

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

Alumnae Profile

Lily Tyndall Snow '07

*Opioid Surveillance Epidemiologist
State of Louisiana Health Department*

Saint Mary's alumnae graduate with the skills, knowledge, and integrity they need for success. Whether furthering their education, pursuing professional careers, raising their families, or leading as volunteers, our alumnae are agents for positive change in their communities. Lily Tyndall Snow '07 grew up in Chapel Hill, N.C., and enrolled at Saint Mary's as a 9th-grade day student. One year later, her sister, Diane Tyndall '08, joined her. Today, both serve on Saint Mary's Young Alumnae Advisory Board, representing the voice and interests of hundreds of young alumnae.

A Saint Mary's Girl

As a student, Lily took advantage of all the school had to offer. She was a technology prefect and active in many clubs and organizations, including Honors Chorale, Key Club, and the Drama Club. She was also a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and served as editor for Saint Mary's literary magazine, The Muse.

"I've always been both artistic and analytical. I enjoy science and mathematics, as well as religion and the arts, and I took AP classes in many subjects to ensure I was well-rounded," she explains. A hallmark of her Saint Mary's experience was learning how to make connections early on with faculty, staff, classmates and alumnae, which has helped her advance her personal and professional goals over the years. "Saint Mary's taught me the importance of joining with others, of finding commonalities in diversity, and working collaboratively to make goals happen. Capitalizing on this strength has helped shape my career."

Some of Lily's fondest campus memories include climbing the Chapel tree, hanging out in her boarding friends' dorm rooms, and enjoying time during her junior and senior year sitting in the Chapel portico for Bible study. Some of Lily's favorite faculty include Katie Floyd, Kevin Greenwood, Randall Lathan, and Dr. Steve Esthimer, retired professor emeritus of humanities.

Building a Career

After graduating from Saint Mary's, Lily headed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There she completed a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in linguistics and biology, and a minor in chemistry. She happened upon the field of public health after befriending a biology professor with whom she volunteered at a local homeless shelter. He encouraged her to take his course on infectious diseases. She then traveled abroad to Switzerland.

"I took a year off from science to expand my studies of religion and philosophy at a wonderful community called L'Abri," she explains. While there, Lily realized she wanted to combine her interest in science and data with her passion for helping others improve their lives. In 2014, after completing an internship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, she graduated from Emory University with a master's degree in public health. As Lily's desire to focus her energies on making a significant positive impact in the world and help people in need became clearer, she set foot on her current career path.

"I knew I wanted to work in a field that combined my love of science, data, and health with a 'boots on the ground' opportunity to impact my local community." Building on skills learned at Saint Mary's and those she developed in college and graduate school, Lily was able to secure a fellowship in applied epidemiology at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in Lansing, Mich. She relocated there with her husband, Dr. Samuel Snow.

A National Health Crisis: Helping People

The national opioid epidemic is costly, difficult to comprehend, and the human toll nearly immeasurable in communities. Creating innovative solutions to address this health crisis was the kind of work Lily wanted to do. "When I found out Sam's job would relocate us to Louisiana, I used the connections I made in Michigan to explore opportunities as an epidemiologist with a passion to work in state or local government. I was invited to apply for a position with the State of Louisiana as an opioid surveillance epidemiologist in the Department of Health, got the job, and was able to help launch the CDC-funded Louisiana Opioid Surveillance Initiative."



Today, Lily gathers data, seeks disease patterns, and uses technology to help local health agencies and other state departments parse data into information more easily understood and used. "By sharing this data, more people have the opportunity to discover new treatments, management, and an eventual cure for this type of addiction."

Lily and Sam are now an integral part of their community. They developed new friendships at their local aerial silks studio, found a great church, and discovered a lot to love about Louisiana.

Making an Impact

Lily's story demonstrates the power Saint Mary's women have to affect change in their communities and the world. We hope you are inspired and join with Lily and Sam to make a gift to Saint Mary's Annual Fund this year.

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