

Saint Mary's Monthly

Jan. 24, 2020

News and Information for Saint Mary's graduate alumni

Greetings from the Graduate School of Education

Happy New Year! Saint Mary's Graduate School of Education continues to provide a transformational experience for our students. It is a real thrill to see our alumni in leadership roles throughout the region making a difference in the lives of the students they meet.

Alumni are our greatest resource. Share your experiences at Saint Mary's with others who are interested in earning a graduate degree. Your stories inspire potential students to attend Saint Mary's. Our new e-newsletter will keep you informed on new and exciting initiatives that will make a difference for our students and our school. We look forward to sharing them with you along the way.

Lynn Albee, '06, M'07, Ed.D.
Acting Dean
Graduate School of Education



Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Jan. 29:
Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Open House, Minneapolis

Thursday, Jan. 30:
Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Open House, Apple Valley

Monday, Feb. 3:
Washington D.C.
Alumni and Friends

Alumni spotlight:

Jennifer Backer-Johnson M'01, C'03, C'11

She did not know it at the time, but Jennifer Backer-Johnson M'01, C'03, C'11 was always meant to be a juggler.

It started with trying to juggle pairs of socks with her roommates while a student at Winona State University. Being on the school's basketball team, basketballs replaced socks when her confidence in the craft grew.

These days, as the superintendent for the Lewiston-Altura School District 857, Backer-Johnson does most of her juggling with her daily planner.

[Read more](#)

\$1.7 million grant received to develop character and virtue programs for educational administrators

Saint Mary's has been awarded a \$1,732,643 grant from the Kern Family Foundation for the university's School of Education Character and Virtue Initiative. Using grant funding, Saint Mary's will develop an enhanced curriculum for current and future educational leaders that places a strong emphasis on moral character, virtue, and ethics.

[Read more](#)

Share the value of Saint Mary's Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs

It's a new year and a new decade. For many, that means a time to pursue professional development or a career change. Share what you loved most about your Saint Mary's experience with your network. Saint Mary's is hosting two open houses next week to learn more about its graduate programs in business and technology, health and human services, and education.

- Wednesday, Jan. 29, 4:30 p.m., Saint Mary's Twin Cities Campus
- Thursday, Jan. 30, 4:30 p.m., Saint Mary's Apple Valley Center

Learn more at smumn.edu/infosession.

Gathering

Saturday, Feb. 22:
[Florida Alumni and Friends Gathering](#)

Tuesday, April 28:
[Hendrickson Forum for Ethical Leadership](#)

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

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