

Saint Mary's Monthly

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Graduate School of Health and Human Services Alumni Newsletter



Public health alumnus recalls own American journey, works in fight against COVID-19

When he can find the time, Okash Haybe '19 enjoys reading books — in particular, non-fiction books on public health issues. One of his favorites is “The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream” by former President Barack Obama.

Haybe’s American dream began in Minneapolis in 2005 as a teenage immigrant from Somalia by way of Kenya. Upon his summertime arrival with his family, Haybe could not believe how different his new home was.

“It was exciting because we had that sense of anticipation ... Here is the United States ... We can have a better life,” said Haybe, who graduated from the Saint Mary’s bachelor’s completion program in public health. [Read more.](#)

Free online events

Since April, Saint Mary's Alumni Association has offered a variety of online programming options. Over 35 classes have been held, allowing alumni to master a new skill, add to their career development toolbox, or take some time to unwind. More to come this fall.

[View upcoming events here.](#)

Missed a previous session? No problem. [Videos are available on demand.](#)

Faculty updates



Sylvester Amara Lamin, Ph.D., core associate professor in the Master of Social Work program, was recently elected as an at-large representative to the board of directors for the Minnesota Social Services Association (MSSA). [Read more.](#)



Maima Fant, DSW, joined Saint Mary's University as an assistant professor in the Master of Social Work program in February. [Read more.](#)



Mallory Knipe, DSW, associate professor in the Master of Social Work program, joined Saint Mary's University on May 4. [Read more.](#)

Suzanne Shatila, director of the Master of Social Work program, has been appointed a member of the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education. [Read more.](#)



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Twin Cities Campus
2500 Park Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404-4403
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Winona Campus
700 Terrace Heights
Winona, MN 55987-1399
800-635-5987

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