

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

Alumnae Profile Series

by Chelsea Ward '09

Trish Taylor '71C

Attorney

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Trish Taylor '71C was born and raised in Asheboro, North Carolina. She learned of Saint Mary's from a childhood neighbor who always spoke about how wonderful Saint Mary's was. The neighbor suggested Trish should go to Raleigh to see the campus herself. When Jane Augustine Rabon '59C, former Saint Mary's alumnae director, also encouraged Trish to visit campus, she did just that.

Community Impact

Trish's first year at Saint Mary's started out "a little rocky" because of a bit of homesickness. She missed her family in Asheboro terribly, but Saint Mary's faculty and staff helped her through the adjustment to campus life.

"Mrs. R. was a life-saver and changed how I saw things," Trish shares. "My entire perspective shifted because of how she viewed the world and helped me to do the same."

Soon, Trish began to enjoy her time as a student. She joined the tennis team and played for legendary coach and Dean of Students Mary Lou Jones. Trish also became a member of The Circle and in a short time began to flourish even more.

"I also came to understand the world through my biology class experience," she adds. "So much so that later I would choose to major in it."

Outside the classroom, some of Trish's favorite campus places were the chapel and the Bratton Hall art studio. Even today, Trish says she always finds peace while in Saint Mary's Chapel.

Never Be Afraid to Make a Change

After Saint Mary's, Trish enrolled in the art school at East Carolina University. After one year, she transferred to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to major in Biology. After graduating, Trish remained in Wilmington and started her career as a realtor. Then in 1986, she decided to make a change.

"I decided to go to law school," she explains. "Actually, a few Saint Mary's girls encouraged me and helped make me with the decision to go."

Trish enrolled in Campbell University's law school. After finishing her Juris Doctorate, she relocated back to Raleigh and began working at a local law firm. News of Trish's hardworking attitude and success traveled quickly.

"My background in real estate and law caught the attention of the general manager at Fonville-Morisey Realty," she says. "After receiving a call and being asked if to consider a position as a Corporate Risk Manager at the real estate firm, I accepted and stayed for 14 years."

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Today, Trish is an attorney with Gwynn & Edwards, PA. "I support real estate agents in the process of closings for their clients," she explains. "I review titles, survey work, and create the necessary contracts for those transactions."

In Trish's free time, she enjoys painting. "I try to sit in front of a canvas as much as possible!"

Your Saint Mary's Family Will Always be There

Trish has remained connected to Saint Mary's since graduating and retained lifelong friendships. "I really enjoy attending alumnae events and spending time with my neighbor who's also a Saint Mary's alumna and was my second-year college roommate when we lived in Cruikshank."

The women talk just about every day. "Our friendship means the world to me," she says.

Trish also supports Saint Mary's as a consistent donor by making gifts to the Annual Fund.

"I make a gift every year to support current students, and if I had a million dollars to give, I'd give all of it to Saint Mary's because it changed my life!" she adds.

Trish is always excited to learn what incredible things Saint Mary's alumnae are doing and how they are excelling in their personal and professional lives. If you ask her, Trish would tell you that Saint Mary's helps every woman achieve their own definition of success.

"The institution gives women confidence and a foundation to go out into the world, and you're also supported by the friends you made here," she explains. "That's because you're taught to accept and understand *all* people, not just those you've known your whole life."

Over the next 50 years, Trish has several hopes for Saint Mary's.

"I want our school to always be here; to retain the same foundation, the same way of being, but to also be flexible and change with the times," she says. "I also hope Saint Mary's still offers that same 'home away from home' environment that's safe and supportive."

Saint Mary's alumnae like Trish Taylor '71C graduate with skills, knowledge, and integrity to help them find success, no matter what they choose in life to do. Whether furthering their education, pursuing professional careers, raising their families, or leading as volunteers, Saint Mary's alumnae are agents for positive change in their communities.

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