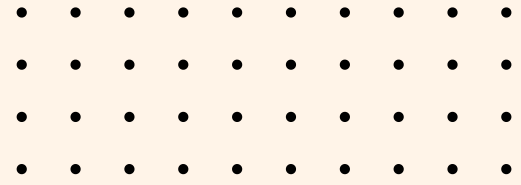




Sustainability



# 2023-2024 SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

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## Contact us



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**Farewell Message**





# OUR PRIORITIES



Climate action – at an institutional and individual level - remains one of the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Committee’s top priorities. Reaffirmed by the College's Laudato Si Action Plan (page 10) and elevated in the Transformation 2028 Strategic Plan, fulfilling our Climate Action Plan through operational, educational and co-curricular initiatives demonstrates our contribution to a more equitable and sustainable future.

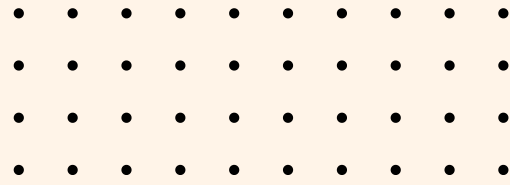
This year we were thrilled to welcome the Saint Mary's inaugural cohort of Climate Action Corps Fellows to aid in our efforts. Molly Clemons (Sonoma State '23), Andrea Solis (Los Medanos '23), Erin Dalton (SMC '23), and Vera Hammond (UC Merced '23), pictured below, were busy during their 11 month term. These full time AmeriCorps fellows planted **210 native plants** and **13 trees** on campus and in Richmond schools, distributed **hundreds pounds of fresh, organic, campus-grown food to the campus community** and **diverted 1,017 pounds of organic waste** (compost), and have **engaged 748 members of our on and off campus community** to date. They have done so in close collaboration with our incredible team of sustainability student leaders and interns, as well as external and campus partners.

We were blown away at what they've accomplished in their short time here, and we are thrilled that two of them will be staying on for a second fellowship term next year!





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# SAINT MARY'S INAUGURAL CLIMATE ACTION CORPS



Left to right: Molly Clemmons, Andrea Solis, Erin Dalton, and Vera Hammond

## Molly (she/her)

A Sonoma State alum with a passion for horticulture, watershed science and environmental justice!

## Andrea (she/her)

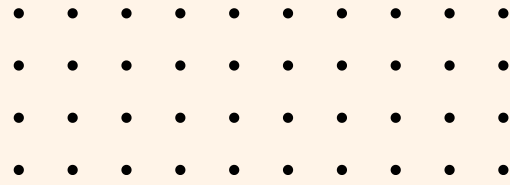
Originally from the Central Valley but now calls the East Bay her home, Andrea recently graduated from Los Medanos College. She enjoys watering plants because it calms her down.

## Erin (they/she)

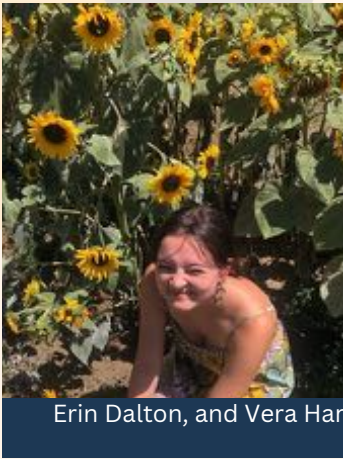
Born and raised in Idaho, Erin is a Saint Mary's Alum who loves plants, sunshine, good food and building community.

## Vera (she/her)

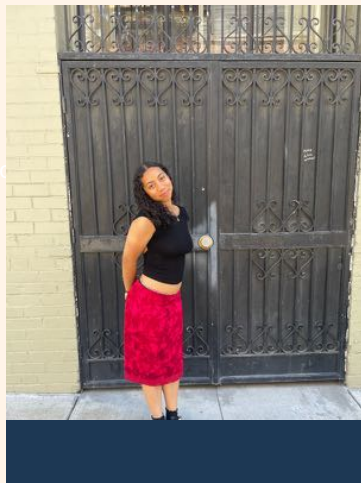
Vera is from La Jolla, San Diego, and is a UC Merced Alum who loves to surf, garden, full moons, hiking & yoga!



# SAINT MARY'S GARDEN INTERNS



Erin Dalton, and Vera Harms



## Desiree (she/her)

Desiree is a third year Environmental Studies and Music split major with a minor in English. She is the president of the Garden Club, plays cello and works at the St. Mary's Museum of Art and CWAC! When she's not busy working and rehearsing, she loves working in nature, cooking, reading, walking, getting to know people.

## Nuvia (she/her)

Nuvia Alvarez is a second year student at Saint Mary's. She is a Psychology major with a concentration in Clinical and Counseling. She loves spending time outside, baking, and journaling!



## Hathaway (she/her)

Hathaway is a senior Environmental Studies Major from Portland, Oregon. She is captain of the Women's Rowing team. Her favorite part about gardening is seeing the progress, the seasonal changes, and being a part of the community it creates.



## Odhi (she/her)

Odhi is one of our all-star undergraduate softball players who loves slowing down life through gardening. She loves the feeling of the soil in her hands and the pleasure of being immersed with nature.

# CENTERING FOOD JUSTICE

A current project underway with the aim of expanding sustainability-related offerings is to develop recommendations and plans to utilize our resource-rich 420 acre campus for equitable and sustainable solutions. The campus as a living laboratory model provides opportunities for the Saint Mary's community to advance sustainability and justice through place-based research, internships and teaching. A natural fit to test and develop this living lab model is in Saint Mary's half-acre campus garden. This year, we added two new programs focused specifically on food justice, successfully utilizing our outdoor educational space and working landscape to foster community while enhancing physical and emotional health and addressing equity and access in our agrifood systems.

## February

In February, the garden launched a new food justice initiative with the Gael Pantry. On a weekly basis, our fellows and interns harvest fresh, organic produce and deliver the fruits, vegetables and herbs to the Gael Pantry refrigerator. The Gael Pantry, managed by the incredible Mission & Ministry team is located behind the Soda Center.

### *Growing community through food*



## June

In June, we were thrilled to announce the opening of our collaborative Gael Pantry and Legacy Garden summer farm stand. The stand is open every Wednesday 12-2pm in Ferroggiaro Quad during the summer.

All are welcome at the Farm Stand, however, students are given priority during the first hour and the rest of the campus community (staff, faculty, Brothers) is encouraged to stop by during the second hour. Goods from the Gael Pantry will be offered to students only.

We have long wanted to make Legacy Garden produce, flowers, herbs and honey more accessible to our broader campus community with a priority to serve food insecure students. We have several people to thank for making this a reality. The collaborative nature of the Farm Stand paired with goods from the Gael Pantry grew out of conversations in the Essential Needs Committee - a big thank you to Niloufar Azadeh, Student Support Coordinator in the Office of Student Life, who leads our Essential Needs programs, as well as Samantha Flores, Daniel McCarthy and Carrie Davis in the MMC for this collaboration.



**OUR  
OWN  
HEDGE  
FUND**



Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation generously awarded the Office of Sustainability a hedgerow kit complete with 90 California native shrubs and plants. Many of these natives are drought-tolerant by nature, and provide critical food and habitat for natives and pollinators. Swing by the garden to see our natives bordering the garden.



# SPRING EVENTS



Natural Dyeing event Free Store X CAB | March 6, 4-6pm | Dante Quad

Tie-dye supplies and white clothing will be provided, courtesy of the Free Store.

[More info](#)



Oat Milk workshop - Hosted by GEC | March 13, 1pm | The Pub

Join GEC's Chef Alicia as she leads an Oat Milk Making Class demonstrating how to make sustainable milk options on your own.

[RSVP here](#)



Coffee Scrub Workshop - Hosted in partnership with GEC - March 15, 12-1pm | Cafe Louis

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you will learn how to upcycle coffee grounds into a luxurious hand and body scrub.

[RSVP here](#)



Sustainability X Fair Trade Friday - April 12, 10-12pm | MMC

Come to the Mission & Ministry Center Lounge for free Fair Trade coffee and tea, and a chance to meet our CCAC Fellows and win sustainability prizes.



BYO Mug to Cafe Louis - Promo week: April 15 - April 19

Bring your own mug to Cafe Louis and receive a 10% discount on your drink. To celebrate Earth Month, we are giving away 20 free mugs on Monday morning, April 15th!



Art in the garden with Student Disabilities Services - April 17, 1:30-2:30pm | Legacy Garden

Plant your own succulents, rock and pot painting, and more!



Beeswax candle-making workshop in the garden - Friday April 19, 1-2pm | Legacy Garden

Come and experience the art of candle making (made from wax from the Legacy Garden's three thriving beehives!) and leave with a personalized masterpiece.

[RSVP link coming soon.](#)



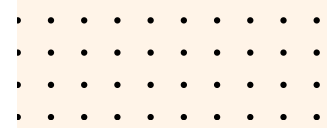
Farm Stand Grand Opening - Mon, April 22 (Earth Day!), 1pm

We feel there's no better way to celebrate Earth Day than sharing campus-grown, organic produce with our community. Swing by to check out our spring harvest!



Free Store @ Denim Day | CARE X Free Store - April TBD

The Free Store will be providing free denim giveaways to folk who stop by this CARE Center event in honor of Sexual Assault Prevention Month.







# SPRING EVENTS IN PHOTOS



# LAUDATO SI ACTION PLAN



This year, we were excited to launch the Saint Mary's Laudato Si Action Plan. This action plan is a response to the call by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si and the 2024 apostolic exhortation, Laudate Deum. Both Laudato Si and Laudate Deum appeal to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our earth. Pope Francis calls on the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path.

As a proud member of the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP), we developed an action plan grounded in the seven LSAP Goals as a framework to highlight our current and future actions. These draw from our Saint Mary's sustainability and climate-related planning and policy documents, including our Climate Action Plan, the Transformation 2028 strategic plan, and our Sustainable Food Plan and Sustainable Purchasing Policy.

Drawing on the global Lasallian commitment to sustainability, we join other Lasallian universities in this effort through the International Association of Lasalle Universities Global Compact initiative. The Office of Sustainability and Office of Mission have partnered to create this plan, which links our institutional climate action goals with our Lasallian Catholic mission and identity, to work together and by association to transform lives for a more sustainable and just world.

This plan goes hand-in-hand with our campus Climate Action Plan. Updated (Spring 2024) greenhouse gas emissions profile can be viewed on our Sustainability website.

# SENIOR SENDOFF

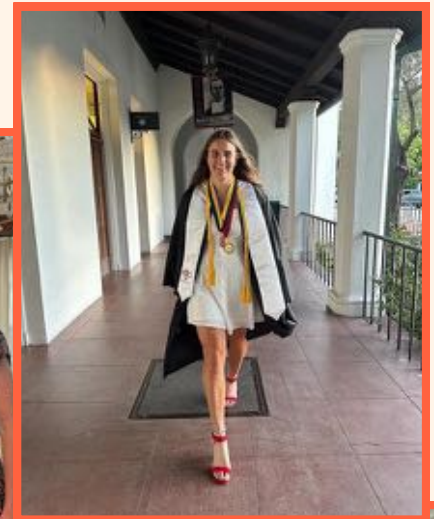
This spring we celebrated our incredible graduating Sustainability Student Leaders who worked tirelessly to move the needle on sustainability efforts throughout their time at Saint Mary's.

**Ashlyn Drewry**, B.S. in Economics with a concentration in Sustainability, led the day to day operations of our Free Store for the past two years, earning the Free Store the Student Program of the Year Award in 2023.

**Hathaway Scarpine**, B.A. in Environmental Studies, was our steadfast rock in the legacy garden, working through rain and heat to tend to our many crops, bees, volunteers, and much more.

Both presented their sustainability-focused capstones during this year's Student Research Conference and Showcase. Hathaway's on "Transportation Sustainability At Saint Mary's College" and Ashlyn's on "Peer-to-Peer Market Resellers during the Era of Recommerce."

Congratulations Ashlyn and Hathaway! We are honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to work with you during your time at Saint Mary's! We can't wait to see what the next chapter holds for you both.



# FAREWELL MESSAGE

## Sustainability Director

As I prepare to step away from my role as Sustainability Director after six fulfilling years, I want to take a moment to reflect and express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our sustainability interns, engaged learning students and on and off campus partners.

When I joined this community, I was inspired by our shared commitment to sustainability and the Lasallian mission of service to others. Together, we have made significant strides in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, implementing our inaugural Climate Action Plan, and achieving two back-to-back GOLD STARS rating for our sustainability efforts. These accomplishments reflect not only our dedication to environmental stewardship but also our collective ability to foster positive change.

I am particularly proud of the partnerships we have built across campus and in the wider community, which have allowed us to create impactful programs that promote sustainability. These collaborative partnerships have been vital in engaging students, faculty, and staff in meaningful initiatives.

Engaging in sustainability-related courses, workshops, field trips and service learning inside and outside the classroom has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my role. It has been a privilege to learn with and our students who are the next leaders and advocates for a more sustainable future.

Thank you for your collaboration, support, and commitment to making our campus a model of sustainability. While I am excited about what lies ahead, I will miss the daily interactions and the sense of community at Saint Mary's and in the Legacy Garden. I look forward to hearing about the College's sustainability progress in the future.

With warm regards and deep appreciation,  
Ann Drevno, Ph.D.  
Sustainability Director





Sustainability



# QUESTIONS?

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