

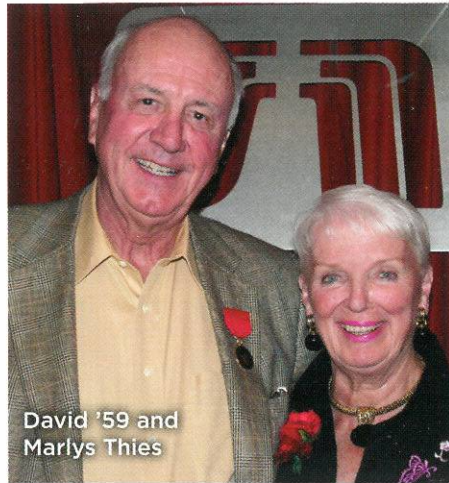
A major league benefactor

Former major league baseball pitcher David Thies '59 knows how it feels to have the weight of an entire team — and its fans — counting on him to get the job done. He also knows that it takes every member of a team, working together and supporting each other, to have a successful season.

Once a proud member of the Saint Mary's baseball team, Thies gives back to current and future players by supporting baseball and the baseball clubhouse. Once a scholarship recipient, he contributed to his anniversary class gift that was designated for scholarships. Additionally, the business initiative to renovate the Adducci Science Center's Hoffman and Brother Charles halls also resonated with the successful — although now retired — businessman.

While Thies could throw out most any pitch with accuracy and precision, he's also learned how to deal with unexpected curveballs in his path.

In the 1950s, Thies found himself at Saint Mary's College playing basketball. He scored nearly 1,800 points (still the third highest record) and held the career scoring record at Saint Mary's between 1959-1971. But his real passion was on the baseball field, not the court, so he followed that path after graduation and signed with the Minor League. He pitched for five years — with a short stint in the Major League playing for the Kansas City Athletics.



David '59 and Marlys Thies

psychology. This path veered, though, when he realized he had neither the passion nor the intensity for the field. Again, he “turned left” and began studying investment relations (even though he admits he didn't like math all that much). With a positive attitude and a love of talking to people, Thies climbed the corporate ladder, eventually co-founding Thies and Talle Enterprises with Ken Talle, a partnership that began by financing and developing apartment properties. Thies and Talle has since expanded into property management and today, consists of more than 6,000 apartment units in more than 100 properties throughout the Midwest.

But the hallmark of his life's journey has been his devotion and commitment to charitable work. A trustee emeritus, Thies served Saint Mary's University for more than 20 years, giving generously of his time and sharing his business talents as well. During this time period, he carried out three consecutive capital campaigns for Saint Mary's — where he served in leadership positions.

“When you ask for money, you have to start out being a giver,” he says. “Only when you are a giver can you be a getter. And not until then.”

Though his days of pitching at Saint Mary's College are behind him, Thies remembers his days on campus with gratitude — gratitude for the coaches, De La Salle Christian Brothers, friends, and professors who, when he hit wall, encouraged him to “turn left”.

The couple has recently announced they are making a \$2.5 million legacy gift to Saint Mary's.

“We're all climbing on other people's shoulders,” he says. “We can't walk this journey alone.”

ABOUT THE LEADER

The stories and successes shared in each issue of *The Leader* highlight the extraordinary impact benefactors are making on the programs and people at Saint Mary's through their leadership gifts. *The Leader* is a quarterly publication.

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“When you hit a wall, turn left,” is Thies' motto. “That's what I tell young people. There were times when I thought my life would lead somewhere else. But instead of being disappointed or giving up, I just did something different.”

After retiring from baseball, Thies decided to pursue a graduatedegree in clinical