

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

Alumnae Profile Series

by Chelsea Ward '09

Paula Rosine "Zine" Long '05

Designer

Talbots, New York, NY

Paula Rosine "Zine" Long '05 is a designer, artist, and editor based in New York City. Born in Arlington, VA, on the outskirts of the nation's capital, Washington, DC, her family moved to Carrboro, NC, when she was very young. It was there that she learned about Saint Mary's and decided to tour the all-girls' campus. During this visit, Zine strongly felt a sense of female empowerment in the atmosphere, which made—in her words—feel at home. That environment and potential opportunities in athletics and leadership intrigued her.

Experiences Leading to Opportunities

As a student, Zine became involved at Saint Mary's through volunteer work, leadership, and being an advocate to all students on campus.

"Some of my favorite memories are working with other students on volunteer projects as a member of Key Club," she says. I also vividly remember those early morning basketball workouts in the gym!"

As the Student Government Association's secretary and as captain of the basketball team, Zine was very involved in campus life. During her free-time, she also loved hanging out with friends behind Smedes Hall on the Hannah Smith Quad after class and sometimes visited the Chapel between classes to enjoy its calm and serenity.

"All of those extra-curriculars and campus experiences led were a springboard that led me to other opportunities at the college level and beyond," she explains. "I look back at my time here as a great experience academically as well as outside the classroom, which made me feel confident and prepared when starting my studies at Duke University."

Taking a Bite Out of the Big Apple

Zine received a B.N. Duke Scholarship for leadership and community service to attend Duke University, where she studied Philosophy, English Literature, and Middle Eastern Studies, including Arabic. She was Philanthropy chair of the *Delta, Delta, Delta* Sorority, and ran an organization funding sports and arts programming for children with life-threatening illnesses.

"I continued with my passion for campus involvement and worked with several Arab student organizations at Duke," she says. "One of my most rewarding experiences was co-founding an organization that brought together the Jewish, Arab, Muslim and Israeli student groups for dialogue."

While there, she also received the Benenton Award in the Arts for her poetry which funded an artist residency in Beirut, Lebanon after graduation. Zine then received a Gates Cambridge Scholarship which funded her masters from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. Since then, she has published on subjects ranging from contemporary literature to Middle Eastern politics.



5 QUESTIONS FOR

Paula Rosine "Zine" Long '05

Designer, Talbots

BEACH OR MOUNTAINS?

Beach - 100%.

SECRET TALENT?

Choreographing dances at Pakistani weddings.

DOGS OR CATS?

Tigers.

CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA

Chocolate.

FAVORITE 70'S JAM?

"Walking to New Orleans" by Fats Domino.

Learn more about Zine on our website:
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"One of the topics I primarily studied was the history of conflict between Palestine and Israel," she explains. "After receiving a master's degree concentrating on Middle Eastern Studies, I decided to follow another – very different – interest of mine: fashion."

Zine left the United Kingdom and relocated to New York City to begin a career in design and studied fashion at the Parsons School of Design, an art and design college located in Manhattan. After graduation, her new career started off with positions at Tommy Hilfiger and Chris Benz, followed by Geoffrey Mac, an avant-garde high fashion designer. She later worked for Kate Spade before landing a job overseeing design at BaubleBar.

"Since moving to New York, I've been lucky to have worked with some really interesting and inspiring companies, such as FEED and BodyLabs," she says. "Right now, I'm a designer for Talbots, and I oversee a variety of hard and soft accessories departments."

But her life is not all about fashion: she stays engaged in academia and the literary world as an editor. Recent editing projects include the novel *Pureland* by Zarrar Said which was published by Harper Collins India and academic pieces for Columbia University's program on Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence, which received a grant from the Luce Foundation.

Staying Connected

Distance and time away from campus hasn't changed Zine's sense of gratitude towards Saint Mary's. Though she resides lives in New York City, she remains connected to her alma mater by attending annual alumnae events and continuing to "pay it forward" by supporting the Saint Mary's Annual Fund each year to promote new opportunities for today's students.

"Saint Mary's helped me get to where I am today," she says. "It gave me some incredible opportunities that helped me attain a rewarding and varied professional life."

For today's Saint Mary's girls, Zine has this advice: "Don't worry about making a long-term life plan or finding a singular life passion – most people aren't passionate about only one thing. Be open to new experiences that might come your way," she says. "And be open to self-teaching – you don't need to limit your path to what you focused on in high school or college. It's never too late to teach yourself new skills."

Zine encourages today's students to not be afraid of change or taking risks. "You never know how new challenges will shape you."

To keep up with Zine, check out her website at <http://paularosine.net/>.

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