February 11, 2019: Provost's Spring Welcome, BAR Task Force 2nd Open Forum, and Is It Love or Pheromones?

Saint Mary's College of California

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Spring 2019 Welcome From the Provost

Provost Margaret Kasimatis welcomes students, faculty, and staff back to campus in her spring message to the community. Having celebrated her first anniversary at the College, the provost reflects on the “can-do” spirit at Saint Mary’s and its many academic distinctions, including the College’s talented faculty, impressive rankings, encouraging enrollment numbers, and new and soon-to-be launched graduate programs. She also notes that while Saint Mary’s is “a College that’s on the move,” it remains rooted in its faith traditions and points to mission-related programming that celebrates our Lasallian heritage, such as SMC’s participation in #300LaSalle, the global, year-long celebration commemorating the 300th anniversary of the death and
Defining the Future: Campaign Update

Vice President for Advancement Lisa Moore '96 provides an update on the progress of the College’s comprehensive Campaign, Defining the Future: The Campaign for Saint Mary’s. Over the past six months, the important institutional initiative has secured more than $10 million, bringing the Campaign total to $115 million toward its $125 million goal.

Update highlights include a $2 million gift for the future Library & Innovation Center and $3 million to support the Student Athlete Performance Complex. So far, more than 25,000 donors have contributed to the Campaign to support student scholarships, invest in academic excellence, strengthen the Lasallian Catholic mission, and fund college operations. Read more

Black Student Convocation

The second annual Black Student Convocation is being held this Saturday, Feb. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will prove to be an informative and engaging event. As part of the 44 Days Honoring Black History celebration, the Black Student Convocation is designed to give Black students an opportunity to gather, reinforce their academic and professional pursuits, enhance transformative bonds that support recruitment and retention, and discuss their shared experiences, goals, and needs as Black students at SMC. The slate of activities will kick off with a Black Convocation Breakfast with President James Donahue. Read More

Pheromones: Love Is Literally in the Air

To understand the science of love (yes, science), you need to know about pheromones. They are airborne molecules that elicit a reaction, the most famous ones being potent aphrodisiacs. Pheromone’s are a secreted or excreted chemical factor that trigger a social response in members of the same species—in this case, humans. Ever wonder why you are attracted to someone and
can't specifically explain why? Blame it on pheromones. His or her "smells" like your "smells" and voilà! A connection is made. Scientists have long debated whether love—or at least sexual attraction—is literally in the air. According to Sonya Schuh, assistant professor of biology, and her research, *Pheromones: The Chemistry of Love Research*, there is enough data to substantiate the debate. Read More

**Bar Task Force to Hold Second Open Forum**

The Business and Academic Resource (BAR) Task Force will hold its second Open Forum for Saint Mary's faculty and staff to share some preliminary findings and recommendations from the Task Force thus far, and to gather feedback and input to inform the group's work moving forward. The forum will take place this week on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. (Claeys Lounge). Relevant materials for the next forum can be found on the **BAR Task Force Website**.

**Board of Trustees Gather for January Meeting**

The College’s Board of Trustees and the President’s Cabinet met on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, for their second gathering of academic year 2018–19. The meeting featured several informative reports to the Board, including executive presentations from President James Donahue and Provost Margaret Kasimatis and group reports from Kasimatis and Vice Presidents Susan Collins and Lisa Moore; Office of Mission Vice President Frances Sweeney and Trustee Brother Gustavo Ramirez, FSC; and Athletics Director Mike Matoso and VP Sweeney. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board and Cabinet members joined the Saint Mary’s Christian Brothers for a Mass, reception, and dinner. Read more here

**Apply for Panetta Congressional Internship**

Saint Mary’s College is entering into its sixth year of participation with the Panetta Institute for Public Policy and its Congressional Internship program. Students from all majors, entering their third or fourth year of undergraduate study, can apply for this
fall’s all-expenses-paid semester in Washington, D.C. Students attend academic seminars and work full-time in the House of Representatives. Application materials are due hand-delivered to the President’s Office, Filippi Hall, second floor, by noon on Friday, Feb. 22. The Career Center is available to assist students with their required résumé. Questions? Contact Philip Goodwin, pdg2@stmarys-ca.edu. Learn more about the Panetta Institute here.

Students, Get Prepared for the One-Stop Job Shop Spring Hiring Event
Students, polish up your résumé on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at a résumé letter workshop, beginning at 5 p.m. (Also offered Feb. 21.) You’ll need it for the One-Stop Job Shop hiring event on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 4 to 7 p.m. More than 50 for-profit and nonprofit organizations will meet with student applicants. Résumé approval required by 2/22. Read More

Don't Miss the First-Year Fair 2/13
Come one, come all to the First-Year Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Cassin Lounge. The involvement fair focuses on employment and involvement opportunities especially suited for first-year students. The first 75 students to arrive will receive a Class of ’22 T-shirt! Plus ice cream and snacks!
Read More

View - Lasallian Symposium
Last Monday, Saint Mary's hosted a gathering of local Lasallian educators for the Bay Area Lasallian Symposium. More than 450 participated in the educational conference that included round table discussions and breakout sessions on what it means to be Lasallian educators in the 21st century. In the photo, Father LaSalle Hallissey, OP, chaplain at De La Salle High School in Concord, leads a prayer alongside Father Francis Murin, religious studies teacher at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, and Father Hai Ho '03, OFMCap, chaplain at SMC. Read More

This Week on Campus

Announcements

- Travel for Everyone: Accessible Travel Solutions for Students with Disabilities
- Leadership Blog: Wisdom in the Waves: Surfing and the Art of Leadership
- BASS Bay Area Film Festival

Events

- 02/11 - Welcome Back Students - Grab a Snack on Us
- 02/12 - Staff Council Meeting
- 02/13 - First Year Fair
- 02/13 - Care Grams
- 02/13 - Spring Involvement Fair
- 02/13 - Orientation Leader/Weekend of Welcome Leader Info Session
- 02/14 - Orientation Leader/Weekend of Welcome Leader Info Session
Go Gaels

Cross Country: Multiple Gaels Impress at the Bronco Challenge

The Gaels had multiple strong performances in SMC's first-ever appearance at the Bronco Challenge. For the women, Ellen Burbank had a great leg of the Distance Medley Relay, closing the gap from seventh to second place. Furthermore, her 5:32.38 in the mile was the fastest of the day on the women's side. For the men, Anthony Vazquez competed well in his leg of the DMR and then ran even faster in the open 800 later on. His time of 1:57.85 was the fastest for SMC and earned him ninth place overall. Read More
Did You Know?

Staff Council Meeting Features Gail Dillon From Sodexo Feb. 12

Sodexo general manager Gail Dillon will answer questions at the Staff Council Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 12–1:30 p.m. in Hagerty Lounge. Gail will address the questions and comments that many of you submitted at the October Benefits Festival. Got more q’s? Bring them along.

Annual Faculty Awards Deadline Moved to Feb. 15

Saint Mary's College has an outstanding, hard-working faculty. There are five awards that recognize tenure-track faculty members for their excellence in the areas of Teaching, Scholarship, Service, Early Career, and Inclusive community building. Each of these awards has a stipend of $5,000, and the deadline has been extended to Feb. 15. Learn More

Do you have a little-known tidbit or story about Saint Mary’s? Send it to Campus News.

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Major learning. Minor pretense.