



# Melrose Whitfield Fisher '72HS '74C

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Like many Saint Mary's alumnae, Melrose Whitfield Fisher '72HS '74C's experience as a student at Saint Mary's shaped her for life and led her into her career.

Her mother is the reason she attended Saint Mary's. "She was all about women and empowering women," says Melrose. "That's why I say she's my hero. She influenced and empowered me a lot growing up." Her mother saw Saint Mary's as a way for Melrose to branch out and experience life outside of their small town while keeping her Episcopal roots. The minister's wife at Melrose's home church had attended Saint Mary's, and the daughter of their Bishop was a current student.

As a student, Melrose played basketball, was a member of Beacon and the Legislative Body, and served in many roles including Chairman of the Social Board, and head of the hall counselors.

"Going to Saint Mary's was the best thing I ever did," Melrose says. "I just loved it."

After graduating from Saint Mary's, Melrose transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She graduated in 1976 and later returned for a nursing degree, which she received in 1983.

"At Saint Mary's, my anatomy and physiology class, and botany and zoology classes were instrumental in directing me into my major that I came back to," says Melrose.

From 1983 until 2008, Melrose worked in nursing and research studies in cardiology at UNC. She continues to work at UNC as an independent research coordinator, and has been involved with an ultrasound study in the biomedical engineering department for the past 12 years. She is also the owner of Lots of Luxe, a personal styling service.

Melrose is as involved as an alumnae as she was as a student. "My efforts to make an impact are with Saint Mary's," says Melrose. "That's where my energy is focused right now." She is her class' secretary and serves on the Alumnae Council and Saint Mary's Forever Campaign Committee.

"I think Saint Mary's is more relevant today than ever, just because of the opportunities women and girls have nowadays," says Melrose. "The opportunities Saint Mary's offers our girls, especially outside of the classroom, is something you just don't get from other schools."

For current students and young alumnae, Melrose advises, "Take advantage of everything that's offered to you, as much as you can, and any of the opportunities that Saint Mary's gives you to learn outside the classroom."

"You'll never have friends like the ones you have at Saint Mary's," she adds.

Saint Mary's alumnae like Melrose Whitfield Fisher '72HS '74C graduate with the skills, knowledge, and integrity they need for success. Whether furthering their education, pursuing professional careers, raising families, or leading as volunteers, our alumnae are agents for positive change in their communities. Fisher's story demonstrates the ability Saint Mary's women have to do big things with their lives, and we know she will inspire many Saint Mary's girls of today to go after their dreams.