

## RETURNING STUDENTS

Dear Saint Mary's University students,

I hope you all have had a restful and rejuvenating summer. We look forward to your return in the coming weeks, and have been busy preparing for your arrival. The campus is at its peak of beauty this time of year, with trees and foliage full, green, and colorful. It will be even more vibrant and complete with your return.

You are at the center of our work; you drive our Mission:

*Enriched by the Lasallian Catholic heritage, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota awakens, nurtures, and empowers learners to ethical lives of service and leadership.*

The past few years have posed challenges for you and all of us due to COVID-19 and related restrictions on your life and learning. I have been very impressed by all of you. I have also seen much good come from how you handle things. You are more resilient, more adaptive, more grateful. You have missed many things, in some cases major milestones, yet you have turned that into gratitude for what you have, rather than resentment for what you don't. I am confident that these qualities will grow, and you will continue to flourish at Saint Mary's.

We are deeply committed to helping you meet your academic goals. We also are committed to you having a full student life experience. Within these experiences, I encourage each of you to try something completely new or different this coming year. We want your overall campus experience to be a positive and vibrant one.

Below are updates from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to inform you and help you prepare for your return, which we are anxiously awaiting.

### **Update from Academic Affairs**

Several groups have been meeting throughout the summer to work on plans to support each student's academic needs. We want to ensure you have all you need to advance your studies, and given we have changes planned over the next several years, extra attention is being paid to providing all students with a pathway to completion of your major(s) and/or minor(s).

Our current *Integratus* general education program will remain intact for all incoming and returning students while we develop a new but also strong liberal arts experience for the graduating class of 2027. This core set of courses will provide you with a set of knowledge and skills that are both sought after by employers and will benefit you throughout your life. We will continue to provide courses that provide you the ability to think critically, solve problems, communicate clearly, and discern the truth.

Some of you may be wondering about the fine and performing arts. A variety of classes and other opportunities to be involved in the arts (music, theater, etc.) will continue to be offered this year. We are excited to work with a host of students, faculty, staff, and community arts organizations throughout this academic year to pave the way for many new, high-quality co-curricular arts experiences.

Leading the college as dean is Dr. Darren Row. He is newly appointed to this role as well as serving as dean of the John C. Parmer School of the Sciences and dean for Arts and Humanities. Some of you have had him as a professor. In his new role, he remains committed to students and is an advocate for student success.

For those of you who haven't been in the Anthony B'59 and Sandra Adducci Family Makerspace in Aquinas Hall, we invite you to stop by. With the recent addition of a laser engraver to the already impressive range of tools like a 3D printer, this creative space is focused on helping students from all majors and class years with projects like prototyping possible products and exploring their ability to start a business. From charcuterie boards to neon signs, there is always something going on in this space. The space is staffed on a regular basis, but to be sure of staff availability, email [makerspace@smumn.edu](mailto:makerspace@smumn.edu).

### **Update from Student Affairs**

First, we hope you are able to meet or renew contact with Dr. Marisa Naryka during Student Welcome Weekend or this fall. She has been named vice president of student affairs, in addition to her leadership role overseeing mission and ministry. This move more strategically and intentionally aligns our Lasallian Catholic mission with your student experience.

Former vice president of student affairs, Dr. Tim Gossen, has moved over to admissions and serves as dean of summer programs. Dr. Gossen's proven leadership skills in the areas of student life, including athletics, as well as a results-oriented approach and experience, will support our efforts in enrollment.

Mark your calendars for the opportunity to explore your future internships or careers at the Saint Mary's 9th annual Career & Internship Fair on campus Oct. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Career Services is planning several exciting workshops and events, designed to help you get ready for the event. Stay tuned to [Handshake](#) for more!

In terms of extracurricular opportunities, there are many for you to take part in, both here at Saint Mary's and within the Winona community. Building and fostering community is a crucial part of who we are at Saint Mary's.

- Check-out the Activities Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m. in the plaza to learn more about ways you can participate in our various clubs and organizations.

- Our club sports and intramurals programs will be in full swing with various tournaments, starting off with bags/cornhole, disc golf, ultimate Frisbee, nordic skiing, and so much more.
- Residence Life is bringing back the coveted residence hall cup, a friendly, fun competition between residence halls or areas. Your residence life staff will communicate with you when these challenges are occurring throughout the year. You and your fellow residents can win this prestigious cup for your hall while engaging with other members of the SMUMN community.
- Delve deeper into your spiritual life with Campus Ministry through our service opportunities, such as Lasallian Day of Service, sacraments, S.O.U.L. immersion trips, Theology on Tap, and small group Bible studies with our peer ministers.
- Our Cardinal to Career sessions, sponsored by Career Services, will set you in the right direction preparing you now for the future.
- Show your Cardinal pride by attending one of our many athletics home events and cheer our teams to their next victory!
- Save the date and tell your family about Family Weekend on Sept. 23-25 as we celebrate you, all students, and your families.
- The SAC (Student Activities Committee) event lineup includes: a Saint Mary's favorite, Bingo, concerts such as country singer Chris Moreno; do-it-yourself art projects, and so much more.

Enjoy your remaining weeks of summer, ones we hope are filled with precious time with family and friends, as well as preparation for a successful school year. We are honored you have chosen to call Saint Mary's your home away from home this fall. We look forward to welcoming you as you arrive on campus.

Father James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D.  
President

### Incoming students

Dear Saint Mary's University students,

I hope you all have had a restful and rejuvenating summer. We look forward to welcoming you in the coming weeks and have been busy preparing for your arrival. The campus is always at its peak of beauty this time of year, with flowers in full bloom, and it will be even more vibrant and complete when you arrive.

You are at the center of our work; you drive our Mission:

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Though the last few years have likely posed great challenges for you due to COVID-19 and related restrictions on your life and learning, I have seen much good come from this. You are more resilient, more adaptive, more grateful. You have missed many things, in some cases major milestones, yet you have turned that into gratitude for what you have, rather than resentment for what you don't. I am confident that these qualities will grow, and you will flourish at Saint Mary's.

We are deeply committed to helping you meet your academic goals. We are also committed to you having a full student life experience. To that end, I encourage each of you to try something completely new or different in your first year with us. We want your overall campus experience to provide growth, new opportunities, and be a positive and vibrant one. [Student Welcome Weekend](#) is a great opportunity to connect as you begin making lifelong friendships, learn your way around campus, and meet some of the many faculty and staff here to support you — in essence, to have a great start to your time at Saint Mary's.

Below are updates from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to help you prepare for the start of the school year.

### **Update from Academic Affairs**

A variety of classes and other opportunities to be involved in the arts (music, theater, etc.) will be offered this year. We are excited to work with a host of students, faculty, staff, and community arts organizations throughout this academic year to pave the way for many new, high-quality co-curricular arts experiences.

Leading the undergraduate college as dean is Dr. Darren Row. He is newly appointed to this role as well as serving as dean of the John C. Parmer School of the Sciences and dean for Arts and Humanities. In his new role, he remains committed to students and an advocate for student success.

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### **Update from Student Affairs**

As many of you know, there are plenty of experiences and events happening for you to take part in, both here at Saint Mary's and within the Winona community. After all, building and fostering community is a crucial part of who we are at Saint Mary's. Below are just a few:

- Mark your calendars for the opportunity to explore your future internships or careers at the Saint Mary's 9th annual Career & Internship Fair on campus Oct. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Career Services is planning several exciting workshops and events, designed to help you get ready for the event. Stay tuned to [Handshake](#) for more!
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Father James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D.  
President