intrinsic to my interests today,” says Carlson, associate professor of music and academic and artistic director of The Da Camera Society at Mount Saint Mary’s. “They really shaped my academic career and my musical life. They also helped me see myself and my community with fresh eyes.” Now he wants his Mount students to have the same opportunity to gain a window into the wider world. And, potentially, into their own futures.

Last summer, Carlson—along with Alice Bardan, PhD, assistant professor of English—applied to the highly competitive Council on International Educational Exchange program to fund trainings for first-time trip leaders. They were awarded a grant to participate in a training program at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which included courses on how to ensure equitable global experiences for young women of color and first-generation college students who might not have traveled abroad before.

This coming summer, Bardan will teach literature in Rome, while Carlson will teach two other courses in Europe on the political and cultural impact of 20th-century protest songs—one in Berlin, the other at the University’s Fontbonne family home, site of the Center for Global Initiative’s inaugural Summer Session France. All of these classes are open to the larger Mount community, including alums.

“People are inspired by experiences,” Carlson says. “And study abroad trips open the door to lived experiences in a powerful way. They can spark your curiosity. They can change your path, awaken a passion in you. They might make you think of new questions and put you on a path to finding new answers.”
National recognition has arrived for Mount Saint Mary’s student-led wellness initiative.

In November, the University’s peer wellness advocates were named Outstanding Peer Group of the Year by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) — the largest peer education group in the country. NASPA also invited the Mount to speak at its annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, and share successful wellness strategies other schools could replicate.

Creating a student-driven paradigm for wellness was exactly what the University’s community envisioned when Mount Saint Mary’s launched the Healthy Healthcare Provider program in 2016. Funded by the UniHealth and Riordan Foundations, the program provides health sciences majors with intensive wellness training, empowering them to teach and inspire other students to practice healthy habits through workshops, one-on-one coaching, stress management trainings and fitness activities.

“Being a peer wellness advocate has helped me learn how to take care of myself so I can better take of others,” says Estrella Lobos ’20, a nursing student. “Now I can authentically empower my patients to take control of their own health and wellness.”

With 60 percent of the University’s graduates working in high-stress healthcare-related fields, it is imperative to equip our students with healthy lifestyle practices and better coping skills so they can model wellness for their patients, clients and colleagues.

“The goal is to make healthy living a daily part of student life,” says the Mount’s wellness director Alison Halpern, RD, CHES. “We’re empowering students to teach their peers about positive self-care, and how to effectively deal with their own stress and their own health.”

50% of students say the Mount has a culture of wellness on campus — up from 32% in just one year.
Mary C. Breden ’73 and her younger sister, Sharon Ann ’68, CSJ, both studied music at Mount Saint Mary’s, learning from and admiring the University’s Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ). Sharon Ann took her dedication a step further, entering the order herself. After graduating from the Mount, both women dedicated their lives to teaching. Breden retired in August 2019 after teaching for 46 years, including 27 as director of choral activities and chair of the music department at Loyola Marymount University. To honor her contributions to the L.A. choral community, Breden received the Outstanding Alum Award for professional achievement at the Mount’s Homecoming ceremony in October 2019. Now, she’s making a planned gift in memory of her late sister Sharon, committing a significant portion of her estate to the CSJ Institute at Mount Saint Mary’s. “I’ve always felt that we thank those who’ve done so much for us by finding a way to give back,” Breden says. “That’s why my gift honors the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It helps continue their work, which meant so much to my sister Sharon.”

Breden has been impressed with the Institute’s ability to preserve and promote the CSJ legacy. She especially loves that the Institute leads an annual pilgrimage to Le Puy, France, the birthplace of the Sisters of St. Joseph. “It’s such a special time of reflection enjoyed by students, faculty, alums and friends. And it’s something that Sharon would have loved to do,” Breden says. “Someday, I hope to make the journey.”

She also believes that the University’s founders would be very proud of what their women’s college has become. “The Mount isn’t just a small campus up on a hill,” she says. “Now it’s a known entity with powerful and substantive positions on important issues. It’s a force.”

DONOR PROFILE

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DONOR PROFILE
campaign update

When we launched a six-year comprehensive fundraising campaign in 2014, we knew our $100 million goal was ambitious. But we also knew we could succeed thanks to the vision and generosity of our alums and friends.

Because of you, we’ve exceeded our $100 million goal—one year early. Thank you to the nearly 6,000 supporters who have already contributed to help build an unstoppable future for new generations of Mount students.

But there is still more to do. Join us in 2020, the final year of this campaign, to help expand more academic programs, fund vital scholarships and build a world-class wellness center on campus.

MSMU.EDU/CAMPAIGN
Funding progress AS OF DECEMBER 2019
107% to $100 million goal

$107.4 million raised to date

Other key funding areas:

Wellness Pavilion
83%
$28,917,774 toward $35 million goal

Fund for the Future
93%
$37,362,933 toward $40 million goal

As of December 2019
MOTIVATED

VIVIAN LEE '19
BIOLOGY

ELIZABETH SHOKOYA '19
BIOCHEMISTRY
Mission Statement
Mount Saint Mary’s University offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic university primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments and the world.

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