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Winter 2019

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GOLD & BLUE LAW EDITION

SCHOOL *of* LAW ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

FALL/WINTER 2019

*Donations
put vision
within grasp*

The Defining Moment
Comprehensive Campaign
transforms legal education



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@StMarysLaw Social

1. While studying abroad in China, students explore the Great Wall with Interim School of Law Dean Vincent Johnson, J.D., LL.D., and program Director Bob Hu, Ph.D.
2. Former advocacy coach Rafe Foreman, J.D., teaches the St. Mary's Law National Trial Team how to be better storytellers during trial.
3. The School of Law celebrates the Advocacy Program's American Bar Association ranking as fifth-best in the nation.
4. New students hear legal advice during the Law Matriculation Ceremony.

On the cover: Marina Lewis, J.D. Class of 2020, left, and Katherine Cabello-Flores (J.D. '18), associate attorney at Tessmer Law Firm PLLC, both benefited from the School of Law's Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign. A scholarship has helped Lewis fund her studies. The instructors of the Law Success Program equipped Cabello-Flores with the skills to navigate law school. Photo by Robin Jerstad.

A photograph of Albert Kauffman, J.D., an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing in a locker room with blue lockers in the background. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

Teachable moment

Law professor champions civil rights, education issues

by Frank Garza

As he approached the bench, Albert Kauffman, J.D., knew this case would be an uphill battle.

The public school education finance case, *Edgewood ISD v. Kirby*, had previously been won at the district court level, but was overturned by the Court of Appeals for the Fifth District of Texas. Now, it was before the Supreme Court of Texas in 1989.

Kauffman, then-senior litigating attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), shuffled his notes, pushed up his glasses, cleared his throat and began speaking.

“We are here today to determine whether the Texas Constitution requires the Legislature of Texas to treat people equally — especially to treat students equally — and to meet the legislature’s constitutional duty to establish a suitable and efficient school finance system,” said Kauffman, now Professor of Law at St. Mary’s University.

The facts, Kauffman said, were “egregious.” The 300,000 children in the wealthiest districts had access to 25% of the state’s wealth, and the 300,000 children in the poorest districts could only draw from a measly 3%.

The court unanimously agreed. Justice Oscar Mauzy, who penned the opinion, called the remedy “long overdue.”

“The amount of money spent on a student’s education has a real and meaningful impact on the educational opportunity offered that student,” Mauzy wrote.

“We thought we had mastered the world,” said the victorious Kauffman, who has since become a master of the lecture hall as well as the courtroom.

Around the same time, Kauffman also litigated *LULAC v. Richards*, resulting in a tremendous amount of funding for higher education in the Rio Grande Valley for the Ph.D. programs at the former University of Texas–Pan American, and for building both the former University of Texas at Brownsville and Laredo’s Texas A&M International University.

Kauffman, who left MALDEF in 2002, has litigated many cases throughout his legal career, including affirmative action, local and state voting rights, employment discrimination, immigration and hospital admission policy cases.

In his 12 years of teaching at the School of Law, Kauffman has come to love the students at St. Mary’s and they’ve reciprocated, twice selecting him as a Law Commencement hooding officer.

“Putting the hoods on them, patting them on the back, shaking their hands, and watching as they were going through one of their defining moments, I got emotional,” he said. “I’m just amazed at how resilient our students are. I’m proud of them.” ■

LAWCAMPUSNEWS

St. Mary's Law receives \$500K gift for scholarships

A \$500,000 gift from the C.B. and Anita Branch Trust will grow the C.B. and Anita Branch Endowed Law Scholarship at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

The new gift brings the total given over the years by the Trust to about \$650,000. Jim Drought (J.D. '69), partner with Drought Drought & Bobbitt LLP in San Antonio, helped bring the gift to fruition as a trustee of the C.B. and Anita Branch Trust.

"St. Mary's University and the School of Law are honored to carry forward Anita Branch's strong Catholic values with this scholarship endowment," said President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D. "Through this generosity and the commitment of Jim Drought, St. Mary's Law will be better able to encourage the pursuit of justice through future generations of St. Mary's lawyers."

Anita Branch, wife of the late Charles B. Branch, the former president and chief

executive of the Dow Chemical Company, made a scholarship donation to St. Mary's — Drought's alma mater — after Drought represented her interests in a legal matter and she later designated him as a trustee.

School of Law tackles reform of upper-level curriculum

Beginning in February 2021, law graduates will have to pass a new bar exam, the Uniform Bar Examination, in order to gain admission to the Texas State Bar.

Interim School of Law Dean Vincent R. Johnson, J.D., LL.D., plans to focus his efforts on reform of the second- and third-year curricula to help St. Mary's Law students pass the bar exam on their first attempt.

The exam will focus on national law topics, such as conflict of laws, constitutional law, criminal law and procedure, and family law. Professor of Law Mark Cochran, J.D., will chair a special committee to explore this proposal.

China program celebrates 10th anniversary

For a decade, students of the St. Mary's University School of Law have furthered their global education by learning from and working with Chinese attorneys and scholars.

This past summer, participants in the Institute on Chinese Law and Business Summer Program, along with Director Robert Hu, LL.M., Ph.D., were invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary at Beihang University in Beijing.

"Over the last 10 years, we've built so many relationships with Chinese universities, law firms and Chinese institutions like the Chinese patent office and the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission," Hu said.

In addition to visiting the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City, students tour and intern with Chinese law firms and companies. ■



▲ In August, the St. Mary's University School of Law held its first Orientation Day of Service, during which more than 230 first-year law students volunteered at Haven for Hope to wash mattresses, clean the kitchen, tend the garden, sort donations and apply new paint. The students earned community service hours too, said Greg Zlotnick, J.D., Pro Bono Program Supervisor. Photos by Robin Jerstad.



Photo by Phil Kline

Lawyer extraordinaire

Multitalented law alum rises to the top of his field

by Melanie Skaggs (M.A. '02)

Speaker, writer, pianist, performer, traveler and polyglot.

Claude Ducloux (J.D. '76) of Austin is all these things but, most of all, he is the “Dear Abby” for lawyers who need advice on handling sensitive situations. He educates more than 900 attorneys each month through a legal education webcast.

“I always try to leave a moral lesson to promote the rule of law,” Ducloux said.

Whether in the courtroom or singing with the Bar & Grill Singers — a group of Austin attorneys who perform musical satire across the nation — Ducloux is center stage like his mother, a well-known opera singer; and his father, an opera director, symphony conductor and pianist.

“My whole life, I have felt I was spinning three plates up on sticks,” Ducloux said.

Nicknamed “Zip” as a kid, Ducloux has always liked moving fast. He completed his bachelor’s degree in three years, served two years in the U.S. Army and graduated from the St. Mary’s University School of Law a semester early.

“There’s never been an hour with enough days in it,” Ducloux joked.

During law school, Ducloux balanced work, studies and special programs. He participated in

mock trial and reached the semifinals in moot court as a first-year student. He also worked as a piano player to earn extra money, tickling the ivories five nights a week at the Old San Francisco Steakhouse.

“I appreciated my experience at St. Mary’s. I have heartwarming, wonderful memories,” said Ducloux, who served as president of the St. Mary’s University Law Alumni Association.

Today, Ducloux runs a private practice and teaches continuing legal education courses as the director of education, ethics and compliance for AffiniPay-LawPay. Of his many accolades, one of the most significant has been receiving the State Bar of Texas’ highest honor, the 2011 Gene Cavin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Legal Education.

“Claude is the consummate lawyer: always articulate, perceptive and engaged,” said Vincent R. Johnson, J.D., LL.D., Interim Dean of the St. Mary’s University School of Law. “While he has excelled in Texas courtrooms, his real claim to fame is the work he has done to champion the cause of high ethical standards in the legal profession. Claude is the epitome of ‘the good lawyer.’” ■

Donations

put vision *within grasp*

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign transforms legal education

THE ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW challenges each of its students to become knowledgeable and skilled leaders in the law, working to improve their community through justice.

In November 2017, the St. Mary's University School of Law boldly stepped forward to engage the law community in that effort as well. The goal was to raise \$25 million for the Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign for the School of Law as part of a larger campaign to raise \$130 million total for the University.

Many generous alumni and friends — such as Law Success Program donors Steven Michael Peña Sr. (J.D. '94) and the Honorable Mary Anne Bramblett (J.D. '81) and Coll Bramblett (J.D. '80) — have already accepted the challenge. Together, contributions totaling more than \$16 million helped enable the University to increase its overall fundraising goal to \$150 million.

These gifts have built on the Catholic and Marianist educational foundation to create life-changing opportunities for School of Law students and faculty.

Law Success Program

The mission of Law Success is to help prepare students for success in school, on the bar exam and in practice. To accomplish this mission, the program takes an innovative, data-driven approach to student growth by using assessments and data gathering to plan legal skills development, bar exam initiatives and individual academic counseling.

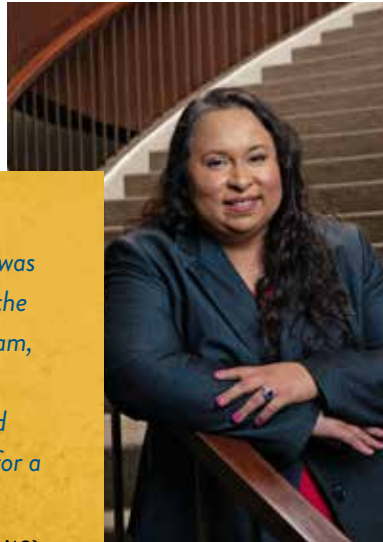


Courtesy Photo

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“When we were told we’d have to take some classes no one else had to take, I was apprehensive. But, had it not been for the donors providing funding for the program, I don’t know that I would have been as successful. The practical knowledge and experiences made me better prepared for a legal career.”

— Katherine Cabello-Flores (J.D. '18),
Associate Attorney, Tessmer Law Firm PLLC



“

“The best part of the Law Success Program was the one-on-one attention I received with the instructors. It is one thing to have the law professors teach you the material and another to have a professor dedicated to working with you on your law school trajectory. Being a first-generation student going to law school, I had no idea what law school was about, what the process was. Law Success fills that gap.”

—Eden Ramirez (J.D. '18),
Associate Attorney, O’Hanlon,
Demerath & Castillo, PC

“The work we do is built on the foundation the donors have laid for us. It really has made a tremendous difference. Ensuring each student has coaching, support and an academic adviser — the funding allowed us to hire passionate people who could make that happen.”

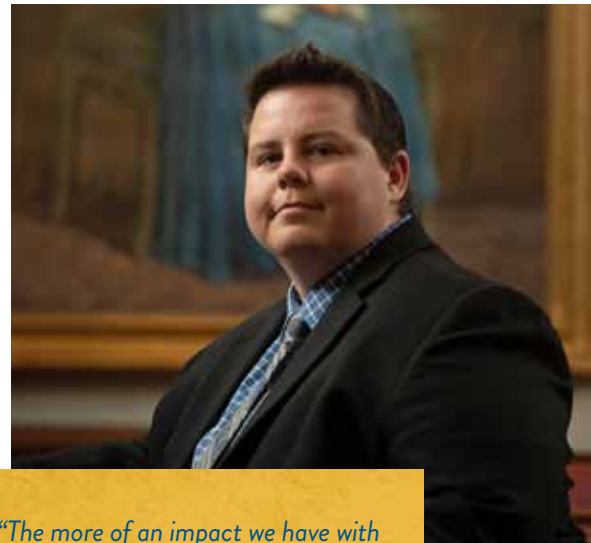
— Zoe E. Niesel, J.D., Executive Director of Law Success and
Assistant Professor of Law



“

“The more of an impact we have with the students, the more it helps them achieve a larger goal so they can be successful for themselves. We’re not just impacting the people who walk through the door, but really the entire class.”

— Afton Cavanaugh (J.D. '13), Director
of Law Success and Service
Professor of Law



Gaining perspective through Law Success

Sammantha Rodriguez (B.A. '15, J.D. '18)

Hometown: El Paso

Position: Associate Attorney, Tessmer Law Firm PLLC

Q: Why did you choose to continue studying at St. Mary's for law school?

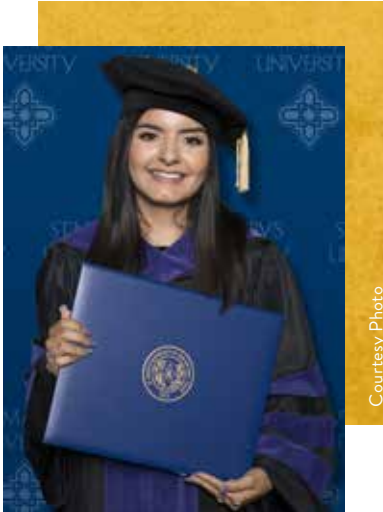
A: St. Mary's has always encouraged a strong presence in the San Antonio community. One way to do that was to get a law degree.

Q: How did the Law Success Program affect your law school experience?

A: Law Success helped me tremendously in gaining a different perspective on how I needed to conduct myself as a law student and how I needed to study to be more effective. It has helped students transition into law school because it is a whole different monster, and that's intimidating. I don't think I could have passed the bar without the Law Success Program's Raise the Bar prep program.

Q: How did Law Success instructors help you?

A: They go above and beyond to make sure you understand concepts. I had a friend who was having trouble understanding a lecture. One of the Law Success instructors went to the next class, listened to the lecture with her and helped break it down at the end.



Courtesy Photo



President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D., right, congratulates new School of Law graduates at the May 2019 Law Commencement.

Scholarships drive excellence

Gifts to support scholarships help the School of Law recruit and retain the best and hardest working students.



"Donors' generosity has enabled me to not have to take out so many student loans. It created an opportunity for me to go to school and work less if needed. I can be a member of the mock trial team in the evening, study in the morning and work in the afternoon. I'm the chair of the Board of Advocates, which takes up a lot of time and is a lot of responsibility, because it requires us to network with local attorneys."

— Marina Lewis, J.D. Class of 2020, Deborah K. Melaas Scholarship



"It's one more bill I can pay. I'm excited if I can find a dollar on the ground, so the money really goes a long way. I've worked every year while I've been in law school, about 15 to 20 hours a week. This semester, I have a judicial internship at the Fourth Court of Appeals, which means less income coming in and more stress, but the scholarship definitely helps alleviate that."

— Kelly Phelps, J.D. Class of 2020, Deborah K. Melaas Scholarship recipient





GOLD & BLUE ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

FALL/WINTER 2019



Our History. Our Moment.

Our Vision *to be the finest.*

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign gifts bring glory to a St. Mary's University education.

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The Softball team pitches in for move-in day

Rattler Softball players donated their time to welcome and help incoming freshmen move into residence halls during their first weekend on campus in August.

See Page 6 for more Athletics news.



GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

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(Denotes degree from St. Mary's University)

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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.

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Photo by Robin Jerstad

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Professor and student sift through Marianist history

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@StMarysU Social

1. Rattler Man helps students fire up the grill during Burgers with the Brothers.
2. President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D., and the St. Mary's community recognizes staff and faculty, including Theology Associate Professor Robert O'Connor, Ph.D., for years of dedicated service during University Convocation.
3. Students mix, mingle and make career connections at the Greehey School of Business' annual Risk Management and Insurance Career Fair.
4. Spirit Thursday showcases campus pride by encouraging everyone to wear gold and blue.
5. St. Mary's Men's Soccer prepare for competition in the Lone Star Conference.
6. *The Rattler* newspaper staff discuss story ideas as the paper celebrates 100 years of coverage.

On the cover: Cast in Cincinnati in 1866, the bell from the St. Mary's Institute — the precursor to St. Mary's University — rung out to our earliest faculty and students. Now housed on campus at the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States, the bell symbolizes the glory brought to the University by donors over the years, including those to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign. Read more about the effect of the campaign's gifts on Page 10 and about the University's Marianist history on Page 18. Photo by Robin Jerstad.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From *big reveal* to *big new goal*

Donors to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign invest in the University's future

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

Two years ago, on Nov. 17, 2017, I shared the Big Reveal with 500 major benefactors and friends of St. Mary's. Rumors aside, we didn't announce the rebirth of football after a 76-year respite. Nor did I promise students free breakfast tacos every day. No, on this special evening we revealed the largest campaign in St. Mary's University's history — The Defining Moment — with a fundraising goal of \$130 million, a larger goal than all previous campaigns combined.

Two years later and with still two years remaining, we have received \$138 million in gifts, pledges and grants. We have announced a new goal of \$150 million, and I am confident that we will reach this goal too by Dec. 31, 2021, the campaign's official close.

At this midpoint of The Defining Moment's public phase, it's appropriate to wonder what this fundraising has already achieved for St. Mary's and what the campaign will accomplish in the future. In this *Gold & Blue*, we answer this question through the words and images of students, faculty and staff who are benefiting today.

In broad strokes, The Defining Moment's sights are set on realizing what our Trustees, faculty, staff and I envision for St. Mary's — of becoming, as a Catholic Marianist University, among the finest private universities in Texas and the Southwest. That's a tall order — to be regarded as highly as TCU, Rice, Trinity and SMU. But with the success of The Defining Moment, and the margin of excellence this fundraising will support,

“
We believe this vision will be *within our grasp*.
”

we believe this vision will be within our grasp, if we continue to focus on the campaign's three overarching goals.

The first goal is about promoting a culture of excellence. The many endowed chairs and professorships established in this campaign are an important way St. Mary's can foster faculty excellence in teaching, research and service. Chairs and professorships allow us to not only recruit and retain our best faculty, but also to present these bright stars as role models for their colleagues.

The second goal seeks to deepen and embed the University's most distinctive characteristic — its Catholic Marianist identity. Launching the new Center for Catholic Studies, endowing a student peer ministry program in our residence halls, and increasing the number of Marianist Leadership Program students are among the efforts that will ensure faith formation remains an institutional commitment, as fewer Marianists play active roles on campus.

Finally, The Defining Moment's third goal is to prepare students not only to enjoy successful careers, but to view their professional lives as vocational journeys, as ways to serve God by bettering our community.

Critical to this effort is maintaining the affordability of a St. Mary's education, so that students who are drawn to the inspiring St. Mary's mission are able to enroll. To this vital end, St. Mary's has received more than \$50 million in student scholarship gifts and grants.

I am most grateful for the thousands of gifts we have received as part of The Defining Moment. Some large, some small, and all given from the heart in gratitude for the Marianist education you received. Your gifts also signify your belief that St. Mary's is an institution worthy of your investment. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I pledge to fulfill your high expectations. ■

\$138M
TOTAL RAISED

\$150M
NEW GOAL

35
DONORS \$1M+

10,811
TOTAL DONORS

14
NEW ENDOWED
ACADEMIC POSITIONS

78
NEW ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIPS

\$51.5M
NEW SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDING

\$11.9M
FUNDING FOR LABS,
CLASSROOMS

3,548
DONORS UNDER \$100

St. Mary's University honored with Governor's Volunteer Award for community impact

Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, honorary chair of the 2019 Governor's Volunteer Awards, and the OneStar Foundation honored St. Mary's University with the Higher Education Community Impact Award at the university level.

These awards honor the exemplary service of individuals, groups and organizations that have made significant and measurable contributions to their communities through service and volunteering.

"Texans are generous by nature," Abbott said. "By selflessly giving of their hearts and hands, their time and treasure, they have helped to make the future of Texas even brighter."

St. Mary's students engage in intentional relationships that reach far beyond the physical boundaries of their campus.

Whether it's hosting a summer camp for neighborhood children from low-income households, providing pro bono legal services to veterans, facilitating ID recovery and warrant-relief services for individuals experiencing homelessness, navigating resources and services for individuals with intellectual disabilities, providing free tax preparation, or assisting Texans recovering from disasters, St. Mary's students are truly making a difference in San Antonio and beyond.

In August, 675 volunteers at 39 area sites served 2,025 hours during the Continuing the Heritage Day of Service.



St. Mary's hosts *A Church in Crisis Moves to the Future* symposium

St. Mary's University hosted a joint lecture and symposium on the theme *A Church in Crisis Moves to the Future* over two days in September. Both days featured discussion by Peter Steinfels, Ph.D., scholar and former New York Times journalist.

St. Mary's University's MacTaggart Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series and the newly established Center for Catholic Studies jointly presented the public discussion.

"This program demonstrated that St. Mary's has heeded the call given by St. John Paul II, who, as pope, stressed that 'a Catholic university must have the courage to speak uncomfortable truths which do not please public opinion, but which are necessary to safeguard the authentic good of society,'" said Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., Beirne Director of the Center for Catholic Studies. "St. Mary's offered this program to help the church and all people of faith, or none, to consider multiple viewpoints to issues and ideas that we are grappling with each day."

Steinfels discussed *Sex Abuse and the Future Church*, as the first lecture of the year in the MacTaggart Lecture Series. This free, annual lecture series features men and women who have helped shape the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, which is at the heart of the educational experience at St. Mary's.

The dialogue continued with The Crossroads Symposium of the St. Mary's University Center for Catholic Studies featuring panel discussions and commentary on the topics of clergy sexual abuse and the challenges and opportunities in the church.

New trustees join St. Mary's board

St. Mary's University welcomed four new members of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, effective June 1.

The new additions to the board include:

- Ray E. Berend (B.B.A. '67), CPA and consultant
- Richard Loza (J.D. '87), attorney, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Inc., San Antonio
- Brother Jesse O'Neill, S.M., assistant for education, Marianist Province of the United States
- Yava D. Scott (B.B.A. '77, J.D. '80), CPA and co-managing partner, YaCari Consultants, LLC

The University also recently inducted five members into the Class of 2019 Trustees Emeriti:

- David W. Biegler (B.S. '68)
- Ray Carvajal, R.Ph. (CL '68)
- Vincent Lin, Ph.D. (B.S. '66, M.A. '68)
- Thomas M. O'Connor (B.S.C. '43) (posthumously inducted)
- The Rev. Martin Solma, S.M.

Office of University Communications wins awards in regional competitions

The Office of University Communications received four recognitions during the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District IV 2019 Awards, which honor communications and advancement professionals in higher education.

- Gold Award in the Institutional Identity category for *Art and History Together: St. Mary's University's Ties to the History of the Southwest*. The entry focused on the promotion of the Fall 2018 Gentilz exhibit.
- Silver Award in the Project category for the development and promotion of the fifth annual StMU 5K for the Neighborhood.
- Bronze Award in the Digital/Social Media category for the 5K for the Neighborhood social media campaign.
- Bronze Award (individual) in the Feature Writing category for the *Gold & Blue Law Edition* magazine feature, *The Mighty Pen*, by Frank Garza.

For the second year in a row, the American Marketing Association's San Antonio Chapter acclaimed University Communications as the second-place winner in the 2019 Marketing Excellence Awards higher education category for the *My Defining Moment* advertising campaign associated with The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign.

U.S. News ranks St. Mary's second in West for value, top in SA for social mobility

For the second year in a row, St. Mary's University placed second in the West region in the Best Value Schools rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*, which released the 2020 edition of its annual Best Colleges guide.

This category uses a calculation that considers the school's academic quality (based on its *U.S. News Best Colleges* ranking) and several cost factors, which include the 2018-2019 net cost of attendance for a student receiving an average level of need-based financial aid. "The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal," according to the publication.

The University's ranking among the 2020 Best Colleges rose to tie for the 10th spot out of 128 universities in the West for academic quality, especially student outcomes. St. Mary's has been included in the list of top-tier regional universities for 26 consecutive years.

More rankings

U.S. News introduced a new ranking for Top Performers on Social Mobility to evaluate which schools best serve underrepresented students. It measures how successful colleges are at "advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants." Most students receiving these grants have adjusted gross family incomes under \$50,000. St. Mary's tied for No. 22 in the West and ranked first in San Antonio in this analysis.

This year, St. Mary's also rose to tie sixth among the Best Colleges for Veterans in the West, which includes schools that take part in federal initiatives to aid veterans and active-duty service members in funding their education. St. Mary's University is a Yellow Ribbon School.

U.S. News also ranked the University's Engineering program.

Money magazine recently ranked St. Mary's the top Catholic university in the Southwest, No. 7 in Texas and No. 26 of Catholic institutions in the U.S. based on the quality of education, affordability and graduates' job success.

For more information, visit stmarytx.edu/rankings.

ST. MARY'S RANKS AMONG THE FINEST

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

#1 in San Antonio for Social Mobility 

#2 in West for Best Value 

MONEY MAGAZINE

#1 Catholic university in the Southwest 

#7 in Texas 

#26 Catholic Institution in U.S. 

COLLEGE FACTUAL

#2 in Southwest Best Colleges for the Money 

NICHE

#2 in San Antonio for Quality 

#14 in Texas 

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

Law Weekend & Reunion

The St. Mary's University School of Law invites law alumni to our 2020 Law Weekend and Reunion on **FRIDAY, MARCH 27**, and **SATURDAY, MARCH 28**. Join us for reunions, campus tours and more.

The event will include a celebration of Advocacy excellence on **SATURDAY, MARCH 28**. If you participated in a traveling competition team or were on Board of Advocates, let us know by visiting bit.ly/StMUAAdvocacy and completing the form.

San Antonio Film Festival features St. Mary's Public History project on Santa Anna's leg

A 25-student group. A 2,000-mile journey. A quest for one contentious wooden leg. One film captured it all.

The film, *25 Texans in the Land of Lincoln*, by filmmaker Ellen Brodsky, illuminated for Texas audiences at the San Antonio Film Festival an expedition by St. Mary's University Public History students calling on the Illinois State History Museum to repatriate to Mexico the leg that once belonged to Mexican general Antonio López de Santa Anna.

During the Mexican War of 1847, Santa Anna left behind the prosthetic leg when surprised by a unit from Illinois. The troops captured the leg and brought it to Illinois.

The film captured the 2016 journey of St. Mary's University Public History students and Professor of History Teresa Van Hoy, Ph.D., seeking to challenge ideas about the Mexican War, repatriate the leg to Mexico and honor U.S. President Abraham Lincoln with a Day of the Dead altar.

"These young Texans gathered at the Alamo in the pre-dawn dark to embark on a journey that took them not only to Illinois and back, but to the front page of the Wall Street Journal, to TV and radio audiences, and now to film festivals across the United States and in Mexico," Van Hoy said.

Following the Texas premiere in August, the film screened at additional fall festivals in Mexico and the U.S., including the opening-night screening at the Immigration Film Festival in Washington, D.C.



Courtesy still

▲ St. Mary's History student Andre Grajeda appears in the film *25 Texans in the Land of Lincoln*.

St. Mary's Athletics continues academic success

St. Mary's University Athletics continued its rich history of academic success during the 2018-2019 school year, posting a cumulative 3.35 GPA — its highest on record.

The Rattlers led all Heartland Conference schools in the sports of volleyball and women's tennis, recording GPAs of 3.75 and 3.58, respectively. St. Mary's finished second in the conference in overall GPA.

Men's Soccer takes down two ranked opponents

This fall, the St. Mary's Men's Soccer Team began its 2019 campaign at Sigma Beta Chi Field by defeating No. 16 ranked Colorado School of Mines, 3-1. The win is the second time in as many years the Rattlers knocked off a ranked Orediggers team as St. Mary's defeated Mines 4-2 in Golden, Colorado, last season.

Just two weeks later, the Rattlers hosted No. 8 Midwestern State University and defeated the Mustangs, 2-0. The win over MSU Texas is the first time the Rattlers have defeated the Mustangs. St. Mary's entered the match 0-30 all-time. ■



◀ Rattler Volleyball setter Bree Perry, right, celebrates a point in a match against West Texas A&M.

Liam Morrison sends a cross into the box against No. 16 Colorado School of Mines. ▶

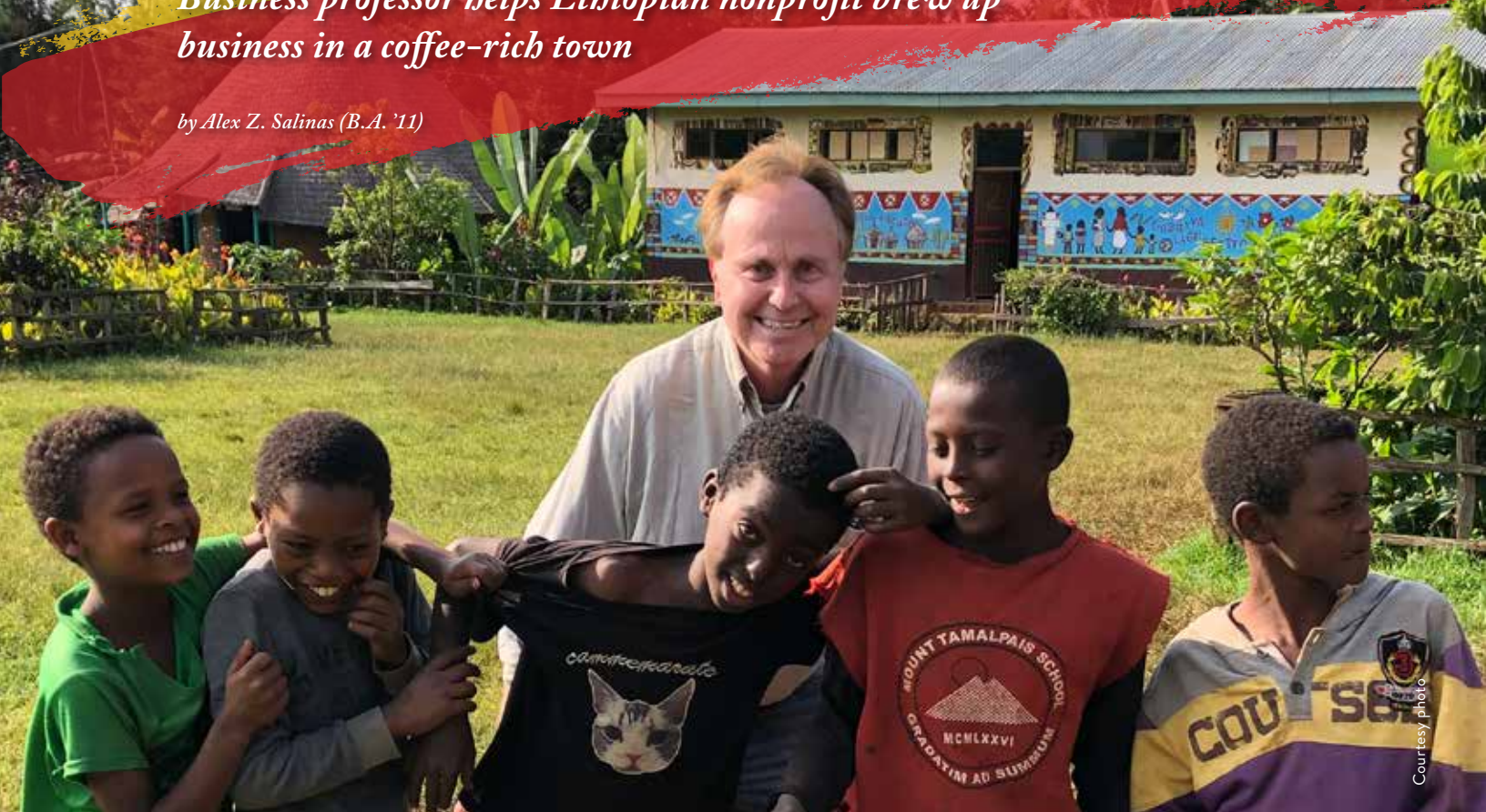


Photos by Antonio Moreno

Stirring goodwill

Business professor helps Ethiopian nonprofit brew up business in a coffee-rich town

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



Courtesy photo

What struck Professor of International Business Jeffrey Johnson, Ph.D., most was the orphans' joy.

"They were amazing, happy, always smiling, always wanting to play volleyball or soccer," Johnson said of the 160 African children in kindergarten through fourth grade sheltered by Common River, a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization in the town of Aleta Wondo in Ethiopia.

For more than a week in June, the Greehey School of Business professor and his wife, a UT Health San Antonio faculty member, stayed in the campground at Common River to carry out pro bono work — he to assist the NGO's co-founders and staff in re-engineering their coffee-growing business model, she to perform dental checkups on patients.

"The first five days, I observed and noted all aspects of their operation," said Johnson, who then offered recommendations on how to generate sufficient cash flow via ecotourism.

Johnson described the coffee of Aleta Wondo — what the town and its surrounding region are known for — as a dark roast enjoyed during

daily coffee ceremonies. For the ceremonies, the townspeople "smash the beans by hand using a mortar and pestle."

Johnson said there are heartbreaking challenges, primarily caused by poverty, for the people living on the land.

In addition to the children, Common River also shelters about 100 women, many of whom are illiterate to the point of not being able to sign their names in their native Amharic language, he said.

Common River's mission is to provide a safe haven and education for the women and children of Aleta Wondo so they can build a vibrant, self-sustaining village.

Johnson's stay at Common River developed a relationship that he believes will continue.

"I've done 25 study-abroad trips while I've taught at St. Mary's University," he said. "While I funded this trip on my own, this is what we're all about at St. Mary's — helping people wherever they need." ■

▲ Jeffrey Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of International Business, center, shares smiles with orphaned boys living at Common River.

Hispanic business champ

U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce leader builds robust national network

by Jasmine DeLeon (B.A. '11, M.A. '15)

With more than 4.3 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S., advocating for them is a big job. It's one that launched Ramiro Cavazos (M.P.A. '03) out of the Lone Star State and into the nation's capital.

As president and CEO of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Cavazos nurtures a strong network of Hispanic chambers around the country, supporting the issues that matter to the Chamber while managing a team at the headquarters in Washington, D.C. For instance, the Chamber has come out in support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement. The Chamber also encourages Fortune 1,000 companies to do more business with Hispanic-owned businesses.

"We are interested in making sure we have a healthy environment for our businesses in America that are Hispanic-owned," said Cavazos, adding that there is a need for more Hispanic-, minority- and women-owned businesses working with Fortune 1,000 businesses.

Since rising from his position as CEO of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to the national role in October 2018, Cavazos has worked to build trust and confidence with the Chamber's staff and board of directors.

"Trust is an important factor in successful decision-making. Building that confidence is going to make us stronger as an organization moving forward," he said. "That network is powerful, and it's something I don't take for granted."

President Emeritus and Professor of Political Science Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. (B.A. '62, M.A. '64), who taught Cavazos, called him "the best example of an organizational man."

"His networking capabilities, his humor and storytelling ability were always evident and opened doors for him in both the civic and business communities," Cotrell said.

A graduate of the Master of Public Administration program, Cavazos credits his time at St. Mary's with providing a family-oriented environment that allowed him to build strong relationships throughout his career.

"That Marianist lifestyle — focused on ethics, morals, doing what's right, treating others with respect, giving yourself to the community — that has helped me in the work I've done," Cavazos said.

"No matter what I've done, I've always embodied that Marianist mindset that makes St. Mary's special. Everyone who goes to school there, graduates from there, works there, has that DNA. It's a DNA that, I believe, is very humanistic. St. Mary's taught me to be a better person." ■

“That Marianist lifestyle — *focused on ethics, morals, doing what’s right, treating others with respect, giving yourself to the community* — that has helped me in the work that I’ve done.”

”



Our history.

Our Moment.

Our vision to be the finest.

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign gifts bring glory to a St. Mary's University education.

One gift alone can contribute to transformative educational opportunities — the defining moments that change a student's trajectory from unsure to successful, elevate a professor's research into the national limelight and support the University community in its faith journey with Catholic and Marianist traditions.

Now, multiply the glory these types of gifts can bring. Not by 10 or 20, but by more than 10,000.

Each takes St. Mary's a step closer to realizing its vision to become one of the finest private universities in the region. Each propels the most ambitious fundraising effort ever undertaken at St. Mary's — The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign launched in Fall 2017. In November, the University announced already exceeding the stated goal of \$130 million and extending the campaign to a new \$150 million goal.

In the words of Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., whose position as the inaugural Beirne Director of the Center for Catholic Studies was funded by one of these donations, "the 'Defining Moment' is believing what is possible."

She shares that belief in what's possible with the students and faculty across campus who — thanks to the campaign's donors — have already witnessed the evolution of their experiences in faith formation, and academic and research excellence.

Formation of Faith

Pursuing faith

Anthony “AJ” Klutho Jr.

Hometown: St. Louis

Studying: Exercise and Sports Science sophomore, Theology minor

Q: Why did you choose to study at St. Mary’s?

A: What really set St. Mary’s apart was the Catholic heritage. The moment that I was on campus, I knew this is where I want to be.

St. Mary’s created an environment where I could become the best version of myself.

Q: How does your Theology minor fit into your educational goals?

A: My faith is really integrated into who I am. The purpose of the Theology minor is to understand what I believe. Through understanding other religions of the world, you strengthen your knowledge of your own.

Q: How has receiving a scholarship affected your life?

A: It’s such a blessing. I’m able to live on campus. It makes living out of state so much more manageable. I could be paying the same for some public school in Missouri, but I wouldn’t be getting the same education.

Q: How has being a member of the Marianist Leadership Program and benefiting from the funding it has received impacted you?

A: The program gave me the space to grow within my faith. This program is also very big on making an impact on the community and helps integrate service into who I am.

Q: What has been your favorite thing about St. Mary’s?

A: Opportunity is really my favorite thing, especially within the faith life. We have daily Mass on campus. We have Casa Maria where the Marianist brothers open their house for prayer and a meal. I play worship music. Those opportunities are the biggest reason why I’m still Catholic — the University had the desire for me to pursue my faith and the resources for me to sustain it.



“

In Catholic higher education, I found an environment where you can be all of who you are, especially when you allow your faith to be prominent in that. I’m a better musician. I’m a better teacher. I’m a better human being because I’m allowed to be true to myself and I’m surrounded by people who are allowed to be true to themselves.”

— Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A.,
Beirne Director of the Center for
Catholic Studies and Professor of Music



“

The Marianist Leadership Program has empowered me to be a leader for my community. It has helped me discover where my strengths and weaknesses are, where I need to grow even more. The idea of being able to lead with the Marianist charisms is very significant to my future, especially because I want to be in education.”

— Laura Dicún, junior Management major and Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor from Argentina

“

St. Mary’s has a unique sense of community that I believe stems from its Marianist values. My time here has taught me that disciplined, purposeful hard work pays off. I am so excited to take those principles ingrained in me through athletic success to fight for the common good.”

— Jake Stevenson, Political Science senior and Men’s Golf player from Boerne



Academic and Research Distinction



“

I had never been exposed to research prior to coming to St. Mary's. After I started, I fell in love with it. The professors helped me understand that my work extends to thousands of lives. The donors who funded much of our research and our renovated spaces have helped introduce us to our future callings.”

— Alexis Salazar, Biology senior from San Antonio



“

Research as an undergraduate can be a transformative experience. As a mentor, I can see that transformation at work in my students. When students are in the research lab working on answering real questions that could impact health and disease, they learn biology in a whole new way.”

— Verónica Contreras-Shannon, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

“

The Mechanical Engineering program has given me the skills required to work in an engineering-related industry right out of undergraduate school, but with an emphasis on the importance of establishing interpersonal relationships and reflecting the characteristics of a Marianist education.”

— Nicolas Romero, Mechanical Engineering senior from California and member of the Marianist Leadership Program

“

Mechanical engineering does not make sense without facilities for the students to experience the engineering in a hands-on environment. Without the support that we have received to build labs, our program would be meaningless. It is great to be able to attract students who want to learn mechanical engineering in our Marianist community.”

— Amber McClung, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering



Research opportunities help launch young scientist

Jose Figueroa, left, a junior from San Antonio studying Physics and Mathematics, gives thanks for the opportunities provided by those who have donated to improve research opportunities.

“Young people, especially people of color in the sciences, just need a chance,” said Figueroa, who has interned with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. “Breaking the mold is something I don’t take for granted. Doing that internship proved that I can research. I can go anywhere in the world and be a good scientist.”

The recently renovated Brother William Hamm Physics Lab is greatly enhancing courses “crucial in the preparation for future engineers and scientists,” said Richard Lombardini, Ph.D., right, Associate Professor of Physics.



“

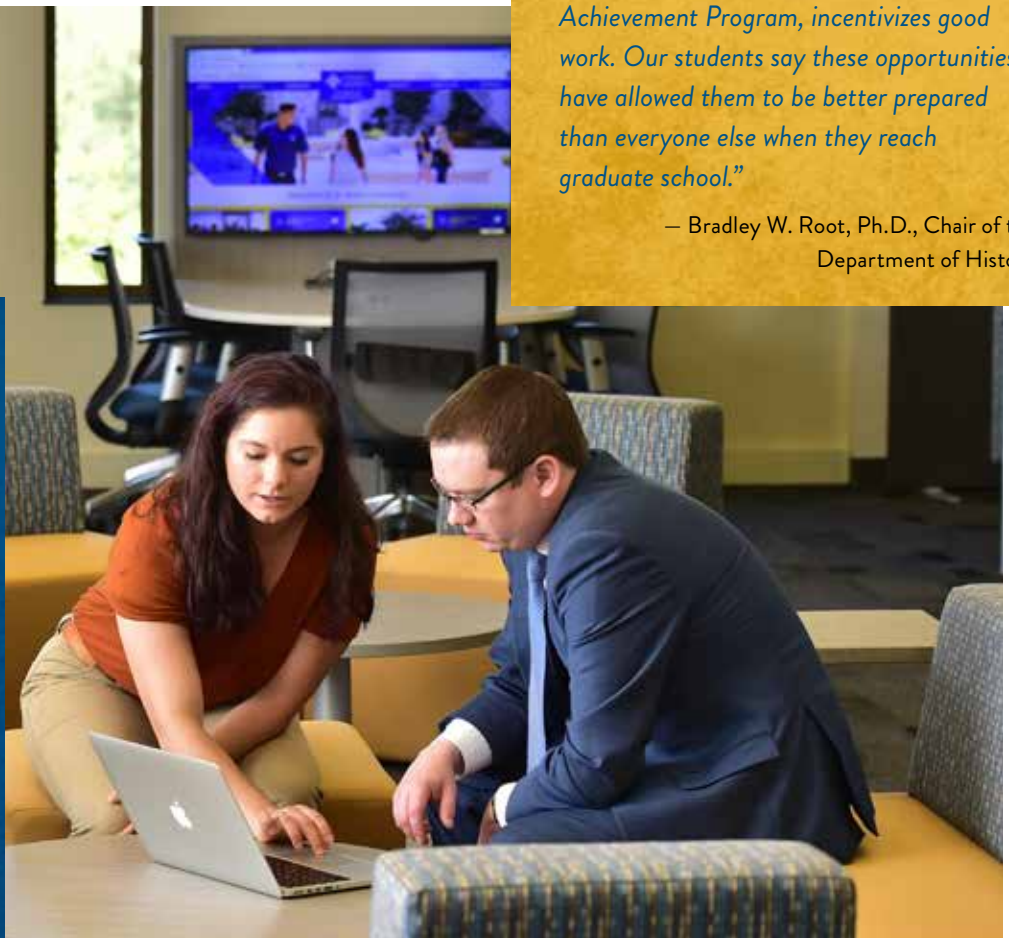
Travel funding for students, such as through the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, incentivizes good work. Our students say these opportunities have allowed them to be better prepared than everyone else when they reach graduate school.”

— Bradley W. Root, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of History

“

Thanks to the support I’ve received through the Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program, I am able to attend St. Mary’s and give back to the community by sharing stories about San Antonio’s history. Through the program, I’ve had the opportunity to partner with the nonprofit Esperanza Center to produce a digital project on the history of the Missions and Tejano culture.”

— Samantha Shine Trabucco, Master of Arts in Public History student from Floresville



Student Success

“

Any financial assistance is a blessing. I believe we have a purpose here on Earth to love and serve others. The people who have provided funds for me are a step ahead on that, and I will be doing the same when I'm in the position to do so.”

— Mya Culiver, Computer Engineering junior from New Mexico and Women's Basketball guard

Scholarship provides student with a life-changing moment

Magdalena Olivas, left, an Accounting, and Finance and Risk Management senior from Mexico, said a scholarship made the difference in her attending St. Mary's.

The day of her high school graduation, Olivas had decided to go to another school because it cost less. But a call from her counselor let her know about help she would receive from the St. Mary's Carlos and Malú Alvarez International Student Endowed Scholarship Fund. Her brother now attends St. Mary's too.

“Thank you' only includes eight letters, but to me, it involves a life-changing moment: a new hope, a dream come true and a bag full of dreams that will impact the lives of many,” she said.





“

The Greehey Scholars make me proud with their thought-provoking questions and polished comments. This professionalism, along with solid character, often results in internships or full-time positions. A financial contribution to St. Mary's University provides the sustenance to produce the leaders that this world needs.”

— Suzanne Oliva (J.D. '96, B.B.A. '87),
Director of the Greehey Scholars Program and
Visiting Assistant Professor of Accounting



“

Through music and music education, everyone can find purpose and meaning in their lives. Thanks to your help, we are able to update our instrument inventory, technology and student aid, which advances our performance and education quality.”

— Matthew Mireles, D.M.A. (B.A. '07),
Chair of the Department of Music



“

St. Mary's has a program for Theology that supports students involved in ministry. The funding tells students this work they're doing matters. I was super surprised to find out I was being given the opportunity to do this really new and exciting research in digital humanities, marrying technology, archaeology and theology together.”

— Vanessa Cypert, online Master of Arts
in Theology student from New Braunfels



Faculty Excellence

“

My life was transformed because a St. Mary's professor saw in me more than I saw in myself and cared enough to spend the time necessary to get me to see my potential. The most rewarding aspect of my job is being able to play a part in the transformational process our students undergo here. To assist our students as they develop into promising young professionals and genuinely good people is an honor that I never take for granted.”

— David Sommer, Ph.D. (B.B.A. '89), Charles E. Cheever
Chair of Risk Management



“

I've been all around the continent, to places like Montreal, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago and New Orleans for conferences and competitions. I always come back with a different perspective. I feel like I have to give back to others now.”

— Rudy Martinez, Finance and Risk Management
senior from Laredo



“

Our professors and donors to the Risk Management Student Success Fund, Tom and Leti Contreras, have helped instill that sense of, 'I can do this.' I feel ready and confident to make a difference in the world.”

— Olivia Bachelet, Finance and Risk
Management senior from Colorado



Professor's dedication to students pays dividends

Todd R. Hanneken, Ph.D., Chair of the Theology Department, described the "Defining Moment" as "every moment we go out of our way to do more than the minimum or more than our jobs require to help students."

He recently helped an 88-year-old student, who wasn't previously able to finish a degree program. "She doesn't have a computer and she doesn't live in San Antonio. We said, 'This is someone who wants to know what we have to teach, and we're going to accommodate the student.'"

For another student, a veteran who wanted to study Theology, Hanneken worked to see if the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs would fund studying Theology at the graduate level. "For that student, it was a big step in his career."



“

I enjoy the diverse faculty's backgrounds. Seeing people from around the world in the Greehey School of Business showed me how broad St. Mary's is."

— Fernanda Sandoval, Finance and Risk Management senior and Greehey Scholar from El Salvador



“

The *Defining Moment* is believing what is possible, seeing the little light bulbs go on and realizing all the things we talked about are real."

— Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., Beirne Director of the Center for Catholic Studies and Professor of Music

Educational pioneers

Professor and student search out the rich and complicated story of St. Mary's University's Hispanic-serving history

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



Gerald E. Poyo, Ph.D., resolved to tell the story of St. Mary's University's history with the intention of uncovering its Hispanic historical narrative. What he found was the University's foundation, from the very start, was rooted in a call to serve Mexican children.

"This was unexpected," said Poyo, the O'Connor Chair for the History of Hispanic Texas and the Southwest, who spent the last two years combing through the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States, which are housed on campus.

"When we think of St. Mary's as being a Hispanic university with about 60% of the population being Hispanic students, we know the history of 40 years ago when it used to be a predominantly Anglo-American school."

People might assume that the University transitioned to serving Hispanics in the 1960s and 1970s, when there was a resurgence of Hispanic students at St. Mary's.

"But that's not the case at all."

With the help of Public History graduate student Edgar Velázquez Reynald and others, Poyo has created an exhibit on Latinos and Marianist education in San Antonio now on display at the Marianist Archives and will develop their findings into a book.

Education for all children

The first boys' school in San Antonio, which would evolve into St. Mary's University — called the St. Mary's Institute — was founded by the late Rev. John Marie Odin, the first Bishop of Galveston, to teach Mexican American children in San Antonio. Upon visiting the city, Odin was dismayed by the poverty he observed. The community needed a school.

In 1851, Odin traveled to Bordeaux, France, after hearing about the progressive education the Society of Mary provided in several countries. Odin implored the Superior General of the Congregation for teachers so he could establish a school in San Antonio, but was denied.

Odin's request required multilingual teachers because San Antonio was a melting pot of different cultures and languages. But well-educated teachers were already in high demand by existing schools. After a second attempt, the Marianists granted him three brothers based in Europe and Brother Andrew Edel — a professor at the St. Mary's Institute in Dayton, Ohio — who would direct the school.

Upon arriving in Texas, the brothers mastered English and converted a shop to a schoolhouse that opened on Aug. 25, 1852. By year's end, the school grew from 12 pupils to 100 of many nationalities and faiths.

"St. Mary's was a school that had Mexicans, French, Germans, Polish and Anglo-Americans — all in an integrated multilingual and multicultural environment at a time when the city and country were moving toward more and more segregation," Poyo said. "They really founded the school against the grain."

In March 1853, the new building on the San Antonio River opened and soon expanded.

Enduring hardship and growth

By 1853, five teachers were spread thin across a growing student body.

Odin intervened and financed the voyage for two brothers from France to San Antonio after Edel spent nearly a year waiting for the Superior General's response to his pleas for help. The transportation cost was too significant for the school because many students could not afford tuition. Odin's financial assistance brought to St. Mary's Brother Eligius Beyrer and a young brother, Charles Francis, who would grow with the school and weather some of its most challenging times.

With two other teachers called to Dayton and a student body swelling to more than 200, Edel's pleas for educators continued. The Superior General dispatched one teacher before the Civil War stymied additional help.

Though educating more than 300 students by the end of the Civil War, the Rev. John N. Reinbolt, then the Provincial Superior of the United States, was not convinced of the school's need to remain open — until his 12-day study of the school changed his mind.

The end of the war also gave rise to a new era for the school led by Francis, who began enlarging the school in 1867.

Building additions and adding new teachers allowed the school's academically challenging curriculum to be accompanied by theatrical and music performances, and commencement at which students demonstrated their intellectual and artistic abilities to their families, making the school a top pick for students even as competitors opened.

Francis relinquished his duties to the Rev. Francis Feith, S.M., as head of the school in 1882 when it was renamed St. Mary's College.

"By 1885, St. Mary's became the largest school in San Antonio, enrolling 400 students, including 50 boarders," Poyo said.



▲ Students congregate outside St. Mary's College, circa 1885. Historic photos courtesy the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States.

◀ Gerald E. Poyo, left, stands next to the bell from St. Mary's Institute — cast in 1866 — as Edgar Velázquez Reynald sits on the chair of the late Brother Thomas J. Treadaway, S.M. (1897-1969), Registrar for most of his 31 years at St. Mary's.

Continued on next page



▲ In one of the earliest photographs of St. Mary's College students, thespians don costumes in 1883.

► A horse and carriage stops outside of St. Mary's College in downtown San Antonio, circa 1913.



Teaching Mexican Americans

Feith began to grapple with the school's ability to properly teach Mexican children due to language barriers in the late 1880s. Communication remained an issue despite encouraging faculty to learn Spanish.

"Later into the century, they segregated the poor Mexican kids for very complicated and difficult reasons," Poyo said. "They established the San Fernando Cathedral School, which I had never heard of in conversations about St. Mary's history. The primary school belonged to the Cathedral, but was run by the Marianists from 1888 to 1927."

The school was located on Laredo Street in the Mexican American community.

"Perhaps even more difficult, according to the brothers, in this age of deepening racism, too many Euro-American parents refused to send their children to St. Mary's as long as Mexicans attended."

The Marianist brothers taught thousands of Mexican American children at the segregated school, which students from St. Peter's Orphanage attended. Some of the most promising students earned scholarships to St. Mary's College.

New campus, new direction

In 1891, the Marianists purchased 75 acres from the West End Town Co. for \$1 on the condition they would begin building a school within a year.

"When St. Mary's College could no longer accommodate a growing number of students, the Society of Mary established a new campus on the West End. Named St. Louis College, it served as a boarding school with curriculum and rigor similar to the downtown campus, which became a day school," Poyo said.

St. Louis College was established in September 1894.

"St. Louis College, almost from its inception, enrolled a large Mexican and Tejano student body from the Mexican border region and interior," Poyo said. "Unlike the children of the local Tejano community, these students came from affluent families who could afford tuition."

In 1923, the downtown campus became the St. Mary's Academy and St. Louis College was renamed St. Mary's College. The State of Texas soon recognized St. Mary's College as a junior college and, in 1926, a senior college.

The name St. Mary's University took hold in 1927 and evolved into the campus of today with a focus on academic excellence for its diverse student body.

Continuing scholastic research

Though Poyo's research continues, he is displaying an exhibit of his early research beginning this fall at the Marianist Archives.

Visitors can view newly unearthed historical images compiled by graduate Public History student Velázquez Reynald and artifacts found by supporting archivists Lisa Matye Finnie; Mary Kenney; Brother Brian Zampier, S.M.; and Brother Earl Leistikow, S.M.

"It was a real joy and pleasure to look at these images, which a lot of people haven't seen," Velázquez Reynald said. "The Public History program has allowed me to mold my interests in museum science, film and communications. With just this one semester that I've completed, it has delivered on all its promises and more."

"Referring to universities like St. Mary's as Hispanic-serving is a term everybody is using these days, but what does it really mean? What are the obligations associated with taking on that designation?" Poyo said. "I'm hoping that our work can help answer those questions." ■

▲ In 1925, St. Louis, Reinbolt and Chaminade Halls dominate the surrounding underdeveloped land.



► A newly constructed St. Louis Hall looks much the same today as it did in this image circa 1894.

