

Class Notes
1979

The celebration of our 45th Class Reunion in 2024 brought a wonderful collection of updates from classmates, capturing milestones and memories from the past five years (2019-2024). This most recent year, 2025, held a mixture of emotions - sadness in the loss of loved ones, joy in retirements well earned and pride in celebrating the accomplishments of the next generation. As 2026 and 2027 approach, many of us will be stepping into our seventh decade of life. With that comes a deep well of memories to cherish, achievements to celebrate and new chapters still waiting to be written.

Our hearts are heavy as we hold **Sheila Record** (precord18@gmail.com), **Sally Record Eck '76**, and their family in our thoughts and prayers following the loss of their sister, **Susan B. Record '78**, who passed away in the spring of 2025 after a long illness. While we grieve alongside them, we also remember Susan with gratitude and warmth. Many of us can still picture the Record sisters together during our freshman year at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College - each pursuing her own path in business, journalism or social work, yet always united. No matter their varied academic interests, they were a constant presence on the campus and in the front suite on Floor two of LeFer Hall, where friendship, laughter and sisterhood left a lasting imprint on our college memories. May those shared memories bring comfort and hope in the midst of sorrow.

Leisa Utsler Anslinger (leisa.clf@gmail.com) continues her ministry as a parish vitality specialist for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati while residing in Lebanon, Tennessee. She also writes for Catholic publishers and is a regular presenter at the International Catholic Stewardship Conference. Leisa and Steve enjoy traveling in their camper and are planning an epic adventure with their grandchildren to Yellowstone National Park in the summer of 2026. The Anslingers continue to make treasured memories - one adventure at a time.

Leta Hommel (leta.hommel@uky.edu) resides in Lexington, Kentucky and continues her work at the University of Kentucky.

#Woods Giving Day, the College's largest annual fundraising event, was a tremendous success in 2026. Our Class Agents, Deborah K. "Debbie" Lary (deblary1979@gmail.com) and **Christine Miller Retseck** (cretseck@gmail.com),

stayed connected with classmates throughout the year and inspired strong participation in support of this important day. Their outreach and dedication made a meaningful difference. Well done, Debbie and Chris - and thank you both for your generous volunteer service and continued commitment to our class and the College.

Pamela Etling Devine (devine@lcss.org) proudly shared the wonderful news that her mother, **Patricia Carbon Etling '54**, and her late father, John Etling, were honored at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Legacy Gala for their instrumental role in establishing Catholic Charities Terre Haute. It was a fitting tribute to a lifetime of faith-filled service and commitment to community. Mrs. Etling graciously accepted the award, surrounded by a strong delegation from Terre Haute and the very large and loving Etling family, all gathered to celebrate this remarkable recognition. What a beautiful honor for an extraordinary woman. The Class of 1979 is especially blessed, as we are always proud to have Mrs. Etling seated alongside us at our Reunion Weekend Banquet table - a living reminder of grace, leadership and enduring legacy.

Our world-wide adventurers, Bob and **Linda Lovellette McLeaish** (kenwoodcottage@att.net), recently returned from an unforgettable European journey, spending several weeks exploring Ireland and Scotland. Blending family visits with spirited sightseeing, they immersed themselves in the rich history and vibrant culture of both countries. From wandering through ancient castles and charming villages to strolling bustling city streets and quiet schoolyards, every day brought a new discovery. They toured museums, savored hearty regional cuisine and delighted in learning new expressions along the way. Meandering through narrow cobblestone alleyways and centuries-old passageways added a touch of mystery and romance to their travels. It was a grand adventure filled with laughter, heritage and treasured family memories - and true to form, before their suitcases were fully unpacked, plans for their next European excursion in 2026 were already underway.

Deborah K. "Debbie" Lary (deblary1979@gmail.com) continues to stay very active. She works at Linden Leaf Gifts, serves as a fill-in receptionist at the Providence Center front desk and also works at the White Violet Farm store. Along with another alumni board member, Debbie helped establish a monthly alumni Mass and luncheon - a relaxed opportunity for fellowship and quality time together. The group attends Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and then gathers for lunch. In recent news, as of November 22, 2025, Debbie became a Providence Associate candidate, along with **Julia Thompson Henry**

(jannehenry@gmail.com) and **Kathryn “Kathy” Jasinski** (kejasinski@hotmail.com). By the time you read this, Debbie will have attended her first Providence Associate spring retreat! Debbie also enjoys serving as our class agent with **Christine Miller Retseck** (csetseck@gmail.com) and faithfully attends the annual Reunion Weekend since she lives so close to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. As Debbie shares, “Reunion Weekend is always fun, and I would love to see more of you in attendance next time for our 50th class gathering.” 2029 will be here before we know it!

Congratulations to **Kathryn “Kathy” Jasinski** (kejansinski@hotmail.com) on her retirement in June 2025! Kathy is truly enjoying the gift of free time. Her mother now lives in an assisted living facility nearby, and Kathy is grateful to be able to spend much of her time with her. Retirement has also given Kathy the opportunity to reconnect with **Norma Marie Honiball** (nmhoniball@hotmail.com). The two enjoyed a two-week visit together in October, including one special week spent at The Woods in one of the hermitages. Kathy is currently pursuing becoming an Associate of the Sisters of Providence and is excited to be sharing this new journey with **Julia Thompson Henry** and **Deborah K. “Debbie” Lary**. Since retiring, she has made eight trips to the Woods - each one deeply appreciated and enjoyed. In addition, retirement has provided time for hand embroidery, sewing, reading, organizing closets and storage areas, and, most importantly, spending time with family.

Pamela Etling Devine (devine@lcss.org) shares that while attending her 50th high school class reunion, she and **Leisa Utsler Anslinger** were finally able to take a special “Woods ring” photo together. During her visit, Pam also spent time with **Anne Franklin ’78** who is married to Mike Flak, a high school classmate of theirs. Pam continues to teach Kindergarten at Saint Lawrence School in Lafayette, Indiana, where her classroom saint is Mother Theodore Guerin. Her son, Tommy, is a junior at Indiana State University and is enjoying college life in Terre Haute. She holds all of her Woodsie classmates in her daily prayers and looks forward to seeing everyone at the 50th Class Reunion in 2029 at Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College!

Mike and **Catherine “Cathy” Jacikas Fox** (5slyfox1@msn.com) are doing well overall, though both are managing the usual aches and pains that come with age. Cathy was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 2021, but she maintains a positive outlook. She considers each day a blessing, and carefully managing her medications helps her stay active and productive. All three of the Fox children are grown and have families of their own. Cathy shares that they are doing well, and

their six grandchildren keep Mike and Cathy happily busy and entertained. Mike and Cathy remain active in church ministries at their parish, Prince of Peace in Madison, Indiana.

At the time of this writing, Mike and **Margaret “Margi” Owen Miller** (margi.miller@att.net) are enjoying their annual three-week ski vacation in Big Sky, Montana. Each year, they set aside time to gather with family and friends for fun in the snow. Although snowfall this season has been lower than usual (it seems the Northeast received most of it in 2025–2026!), they are still finding the skiing enjoyable and most importantly, cherishing the time together. Margi has fully recovered from rotator cuff surgery last June. She is now preparing for knee replacement surgery this coming May. After postponing it as long as possible, she has decided it’s time, as the bone-on-bone condition has begun to limit her daily activities. She is hopeful the surgery will bring relief and improve her overall quality of life. The good news ... Margi plans to continue working through the end of 2026 and then retire. She is looking forward to embracing retirement with new experiences, hobbies and adventures.

As for me, **Judith Anne (Judy) Gilberti** (megaphonemaniac@aol.com), *la famiglia è tutto* — family is truly everything! The past two years have been overflowing with joy as we have celebrated the next generation with unforgettable bachelor/bachelorette parties, beautiful bridal showers, spectacular weddings in wonderful destinations, and baby showers and sprinkles. The most extraordinary blessing of all? Becoming “Great Aunt Judy” to a new nephew! Welcoming another little Capricorn into the Gilberti family - and proudly adding another birthday to our ever-growing calendar - has filled my heart beyond measure. My days as a high school counselor continue to inspire and energize me. Each day brings new adventures, meaningful challenges, and opportunities to make a difference in students’ lives. I also remain actively involved in New Jersey Cheerleading as Scholarship Director and dedicate time to altruistic work with Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary organization for women educators that means so much to me. One of my annual highlights is reconnecting with fellow Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College alumnae, especially **Madeleine Walsh Sullivan ’65, Ph.D.** and **Lydia Ruiz Hull ’71**. These cherished friendships are a true gift! 2026-2027 will be the perfect year for SMWC to return and reconnect with all of us alumni in New Jersey. What a celebration that will be - hint, hint!

Thank you for continuing to share your updates and life moments with the SMWC community. No matter how full your days may be with family, work, service or the gifts of retirement, it is always a joy to hear from you. Even a simple

note to say “life is good” warms the heart and keeps us connected. Though time has carried us in many different directions, our roots remain planted in our beloved Woods. The friendships, laughter and memories we created nearly fifty years ago still bind us together in a beautiful and lasting way. It is truly an honor to serve as your class secretary and “go-to resource”, and I cherish the bond we share. My hope is that these connections will continue to grow stronger with each passing year. May 2026 bring you and your loved ones abundant sunshine, good health, deep joy and countless blessings. Please continue to keep in touch ... and in touch with one another. **ASPIRE HIGHER!**