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Fall 2017

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GOLD & BLUE LAW EDITION

# SCHOOL *of* LAW ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Fall 2017

Scaling up  
for success

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THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE



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Photo by Robin Jerstad

Second-year law student Katherine Zampas gained experience through a summer externship with the Hon. David A. Ezra (J.D. '72). Ezra serves as senior judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, and was honored as a Distinguished Law Graduate by the St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association in September.

## New magazine shares St. Mary's Law stories

For years, you — the members of the community of St. Mary's lawyers — have been asking for a way to share your alumni triumphs, celebrate your professors, engage with the School of Law and its programs, and support the students who have come in your footsteps.

The School of Law's approach to meeting those needs continues to evolve. This new biannual magazine aims to answer that call more directly by giving you the articles, photos, news and alumni achievements that tell the St. Mary's Law story of academic excellence and commitment to justice.

This issue, in particular, is special. It's dedicated to starting a conversation about The Defining Moment, which is St. Mary's University's most significant comprehensive campaign to date.

The School of Law will play a prominent role in that effort. Across these pages, you'll find pieces about campaign priorities that have already made a difference and programs that have been transformed. You can continue to read university-wide news toward the back of this magazine.

We hope you continue this conversation with us. Reach out. Let us know about your professional and personal accomplishments through a submission to Class Notes. Help us continue the St. Mary's Law story with you — our alumni — by our side.

— Jennifer R. Lloyd  
Editor, *Gold & Blue Law Edition*  
jllloyd@stmarytx.edu

Submit your achievements at [alumni.stmarytx.edu/class-notes](https://alumni.stmarytx.edu/class-notes).



# ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

Law professor takes on the expanding (and inflated) world of cryptocurrencies

by Jennifer R. Lloyd (M.B.A. '16)

Angela Walch, J.D., Associate Professor of Law, calls herself “a questioner and a critic” when it comes to the overhyped world of cryptocurrencies (think: Bitcoin) and the underlying record-keeping system behind them, known as blockchain technology.

When not teaching the St. Mary's School of Law's Law of Money course, among the first of its kind in the nation when launched in 2013, Walch discusses the need for greater understanding of blockchain technology. She said the technology is in consideration for use in some of society's most important functions — from financial and health care systems to the management of nuclear weapons systems.

Walch describes blockchain technology as a record-keeping system, akin to a database, operated by multiple parties rather than a single party. The system also uses cryptography to make the record more resistant to tampering.

Her work on blockchain technology has garnered global attention, resulting in media interviews, international speaking engagements and becoming a contributor to Forbes.com. In her recent paper, “The Path of the Blockchain Lexicon (and the Law),” published by Boston University's *Review of Banking & Financial Law*, Walch discusses the confusing vocabulary that muddies the blockchain space.

“Policymakers considering using the blockchain technology for government systems like voting or tax records or benefits disbursements should think extremely critically and be aware of the incentives that people explaining the technology to them might have,” Walch said. “The environment is really ripe for groupthink. And groupthink, when you are talking about critical systems, is a problem.” ■



Photo by Josh Huskin

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# The DEFINING MOMENT

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## ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY AND THE SCHOOL OF LAW EMBARK ON THEIR LARGEST COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

*by President Thomas Mengler, J.D., and School of Law Dean Stephen M. Sheppard, J.S.D.*

The St. Mary's University School of Law turned 90 years old in 2017. As we celebrate this benchmark and look ahead to our centennial, we are aware of our responsibilities to our alumni, to our students, to the law and to our Catholic and Marianist mission. Thanks to this legacy from our founders, alumni and donors, we will meet these responsibilities for future generations.

We both came to St. Mary's attracted to its mission of forming students as leaders with knowledge, skills and values. We believe in the St. Mary's commitment to open doors for our students.

Today, we ask you to join with other alumni and friends in growing this legacy — a legacy of quality and opportunity in the formation of lawyers committed to the highest ideals of the profession. We believe in this legacy and the mission it supports.

As President and as Dean, collectively we bring more than 50 years of teaching and administration in law schools. We know that success for more than 9,000 outstanding St. Mary's graduates is no guarantee of success for tomorrow's students.

We have an opportunity to lead in this changing world of legal education. To do so — in fact, even to keep up — we must do more for

our future students. We must integrate our mission into new curricula for tomorrow's challenges, leveraging the changing legal education landscape to increase the value of a St. Mary's law degree.

We must enhance our scholarships to attract and assist students of merit. We must attract great faculty with a commitment to develop tomorrow's lawyers for tomorrow's clients. And we must tell our story nationally, to extol our graduates' achievements and to enhance the value and potential of a St. Mary's law degree.

To sustain these goals, we are launching the law school's most ambitious campaign to date in partnership with the University's comprehensive campaign, The Defining Moment. We hope to raise \$25 million to sustain the law school.

Your engagement with the law school through the campaign and its programs is crucial. We are asking not just for gifts, but also for action. You can help others enjoy the opportunities you received here and enhance the very meaning of your St. Mary's law degree.

Join your fellow alumni and friends. Join the future of the St. Mary's University School of Law.

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## LAW CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

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### Student Scholarships

Essential for St. Mary's Law is attracting highly capable students who will lead their peers today and our world tomorrow. Many of these future leaders are financially challenged, and competition among law schools for the commitments of these students is at an all-time high. For St. Mary's to build a successful J.D. class each year, we must offer more scholarships, especially those that provide greater financial support.

### Law Success

The Law Success Program is an innovative St. Mary's program for individual student coaching across the entire class. A synthesis of skills instruction, assessment, retraining and reassessment, the Law Success Program develops both prelegal and legal skills that foster success in class, on the bar exam and in practice. Law Success will not replace traditional study or performance in law school courses. It supports that study and enhances that performance. See Page L4 for more on the new Law Success Program.

### Faculty and Programs

Our faculty members are at the core of a St. Mary's Law student's educational experience. During the next decade, St. Mary's must focus on resources to recruit and retain faculty. Our goal is to raise endowment resources to support our faculty and programs, which will help us attract and retain outstanding resident faculty — our greatest asset. When we support our faculty's talents, then our students receive the best legal education possible. ■

*For more information on The Defining Moment, see Page 14.*



Photo by Kathy Castanon



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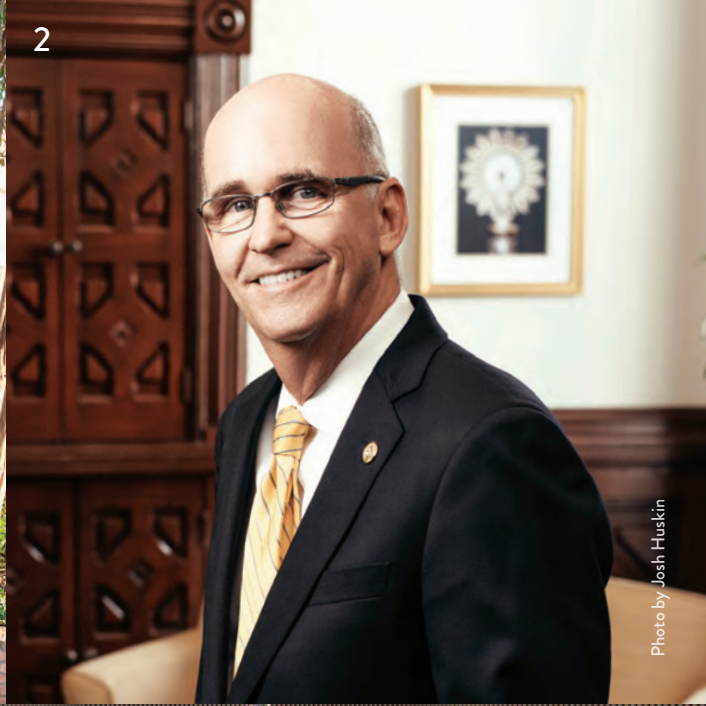


Photo by Josh Huskin

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Photo by Robin Jerstad

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Photo by Robin Jerstad

1. The Sarita Kenedy East Law Library was funded in 1982 with a gift from the Sarita Kenedy East Foundation. 2. President Thomas Mengler, J.D. 3. Krishna de la Cruz proudly displays her new J.D. diploma case at the 2017 School of Law Commencement. 4. Colin Marks, Ernest W. Clemens Professor of Law, leads a law class. 5. From left, second-year law student John Calhoun (M.Jur. '16) and Tina J. Flores (M.Jur. '16) walk in front of the Raba Building. 6. School of Law Dean Stephen M. Sheppard, J.S.D.

Photo by Robin Jerstad



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Photo by Robin Jerstad





Photo by Josh Huskin



Photo by Robin Jerstad



Photo by Robin Jerstad

# SCALING UP FOR SUCCESS

## The new Law Success Program carves out national niche

by Jennifer R. Lloyd (M.B.A. '16)

Boosting scores on law school tests. Improving bar exam results. Gaining skills to last a career. Helping students achieve academic excellence and serve justice.

The aspirations of the new Law Success Program at St. Mary's Law are substantial.

The team developing the program said it will take an approach that is unique among American law schools — a multifaceted program that will continue to roll out in future years — to achieve those lofty objectives.

“Students are definitely coming into law school with the belief that they can do well,” said Assistant Professor of Law Zoe E. Niesel, J.D., Director of the Law Success Program. “But what we need to do is show them the behaviors that will help reinforce that belief. The belief alone is not enough.”

The program's architect, Assistant Dean Mike Barry, J.D., believes that the instruction must reflect the University's Marianist principles, preparing students to adapt and change as they pursue justice and excellence in their careers.

“That really requires that we help the student see the law not just as a job, but a calling,” Barry said.

### Creating a top-class program

School of Law Dean Stephen M. Sheppard, J.S.D., and Barry have found the investment in the program by the University and its alumni to be unmatched by other law schools in size and scope.

While some schools are hiring one person, St. Mary's Law has hired 10 full-time Law Success instructors during the past two years. The number of courses and activities added under the Law Success Program umbrella also sets the effort apart from the competition, Barry said. To boost student understanding and skill level at a rapid rate, the school added three mandatory courses last year.

Barry also points to the program's rigor and use of data as creating a uniquely individualized program.

“I haven't seen many doing the combination of assessments that we're doing, plus the data analysis that we share with the student,” he said.

The concept stands apart from competitors in its outlook, said Sheppard, who credits a 2015 grant from the AccessLex Institute with helping the school develop portions of the curriculum.

“The Law Success Program overshadows programs in many law schools that are remedial in their philosophy with a program that is supportive, forward-looking and intended to serve every student, no matter how strong or how prepared,” Sheppard said. “It reaches not just some small portion of the class, but the whole class.”

### Unveiling a multiyear approach

The program is in the second year of its three-year launch, with additional courses, workshops and assessment programs beginning next year.

First, before starting classes, incoming J.D. students attend a mandatory orientation that includes a battery of assessments measuring their skill levels in areas such as analysis, critical thinking and writing. Then, in a first-semester course called Introduction to Legal Methods, Law Success instructors work with students divided into cohorts to improve those skills. Instructors use data both from the cohort and from the individual student to guide their efforts.

During their second semester, students continue this targeted learning in a class called Advanced Legal Methods, which also introduces components of the practice of law, such as approaches to meeting with clients and senior attorneys, professionalism and ethics.

In their second year of law school, students enter a course called Experiential Legal Analysis to introduce them to practicing before the trial court and to begin preparing them for the Multistate Performance



Test portion of the bar exam.

Year Three includes a for-credit bar prep course that leads into an extracurricular Raise the Bar Program, which focuses on Texas law, practicing the components of the bar exam and individualized feedback on practice essays.

Beyond the nuts and bolts, Law Success instructors aim to model a level of professionalism and a sense of calling in the classroom that benefits the culture of the law school, Barry said.

“We’re here for each step of the way,” said Law Success Instructor Afton Cavanaugh (J.D. ’13), who recalled helping a student overcome her test anxieties and offering skills building that assisted her in netting an internship and an invitation to write for the law journals.

Cavanaugh said he “continues to meet with students individually even after graduation because, as a school, we care enough about them getting the support that they need at one of the most challenging times in law school, even though they think they’re done. I’m reaffirming that they’re part of this community.”

## Finding results in class and beyond

Second-year law student Nathan Maurer, who took Introduction to Legal Methods from Niesel, said he entered his first year of law school with little clue about the true meaning of legal analysis. But Niesel showed him how to make fact-based arguments right away, starting with providing feedback on students’ arguments for a practice contract law problem, Maurer said.

“I always kept in mind, when I was taking my finals, applying all the facts of the law,” Maurer said. “That’s what helped me get really good grades.”

He took those skills a step forward during an internship with a Tarrant County probate judge during the summer, during which he had to call on his background in legal analysis to write a memo on management trusts.

“If I hadn’t taken that class, I probably wouldn’t have known what to analyze,” Maurer said. “It definitely carries over to the real world.”

Maurer’s experience reflects the aims of the program at large, which Niesel describes as meeting “each student where they are.”

“That is at the heart of Law Success,” Niesel said. “We recognize and embrace that different people have different areas of strength coming into law school. No one comes in a fully formed attorney. Meeting them where they are as they start and as they continue to impress is a huge goal of ours and a critical part of the mission.” ■



1. Assistant Professor of Law Zoe E. Niesel, J.D., Director of the Law Success Program. 2. Law students pledge to be “honorable and professional” during the 2017 orientation week’s Matriculation Ceremony. 3. Second-year law student Nathan Maurer speaks with Niesel (left) and Elizabeth O’Connell Perez (J.D. ’14). 4. Assistant Dean Mike Barry, J.D., architect of the Law Success Program. 5. Second-year law student DeMarcus Lewis presents to a law alumna as part of the Law Success Program.

## Gifts energize the program

The School of Law has received two \$1 million donations to fund the first and second years of the Law Success Program from Steven M. Peña Sr. and the Hon. Mary Anne Bramblett and Coll Bramblett.

“When students see alumni making these contributions, it gives them even more faith in the program and more faith in the school because they see that the previous generations are still really invested in the success of the current students,” said Zoe E. Niesel, J.D., Director of the Law Success Program.

### Why give?

- Peña (J.D. ’94) said the new Law Success Program includes qualified staff members who are reaching out “to individuals who are fully capable, but may need a little bit of extra help.” Read more on Page L6.
- “We wanted to give back to our school because it gave so much to us,” Mary Anne Bramblett (J.D. ’81) said. “It gave us the tools to have a great life.”
- “I would not have been a lawyer today if it wasn’t for St. Mary’s,” said Coll Bramblett (J.D. ’80). “I know many lawyers out there in the same boat. They are lawyers today because St. Mary’s gave them that opportunity.”



## Texas Bar Foundation honors St. Mary's Law professor

School of Law Professor Gerald S. Reamey, J.D., received the 2017 Outstanding Law Review Article Award from the Texas Bar Foundation during a June awards dinner in Dallas.

The foundation recognized Reamey for his article, "The Truth Might Set You Free: How the Michael Morton Act Could Fundamentally Change Texas Criminal Discovery, or Not," which appeared in the *Texas Tech Law Review* in 2016.

## Alumni Association honors distinguished alumni

The St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association honored three graduates — the Hon. David A. Ezra (J.D. '72), George H. Spencer Jr. (J.D. '77) and Emmanuel Garcia (J.D. '11) — at its annual Distinguished Law Graduate Dinner in September.

The event also celebrated the School of Law's 90th anniversary of its founding in 1927. The association hosts the dinner to fund scholarships and student services.

## Law Career Services expands Summer Public Interest Fellowships

The School of Law has increased the number of Summer Public Interest Fellowships available to law students to encourage a future generation

of lawyers committed to public interest careers.

"For the past 90 years, St. Mary's Law and our students have taken very seriously our obligation to address the justice gap and to serve community members in need," said Stephen M. Sheppard, J.S.D., Dean of the School of Law. "Expanding our ability to offer Public Interest Fellowships paves a bit more of the pathway for our law students to fulfill our Catholic Marianist mission to educate lawyers for service, justice and peace."

With the help of a grant from the University to the School of Law's Office of Career Services, the number of students participating in Public Interest Fellowships this summer increased from one to five. Legal aid services are in strong demand, and the fellowships aim to help meet that need by encouraging students to pursue public interest legal careers, said Robin Thorner, J.D., Director of Career Services for the School of Law.

## Alumnus donates \$1 million for student success program

St. Mary's University School of Law alumnus Steven M. Peña Sr. has donated \$1 million to endow the first year of the School of Law's cutting-edge Law Success Program, which equips law students with a suite of legal skills.

Peña (J.D. '94), shareholder with Davidson Troilo Ream & Garza, P.C., will also become

a Practitioner in Residence at the law school to share his experience representing local municipal governments.

"Steve Peña has lived the St. Mary's mission through his career assisting municipal governments with legal matters as they seek to meet the needs of their citizens," said St. Mary's President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D. "We are grateful he has continued his commitment to St. Mary's through this gift, which will significantly benefit the Law Success Program."

## Conference on Justice and Social Concerns covers religious freedom

The St. Mary's University School of Law hosted a series of lectures and conversations related to religious freedom during the University's annual Conference on Justice and Social Concerns in September.

Lin and Rosenfield speakers included Emory University Professor Abdullahi An-Na'im, Ph.D.; Princeton University Professor Robert George, J.D., D.Phil.; University of St. Thomas Law Professor Thomas Berg, J.D.; and legal affairs columnist Dahlia Lithwick of *Slate* magazine, who covers the U.S. Supreme Court and contributes to the *Washington Post*.

Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeff Brown, J.D., and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Kevin Yeary (J.D. '91) reflected upon faith, religion and the legal profession.

## San Antonio celebrates 65th annual Red Mass

The San Antonio legal community joined together at San Fernando Cathedral in October to take part in a centuries-old tradition called Red Mass to celebrate the beginning of the judicial season.

Judges, legal organizations and School of Law faculty, staff and students processed with bright red banners through Main Plaza to the Cathedral.

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, was the principal celebrant. Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Kevin Yeary (J.D. '91) offered welcome remarks. The Rev. Jason Martini (J.D. '02) was the homilist.

"At this crossroads — where faith and law intersect — Red Mass gathered all in a prayerful request to God to help and bless the legal community in fulfilling its duties in an upright and just manner," said Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I., D.Min., St. Mary's School of Law Chaplain and event organizer.



Photo by Melanie Rush Davis





Photo by Josh Huskin

Retired Air Force Maj. Jennifer Galgano (from left), Selina Padilla and former Marine Sgt. Nestor Lopez pictured inside the new St. Mary's University Veterans Center.

# SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

New law fellowships address need for veteran advocacy

by Robin J. Johnson (B.A. '11, M.A. '13)

When combat veteran Marine Sgt. Nestor Lopez returned to civilian life in his early 20s, he found himself faced with some harsh realities.

"I really couldn't find anyone who could help me navigate (Veterans Affairs) or government benefits," said Lopez, speaking of months-long waits for doctor appointments and underfunded programs.

"I couldn't find anyone who could actually advocate for me," he said.

Because of this experience, Lopez felt a call to help initiate change. He decided to attend law school and commit part of his focus on veterans' legal issues.

Lopez is now one of three third-year St. Mary's Law students selected as the first fellows for the Moody Foundation Veterans Law Fellowships, along with retired Air Force Maj. Jennifer Galgano and Selina Padilla.

The School of Law and the Moody Foundation have partnered to elevate veteran resources and support by creating new fellowship opportunities, which are part of a program dedicated to aid veterans with legal assistance through the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) Veterans Advocacy Project.

"It's clear that veterans' needs really just begin when they leave the battlefield," said Allan Matthews, grants director for the Moody Foundation, which provided \$500,000 in funding. "The Moody Foundation wants to support those who are helping veterans. This program is a fine example of that."

St. Mary's University also addressed the growing need for veteran support felt across San Antonio — aka Military City USA — by opening its own Veterans Center on campus this fall, funded by retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Belisario J. Flores (B.B.A. '50) and his wife Adelina. The Veterans Center, located in the University Center, is exclusively for St. Mary's student-veterans like Lopez and Galgano, offering a dedicated space for quiet study and camaraderie.

For the Moody Foundation Veterans Law Fellowships, law students are each assigned a supervising attorney and focus on the most pressing issue for each veteran seeking legal assistance. The fellowship offers valuable work experience for the students and provides veterans with aid for issues including disability claims, family law, tenant rights and restoring driver's licenses. Left unresolved, these legal issues could prevent the client's ability to secure employment or housing.

While many organizations offer veteran services in San Antonio, the TRLA was selected because it is one of the few that focus on legal services, said Karen Kelley, J.D., Director of Clinical Education at the St. Mary's School of Law. The nonprofit had already established a veteran advocacy program, so it was a "natural fit for students wanting to work in legal issues for veterans," added Kelley, who oversees the fellowship program.

Galgano, who will start her fellowship in Spring 2018, shares her colleagues' call for advocacy for former service members. "The important part is getting veterans back into society," she said. ■







# GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

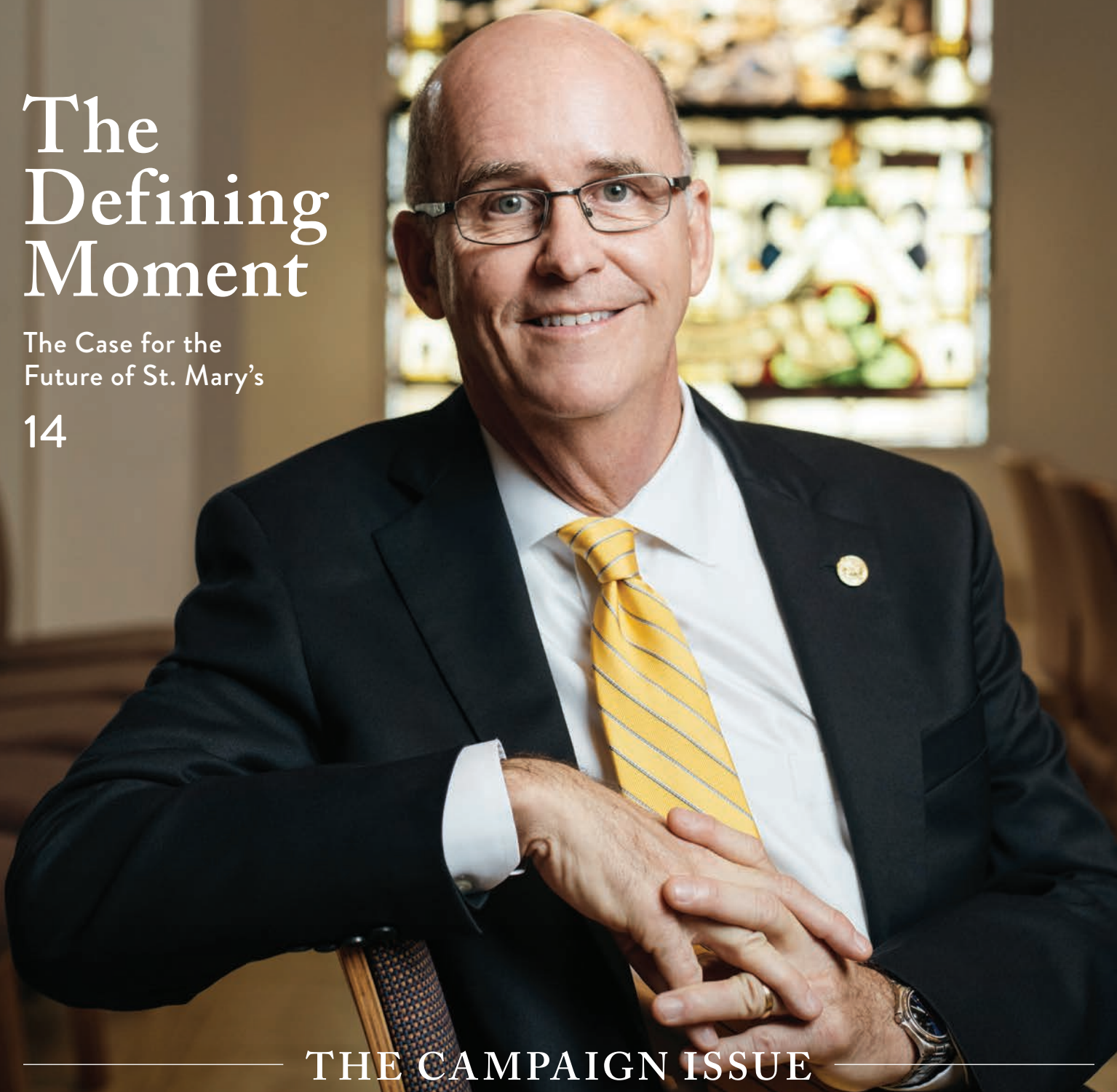
Fall 2017

## The Defining Moment

The Case for the  
Future of St. Mary's

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THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE











## Continuing the Heritage celebrates 20 years

More than 700 volunteers — mostly St. Mary's University students, faculty, staff and alumni — helped out dozens of nonprofit agencies and organizations in August by walking dogs, removing graffiti, sorting donated food and clothing, helping build houses or improve existing structures, and other good deeds throughout San Antonio.

It's a tradition that has been a part of the St. Mary's University community for 20 years.

Since Continuing the Heritage Day of Service began in 1997, about 15,000 St. Mary's University volunteers have offered more than 50,000 service hours to organizations that provide much-needed assistance to South Texas residents.

Twice a year, Continuing the Heritage brings together the community for a variety of service projects. The spring event is part of the 40 Days of Service Lenten celebration, which is a collaboration of volunteer efforts between the University, Catholic Charities of San Antonio and the Archdiocese of San Antonio.



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**On the cover:** President Thomas M. Mengler in Assumption Chapel

**Cover photo:** Josh Huskin

**This page:** St. Mary's University student Valeria Garcia, a Speech Communication and Spanish major, has her face painted with the Marianist cross during the community-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Marianists.

The St. Mary's University community gathered in October for the Marianist Bicentennial Mass followed by the celebration that included food, music, face painting and more.

Since Jan. 1, the Marianist priests and brothers have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Mary by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. The Daughters of Mary Immaculate (Marianist Sisters), founded by Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, celebrated their bicentennial in 2016.





# The moment we've been waiting for ...



Aerial view of campus

*by Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.  
St. Mary's University President*

On Nov. 17, more than 500 benefactors and friends gathered over dinner, anticipating that something huge was just moments away. There had been lots of wild guessing on social media about the “huge” news we were going to reveal. One guess predicted we were going to restart our football program. Another verged on wishful thinking: “Become a tuition-free institution!”

We announced The Defining Moment, the largest campaign in the history of St. Mary's University, more than six times larger than any previous fundraising campaign. The big reveal? Our campaign goal is \$130 million, and we have already raised \$104,872,000!

In calling this a defining moment, we have chosen our words carefully, and we communicate two separate but related messages. First, this is a huge step for St. Mary's University. The Defining Moment Campaign is comprehensive in scope. By that we mean, as described beginning on Page 14 in this *Gold & Blue*, this is a comprehensive campaign, advancing every one of our strategic priorities and setting our sights on the University's vision.

By the end of this successful campaign, we will be much closer to becoming, as a Catholic and Marianist university, one of the finest private universities in the Southwest, always innovating but still grounded in our commitment to prepare young adults for lives of purpose and meaning, as well as for success.

At the dinner, we also revealed the scores of alumni and friends who already have pledged major gifts to achieve this vision. Most impressively, St. Mary's has received 24 campaign gifts of \$1 million or more, more seven-figure gifts than ever before in our history. These gifts provide great confidence that our campaign will succeed and that we will achieve our strategic goals. These seven-figure gifts also signal that our benefactors believe that St. Mary's has elevated itself to a higher level of aspiration. They see the vision within our grasp.

There is a second reason why our campaign is appropriately named The Defining Moment. St. Mary's University has been life-giving and life-changing for generations of students. I know that for most of you, attending St. Mary's University was a revelatory period in your lives.

Already having raised more than 80 percent of our campaign goal, we are well on our way, but we need your investment in St. Mary's too. I pray that we can count on you to push us substantially over the top. ■



PRESIDENT

Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



MISSION

St. Mary's University,  
as a Catholic Marianist University,  
fosters the formation of people in faith  
and educates leaders for the common good  
through community, integrated liberal arts  
and professional education,  
and academic excellence.

# CAMPUSNEWS

## Alum donates \$1 million to move forward the Center for Catholic Studies

A \$1 million gift from alumnus Martin D. Beirne and his wife, Kathleen, will allow St. Mary's University to endow the Beirne Director of its soon-to-be-established Center for Catholic Studies.

The Center will explore Catholic and Marianist views on the most pressing social policy issues. It will also examine the Catholic Church in society and culture, including issues related to the Church's presence in the Southwest and the growing nationwide Hispanic presence in the Church and other Christian denominations.

A nationwide search has started, with the goal of having the director in place by August 2018. The interdisciplinary Center will be established upon the appointment of the director.

"The Center for Catholic Studies is becoming a reality, thanks to the Beirnes' support," said St. Mary's President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D. "A director will guide our ambitious mission to become a hub of exploration into the Catholic intellectual tradition and its impact on knowledge, culture and faith. It's truly a defining moment in our history."

The inaugural director will work with groups across campus to support activities that integrate the Marianist heritage of the University and the mission of the Center. Students of all ages and Catholics from across Texas will have the opportunity to deepen their faith by exploring the fields of theology, philosophy, the sciences, social policy, law, the arts and culture, and their intersection with Catholicism.

"Endowing the director position ensures that Catholic studies remains a priority to the mission at St. Mary's and furthers Catholic intellectual thought among faculty, staff, students and the community," said Martin D. Beirne, a 1969 graduate of the St. Mary's School of Law and chairman of the St. Mary's Board of Trustees.

St. Mary's will play a lead role in advancing Catholic studies through recruitment of distinguished faculty in Catholic philosophy, theology, and other central areas of Catholic studies and culture. The University already has appointed faculty members to an endowed Chair in Human Dignity and an endowed Chair in Catholic Philosophy. Additionally, St. Mary's has received funding to endow a Chair in Catholic Leadership.

## Funds granted to continue McNair Scholars Program

The U.S. Department of Education awarded St. Mary's University's McNair Scholars Program a \$232,190 grant to continue the program for the next five years.

The program supports first-generation, low-income or underserved students in their pursuit of doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

"Because of the support from this transformational program, our McNair Scholars Program staff and faculty are better equipped to help prepare our 25 McNair Scholars through research internships, scholarly activities, and faculty mentoring to earn doctoral degrees and pursue opportunities for academic and professional leadership in our community," said Aaron Tyler, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at St. Mary's.

## MBA students awarded prestigious scholarships

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation has awarded scholarships to three outstanding MBA students in the St. Mary's University Greehey School of Business.

The scholarship winners are Veronica M. Gaskey, who received the Carlos and Malu Alvarez Scholarship; John Matthew Holland, who received the William E. "Bill" Greehey Scholarship; and Joseph Marina, who received the Harvey E. Najim Scholarship.

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation recognizes exceptional graduate and undergraduate business students across Texas who exhibit entrepreneurial drive and leadership spirit. Award recipients each received an unrestricted \$15,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation during its 35th annual induction dinner in November.



## Catholic Charities honors Mona Mengler for service

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Antonio presented Mona Mengler, wife of St. Mary's President Thomas Mengler, with the Agency Volunteer of the Year honor, the organization's highest recognition for an individual volunteer.

Bill Taylor, KENS 5 meteorologist and the event emcee, noted that Mona Mengler has made a significant impact during the past year as a passionate advocate for the services Catholic Charities offers the community.

"From helping at the Guadalupe Community Center to helping daily with the Hurricane Harvey rescue efforts, she is always on the front lines," Taylor said.

Mona Mengler was also honored with an award specifically for her efforts leading the organization's Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. She has been active with Catholic Charities since joining the St. Mary's University and San Antonio communities in 2012.

## University receives grant for domestic violence prevention

St. Mary's University has received a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. The program, titled Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking on Campus, helps institutions of higher education with multidisciplinary approaches to provide awareness, education and prevention of these issues.

As always, the University emphasizes the importance of creating an environment where people feel comfortable reporting such behavior and feel safe and supported after coming forward.

"St. Mary's University strives to maintain a safe campus environment," said Tim Bessler, Ed.D., Vice Provost for Student Development and Dean of Students. "We are committed to further raising our community's awareness about dating and domestic violence, stalking and sexual violence, as well as connecting

affected members to campus and community resources. We want to empower all members of our community to prevent such incidents from occurring."

## MPA faculty member awarded international recognition

Alex Briseño, Professor of Public Service in Residence in the Master of Public Administration program, received the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from the International City/County Management Association.

The award is given to a manager who has retired from public service and has made an outstanding contribution to the management profession and local government. Briseño served the City of San Antonio as city manager for 11 years, plus an additional 13 in other capacities. He has been at St. Mary's University since retiring from government in 2001.

## Cue the face paint, doggie bandanas and smiles

St. Mary's University set record numbers for its fourth annual StMU 5K for the Neighborhood on Oct. 15, donating \$20,000 — a 5K fundraising best — to Holy Rosary Parish thanks to support from more than 800 participants and local sponsors.

The 813 participants included hundreds of St. Mary's employees, alumni and students, as well as residents from the surrounding neighborhood and parishioners from Holy Rosary Parish. The fun run/walk drew on the momentum of the first three years to make the 2017 event the biggest yet. It included features such as a new route that began in Alkek Plaza, live music, food trucks and family activities after the 5K.

The money raised supports the partnership between St. Mary's and Holy Rosary Parish to enhance services and outreach programs in the St. Mary's Gateway District.

Watch for information on the fifth annual 5K in Fall 2018.







Jenna Saucedo-Herrera (B.B.A. '09), president and CEO of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, addresses students and faculty.

Photos by Kemp Davis



Craig Boyan, president and COO of H-E-B



Meet-the-Firms job fair



Lanham Napier, former CEO of Rackspace and co-founder of BuildGroup

## Business Week 2017 draws business and civic leaders to campus

For 42 years, Business Week has brought outstanding business and civic leaders to network, mentor and interact with new generations of St. Mary's University students. This year, the tradition continued, with record attendance and participation from among the cream of the crop in business, including Craig Boyan, president and chief operating officer of H-E-B, one of the largest private companies in the United States.

The theme this year was Leadership in a Globally Connected World. H-E-B's Boyan opened the event as the La Quinta Keynote Lecturer, addressing a full house in the Albert B. Alkek Business Building. Boyan spoke of H-E-B's philosophy of investing in continuous improvement in processes, people, products and technologies to compete in a globally connected food retail industry.

Other speakers included Cara Biasucci, Project Director of Business, Government and Society at the University of Texas at Austin, who discussed the relevance of ethics in the 21st century; and Iñigo Arzac, managing partner with AXON Consultants, who made an impassioned case for the power of global networking and volunteerism that results in global opportunities.

This year introduced a new feature that combined an interactive "dress for success" show with a panel discussion in which expert panelists discussed a wide range of topics, including understanding corporate culture, the power of informal and formal networks, and tips on how to assess an organizational fit with one's value system. The popular Meet-the-Firms event brought about 30 firms to campus and provided a number of students with internship opportunities, job offers and employment leads.

Several local and world business leaders delivered talks on the final day of the event, including Lanham Napier, former CEO of Rackspace and co-founder of BuildGroup; Deryck J. van Rensburg, Dean of the Graziadio School of Business and Management at Pepperdine University and former president of Coca-Cola Global Ventures; the Right Honourable Henry McLeish, former first minister of Scotland and current Visiting Professor of European Studies at St. Mary's School of Law; and Jenna Saucedo-Herrera (B.B.A. '09), president and CEO of San Antonio Economic Development Foundation.



## Business professor honored

St. Mary's University Marketing Professor Mathew Joseph, Ph.D., has been awarded the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Marketing for Higher Education Special Interest Group (SIG), within the American Marketing Association.

Joseph serves as vice president of the Higher Ed SIG and is a founding member. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors a marketing scholar who has demonstrated distinct accomplishments and dedication to higher education in the marketing discipline.

## O'Connor Chair brings together community and church

History Professor Gerald Poyo, Ph.D., who is the O'Connor Chair for the History of Hispanic Texas and the Southwest, hosted a discussion of Latino Catholicism: San Antonio and the Transformation of the Church in October.

The event provided a forum for the community to learn and discuss a shared history with the Church, and reflect upon the rise of an extraordinary movement in the 1960s and 1970s today referred to as Latino Catholicism. The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, attended.

The event featured guest speakers, the Rev. David Garcia (B.A. '71), director for Old Spanish Missions of San Antonio and Pastoral Administrator for Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña; and Timothy Matovina, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Theology Department for University of Notre Dame.

## History Department announces Master of Public History

The Department of History will launch its new Master of Public History program in Fall 2018.

The program, now accepting applications, will prepare students to be responsible stewards of history using tools and media to curate public history experiences. To learn more about the program, visit [www.stmarytx.edu/master-public-history](http://www.stmarytx.edu/master-public-history).

## University hosts conference to examine future of NAFTA

Mayors, ambassadors and business leaders visited the University in September for NAFTA 2.0: The Future of North American Trade, a conference led by political and civic leaders and presented by St. Mary's University, the Texas-Mexico Trade Coalition, and the Rivard Report. The event included three panels representing the United States, Mexico and Canada; and focused on the importance of productive, cordial cross-border relationships.

Panelists included Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Ambassador of Mexico to the U.S.; Antonio "Tony" Garza, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico; Jodi Hanson, senior vice president of the Americas, International Affairs Division, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Gerardo "Gerry" Schwebel, executive vice president of the Corporate International Division at IBC Bank; Colin Robertson, former Canadian diplomat and senior adviser to Dentons LLP; Ron Nirenberg, mayor of San Antonio; Alejandro Hinojosa (B.B.A. '78), acting managing director of the North American Development Bank; and Luz Maria de la Mora Sánchez, director of LMM Consulting in Mexico. The event was sponsored by Gastón Sosa de la Torre and Marisol Arteaga Gonzalez.

## New trustees join University board

The St. Mary's University Board of Trustees has welcomed five new members for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The new trustees are Brother Edward Brink, S.M., rector, Chaminade University; Lynda M. Ellis (B.A.S. '81), owner, president and CEO of Capitol Concierge; Peter E. Hosey (J.D. '79) partner, Jackson Walker; Lauro Lopez Jr. (B.B.A. '76), president of Lopez and Associates, P.C.; and the Rev. John Thompson, S.M., councilor of the Marianist Province of the United States and the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio.

## Grad student creates virtual reality video game

Graduate Computer Science student Henry Idar will graduate in December 2017, and when he does, he'll leave with a virtual reality game under his belt — the first St. Mary's student to create a virtual reality game as his comprehensive project.

His game, Currency Collector VR, is available for free as an app on Google Play for Android phones. It does not require a virtual reality headset, although Idar recommends

one for the full experience. Headsets can be relatively inexpensive, such as the Google Cardboard, which is less than \$20.

He described Currency Collector VR as an educational game that teaches players about currency from around the world.

"I got the idea thinking about how we have international students here who've never seen American currency before, but also a lot of Americans who haven't seen currency from around the world," Idar said. "We're close to the border, so a lot of us have seen a peso, but have we seen an Indian rupee?"

## Engineering students rank among world's best programmers

Three St. Mary's University Engineering students teamed up to compete in the annual IEEEExtreme Programming Competition in October against 8,000 participants and 3,350 teams worldwide, coming out near the top of the teams in the United States and top 11 percent internationally.

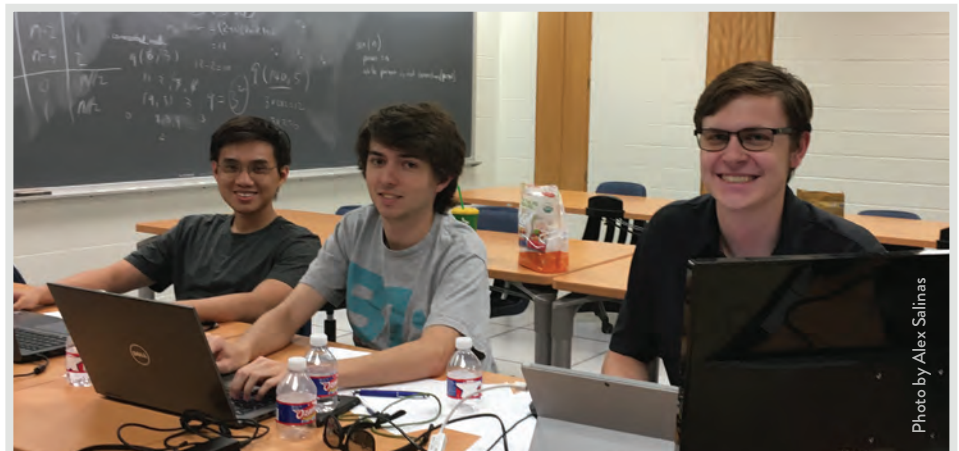
Graduate Computer Engineering student Christopher Chavez, Computer Engineering senior David Culbreth and Mechanical Engineering sophomore Vinh Huynh had 24 hours to solve 30 complex programming problems.

The marathon session started at 7 p.m. on a Friday and didn't end until 7 p.m. the next day.

"Problems were released every hour, so we had to solve them intermittently," Huynh said. "We had to strategically approach them, either solving them individually or as a group to get the maximum number of points."

The Engineering trio finished No. 26 among 207 teams from the U.S.

Wenbin Luo, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Engineering, who is an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) member, spent the summer in Silicon Valley visiting Facebook, Google and Microsoft, which inspired him to provide St. Mary's students with avenues to showcase their programming skills.



From left: Mechanical Engineering sophomore Vinh Huynh, Graduate Computer Engineering student Christopher Chavez and Computer Engineering senior David Culbreth



Gonzalez



Popovic

Photo by Antonio Moreno

## Rattler Men's Tennis makes history

St. Mary's Men's Tennis doubles duo Jeremiah Gonzalez and Bojan Popovic made Rattler history at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Oracle Cup this fall.

The duo finished third for St. Mary's best-ever showing at the national championships. The strong performance followed the pair winning the ITA regional championship following an epic, three-set final in which they won the tie-breaking set 21-19.

### St. Mary's Athletics to join Lone Star Conference in 2019

St. Mary's University Athletics is poised to begin an exciting new chapter in its storied history. The Rattlers will join the Lone Star Conference (LSC) beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year.

St. Mary's will be joined by seven other Heartland Conference schools in moving to the LSC, which has its own storied history in the Southwest, dating back almost 90 years. It will become the largest conference in NCAA Division II.

"In the Lone Star Conference, our student-athletes will face new challenges and seek greater achievements on the courts and fields, all while maintaining the level of academic excellence, sportsmanship and citizenship we've always strove to achieve," said St. Mary's President Thomas Mengler. "Our final two years in the Heartland Conference will be bittersweet. We're proud to have been an original Heartland member, and we'll always look back on our 51 conference titles with great pride. Still, we look forward to new competition, decreased travel and larger crowds."

Formed in 1931, the LSC is based out of the southwestern United States. Following expansion, it will grow to 19 member institutions. Its membership will include 13 Texas-based schools, three in Oklahoma, two in New Mexico and one in Arkansas.

### Rattler Athletics launches new fan rewards program

Take your Rattler fan experience to another level with the all-new FANGcentives app.

Thanks to a partnership with the St. Mary's University Student Government Association, St. Mary's University Athletics has introduced FANGcentives, an exciting loyalty program that will reward the St. Mary's community — students, faculty, staff and Rattler Nation donors — for its support at games starting this fall.

Check in at events, earn points and get rewarded — it's that simple. The FANGcentives app is available for download in the App Store or Google Play.

Prizes range from stadium cups, snack helmets, T-shirts and hats to the \$1,000 cash grand prize for the first St. Mary's student to earn 1,000 points.







*Irreducibly*  
HUMAN

*St. Mary's University's new  
Miller Chair in Human Dignity seeks to  
help prisoners find their own humanity.*



by *Anndria Flores (B.A. '12, M.A. '16)*

**F**or 12 weeks this spring, James Greenaway, Ph.D., heard the sound of prison doors lock solidly behind him as he walked past the stern-faced guards controlling access to the Ruben M. Torres Unit, a men's state prison in Hondo. He was there to teach prisoners, but the finality of the door closing was unsettling.

"I didn't know what to expect, except I was really nervous about going to a prison," Greenaway said.

He talked first with other professors who had worked with the incarcerated, and that calmed his concerns about the inmates. "I learned that they hold each other accountable. They watch

each other. So, I never feared them. What I didn't like was the doors closing behind me — having to be buzzed in and out."

Greenaway, Associate Professor of Philosophy and the first St. Mary's University Charles H. Miller, M.D., Chair in Human Dignity, was there to help prisoners get in touch with their own humanity and that of their victims, via a condensed version of Self-Appropriation and Human Dignity, a course required for all St. Mary's undergraduate students through the Core Curriculum.

In February, Greenaway was formally installed as the Miller Chair in Human Dignity, a position created to promote the interdisciplinary richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition, particularly regarding



universal human dignity and its application to medical ethics.

Greenaway knew that if he was going to effectively serve in the position, he had to do more than research. He wanted to do something practical, but also involving social justice and civic engagement, both of which are central to the University.

Greenaway worked with Deacon Bob Leibrecht, director of Criminal Justice Mercy for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, to determine what type of course would be appropriate for prisoners.

He saw teaching the course as a work of restorative justice. But what is necessary for restorative justice to be effective?

“The perpetrators, the offenders, need to have a sense of their own dignity as persons.

Their own worth as human persons,” Greenaway said. “You get that, then you’re positioning people to be more cognizant of the needs of others. You’re getting people geared up to come back into the world as better human beings.”

It was apparent to Greenaway that a lot of the prisoners he encountered were told in various ways, in their neighborhoods or families, that they weren’t worth much. In fact, many of them expected they’d end up in prison or killed.

“So it’s a self-fulfilling prophecy, really. And, they never really thought about what it means to be human or what is meaningful in human life.”

Greenaway knew two things had to change: how these men valued themselves and how society viewed them.

Greenaway tackled the inmates’ perception of themselves by having them read what he referred to as some of the “great enduring works of philosophy.” Despite their upbringing or circumstance, he wanted to show them what being human could mean and how the literature relates to their own lives.

“I gave them concepts, ideas and language to help them with what they’re doing and also to show them that their own struggle to be better human beings is one that they’re not alone

in, and that some of the greatest philosophical writings bear on that very thing.”

He taught them that they are more than a product of their environment — that they have a choice to be different. Throughout the course, Greenaway could see that these men were grappling with what was on their conscience and the suffering they had caused.

In short, Greenaway could see their humanity.

“Once you catch a glimpse of that, that’s enough to really change how you think and how you act as an instructor,” he said. “Love of wisdom is something which ... means that you are more than what you think is fate.”

Some might argue that criminals should be locked away and forgotten for the crimes they’ve committed. While incarceration is what they are owed in justice, Greenaway is trying to tackle

a larger question, “What is owed to them in love?”

Without wanting to diminish some of the heinous crimes committed by inmates, we still, in love, have to see them as people, Greenaway said. And, practically, restorative justice through philosophy and other liberal arts disciplines can help incarcerated men and women who want to be better people.

In the prison system, there is

little to nothing for the intellect, yet men and women in prison are hungry for some of the most fundamental things that are a part of a university — particularly a Catholic and Marianist university. Greenaway said that we must remind one another of the dignity that we share together.

“It’s like planting seeds, little seeds.”

At the end of the spring course at the prison, Greenaway presented his students a certificate for completing the course. But for the prisoners, the course was never about the certificate.

Greenaway said that while their curiosity pulled them in, it was their humanity that kept them coming back to class each week.

After all, he said, “We are all irreducibly human.” ■

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*“You’re getting people geared up to come back into the world as better human beings.”*

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# THE SOLAR SAVANT

The work this Electrical Engineering and Physics major did as a St. Mary's student has become integral to his efforts to bring solar energy to a wider audience.

by Alex Z. Salinas (B.A. '11)

When Supratim Srinivasan (B.S. '11) was first considering where to attend college, it didn't occur to him that a Catholic university almost 9,000 miles away from his native India would factor into his decision — and forever brighten his future.

His connection to St. Mary's University was a bit happenstance. Brother Ed Violet, S.M., was in India doing outreach work for the Marianists in 2006 when he visited Srinivasan's hometown. Violet, impressed by Srinivasan, told him he should consider St. Mary's. Srinivasan looked up the University online, liked what he found and made his decision to attend.

When Srinivasan arrived on campus, he spent his first few weeks adjusting to a completely different environment.

"It was a big culture shock, a big change from India," he said.

Even doing laundry — well, figuring out how to pay for laundry — was a challenge.

"When I was living in Dougherty Hall, the first time I tried to pay for laundry was with a \$100 bill," Srinivasan said. "Someone saw me — someone who would become a good friend — and he told me, 'No, man. Here are some quarters.'"

Slowly but surely, Srinivasan made more friends, tagging along with them to watch the University soccer games or to grab a bite to eat. He also had his nose in the books, studying diligently to keep up with the coursework as an Electrical Engineering and Physics double major.

Then in 2009, Professor of Electrical Engineering Bahman Rezaie, Ph.D., encouraged Srinivasan and a small team of students to find a way to make Fiesta Oyster Bake more environmentally friendly.

A light bulb went off in Srinivasan's mind.

After some thought, Srinivasan and his team built a mobile disaster-relief solar trailer — essentially, a pole-mounted, battery-operated machine that used nine solar panels to generate electrical power for about 35 booths at Oyster Bake that year.

For his efforts, Srinivasan won the 2009 San Antonio Green Building Award.

"That was definitely the 'aha' moment for me," he said.

After graduating in 2011, Srinivasan moved back to India to work for his father. However, by 2014, he was back in Texas working for a solar company in Austin. A year later, CPS Energy launched a program

called SolarHostSA, in which San Antonians were incentivized to install solar panels on their homes in exchange for monthly rebates on future energy bills. Srinivasan was tapped to be the lead engineer for the project.

The project was a resounding success, and Srinivasan earned recognition for his technical contributions as an electrical engineer focusing on renewable energy in 2016, according to the Rivard Report.

**"To educate people on renewable energy, that's what this is all about."**

That same year, Srinivasan helped co-found Go Smart Solar, a San Antonio-based company that helps residential and commercial customers in South and Central Texas convert to solar energy.

Srinivasan is Vice President of Engineering at Go Smart Solar. His mornings are usually spent in meetings and monitoring the engineering and coding side of things from his office, but by afternoon, he's often on rooftops, estimating how many solar panels a property would need or inspecting existing panels for maintenance.

A big reason why Srinivasan joined Go Smart Solar was to assist with San Antonio's "large-scale adoption of solar energy."

"San Antonio is poised to be one of the leading solar users in the country. The climate is right. With sunshine year-round and with aggressive rebate programs available, we are on mark to only keep growing," he said.

Srinivasan's goal is simple: "To educate people on renewable energy. That's what this is all about."

Srinivasan loves what he's doing and credits St. Mary's for helping him discover his passion — but also for teaching him how to work with and connect to other people.

"St. Mary's is a small school, so we felt like family," he said. "And that's how I like to treat people I'm around: like family." ■



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*The*

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# DEFINING MOMENT

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN







## *Every moment can have an impact*

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*by President Thomas Mengler, J.D., St. Mary's University President*

**E**verything we do — volunteering, teaching, learning, praying — counts toward something greater. For many St. Mary's University graduates, their experience at St. Mary's University became a defining moment in their lives.

These are the moments that define us all — and when we realize them, monumental things can happen. Together, let us recognize opportunity,

see the potential of our students and realize what is possible.

St. Mary's University has been life-giving and life-changing for generations of students. Just as transformative, The Defining Moment Campaign will secure the University's vision to become one of the finest private universities in the Southwest, as well as one of this nation's leading Catholic universities.

*Continued on next page*

# THE CASE FOR THE FUTURE OF ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

**F**or more than 165 years, St. Mary's University, like other fine public and private universities, has provided students with the skills, experience and knowledge to become successful professionals. But a Marianist education at St. Mary's has always blessed students with much more.

Our Marianist brothers, and lay faculty and staff have gently mentored St. Mary's students to graduate with generous spirits and humble hearts and to view their careers as vocational journeys, not merely jobs. Little wonder then that so many St. Mary's graduates become leaders in the workplace and in our communities. The enduring values fostered at St. Mary's — integrity, respect for others, humility and a collaborative spirit — are uniformly prized by employers, patients, clients and customers.

Our Gateway Strategic Plan, which St. Mary's Trustees adopted in Spring 2013, is in part an effort to secure a bright future for St. Mary's University and our students and graduates, grounded in and building

upon our successful past. But the Gateway Plan's vision is much bolder than any St. Mary's plan of the past. St. Mary's aspirations are much higher. Our vision is to become one of the finest private universities in the region, as well as one of the finest Catholic universities in the country.

In the coming years, therefore, we must develop the resources necessary to achieve three principal goals: to promote and maintain a culture of excellence among students, faculty and staff; to foster the formation of faith by deepening and pervasively embedding our Catholic identity and Marianist spirituality throughout the University; and to facilitate among our students the development of the values and skills of outstanding professionals who are also ethical leaders.

To achieve these goals, we announce a comprehensive campaign, the largest campaign in St. Mary's University's history by several-fold, and one that will touch and improve every part of this University. The next period will be The Defining Moment for St. Mary's University.





# PROMOTING EXCELLENCE

In that most Marianist scriptural passage, at the wedding of Cana, Mary gently prodded the servers to do “whatever he tells you.” Mary urged the servers to follow God’s call — to undertake no half measures or tentative steps. The servers responded to Jesus’ direction so responsibly that they were able to serve the wedding feast’s best wine.

Promoting a Marianist culture of excellence at St. Mary’s University will require investments: first, in facilities and programs that allow our students to gain relevant experience and develop the skills necessary to succeed; second, in faculty who are outstanding teachers and mentors and who introduce students to valuable cutting-edge research; and, third, in academic leaders who model high standards and bring innovative vision to St. Mary’s schools and degree programs.

## Performing arts center

A performing arts center at St. Mary’s University will provide facilities for arts education and student performances. The new arts center will also allow St. Mary’s to re-establish arts education programs for high school students, thereby strengthening our efforts to recruit talented students, and to engage and serve our community.

## Enhancing student experiences in business

The Greehey School of Business is focused on enhancing the student experience through opportunities for quality internships, networking with influential business and civic leaders, and developing innovative academic offerings that prepare them for a globally connected world, emphasizing programs such as Accounting and Data Analytics, Finance and Risk Management, and Entrepreneurial Studies. Through real-world experiences, academic excellence and travel abroad, students graduate with the skills critical to career preparation and servant leadership.

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*The Marianist brothers taught me that you’re never truly a success unless you share your success with others.*

BILL GREEHEY (B.B.A. ’60)  
*Honorary Campaign Co-Chair*

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## State-of-the-art facilities for Science, Engineering and Technology

Since 2013, St. Mary’s, through the generosity of foundations and benefactors, has begun to remodel the existing three facilities in the School of Science, Engineering and Technology — Garni, Moody, and Richter halls — by adding modern laboratories and equipment. As enrollment continues to increase, and new and innovative degree programs are added, the School also needs a fourth building, which will provide faculty and staff offices and additional classrooms.

## Law Success Program

For many reasons, students at American law schools frequently are less well-equipped to study law than their predecessors. Currently matriculating law students often lack the skills and values necessary to study and practice law: reading critically, reasoning logically, writing effectively, working diligently and acting professionally. The St. Mary’s Law Success Program is designed holistically to address these issues and to help the School of Law fulfill its obligation to its students in passing the bar exam and in becoming prepared to succeed in their chosen career paths.

## Faculty excellence

St. Mary’s University’s legacy includes a faculty of outstanding teachers, mentors and scholars, men and women whose top priorities are the quality of our students’ educational experience and their gateway to graduation. The Defining Moment Campaign will establish endowed faculty chairs and professorships in every school, so that students will receive state-of-the-art learning, engage in important research under faculty supervision, and be better positioned to find meaningful internships and professional employment.

## Academic leadership

There is significant demand for deans who are exceptional leaders and who possess strategic vision and fundraising skills. The campaign will establish endowed chairs for the dean of each school at St. Mary’s. A chair for our deans will ensure that St. Mary’s always holds the financial resources to recruit and, just as importantly, to retain effective leadership.

*Continued on next page*



Photo by Josh Huskin



Photo by Mark Merjivar

## FORMATION OF FAITH

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**T**he most distinctive characteristic of St. Mary’s University is its Catholic identity and Marianist spirituality. Long ago, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, the Society of Mary’s founder, articulated a vision for Marianist education by reminding his Brothers, “Do not forget that you are Mary’s missionaries.”

These interrelated features — being Catholic in the Marianist tradition — define who we are and the values we stand for, and they guide our most important initiatives and strategic decisions. As our Marianist Brothers decline in numbers, the duty at St. Mary’s University to nurture and sustain our Catholic and Marianist character rests on the shoulders of our lay faculty and staff. In turn, the continuous responsibility to foster the formation of faith among our students and to educate the community at large must be more deliberate and intentional in a world with fewer professed religious.

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*The Marianists taught me the importance of serving others. What has one achieved if you don’t give back?*

TONY SANCHEZ (B.B.A. ’65, J.D. ’69)  
*Honorary Campaign Co-Chair*

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### A Center for Catholic Studies

An interdisciplinary Center for Catholic Studies will bring together St. Mary’s faculty from the many disciplines — business, science, law, and the humanities and social sciences, including theology and philosophy. The Center will promote campus-wide education, scholarly work and external outreach that examine culture and the most pressing regional, national and international public policy issues through the lens of Catholic intellectual thought, Catholic social teaching and Marianist spirituality. A Center for Catholic Studies will engage St. Mary’s faculty, staff and students in an ongoing conversation and formation about Catholic identity and Marianist charism, so that St. Mary’s University’s distinctive character remains vibrant and pervasive.

### Renovation of Reinbolt Hall, the spiritual center of campus

More than 100 years since Reinbolt Hall’s construction, St. Mary’s is faced with renovating the campus’ spiritual center — the location of Assumption Chapel and the Theology Department, and the future home of the Center for Catholic Studies. A transformative remodel of Reinbolt Hall will also enhance its aesthetics and create a facility to showcase St. Mary’s University’s rich Catholic and Marianist history and inspire our young adults to continue on their journeys to serve God and neighbor.



# PREPARING STUDENTS FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

**I**ncreasingly, our principal constituents — prospective students, current students and graduates — will judge the value of a St. Mary’s education by its capacity to facilitate career achievement. That means, in the short term, the University’s ongoing commitment to ensuring the affordability of undergraduate, graduate and law degrees. It also means, in the short term, the opportunity for meaningful employment after graduation for a student body that arrives at St. Mary’s with a variety of backgrounds and cultures.

In the longer term, St. Mary’s commitment must be our students’ opportunities to enjoy successful professional careers of ethical leadership in a global community. For its graduates, St. Mary’s must, in effect, be a gateway to significance.

## Scholarships

Scholarships ensure that a St. Mary’s education remains affordable for academically talented young men and women who otherwise might not be able to continue their education. However, without scholarship support, our highest-performing students often mitigate financial challenges by working long hours in part-time jobs, which impede their capacity to learn and graduate on time. The Defining Moment Campaign will establish endowed scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and law students.

## Student development and leadership

From the beginning of our students’ first year, we emphasize the expectation that the St. Mary’s graduate goes into the world to effect positive change. Through student development, we prepare them for lives as servant leaders. The campaign will strengthen leadership opportunities for St. Mary’s students through three priorities — the Marianist Leadership Program (MLP), Alternative Spring Break and service learning.



## Residential life and activities

A consensus of research shows that students perform better academically, and their graduation rates are higher, if they live on campus. An important part of the campus experience is student social life. The campaign will meet the need for endowed funds to support a Marianist student life experience that builds friendships and community.

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*My husband and I owe our success to our families and to the foundation and education we gained at St. Mary’s. We are spiritually motivated to help the University build on its distinguished tradition.*

LETI CONTRERAS (B.A. '89)  
Vice Chair, St. Mary’s University Board of Trustees

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## Career services

A Gateway strategic priority is to enhance career services at St. Mary’s to better prepare students for the job search, and to assist them in obtaining career-related internships and employment opportunities throughout Texas, our nation and the world. The Defining Moment Campaign will develop endowments to secure St. Mary’s as a career services leader.

## Veterans Center

St. Mary’s University celebrates its long history of graduating men and women who have served our country through military service. The Defining Moment Campaign will establish a University Veterans Center, which will provide the focused programming and services that meet the unique needs of students who are veterans.

## International Students Center

St. Mary’s students from the United States benefit greatly from the presence of international students in our classrooms and residence halls. An internationally diverse student body improves our domestic students’ cultural competency and prepares them for a global society. An International Students Center will address comprehensively the special needs of international students, many of whom have never before traveled to the U.S. or Texas. ■

[www.stmarytx.edu/definingmoment](http://www.stmarytx.edu/definingmoment)