

The Leader

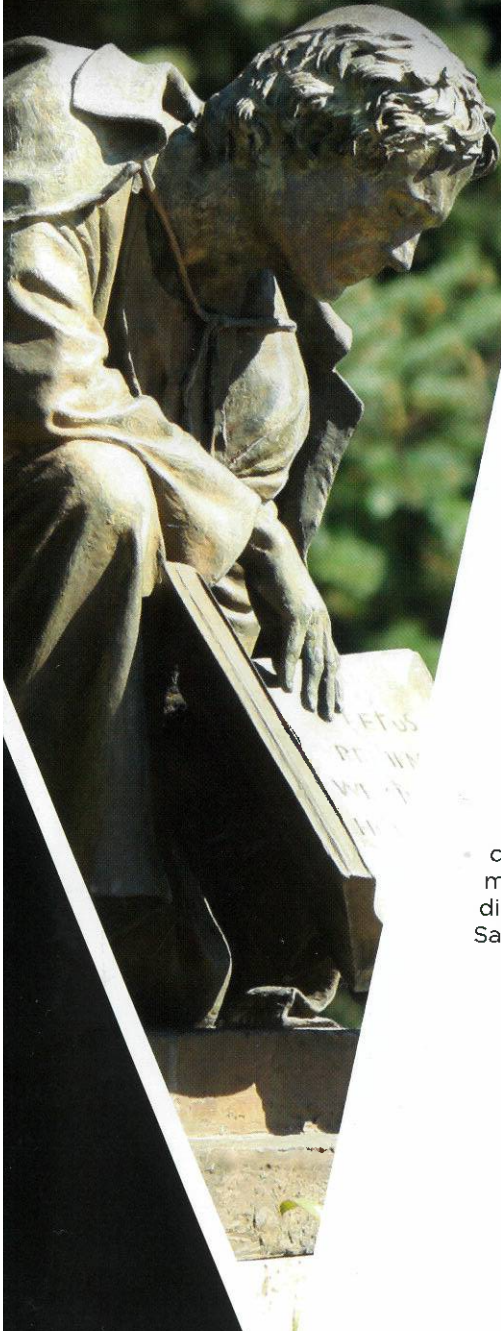
A newsletter for benefactors, alumni, and friends of Saint Mary's University



Saint Mary's
University
OF MINNESOTA

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Banking on the future: Today's students are tomorrow's leaders

Merchants Bank in Winona, Minn., knows that students sitting in classrooms today will be leaders in the community, nation, and world tomorrow. That's why the financial institution is making sure students at Saint Mary's University are sitting in state-of-the-art classrooms and labs.

The Merchants Bank Seminar Room, located in the Adducci Science Center's Hoffman Hall, recognizes Merchants' \$100,000 pledge. This space will blend business and science by using innovative and experimental equipment.

Merchants Bank President and CEO Greg Evans and his wife Terri (Kukowski) Evans '83 know how important Saint Mary's is to Winona.

"We know we all do well when the communities we serve do well," Evans says. "Saint Mary's is a huge contributor of vitality, energy, and vibrancy of this area."

The Evanses are Winona natives and have a personal affinity to Saint Mary's.

"Terri had a tremendous experience there," Evans says. "We truly value what the university brings to this community."

Terri also works for Merchants Bank—and has for 32 years. As a mortgage correspondent banking account representative, she helps smaller banks in a five-state region with lending programs.

Merchants Financial Group, parent company for Merchants Bank and Merchants Bank Equipment Finance, is one of the largest independent financial organizations in the region. In 2016, Merchants employees volunteered more than 5,000 hours of their time, and the organization donated more than \$600,000 in charitable donations.

Along with volunteerism and advocacy, Merchants Bank believes education is one of the most important aspects of a strong community, another reason for their dedication to Saint Mary's.

"Education is a cornerstone of a strong community," Evans says. "There aren't too many communities this size that have three distinct quality institutions of higher learning. Saint Mary's is one of those."

