

SHAA

NOTES



JULY 2024

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT: ANNE MARIE MCKNIGHT MCCARTHY '00

For Anne Marie McKnight McCarthy, accepting her current position as Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania was a full circle experience. After graduating from St. Hubert in 2000, Penn is where she first began her studies in the sciences as an undergrad in their biology program.

It was the start of an impactful career in the field of epidemiology, where Anne Marie would focus on breast cancer research.

"After I graduated college with my biology degree, I got my first full time job as a research assistant in a genetics lab at Penn. The lab was focused on genetic pathways related to cancer. We used a model organism called *C. elegans*, a microscopic worm, for our research." Anne recalled. "I loved learning about genetics and performing experiments, but I wanted to do work that was more directly applicable to humans. I wanted a way to merge my love of science with my interest in community service."

While working in the lab, Anne Marie took a few graduate-level courses in Public Health and Epidemiology, which focus on understanding and reducing disease at the population level. She moved from the genetics lab to an Epidemiology research position focused on identifying risk factors for Autism. This position, along with her graduate coursework, led her to pursue a graduate degree in Epidemiology.

Anne Marie entered a two-year Master's Degree program at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore.

"I began working with an oncologist who was an expert in genetic risk for breast cancer, and learned a lot about the causes of breast cancer and interventions to reduce risk." Anne shared. "I decided to stay at Hopkins to pursue my PhD, so that I could lead my own research, rather than just work on other people's studies. My dissertation focused on the outcomes of risk reducing interventions for women at high risk for breast cancer due to BRCA1/2 mutations."

After three more years, Anne Marie graduated with her PhD and returned to Penn for one year for a post-doctoral fellowship, where she continued my work with BRCA1/2 mutation carriers and expanded to study ways to improve mammography screening.

"Shortly into my post-doc, my boss was chosen for a leadership position at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Coincidentally, my husband got an excellent job offer in Boston as well."

Anne and her family moved to Boston, where she worked at MGH and Harvard for 6 years. She received a grant from the American Cancer Society to expand her research . . . [Read the full story here.](#)



Anne Marie McKnight McCarthy '00 (center), with her colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine



Anne Marie with her husband, Brian, and their four children: Stephen, Katie, James, and Danny

Know a St. Hubert alum we should feature next? [Tell us here.](#)



BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SHOP!

The SHAA store is open! Items include t-shirts, sweatshirts, and novelty items for alums (and future Bambies!) of all ages

SHOP NOW!

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to this year's recipient of the SHAA Alumnae Award, Lorenza D'Andrea '24, presented for her dependability and service to the St. Hubert Community.
- SHAA is partnering with Giving Bean, a specialty coffee roaster and tea-blender. Treat yourself while helping SHAA - all at reasonable prices. [Shop now!](#)
- The third annual St. Hubert Alumnae Association 5K Walk/Run will take place 9/28. We need volunteers! If you can help, email SHAARace@gmail.com.
- Calling all members of the class of 1984! Save the date for a 40th Reunion on Saturday, September 21, 2024. More info to follow soon!
- Save the date for the SHAA Annual Craft Fair Saturday, October 26, 2024 for more info, email SHAlumnaeCraftShow@gmail.com.

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