



## The Lasting Impact of SAINT MARY'S

For Sue Battle Moore '63C, her daughter Heather Moore Thompson '88HS '90C, and granddaughters Grace Battle Thompson '18 and May Thompson '23, Saint Mary's is woven into the fabric of their lives.

"Saint Mary's is deep in me," Sue says. "I first saw the Saint Mary's ring when I was about 10 or 12, and I decided Saint Mary's would be the school of my choice. That never changed."

She also says she received much more than a degree. "I graduated from the junior college with a sense of empowerment and leadership potential – as girls still do today. The academic programs, personal development, and spiritual growth found here shape young women's lives, and it left me with the ability to go out and make a difference in the world. I expect my girls to do the same."



Heather realized her own aptitude for leadership while at Saint Mary's. "My potential was cultivated, appreciated, and encouraged here," she explains. "It was one of those defining moments when I drove into the circle of the Grove. Today, I still feel such a sense of home."

It's also been a big part of both Grace Battle and May's lives. "Saint Mary's is where we grew up," says Grace Battle. "We came to campus all the time, ate dinner as a kid with my mom in the dining hall, and we've attended events. I always knew as I got older, my relationship with Saint Mary's would grow."

Grace Battle enrolled in the fall of 2014 and was inducted into the Granddaughters Club. She played soccer and field hockey, got involved in student government, and then graduated in 2018. This fall, her sister May enrolled as a member of the freshman class and says she already knows Saint Mary's is different than other schools.

"I went to a small, private school and then a big public school for eighth grade. In both, I didn't receive the opportunities I know I'll have here. I wanted to follow in my grandmother's footsteps because she's my role model, and I'd like to see who I can become," May says.

Sue says Saint Mary's is more than where young women are educated. "It's where young women grow spiritually," she explains. "Generations have been given a foundation of skills and knowledge, self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, and a sense of empowerment. You leave Saint Mary's with a sense of morals, ethics, tradition, and values that will follow you for the rest of your life. *That* will sustain you and strengthen you no matter where you go or what you do."

Heather and Sue also both believe in the significance of alumnae friendships and lifelong connections to each other.

"I hope for my girls and others they take advantage of the 'new girl network' when they go for an internship or job interview," Heather says. "Alumnae connections will get their foot in the door, and then they must rely on themselves for the rest. I know they'll prosper from doing so because of their Saint Mary's experience."

The family also believes deeply in giving back to the place that's given them so much, through board and committee leadership, volunteerism, philanthropic giving, and attending alumnae events. "I saw that maybe 23 percent of alumnae give back, and it makes me



“  
I WANTED TO FOLLOW  
IN MY GRANDMOTHER'S  
FOOTSTEPS BECAUSE  
SHE'S MY ROLE MODEL.”

- May Thompson (9/D)

sad," Grace Battle says. "It's disappointing because I know thousands of women have benefited from Saint Mary's, just as the women of our family have."

Heather agrees. "There are so many amazing Saint Mary's alumnae who've have already paid it forward, like my mother. They've paved the way for my generation and my girls to do the same. It's kind of a rite of passage, and it's just something you should do to help secure the future of this institution."

For Sue, it's simple. "I'm a Saint Mary's girl. I was a Saint Mary's girl then; I'm a Saint Mary's girl now. I will always be a Saint Mary's girl."

To join Sue, Heather, and Grace Battle in giving back and creating more opportunities for future Saint Mary's girls, make a gift to Saint Mary's Annual Fund VISION 20/20 campaign at [www.sms.edu/give2020](http://www.sms.edu/give2020).

Thank  
YOU

SAINT

2020

2020