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## SMC Rowing Team Holds Run/Walk to Fight Lung Cancer

Submitted by Christina Bennett



The Saint Mary's College Rowing Team Photo Provided

The Saint Mary's Rowing Team is sponsoring a Jog for Jill 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 13 (10:30 check in and 11 a.m. start) at the Saint Mary's campus to benefit lung cancer research. "The idea came about to host this event at the end of last year," said Saint Mary's Rowing Team member Christina Bennett. "The rowing WCC championships always has a community service event following the racing. This last year they partnered with Jill's Legacy and asked teams to compete or put together a Jog for Jill event to raise money for lung cancer research."

Jill Costello (who the event is named after) was diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 22. She attended UC Berkeley and participated on the Cal Rowing team. A year after her diagnosis she passed away. Jill's story has been introduced to many schools and areas around the United States and has helped make many strides in the fight against lung cancer. Jill's Legacy is an all-volunteer based branch of the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation. "Lung cancer is one of the most misunderstood cancers, and in some instances society believes that this form of cancer is 'deserved,'" said Bennett. "It has this stigma because of the correlation between lung cancer and smoking, when, in fact,

around 80 percent of the people diagnosed with lung cancer have not smoked or have quit smoking a long time ago." The run/walk is open to the public. To register, visit www.jogforjillstmarys.com.

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