

# SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

## Alumnae Profile

### April Browne '88HS '91C

*District 2 Commander  
City of Durham*

When Durham Police Captain April Browne '88C '91C graduated from Saint Mary's, she had no idea how the school had helped shape her perspective on life and work.

She says that Saint Mary's prepared her well before going to college. "All of my teachers were Ph.D.'s or held master's degrees," says Captain Browne. "The experience of that, alone, was valuable. I learned how to think critically and ask questions that challenged my professors and me.

"Saint Mary's stayed with me. I forged great friendships, and I still keep in touch with those women. The professors who influenced me most include Dr. Joe Caddell, Dr. Steve Esthimer and Dr. Jack Hume. These teachers influenced and challenged me in ways I appreciate to this day."

Captain April Browne is a 24-year veteran officer with the City of Durham Police Department. She is currently assigned as commander of uniform patrol District 2, which covers 28 square miles in northern Durham, includes 61 police employees under her charge, and serves approximately 63,000 citizens.

A native of New York, Ms. Browne grew up attending independent schools. After graduating from Saint Mary's, she earned a B.A. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Captain Browne began in the police department's records division, which led her to be inspired to apply for the police academy. In February 1996, she was hired as a police recruit and has risen through the ranks ever since to the department's command staff. She has held positions including executive officer to the chief of police, assistant commander of the community services division, and watch commander. She has attended the West Point Leadership Institute, the Westfall Leadership School, and the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

Her love of public service and community was nurtured by her mother – a former administrator in the City of Durham Human Resources Department and later the city's Affirmative Action Department. Captain Browne currently serves Saint Mary's as a member of the Alumnae Council. She's also a committed donor to Saint Mary's Annual Fund and knows how important it is to give back to the place that's given her so much.

"I am proud to serve my community," says Captain Browne. "My profession is honorable even in the face of adversity. Saint Mary's showed me how to push through adversity and challenges. Even at Saint Mary's, I experienced cultural and racial challenges that helped prepare me for the world and the democratic ideals I am sworn to protect today. I would like to say, 'Thank you, Saint Mary's for all that was given and received. It is all about what you make it!'"

Captain Browne certainly embodies the spirit of Saint Mary's: educated women make a difference.



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