Greetings! As the calendar turns to February, those of us in the Midwest survived the polar vortex and the thought of a 50th reunion for the GREAT CLASS OF 1969 in June sounds very appealing. Please mark your calendar for Thursday-Sunday, June 20-23, 2019. In each e-newsletter it is my intention to discuss reunion events as well as inform you about Saint Mary's University today while also looking back in celebration to our years in college. Previous e-newsletters may be found on the Class of 1969 Reunion Page or on the Class of 1969 Facebook page.

Class Survey
If you have not done so already, please complete the Class Survey. As you will see below we are looking for as much detailed information as we can get from you. There will be a keepsake given to each class member (whether you attend reunion or not). The information from the survey will provide the information for the keepsake. Please see article on Veterans Ceremony below. To assist us please complete the survey by February 28.

Reunion Events
Veterans Ceremony: In June of 2008, Saint Mary’s University built a memorial honoring those who served our country in the military. The theme of the memorial is Peace Through Service. Classmate, Dr. Tim Tyre, was one of the movers and shakers for this project. In 2014 at our 45th anniversary reunion, Tim led those in attendance in a program remembering and celebrating those who served. Tim is again chairing the Veterans Committee for our reunion and will focus on our classmates. However, we will make the ceremony open to all reunion attendees. While the final reunion weekend schedule is developing, the Veterans Ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 22 at 10:30 a.m. at the campus memorial.

We would like to have a roster of all classmates who served in the military and/or served in a long term volunteer program (Peace Corps, Lasallian Volunteers, etc.) since graduation. We need your help so we can be 100% inclusive. Please complete the class survey and let us know your status. Also, if you would to join Tim’s committee, please contact him via his email, skippee47@gmail.com.

Legacy Committee
OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE $1,000,000 AS A CLASS FROM MAY 11, 1969 TO JUNE 1, 2019. At the end of January more than $900,000 has been given or pledged from our classmates!

Members of the Legacy Committee are happy to discuss giving options with you, including IRA Required Minimum distributions, stock transfers, pledges, bequests, and good ole cash gifts! The Legacy Committee includes: Jerry Colletti (jerry@collettifiss.com), Jim Coogan (jcoogan@coogangroup.com), Mike Stinson (stins68c@aol.com), and Tony Piscitiello (tpisciti@smumn.edu). If you would like to join the Legacy Committee, please contact Jerry.

The Great Class of 1969 Triple Match Challenge: As was announced in the last e-newsletter and via a letter sent to you in December, Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota will be the beneficiary of a challenge gift made by classmate Jim Coogan. Jim has generously offered to match, dollar for dollar, up to $20,000, for gifts made by you and our classmates during this fiscal year which ends May 31, 2019. The good news keeps coming…furthermore, Jim’s former employer, KPMG LLP, and the KPMG Foundation will match Jim’s gift. So if your gift qualifies for the match, your gift will be tripled! As of this e-newsletter, many classmates have made a gift and we are expecting to satisfy the challenge by our reunion.

Make A Gift
Our Goal is to Raise $1,000,000 as a Class from May 11, 1969 to June 1, 2019

Alumni Awards: Annually, during the reunion weekend the Alumni Association honor several alumni with awards. The awards are: Outstanding Young Alumnus/a, Alumni Appreciation, Lasallian Service and Distinguished Alumnus/a.

The great news is that Jerry Colletti will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award during the reunion on June 22. For this wonderful reason, Jerry is being "spotlighted" below. Please plan on attending the awards ceremony which will include a social gathering in the Saint Mary’s Performance Center. Let’s Celebrate Jerry!

Classmate Spotlight
This month let’s visit with:

Jerry Colletti

Jerry lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., with his wife, Mary Fiss CST ’71. They have two children and three grandchildren. He earned an M.B.A. from UW-Madison after graduation then returned to Saint Mary’s as a business teacher. After teaching for two years at Saint Mary’s, he left for HR/compensation positions in industry and ultimately became VP, Human Resources, Manpower, Inc. After Manpower, he joined Sibson & Company, where he rose to its Chief Operating Officer. When Sibson was sold, with two partners, he founded The Alexander Group, Inc. He sold his interest in that firm in 1999, and he and Mary established their own successful management consulting firm, Colletti-Fiss, LLC in Scottsdale. Among their expertise is sales and they have assisted many small and large businesses increase sales and profits.

Jerry has developed several online courses and books for WorldatWork and has been the chair of the advisory board for the Sales Centre at Ohio University (Athens, OH). Presently, Jerry serves as the Chair of the Saint Mary’s Business Advisory Council.

Philanthropically, Jerry and Mary, to honor her father, created the Charles J. Fiss Scholarship to support Saint Mary’s students in business and recently made a significant gift to name two faculty offices for business faculty in the soon to be remodeled Hoffman Hall.

Please see the recent Saint Mary’s Investors Report for more about Jerry Colletti.

Al Orsello

Al has been happily married to Jenni for 23 years, has three children and two grandchildren. He has lived in Chicago for 37 years but has maintained personal and professional connections with his roots in Minnesota. He lives his work and attributes his educational experience at Saint Mary’s University with establishing the necessary foundation in “Making a Difference.” Upon graduation in 1969, Al began his teaching career at Totino-Grace High School, Fridley, Minn. After getting his M.A. in Counseling Psychology at Winona State he joined the counseling department at Totino-Grace. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at Loyola University Chicago and National Louis University, along with serving as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education and Human Services.

Al moved to Chicago where he incorporated the Prevention Partnership, Inc., a minority governed,
community-based, grassroots nonprofit agency with the mission of "enhancing the development of youth, their families and communities, through education, prevention, intervention, and health promotion programs." Currently, with funding from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services, the agency serves the minority and underserved neighborhoods of Chicago's Westside. In Illinois, and also nationally, the agency is not only a pioneer in prevention services including tobacco, alcohol and drugs, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS/STD's, nutrition and mental health. Health promotion of young people is also a key activity for Prevention Partnership.

You may visit the agency's website at Prevention Partnership, Inc.

Dr. H. Patrick Costello '54

In addition to classmates, I intend to "spotlight" several faculty. Dr. Costello (aka, Harry by his '54 classmates, Pat, Cos, Doc, etc.) was a shining fixture in the English Department, with a specialty in and love for Shakespeare. In addition to his teaching load, Pat served as department chair for many years. "Cos" also coached basketball. His first position was teaching at CBC High School in Memphis while serving as head basketball coach at nearby Christian Brothers College (TN). He was the first basketball coach at Brother Rice High School, on Chicago's Southside, then after earning his Ph.D. from Loyola University, moved back to Winona to start his long and distinguished career at Saint Mary's.

While a student-athlete at SMC, "Cos" was credited with being the first MIAC player to perfect the jump shot. In doing so, he broke the MIAC single season scoring record as a sophomore and broke it again as a junior. He was a member of our last football team in 1955. An all-conference performer, Pat was elected to the Saint Mary's Sports Hall of Fame in 1973. For three seasons, starting in 1974 he was head men's basketball coach leading the team to several 20 win seasons.

A beloved teacher and respected faculty colleague, in 1984 Pat was chosen for the Brother Charles Severin Award by colleagues for his teaching excellence. For ten years he was the director for the Great River Shakespeare Festival Collegium, held each summer in Winona. Pat and his loving wife, Joan, a retired Saint Mary's faculty members and director of academic advising, have seven children and 14 grandchildren. Pat is a survivor, having endured diabetes and asthma over many years and he now suffers from COPD. In spite of this, you may see the Costello's at Sunday Mass, at a basketball game, or about town. Pat is looking forward to the reunion in June, not only to reacquaint with former students but also to celebrate his 65th anniversary.

Current Saint Mary's News

Saint Mary's University Launches a partnership with Mayo Clinic on a 3-2 Physician Assistant Program

Starting in the fall of 2019, Saint Mary’s University students will have the opportunity to be part of a 3-2 program to become a physician assistant through Mayo Clinic. Accepted students will spend three years on the Winona campus studying biology, chemistry, math and liberal arts before moving to Rochester for two years of study with clinical experience at Mayo Clinic. Classes will be conducted in Rochester at Saint Mary’s Cascade Meadow facility in northwest Rochester. After they complete the program, these students will earn a BA from Saint Mary’s and a Masters in Physician Assistant fro the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences. Read more

Do you remember when?

In the January e-newsletter a contest was held to identify the downhill skier from a cover photo of the NEXUS. There were ten guesses submitted and three classmates answered within hours of each other with the correct answer. Greg Szafrański, Chuck Szopa and Wayne Wagner all correctly identified Bob Schmidt as the skier. Congratulations!
Here is the February quiz: Saint Mary's officially went co-ed in September, 1969 when 27 women enrolled that fall. However, a woman actually was a member of the Great Class of 1969 and graduated on May 11, 1969. Her yearbook photo is below. What is her name? The first classmate to correctly provide Tony Piscitiello (tpisciti@smumn.edu) with the correct answer will win a Saint Mary's t-shirt. (Previous winner and executive planning committee members are not eligible.)

Name those classmates...

The photo to the left was on the cover of the November, 1965 NEXUS. Several of our classmates participated in this rally. Can you identify members of the Great Class of 1969?

Planning Committee
Jerry Colletti, co-chair (jerry@collettifiess.com)
Jim Coogan (jcoogan@coogangroup.com)
Rudy Kopischke, co-chair (rudolph.r.kopischke@hotmail.com)
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Bob Schmidt (rwsbob@hotmail.com)
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