

# Saint Mary's Monthly

October 2021

Graduate School of Health and Human Services Alumni Newsletter



## Addiction studies program provides sense of purpose



Growing up in Liberia, Edwin Swaray watched his mother struggle with alcohol

dependency. In West African culture, addiction was considered a moral issue, not a disease. As a result, his family and community had difficulties understanding his mother's problems and behaviors, even after the disease took her life. Years later, after migrating to the United States, he was able to look past the stigmas often associated with chemical dependency to eventually see addiction in a new light.

[Learn more](#)

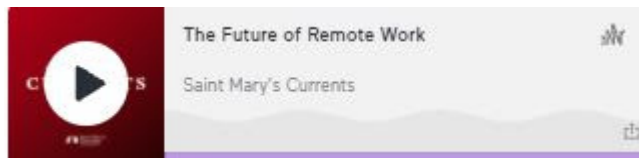
## Alumna impacts community through, health, wellness, and serving others



Minister Dr. Ni Ora Hokes D'17 has been working to improve health outcomes among her fellow African Americans in Minneapolis since the 1970s, and she's not slowing down yet.

[Learn more](#)

## Introducing Saint Mary's Currents, a podcast



Saint Mary's University's Marketing and Communication Department is launching a new podcast series on current topics relevant to the world of work and life. Welcome to the first edition of Saint Mary's Currents, where we address issues that are trending, relevant, and yes, sometimes divisive or controversial. Just as current is a flow of positive electric charge, the goal of Saint Mary's Currents is to find a positive path forward.

[Learn more](#)

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