



The Heritage Society

Anna Redding Pitt '50HS '52C leaves enduring legacy of leadership and generosity



Anna Redding Pitt '50HS '52C made a difference at Saint Mary's throughout her life. Anna died July 23, 2014, leaving a legacy of leadership, service and philanthropic generosity at her alma mater.

Anna served Saint Mary's with distinction as a two-term trustee, a class gift agent, a member of the Heritage Society, an Alumna Council member and a regional and reunion host. She was awarded the 2005 Mazie Strickland Froelich '51C Outstanding Alumna Award. She was a member of the Heritage Society, by virtue of naming Saint Mary's as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Anna's unwavering love and support for Saint Mary's was evident in her life and, through this generous planned gift, her impact on the school will live on.

Not only did Anna think to leave Saint Mary's a major gift upon her death, she was a consistent Annual Fund donor throughout her

life, as well as a major gift donor to the capital campaigns over the years. Since Anna's death, Saint Mary's has received more than 100 gifts in her memory, just another testament to the lives she touched and the love her classmates and friends had for her.

Anna's fondest Saint Mary's memories include her future husband, Howard, coming to visit her at school and having to sit in the back pew during Chapel; Howard hitchhiking from Durham to spend time with Anna at Saint Mary's, always supervised under the watchful eye of the chaperone in Smedes Parlor; serving as a marshal; and laughing and giggling with friends such as Ann Patterson Scott '50HS '52C, Becky Gordon Hoggard '51HS '53C, Margaret Cheatham Williams '50HS '52C, Ann Penton Longley '52C and Nancy Dawson Rascoe '52C. Her dearest friends in her young adult years were made at Saint Mary's, and she remained close to them throughout life and always loved their reunions.

Anna's daughters have shared an essay their mother wrote about Saint Mary's in 1997, when the college program was phased out. Titled, "Saint Mary's in My Mind," it

summed up her feelings about the school that helped shape her into the graceful, beautiful, intelligent, courageous and strong woman we all loved, say her daughters, Susan Pitt Herring '75C, Mariah Pitt Waltemyer '79C and Mary Howard Pitt Lassiter '81C.

Anna wrote, "Saint Mary's is more than a college, more than a school and more than a place to go to achieve a degree. Saint Mary's transcends all of these to become a way to live, a way that has been forged into a sure and steady reinforcement of life's lessons. For some, a genetic inheritance; for others, a surprise gift of joy that carries us far down life's road with loving and positive influence. This serves us well. The friendships, lessons and disciplines learned at this place can reach to the very heart of our souls. Saint Mary's – no matter a college, no matter a school – what matters, a constant."

Anna's love for Saint Mary's was clearly deep, and her impact will carry on for generations after her death, thanks to her generosity and foresight to leave a significant planned gift to her alma mater.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy at Saint Mary's through a planned gift, contact Margaret McGlohon '81C, director of alumnae relations, at memcglohon@sms.edu or 919-424-4171, to learn about becoming a Heritage Society member.