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GOLD & BLUE LAW CAMPAIGN EDITION

SCHOOL *of* LAW

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

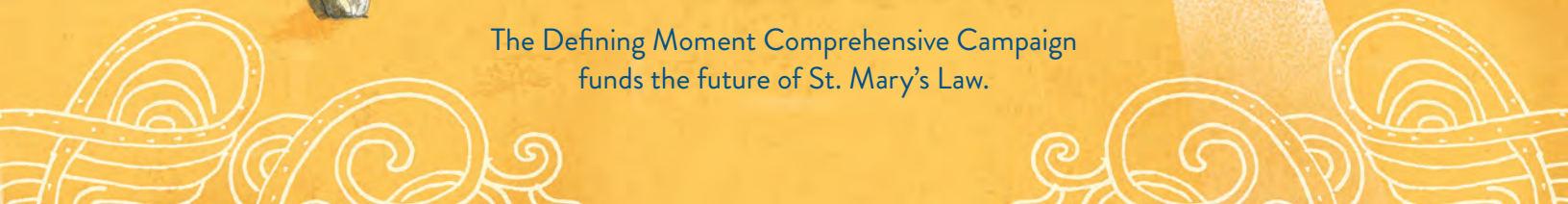
SPRING 2022



Realizing

THE VISION

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign
funds the future of St. Mary's Law.



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St. Mary's Law launches the one and only fully online J.D. program accredited by the ABA

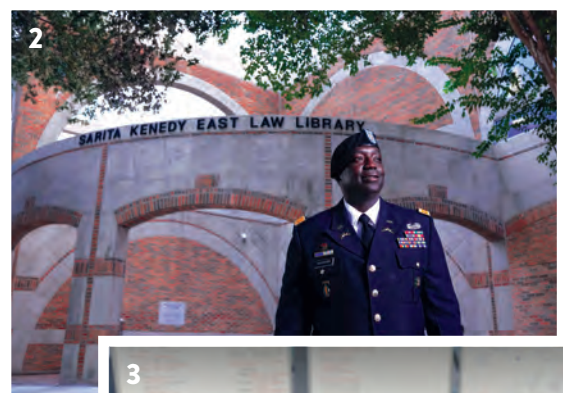
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On the cover: International illustrator, collage and map maker Tonwen Jones creates a stylized version of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. Read the cover story on Page L5 to discover how donors to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign are impacting the law school. Find more illustrations by Jones in the centerpiece map.



Photos by Robin Jerstad

MASTERS IN THE MAKING

The St. Mary's University School of Law attracts a globally diverse student body through its Master of Jurisprudence and Master of Laws programs.

1. LL.M. student Eva Pepple, of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, is in the American Legal Studies program.
2. M.Jur. student and U.S. Army veteran Deric Hawkins, of Albany, Georgia, is in the General Law program.
3. From left: M.Jur. student Catherine Cruz, of San Antonio, is earning her concentrations in Education Law and Compliance, Business Law and Risk. LL.M. student Kristian Knapp, from Swansea, Wales, is in the American Legal Studies program. M.Jur. student Amanda Lee, of San Antonio, is earning her concentration in Compliance, Business Law and Risk.

Anonymous donor gives \$1.8 million to St. Mary's Law

A \$1.8 million gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous will benefit scholarships for students of the St. Mary's University School of Law.

"This generous gift from one of our law alumni will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our law students as they pursue one of the most rigorous courses of study in higher education," said President Thomas Mengler, J.D. "One gift — like this donation — can have an impact beyond measure. Thank you to our donor for supporting our students as they strive toward their goals."

This new contribution is an estate gift pledge of \$800,000 toward an existing endowed scholarship for law students and \$1 million to create a new endowed scholarship for female law students. The School of Law enrolls about 750 students, about 57% of whom are women.

"At St. Mary's Law, we teach our students how to be transformational leaders," said Patricia Roberts, J.D., Dean and Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law. "I am so grateful to our donor for showcasing how transformational leadership can look in practice — how each of us, through our time and our treasure, can support the next generation of legal leaders."

Professor testifies before U.S. Senate Committee on cryptocurrencies

St. Mary's University School of Law Professor Angela Walch, J.D., testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs in July 2021. Walch was discussed the topic, Cryptocurrencies: What are they good for? Walch is widely viewed as a critic in the cryptocurrency space.

She has taught classes, such as the Law of Money, and Blockchain and the Law, to St. Mary's Law students and is a Research Associate at the Centre for Blockchain Technologies at University College London.

New trustees join St. Mary's University board

St. Mary's University has welcomed new members to serve on its Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is the governing body for the University and meets four times a year during the academic year.

New trustees are:

- Mary Brennan Stich (B.A. '78, J.D. '81) is former vice president and deputy general counsel for Rackspace Technology.
- William "Doug" Bineham (J.D. '90), Law Alumni Representative, is an attorney at Bineham & Gillen.

Career Strategy program jump-starts first-year J.D. learning experience

To better equip incoming J.D. students for their first year, the St. Mary's University School of Law's Office of Career Strategy (OCS) launched a new program called the July Jumpstart. In sessions throughout the month of July, OCS staff and current students talk about the law school experience, offer advice and answer common questions.

"The start of law school is like drinking out of a firehose," said Robin Thorner, J.D., Assistant Dean for Career Strategy. "Many studies show that depression and anxiety spike in the first six to eight weeks after starting law school. We want to get students engaged as early as possible and help them understand broader topics."



Robin Thorner, J.D.

St. Mary's Law student hosted bootcamp for aspiring Latina lawyers

While working at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), second-year J.D. student Brianna Chapa, a St. Mary's University School of Law Presidential Scholar, was inspired to create a sense of unity within the Latina legal community.

That thinking led to the creation of the Lawtina in Training 1L Bootcamp, which included training sessions, networking activities, community conversations and resources for aspiring Latina lawyers. The program was open to Latina law students across the country.

"I'm so excited that I had the opportunity to share knowledge," Chapa said. "I hope to continue this Lawtina in Training programming in the future."

Advocacy Program celebrates national victory

The St. Mary's University School of Law Advocacy Program continued to excel this fall with several victories across the National Trial Team, the National Dispute Resolution Team and the National Moot Court Team.

The National Trial Team became the national champion in January after defeating some of the toughest teams in the country during the National Trial League Competition.

The St. Mary's National Moot Court Team won their 30th championship in 20 years, the latest at the 24th Annual Mack Kidd Administrative Law State Moot Court Competition in Austin.

The St. Mary's National Alternative Dispute Resolution Team made it to the finals of the 2021 ABA Regional Negotiations Competition.

The Board of Advocates hosted the largest invitational mock trial tournament in the country, the All Star Bracket Challenge and All Star National Competition, supervising 190 rounds of competition with nearly 1,500 participants.

Center for Legal and Social Justice receives grant renewal to support clinic services

The St. Mary's University School of Law was the recipient of two grant renewals from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation in Fall 2021.

The Crime Victim Civil Legal Services grant totaled about \$60,000 and the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account grant totaled nearly \$330,000.

These grants will primarily support the work of the Consumer Protection Clinic and the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic.

"These grants enable us to provide much needed representation to individuals of limited income in San Antonio and other communities in South Texas who would likely otherwise go unrepresented," said Karen Kelley, J.D., Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs.

A photo illustration depicts Colin Marks, J.D., Associate Dean for Strategic Partnerships and Innovation, leading an online course. In the background, students attend the Fall 2021 Conflict of Laws course via Zoom.



LEADING THROUGH TRADITION & INNOVATION

St. Mary's Law launches the one and only fully online J.D. program accredited by the ABA

by Frank Garza

When McAllen attorney Shiree Salinas (J.D. '90) first heard about the St. Mary's University School of Law's groundbreaking online J.D. program, she immediately wrote back to the law school sharing her excitement.

In Fall 2021, St. Mary's Law became the first law school in the nation to have a fully online J.D. program accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA). University leaders then announced their intention to recruit an initial cohort of 25 students to begin the online program in Fall 2022.

The new program, Salinas wrote to Patricia E. Roberts, St. Mary's Law Dean and Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law, would "open up the doors to people who I believe would be true assets in the practice of law," so she was glad to hear her alma mater was undertaking the effort to make legal education more readily accessible.

"I know people who can benefit from this right now," Salinas said.

Shortly before the program's announcement, Salinas recalled a conversation she had with a

"NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU DO, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND YOUR PLACE HERE."

young man while renewing the registration on her vehicle. When she mentioned she was an attorney, he became animated, asking her questions about the law and mentioning how he wished he could attend law school.

"Because he was taking care of family members and working in McAllen, attending law school was just sort of a dream that probably would never be realized," said Salinas of the prospective student.

The four-year, part-time, online J.D. program will have the same tuition rate as the current in-person, part-time program and will provide access to the full suite of student services. Students will be required to attend an extracurricular in-person orientation and in-person professional development activities once every other semester. Since launching the program, part-time applications have increased by 650%.

The Hon. Mario E. Ramirez Jr. (J.D. '74), judge of the 332nd District Court in Hidalgo County, said there are many who do well on the LSAT law school aptitude test who cannot commit full time to a three-year law program because of financial or family reasons.

"Hopefully, more people who are worthy of going to law school can get accepted to St. Mary's through this program," Ramirez said. "Hopefully, in the long run, we can get some more lawyers down here in the Rio Grande Valley."

The new online J.D. aims to support increasing access to the profession for those typically underrepresented, especially those from South Texas, Roberts said.

Some parts of the Valley still struggle with a low ratio of attorneys to the general population,

according to a 2020-2021 report by the State Bar of Texas. Starr County has one attorney for every 1,345 residents, while Willacy County has only one attorney for every 2,521 residents.

"The online J.D. program will provide the increased affordability of being able to obtain a legal education without a move to San Antonio," Roberts said. "While this will never replace our in-person J.D. program, it will expand opportunities for those in South Texas and beyond who need to stay closer to home while pursuing an excellent legal education."

With an overall enrollment of nearly 740 students, St. Mary's Law has gained significant expertise in offering fully online legal education since launching an online version of its Master of Jurisprudence (M.Jur.) program five years ago, said Colin Marks, J.D., the law school's Associate Dean for Strategic Partnerships and Innovation. In addition to the faculty with experience in virtual teaching in the master's program, all St. Mary's Law full-time faculty obtained their online teaching certification following a demanding course in instructional design to prepare for virtual teaching during the pandemic.

Currently, J.D. students are allowed to take up to 30 credit hours online in a traditional, in-person program format, according to the ABA. That sort of flexibility has allowed second-year J.D. student Barbra Gazo, who is taking fall semester classes remotely in San Antonio, to thrive.

"My personal experience has been particularly charmed," Gazo said. "For me, the actual learning experience was not only superior online, it was vastly superior."

Continued on next page

Continued from page L3

In Gazo's experience, there was dramatically more interaction with the content of each lesson in an online format. Before every class, there was a pre-recorded lecture, a slide presentation and a quiz. While it was more work, it also led to more meaningful discussions because students understood the content better, she said.

"What I love about this program is that St. Mary's is not just pigeonholing. The face of the law has changed. The face of society has changed. St. Mary's is embracing that change," Gazo said. "They're not saying everyone has to be an online student. No matter who you are or what you do, you're going to find your place here."

Kathryn Cantu, a second-year J.D. student in the traditional J.D. program at St. Mary's, had a similarly positive online experience. She spent her first year taking courses online because of the coronavirus pandemic and said she learned a new level of discipline and commitment to earning her law degree by studying online.

Through virtual engagement, she was a member of the school's moot court team, which simulates an appeals court process, and placed first at the Jimi Derrick Moot Court Competition during the 2020-2021 school year.

"I 100% enjoyed my first year, even though I never stepped foot on campus," said Cantu, who is originally from Edinburg in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. "I also was able to establish really meaningful connections, not only with my

classmates through group messages and Zoom calls, but also with my professors and with the administration at the law school."


Kellye Y. Testy, J.D., president and CEO of the Law School Admission Council, said the online J.D. could be game-changing, as other law schools will follow the path blazed by St. Mary's. She said the Council is "thrilled that St. Mary's University School of Law will further enable access to the profession by those unable to attend a three- or four-year residential J.D. program."

Justice Brett Busby, J.D., of the Supreme Court of Texas, said, "Texas is proud that St. Mary's is leading the way nationally by offering a rigorous online course of legal instruction leading to an accredited J.D. degree."

"Importantly, this part-time program will expand access to a quality legal education for Texans who do not live near a law school and whose work or family circumstances prevent them from relocating," he added.

Salinas would love to see more lawyers completing their education at St. Mary's Law. After the announcement, she planned to pay a visit to the young man she met while renewing her registration.

"I thought that I would drive back over there at some point in time and say, 'Hey, do you remember me? We had that long chat. And by the way, here's an opportunity from St. Mary's,'" Salinas said. ■

 Watch a video about the online J.D. at stmarytx.edu/magazine.

Second-year J.D. student Kathryn Cantu attended classes virtually during her first year due to the pandemic. She learned a new level of discipline through studying online.





Realizing THE VISION

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign
funds the future of St. Mary's Law.

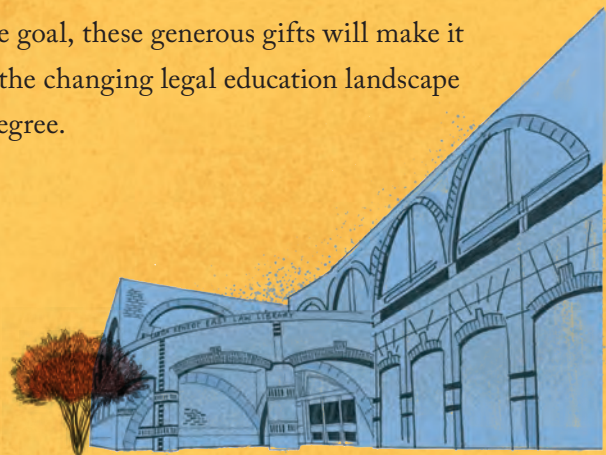
When St. Mary's University publicly launched The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign five years ago, a significant portion of the \$130 million goal was dedicated to the School of Law.

As the largest campaign in University history, some said this goal was beyond our grasp. But we believed in our School of Law community and the generations of law alumni who form the basis of our family spirit.

Today, The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign has reached an astonishing \$165 million — \$22 million of which will propel excellence at the School of Law.

Donors to the campaign — including the ones you will meet on the following pages — endowed transformational scholarships and professorships, funded cutting-edge facilities, enabled first-generation student programming and propelled law success efforts.

From what began as a seemingly impossible goal, these generous gifts will make it possible to achieve our vision and leverage the changing legal education landscape to increase the value of a St. Mary's Law degree.





Coll Bramblett and the Hon. Mary Anne Bramblett

PAYING IT FORWARD

COUPLE DONATES TO SUPPORT LAW STUDENT SUCCESS



Coll Bramblett (J.D. '80) applied to many law schools, but only the St. Mary's University School of Law gave him a chance to become a lawyer, so he took it.

He's been grateful ever since.

"If it wasn't for St. Mary's, I don't know where I would be," he said. "It has been my lifeblood to be an attorney."

Coll Bramblett met his wife, the Hon. Mary Anne Bramblett (J.D. '81), while attending law school.

Mary Anne Bramblett loved that St. Mary's is close-knit. She got to know her professors and peers well because of it, which helped when law school felt tough.

"When I started law school, I wasn't sure I could do it. After my first year, I learned that I could," she said. "Not only did the professors in the school care about me, but I learned to take that compassion into the real world and care for other people."

Though several faculty members made a difference for both Brambletts, all of them had one thing in common, "They all gave 150% to their students," Coll Bramblett said.

"Every professor cared about us, really worked with us," he said. "They were very demanding, so you had to work your butt off and stay at it, but they were very giving, and they would stay right there with you."

“ I chose to give to St. Mary's because it gave me so much in the first place. ”

That hard work would pay off for the Brambletts. Since graduating from St. Mary's Law and making their home in the El Paso area, Coll Bramblett has enjoyed a long and successful career as a personal injury attorney. Mary Anne Bramblett served as judge of the 41st District Court in El Paso County from 1989 until her retirement in 2012. She was the first woman elected to a district court in El Paso County.

With gratitude for the foundation St. Mary's Law provided, the Brambletts donated more than \$1 million to endow the Law Success Program's second-year curriculum and to provide a scholarship — the Mary Anne and Coll Bramblett Scholarship — for second- or third-year J.D. students from El Paso

The Law Success Program's second-year curriculum consists of the Fundamentals of Law and Analysis course that focuses on honing legal skills, academic workshops and programs designed to tackle academic and professional topics of interest to second-year J.D. students, as well as personal coaching.

"We all need to get together as alumni and help participate," Coll Bramblett said. "All you really have to do is look at yourself and ask, 'Where would I be? Where would my family be if it wasn't for St. Mary's?'"

Mary Anne Bramblett, who chaired the School of Law's portion of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign, said financial struggles should be one less thing students worry about while attending school.

"I chose to give to St. Mary's because it gave me so much in the first place," she said. "I feel that when I do give back to the school, I can help give back to other students who struggled through the same things I struggled through."

The Brambletts hope that by giving, they can help inspire a new generation of lawyers to pay it forward.

"Alumni are the lifeblood of the University and should become an integral part of the University," Coll Bramblett said.



WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES

LAW ALUMNUS EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION



The emphasis on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, according to Martin D. Beirne (J.D. '69), means that St. Mary's University focuses on developing the whole person, not just handing students a degree.

In law school, this approach inspired him and his peers to do something for the benefit of the University: start a law journal. Beirne would go on to become the first editor-in-chief of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*.

"That's the kind of thing I feel the Marianists really look for, having students who are committed to making positive things happen," Beirne said.

Furthering the Catholic Intellectual Tradition has been one of Beirne's personal causes, both as a Trustee and a donor. He and his wife, Kathleen Beirne, donated \$1 million in support of the Beirne Director of the Center for Catholic Studies.

The Center for Catholic Studies provides programs that create opportunities for dialogue, research and community outreach



Courtesy photo

with a focus on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and Catholic Social Teachings.

"We've been delighted because what we ended up with was a wonderful center," he said.

The St. Mary's Law Journal was only the beginning of the "wonderful opportunities" Beirne said he experienced at St. Mary's, learning from professors such as Dean Emeritus Charles E. Cantú (J.D. '64); past professor Arthur C. Y. Yao, J.D.; and Dean Emeritus James Castleberry (J.D. '52).

Beirne remembers the students' support for a law journal and meeting with faculty to successfully convince them St. Mary's Law was ready for one.

"To be part of an inaugural thing like that has always been one of the most dynamic moments for me in my law school career," said Beirne, who now practices in Houston.

His professors provided a great atmosphere to learn and truly knew their students, he said. After finishing his exam for a summer course with Yao, Beirne recalled talking to his peers and realizing he had completely forgotten to answer the final question.

Running back to the classroom, Beirne explained his situation. To his surprise, Yao told him to grab his paper and sit down.

"He knew that I legitimately had just forgotten and there was no need to penalize anyone," Beirne said. "That was the character of the man. He knew his students. That's the kind of professors we had. They were all phenomenal teachers."

Beirne, now a senior partner at Akerman LLP, continues to be afforded opportunities by St. Mary's. For many years, he has served as a member of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees and, previously, as Chair.

"I was really proud to be in a position to see things get done and to assist and work with the president," he said. "It was a dramatic experience to see the commitment of the people on the board, to see their genuine desire to do something positive for the University. There's a real quest for doing the things we need to do in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition."

The future, Beirne said, holds a lot more for St. Mary's.

"If this period of COVID-19 taught us anything, it's that the school is extremely resilient," he said. "I have great faith that we're going to see some phenomenal opportunities taken and achieved by the University."



PREPPED FOR SUCCESS

THANKS TO DONOR, PROGRAM PREPARES
FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS FOR LAW SCHOOL



Prior to starting at the St. Mary's University School of Law, first-year J.D. student Majestad Barragan did not know who or what to expect in her classes.

Barragan grew up in Dallas and completed her undergraduate studies in Oklahoma. She thought it was unlikely she'd meet students with similar backgrounds. When she heard about the First-Generation Law Student Pre-1L Boot Camp, she quickly signed up.

"It gave me a chance to dip my toes into the new learning environment," Barragan said. "It made my first year not so scary and eased the anxiety I had coming into law school."

Barragan was among nearly 50 students who were introduced to the Socratic method of asking and answering questions, law faculty and staff, and the classroom experience prior to law school. They even covered two cases: *Pennoyer v. Neff* and *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*.

The program, first piloted last summer, was created by the Office of Law Success and made possible through a \$100,000 donation from Garrett Clayton (J.D. '06) of Houston, chief executive officer of AmCap Mortgage and founding partner of Clayton & Ramirez, P.L.L.C.

Though Clayton was not a first-generation law student, he recognized how challenging that experience can be.



Garrett Clayton

"By St. Mary's making it easier for a first-generation student to obtain an exemplary education, it took the most important first step in changing the trajectory of their lives," Clayton said. "I loved my time at St. Mary's, and I want to help as many future students create memories and bonds."

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Zoe Niesel, J.D., and Assistant Dean for Law Success Afton Cavanaugh (J.D. '13) led instruction with two goals: to give all participants a picture of law school life and help students connect with one another.

"Many of the students now study together. They move around campus together. They all have somebody who they know. And that goes back to the boot camp," Cavanaugh said.

Cavanaugh, who was a first-generation student, understands firsthand how much of an impact support can have.

"For many, that support is the difference between potentially deciding law school is not for them or continuing through to become a force in the legal profession," he said.

First-year J.D. student Emilia Garanzuay initially did not know what to expect from her law school professors. The mock classroom experience during the boot camp was especially helpful, she said.

"Just going into orientation the following week, I felt like I had a leg up," Garanzuay said. "You got to raise your hands and ask questions about anything, like, 'How soon should I start reading? Should I buy used books or e-books?' It's all those technical questions you don't really get to ask."

Thanks to Clayton's donation, the Office of Law Success was able to hire students to provide guidance throughout the boot camp and host socials for participants to connect with one another and law school faculty and staff.

"You can't overstate the value of giving a contribution to this type of programming," Cavanaugh said.

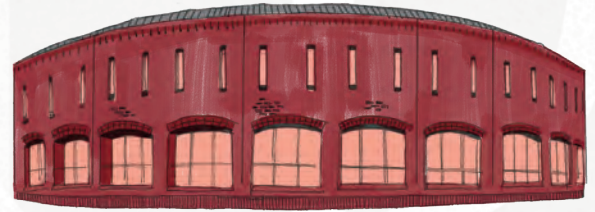


By St. Mary's making it easier for a first-generation student to obtain an exemplary education, it took the most important first step in changing the trajectory of their lives.



MAKING AN IMPACT

LAW ALUMNUS DONATES TO NURTURE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS



Steven Michael Peña Sr. (J.D. '94), a partner at Davidson Troilo Ream & Garza, PC in San Antonio, feels law students who underperform are easily overlooked.

"I know because that's where I was," Peña said. "I was not an all-star when I got into law school."

Students may be up against a metric they can't reach alone.

"Many of them are first-generation law students, like I was, and are the pioneers, the first ones to try," he said. "There's something special about these students who can plot a course in life that's different from what their family could do."

Law school was challenging, but what Peña remembers most is how much it transformed him and his peers. It taught him the critical thinking skills required to be a lawyer.

Professors of Law L. Wayne Scott, J.D.; John W. Teeter Jr., J.D.; past professor José Roberto Juárez, J.D.; and Professor Emeritus of Law Aloysius A. Leopold (B.A. '70, J.D. '62) taught Peña how to be a lawyer. Teeter, in particular, challenged him to expand his thinking.

"Teeter would say, 'Well, here's the rule, here's the law. But why did they do it this way? What was the reason?'" Peña said.

When Peña did well on his final exams after his first semester in law school, he knew he could graduate.

"I never looked back," he said. "That's the tough part — the worry that you're not going to make it. But when you do, you know you're going to get through."

The students at St. Mary's Law will make great lawyers, but some may require more nurturing at the beginning of their legal education, he said.

That thinking led to a \$1 million donation supporting the first year of the Law Success Program. Now called the Steven M. Peña Sr. and Claudia Fournier-Peña First-Year Program, Peña hopes the gift will

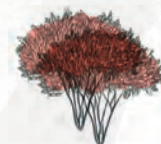


“We’re a small school, but that doesn’t mean we have to have a small impact. There are tremendous things happening here.”

raise the profile of the School of Law and strengthen first-year J.D. students’ skills in the foundational areas of case analysis, legal research, legal writing and professionalism.

For Peña, the biggest reward since donating was getting more involved with his alma mater. He has served on the School of Law’s Board of Visitors and is a University Trustee.

“We’re a small school, but that doesn’t mean we have to have a small impact,” he said. “There are tremendous things happening here.”





LEADER IN THE LAW

ALUMNUS PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES THROUGH GIFTS



“ I owe my financial success to the education I received at St. Mary’s. There’s no doubt in my mind. ”

John R. Courtney Sr. (B.A. '61, J.D. '67) encourages any student looking for a great leadership and educational opportunity to join the Army ROTC at St. Mary’s University.

While in the ROTC program, Courtney had several opportunities to take a leadership role, experiences that served him later in life.

“That experience allowed me to have confidence in practicing law and in starting a new company,” said Courtney, who lives in Springfield, Missouri. “I don’t know that I would have had that level of confidence without it.”

Further enhancing his journey was the quality of education he received while at St. Mary’s, starting with the professors like Brother John Donohoo, S.M., at the undergraduate level.

While in law school, there were several professors he considered excellent, such as previous deans Ernest A. Raba (B.A. '34, LL.B. '37) and James Castleberry (J.D. '52).

“The most surprising thing for me was how much law school changed me as a student,” Courtney said. “I actually enjoyed the number of hours that I had to put in to get good grades and do well in law school because I loved the atmosphere.”

The education he received at St. Mary’s allowed him to found two companies in 1991: the Springfield Trust & Investment Company and the Courtney Law Firm. He served as chairman and CEO of Springfield Trust until it was acquired in 2009 and sold Courtney Law in 2014.

As an estate planning attorney, Courtney used to spend time with clients talking

about the benefits of being charitable. Practicing what he preaches, Courtney has donated to causes he finds important. St. Mary’s was his No. 1 objective.

“I owe my financial success to the education I received at St. Mary’s,” he said. “There’s no doubt in my mind.”

Courtney has donated more than \$1 million to St. Mary’s in support of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology’s planned Innovation Center and created the Courtney Scholarship Honoring Ernest A. Raba to provide more financial aid for law students.

“I hope these gifts allow the University to continue to provide the benefits of education that it has done since 1852,” he said. “The students here are getting a good Catholic education in a wholesome atmosphere.”



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

D.C. ATTORNEY PROMOTES ADVOCACY PROGRAM

For Erich Ferrari (J.D. '06), founder and principal attorney of Ferrari & Associates, the St. Mary's University School of Law was the starting point for developing his practice as a sanctions lawyer.

It was at St. Mary's that Ferrari discovered just how many areas of national security law he could explore.

"I learned practical skills and developed a kind of business acumen for how to translate national security law into a practice," Ferrari said. "I don't think I would have gotten that at another law school."

Ferrari was able to combine what he had learned about national security law from Professor of Law Jeffrey Addicott, J.D., S.J.D., with other professors' lessons as well. Professor of Law Willy Rice, J.D., Ph.D., inspired Ferrari to think creatively about law as a business. Professor of Law David A. Schlueter, J.D., provided him with a strong understanding of constitutional law.

His interest in sanctions law was fully piqued after writing and successfully publishing a note in *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice*. The note addressed an issue that, at the time, was not being talked about: the U.S. government's use of economic sanctions on Islamic charities.

"All of those experiences converged to give me the idea to go into the sanctions space," Ferrari said.

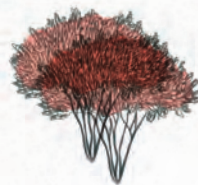
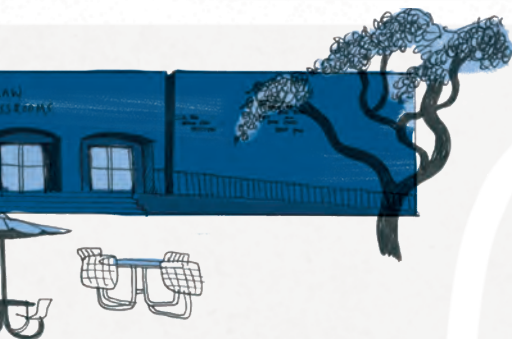
Even though his practice took him to Washington, D.C., Ferrari still finds the time to put on occasional seminars at St. Mary's Law, even bringing in experts on U.S. sanctions. He's also offered internships to students to introduce them to the practice of U.S. sanctions.

Among his many gifts during the campaign, Ferrari donated \$100,000 to the St. Mary's Law National Trial Team, which recently won a national championship. He has focused on providing stipends for students researching national security law issues or participating on the trial team, Ferrari said.

"It's hard to make ends meet and also study, pass the bar and think about getting a job," Ferrari said. "So knowing that I can provide a little bit of relief to folks who were in the same position I was in is really meaningful to me." ■



“Knowing that I can provide a little bit of relief to folks who were in the same position I was in is really meaningful to me.”



THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE

GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2022



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TOP OF THE CLASS

Photo by Brianna Woods



In Fall 2021, St. Mary's University welcomed an astounding number of valedictorians and salutatorians into the Class of 2025. Hailing from all corners of the state, each of these 13 students chose to become Rattlers after graduating in one of the top two spots in their high school senior class. Pursuing a wide range of academic interests — with majors in Music, Biology, Marketing and Criminal Justice, to name a few — these students plan to use their St. Mary's education to make their mark on the world.

“We're taught more than just memorizing material at St. Mary's,” said Sarah Guerrero, pictured center, a Communications and Spanish double major. “We learn to think critically and apply what we learn to our other classes and to life.”

From left: Mary Arnolds, Clara Sobery, Sarah Guerrero, Hildegardo Garza and Emily Do.



GOLD & BLUE

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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Basketball player brings talents to school and courts

8 BELIEVING WHAT IS POSSIBLE

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign brings University vision to life

On the cover: International illustrator, collage and map maker Tonwen Jones lets her imagination lead an interpretation of St. Louis Hall. Read the cover story on Page 8 to discover how donors to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign are benefiting all corners of campus. See more illustrations by Jones in the centerpiece map.



@StMarysU Social

1. The St. Mary's community honors traditions during the Día de los Muertos Celebration in November 2021.
2. In November 2021, a mock crime scene tests classroom skills for Forensic Science students.
3. St. Mary's fraternity and sorority groups team up in November 2021 to put together Thanksgiving food baskets using donations they collected across campus.
4. Rattler Man hits the shops to find the best costume for the Spooktacular Monster Dash 5K for the Neighborhood in October 2021.
5. Greehey School of Business students put their knowledge to the test during Business Week Trivia in October 2021.
6. The campus Christmas season kicks off with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration in December 2021.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ST. MARY'S SHARES GRATITUDE FOR A MISSION MADE REAL

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

In this *Gold & Blue*, you will hear from several generous men and women who helped achieve what so many believed impossible — a fundraising campaign 10 times greater than any prior St. Mary's University campaign and larger than all previous campaigns combined. I am thankful to those featured here, as well as to the nearly 11,500 other benefactors responsible for our success.

Few believed raising this kind of money was more than a pipe dream. I vividly recall the evening of Nov. 17, 2017, when more than 500 major benefactors and friends gathered over dinner for what we had called The Big Reveal. In the weeks leading up to the event, there had been a lot of wild guessing on social media about the upcoming announcement. One graduate predicted we were going to restart the University's long-dormant football program. Another playfully suggested St. Mary's would soon become "tuition-free."

The Big Reveal was a \$130 million comprehensive campaign titled The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign. The immediate reaction among those gathered was silence — mostly because the attendees had been served scrumptious food and abundant drink — no clapping ... no cheers ... just silence. Looking back, I have no doubt the dominant emotion among our 500 guests was stunned disbelief because nothing of this magnitude had ever before been attempted by St. Mary's.

The room did not remain quiet for long. We quickly followed the first announcement

with a second — St. Mary's had already raised \$104,872,000 or 80% of our campaign goal. The reaction to this reveal was a roomful of audible gasps, followed by enormous applause.

And so began the four-year public phase of the campaign. Two years later, in November 2019, having surpassed the \$130 million goal, we raised the stakes to \$150 million. With the campaign's end this past New Year's Eve, we achieved a defining moment for



Photo by Robin Jerstad

St. Mary's University: \$165 million of heartfelt generosity from alumni and friends.

With our campaign objectives reached and surpassed, it's worth asking: Why was The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign so successful? Why did so many contribute in such a major way?

First and foremost, it's about gratitude. Gratitude to the Marianists for establishing St. Mary's with their charism of faith, service, family spirit and community and embedding it for these many decades within the fabric of the University. Sally Scholz,

a campaign donor featured on Page 23, describes why she and her late husband Charles (a 1960 grad) shared their treasure: "If it had not been for the brothers of St. Mary's, Charles would have never had any hope of finishing school at all."

A second reason is captured by the comments of RaSheeda Keir, a more recent alumna who feels a responsibility to pay it forward so that future students can benefit from the same transformative education she received from knowledgeable and caring

faculty and staff. Or as Bill Greehey, the largest donor in St. Mary's history, succinctly remarked, "You're never a success unless you share that success."

Finally, during the campaign we heard from countless benefactors that their gifts were made to help St. Mary's reach its vision of becoming one of the finest private universities in the Southwest. For these benefactors, their generosity resulted from

believing that St. Mary's is and will continue to be an institution worthy of investment. Trustee and law alumnus Steven Michael Peña Sr. articulates this well: "We're a small school, but that doesn't mean we have to have a small impact. ... There are tremendous things happening here."

For these and other reasons, St. Mary's alumni and friends have demonstrated they believe in the possible made real — St. Mary's University's mission, vision and greatness. I am deeply grateful. ■

CAMPUSNEWS

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs appointed



Jason Pierce

J.D., announced the appointment of Jason Pierce, Ph.D., to the position of Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs effective June 1, 2022.

“Based on my interviews, reference checks and feedback from members of the search committee, Board of Trustees and campus community, I am confident Jason is a great fit for St. Mary’s University and its Catholic and Marianist mission,” Mengler said.

Currently, Pierce is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Dayton, which he has held for the past eight years. He is well-positioned to step into the Provost position coming from a college equivalent in overall size — student enrollment and faculty — to St. Mary’s. The College of Arts and Sciences is Dayton’s largest academic unit and, importantly, includes departments in the natural sciences, arts, humanities and social sciences.

Pierce has been a successful chief academic administrator. Those successes include establishing three new university-wide and mission-centric interdisciplinary research centers — Human Rights Center, Hanley Sustainability Institute, and the Integrative Science and Engineering Center — and several new academic programs and undergraduate degrees; and leading efforts to develop a partnership with the National Hispanic Institute to advance Dayton’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Pierce also has significant fundraising experience that led to establishing a new Ethics and Leadership initiative and building a new University Center for the Arts and the Hanley Sustainability Institute.

Most importantly, Pierce is a good mission-fit for St. Mary’s University, Mengler said. He spent his formative years in the Rio Grande Valley (Brownsville) and completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Texas. After earning his Ph.D., he joined the

Following a highly successful national search and the unanimous support of the St. Mary’s Board of Trustees, President Thomas M. Mengler,

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Photo by Robin Jerstad



St. Mary’s University is the first university in Texas to join Pope Francis’ plan to address global warming.

faculty at the University of Dayton, where he has been for the past 20 years, deepening his affinity for the Marianist educational mission.

St. Mary’s commits to Pope Francis’ ecological efforts

St. Mary’s University is the first university in Texas among a global cohort of more than 100 universities to join Pope Francis’ seven-year action plan to implement environmental sustainability measures.

The international effort, known as the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, launched in November. It builds on Francis’ 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home*, by calling for actions to address global warming.

“We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our styles of life, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life,” Francis said in a video message translated by the Catholic News Agency.

The action plan lists seven goals: respond to the cry of the Earth, respond to the cry of the poor, foster ecological economics,

adopt a sustainable lifestyle, offer ecological education, develop ecological spirituality and support local communities.

“We understand that as a Laudato Si’ University, we will chart our own course through the journey, with the assistance of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform,” said St. Mary’s University President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D. “Over this next year, we will gather a group of faculty, students, administrators, staff and neighbors to develop a Laudato Si’ Action Plan for our University that will integrally and boldly advance each of the seven goals.”

St. Mary’s University named a 2021-2022 College of Distinction

St. Mary’s University has been recognized by Colleges of Distinction, a one-of-a-kind guide for college-bound students, for its commitment to engaged, hands-on education. As an institution whose primary goals are based on student success and satisfaction, St. Mary’s claims its honor as one of the renowned Colleges of Distinction.

Colleges of Distinction highlights student-centered schools that traditional rankings sometimes overlook.

U.S. News ranks St. Mary's fifth in West for value, top in San Antonio for social mobility

St. Mary's University ranked fifth in the West region, leading Texas schools, in the Best Value Schools rankings by U.S. News & World Report. St. Mary's tied for 10th out of 92 universities in the West in the 2022 Best Colleges ranking for academic quality.

St. Mary's increased in ranking to tie No. 19 in the West for Top Performers on Social Mobility. For the third year in a row, St. Mary's ranked first in San Antonio in this analysis, which evaluates how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.

St. Mary's awarded \$1 million to help Latino students earn degrees in STEM

The National Science Foundation has awarded St. Mary's University a grant of nearly \$1 million to increase the number of

Latino students who obtain baccalaureate degrees in STEM fields. The grant is part of the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. The funding will assist those who enter St. Mary's as first-time freshmen and those who transfer from Northwest Vista College.

"The main goal is to understand what really drives Latino students to complete a major in STEM — is it because they get a research experience, because they get internships, because they have a culturally responsive campus where they can see themselves doing STEM in the future, because good course transferability exists between institutions — to understand what helps with the persistence of Latino students," said Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Juan Ocampo, Ph.D., principal investigator for the grant.

Grant of nearly \$2.8 million to help renovate labs and classrooms

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a grant of nearly \$2.8 million to St. Mary's University to be used to renovate several labs and classrooms and implement a more hands-on approach for STEM curriculum.

The goal of the project is to increase the academic success of students, improve retention of Hispanic and first-generation students, and expand opportunities for students to obtain postsecondary STEM credentials. The grant's principal investigator, Gary B. Ogden, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences and Associate Dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology, said the revamped curricula will differ from traditional science laboratory courses by allowing students to participate in authentic research projects.



Photos by Robin Jerstad

At the St. Mary's University School of Law's Fall Commencement in December 2021, the law school celebrated the accomplishments of 50 School of Law students. The ceremony honored 22 Master of Jurisprudence graduates, 22 Doctor of Jurisprudence graduates and six Master of Laws graduates.



Fondest Farewell

The Rev. John A. Leies, S.M.

The Rev. John A. Leies, S.M., President Emeritus died at age 95 on Dec. 22, 2021. Leies was a man of mission in service to God. He dedicated nearly 50 years to advancing St. Mary's University's Catholic and Marianist educational mission. Since 1974, he served in several administrative and academic roles — Trustee, President, Academic Vice President and Professor.

Herman A. "Buddy" Meyer Jr. (B.A. '65)

St. Mary's coaching legend Herman A. "Buddy" Meyer Jr. (B.A. '65) died at age 82 on Feb. 4, 2022. Meyer spent 41 years at the University as a student-athlete, Coach and Athletics Director. Meyer led the Men's Basketball team for 27 years, including coaching the Rattlers to a national championship in 1989.

St. Mary's University cheers on launch of STUNT team

St. Mary's University and Rattler Athletics announced the addition of STUNT to their varsity sports portfolio, beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year.

STUNT focuses on the technical and athletic components of cheer and features several elements, such as partner stunts, pyramids, basket tosses, group jumps and tumbling.

Retiring Charlie Migl leaves championship legacy

After spending 40 years on the staff at St. Mary's University as both a baseball coach and athletics director, Charlie Migl hung up his jersey for the final time in January.

In his 35 years as the head Baseball coach, Migl was the active leader in NCAA Division II with 1,246 victories. Migl has had 33 winning seasons in those 35 years, with the club becoming NCAA Division II national champions in 2001. Migl's teams have won 15 conference titles, appeared in seven NCAA Regionals and three NAIA World Series.



Women's Soccer goalkeeper Rebecca Difronzo, a freshman, led the Rattlers to their first winning record since 2015 (9-7-2) and set the St. Mary's record for saves in a single match (19) against West Texas A&M University in October 2021.

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REBOUNDED FOR SUCCESS

Women's Basketball player brings her talents to school and courts

by Kendra Rainey

As a five-sport student-athlete in high school in Fredericksburg, Hannah Wilson (B.A. '21) learned to balance school, sports, a social life and more. It hasn't always been easy, but her ability to juggle multiple responsibilities helped her thrive when she transitioned to St. Mary's University.

In Fall 2017, Wilson brought her basketball talents to St. Mary's, where she has been on the starting lineup since freshman year, holds the school record for most rebounds in a game and has received multiple Lone Star Conference recognitions including All-Conference, Commissioner's Honor Roll and All-Defensive Team. It immediately became apparent that the decision to grant Wilson a full scholarship for both her undergraduate and graduate years was the right one.

"The sky's the limit with her," said Jason Martens, Head Women's Basketball Coach. "Hannah has turned herself into one of the best players in her position in the conference, being a first-team, all-conference player and breaking numerous records. This is all a testament to her incredible work ethic."

These accomplishments were not achieved without adversity. Wilson battled numerous injuries and three surgeries early in her basketball career. Her work ethic and mindset helped her overcome these setbacks.

"It's a common theme with her: her work ethic on the court carries over in the training room," Martens said. "There'll be days when I don't know if she'll be able to make it through a practice. I tell her she can step off

and she will, only to put more tape on and continue to practice. She's fought through so much physically in these four years. To do what she is able to do really shows character and perseverance."

After earning her bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering in Spring 2021, Wilson began pursuing a master's in Engineering Systems Management and, because of COVID-19, decided to use her extra year of eligibility to continue playing with the University.

Nazia Afrin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, said Wilson is one of the top students in the program and takes ownership of her duties as she juggles her athletic commitments.

"When Hannah has to miss class, she always makes sure to submit homework and exams on time or even early and always finds time to stop by my office," Afrin said. "Hannah is the kind of student that all professors want to have in their class."

On top of schoolwork and basketball, Wilson has served as the vice president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (SME) student organization and as a mechanical engineering intern with BranchPattern in Denver.

Successfully managing her studies, basketball and other leadership roles on campus, Martens and Afrin both agree that Wilson is a prime example of a St. Mary's student-athlete.

"I'm proud of myself for graduating once, majoring in something I've always had a passion for and being able to perform well as a student-athlete," she said. "Graduating last year was such a defining moment for me because I'm now a St. Mary's alum." ■



Photo by Britt Woods



Believing WHAT IS POSSIBLE

The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign succeeds in bringing the University's vision to life.

Five years ago, we announced The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign with a goal of \$130 million — the largest in St. Mary's University history.

Some said this was an impossible goal, *but we believed.*

Today, The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign has reached an astounding \$165 million — gifts that will fund transformational scholarships, endowed chairs and professorships, world-class facilities, innovative academic programs and critical research. Gifts that have already established the state's first Center for Catholic Studies and built cutting-edge labs. Gifts that will make it possible to achieve our vision of becoming among the finest Catholic universities in Texas and the Southwest.

Our vision is now within our grasp. At St. Mary's University, *we believe in what is possible.*



EXTRAORDINARY DONOR

BILL GREEHEY'S GIFTS FUND MULTIPLE VENTURES

The definition of success is different for everyone. But for Bill Greehey (B.B.A. '60), his definition is very specific. "Marianist values are very important," Greehey previously told the San Antonio Express-News in an interview about his donations to the University. "You're never a success unless you share that success."

As the largest donor in St. Mary's University's history, Greehey has continuously shared his success with his alma mater. As co-chair of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign, he donated more than \$21 million in the push to reach the initial goal of \$130 million, and has donated more than \$48 million over his years of affiliation with St. Mary's.

Those gifts have included \$25 million resulting in the naming of the Greehey School of Business and funding scholarships, \$4 million to the Greehey Scholars Program and \$1 million in 2012 to revamp MBA offerings, among many more.

From Fort Dodge, Iowa, Greehey dreamed of a college education but was raised in a poor, working-class family unable to afford to send him to school. After graduating high school, Greehey joined the U.S. Air Force to attend school on the GI Bill.

After four years in the military, Greehey attended St. Mary's. He was recognized with many academic honors while working nights and weekends parking cars at the Nix Hospital to support his family.

As an alumnus, Greehey has served on the St. Mary's Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1988, and again from 2001 to 2007. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1986, the business school's Kohnen Award in 1993 and an honorary doctorate in 1998.

For his accomplishments in business, Greehey was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. In 2000, he also received the Horatio Alger Award, which recognizes individuals who climbed from humble beginnings to personal and professional success.

The students who have benefited from Greehey's gifts say certain opportunities would not exist without his support.

Mikayla Durham, a Finance and Risk Management major who graduated in December, was a recipient of the Greehey Scholars Program and speaks highly of the scholarship he made possible. Durham, a Dallas native, heard about the scholarship after deciding to attend St. Mary's and join the Women's Soccer team.



“You're never a success unless you share that success.”

As she started doing research, she said the application process felt intimidating. When she learned who Greehey was, she was even more nervous. But her work paid off. Getting the scholarship was her first defining moment at St. Mary's, she said.

"When they called me and told me I was selected, I just yelled," she said. "It was a great moment because I know that's how my journey got started here."

From there, Durham said being part of the program has helped her become the best version of herself, through self-motivation and the support and competition among her peers.

Part of the scholarship required her to maintain a certain GPA and engage in service projects with different organizations, such as the Downs Syndrome Association and Haven for Hope.

Durham's ultimate goal is to be able to give back to help future students like Greehey has. She also said she was personally thankful to him for what he has done.

"The scholarship has changed my life for the better," Durham said. "Honestly, I can't verbally express how grateful I am for Mr. Greehey's generosity and what he has done for me."



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTH TEXANS

ALUMNUS HOPES TO GIVE
STUDENTS A CHANCE

When asked about his defining moment at St. Mary's University, Antonio "Tony" Sanchez Jr. (B.B.A. '65, J.D. '69) paused for a moment before answering, "economics."

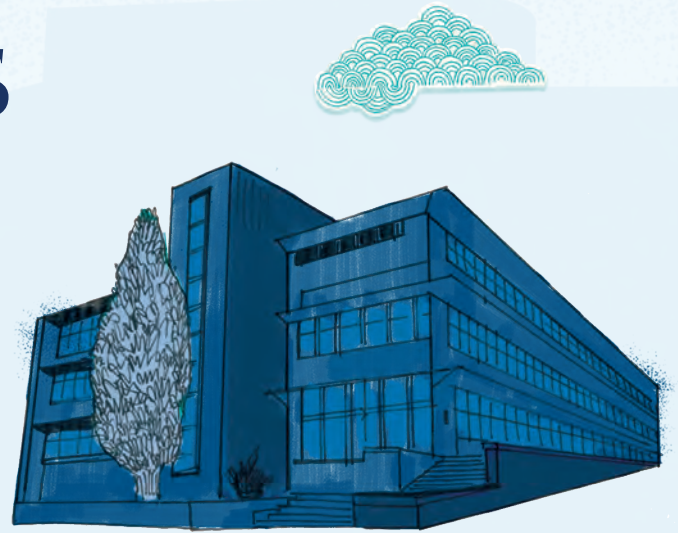
As a first-generation student from Laredo, Sanchez's views on what he wanted to do with his career started to emerge during that pivotal undergraduate class.

"A guy who came from a small, South Texas border town never really thinks about economics," said Sanchez, who now lives in Houston. "When I got there and took this class, my eyes opened up to the world around me. It was just fantastic."



Courtesy photo

Maria J. Sanchez and Antonio "Tony" Sanchez Jr.



After graduating, Sanchez ventured into careers ranging from banker to oilman to venture capitalist — all while finding a way to give back to St. Mary's. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1986, received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1983 and was a co-chair of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign.

To ensure other students from Webb County can attend St. Mary's, Sanchez and his wife founded the A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Endowed Scholarship — a \$1 million gift supporting undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and remain in good academic standing.

The scholarship benefits students attending the School of Science, Engineering and Technology.

"I was very blessed to be given the opportunity to go to St. Mary's," he said. "I will never forget that."

Q: What do you remember the most about your time at St. Mary's?

A: I really enjoyed the faculty and also meeting so many people. It was amazing to meet students from all over the United States, many of whom I remain friends with.

Q: Why did you choose to give?

A: I chose to give because I wanted to help people advance their careers, particularly students who find it difficult to move forward in education due to financial hardships. St. Mary's is my alma mater and I have a deep affection for it, so I wanted to help the students there. I think of them as my family.

Q: What impact do you hope your gift has on students?

A: I hope they feel excited. I hope they have dreams about going to college and about becoming professors, accountants or various other areas they want to focus on. When we are able to give money, I want to help them achieve those dreams.

Q: What do you think the future holds for St. Mary's?

A: The future of St. Mary's is fantastic. I am so happy that at one time in my life, I got to be part of it. I'm proud of St. Mary's. I'm proud of what they do. I'm going to continue to help as long as I can.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

COUPLE SEES SENSE IN TOGETHERNESS



“ We’ve had our experience. We’ve arrived. Now, it’s about giving many other students that same experience. ”



Leticia “Leti” Contreras and Thomas “Tom” Contreras

The college experience is unique for everyone. Some students try to attend as many sports events as they can, while others find solace in studying in the library before going to work.

Leticia “Leti” Contreras (B.A. ’89) and Thomas “Tom” Contreras (B.B.A. ’88), of San Antonio, hope all students will get to share a sense of togetherness and community. For them, the community at St. Mary’s University is what makes it so special.

In fact, it’s that togetherness and community that brought the two together. They each tell the same story with slight variations, but it involves meeting at the original, on-campus pub, and continues on through their careers, rearing two children (also St. Mary’s alumni) and supporting their alma mater. Leti Contreras became chair of the St. Mary’s Board of Trustees in 2020, making her the first woman to serve as chair in the history of the University’s governing boards. Tom Contreras chaired the Greehey School of Business portion of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign.

Had that one serendipitous moment at the original Pub not happened, the two may have gone down different life paths. Because an area existed for students, faculty and staff to mingle, it brought people on different trajectories together.

“It’s not just about a pub and grabbing a beer. It’s having a place to commune and a place to just chill out and talk,” Tom Contreras said. “That’s important for a Catholic Marianist university like St. Mary’s.”

They call their meeting one of many defining moments while attending St. Mary’s. So as part of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign, the couple donated \$3.2 million: \$900,000 to create the Contreras Family Terrace and Student Lounge, along with reopening The Pub at St. Mary’s, \$220,000 to the Rattler Golf team and \$2 million to further the study of Risk Management in the business school.

Their path to St. Mary’s, and toward each other, also happened seemingly by chance.

A first-generation college student from San Antonio, Tom Contreras said he was drawn to St. Mary’s after an unexpected meeting with a member of the Golf team who told him he would be a good fit for the school. Once here, his time on campus was also filled with intramural sports.

Leti Contreras’ experience was a bit different. Growing up near the campus, she said the University was down the road and gave her the chance to walk to class while obtaining scholarships and working full-time. She also joined a sorority and worked as a student-teacher.

“For us, that was a defining moment,” she said. “So many years post-graduation, it all would have been different had we not met

and shared our dreams, the aspirations, the career goals and the faith that we both have together.”

The couple has also served the St. Mary’s community in other ways. In addition to Leti Contreras chairing the Board of Trustees during the culmination of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign, the couple established the Contreras Family Executive in Residence and the Risk Management Student Success Fund in the Greehey School of Business.

The couple says donating to the school is more than just giving substantial amounts of money. It’s about giving what you can and when you can, be it through time or money.

“Giving is about the students in future generations,” Leti Contreras said. “We’ve had our experience. We’ve arrived. Now, it’s about giving many other students that same experience.”

Tom Contreras added it was important to help give to the next set of leaders to ensure they have every opportunity to achieve their goals.

“We’ve been profoundly blessed beyond measure,” Tom Contreras added. “It’s important for us to be good stewards of what we’ve achieved. St. Mary’s easily became our No. 1 priority.”



MARIANIST WAY OF LIFE

ALUMNUS CREDITS MISSION FOR HIS SUCCESS



When Charles T. Barrett Jr. (B.B.A. '62) decided to enroll at St. Mary's University, he did so wanting to get back to a school with Marianist teachings.

After starting at Central Catholic High School, Barrett would eventually transfer and graduate from the nearby public Thomas Jefferson High School.

Looking back between the two curriculums, Barrett said he appreciated the Marianist approach to teaching and the value of service and giving back. It was one of his main reasons to apply to the University.

Barrett said he experienced his first defining moment at the time of admissions when Brother Thomas J. Treadaway, S.M., let him know he'd been accepted and set him on a new path.

During his time at St. Mary's, Barrett fondly recalled taking an ethics course taught by Brother John Totten, S.M., a class in which he learned many philosophies he still practices to this day. Barrett also called Totten "one of the most articulate and intelligent people I have ever known."

"He instilled in his pupils a work ethic and a feeling of responsibility in logical treatment of people and business," Barrett said.

That work ethic, Barrett said, is what helped him in his career as a CPA-turned-car dealer, then later as president and CEO of Barrett Holdings Inc. His treatment of people and businesses has helped Barrett receive many accolades from the community and his alma mater, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2016 and the 2001 Brother Paul C. Goelz, S.M., Award, which honors business school graduates for their entrepreneurial feats.

Barrett and his family have also been supportive of St. Mary's and its mission. In 2018, Charles Barrett and his wife, Melissa Barrett, donated \$1 million to the Peer Ministry Program — a program that builds off the Marianist value of living in community and brings faith formation to students on campus.

The other donation — the one Barrett calls his second defining moment at St. Mary's — is the \$490,000 donation to help build the Barrett Memorial Bell Tower. Its dedication, made in 2007, was made in honor of his late mother, Susana Barrett.



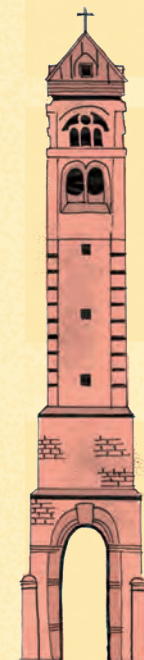
Charles T. Barrett Jr. and Melissa Barrett

Before her death, Barrett said they shared a viewing of *The Bells of St. Mary's*, starring Bing Crosby, because it was one of her favorite films. Years later, Barrett said he wanted to do something to honor her while giving the campus a central structure.

"When I had the resources where I could dedicate something special for my mother, I realized there was no bell tower at St. Mary's," he said. "So, I and some friends decided to build the Bell Tower and make that in memory of my mother."

Barrett, who lives near San Antonio, said it is important for the school to continue to offer opportunities for students to grow personally. One of the best things about attending college, he said, is being thrown out of one's comfort zone and getting to interact with people of various backgrounds. Updated buildings, curriculums and classes will attract more students, he added.

"It's helpful to have interactions with other people from other societal customs to make life more complete," he said. "It provides students the opportunity to experience different situations that will help them when they get into the business world or whatever career path they choose."



To watch a video of students during 3 O'clock Prayer at the Barrett Memorial Bell Tower, visit www.stmarytx.edu/magazine.

HELPING STUDENTS DISCOVER THEMSELVES

ALUMNA NAMES SCHOLARSHIP AFTER MARIANIST MENTOR

RaSheeda Keir (B.A. '01, M.A. '02) made the decision to attend St. Mary's University when her coworker at a grocery store, who at the time was attending the University's School of Law, thought she would be a good fit with the University.

As a first-generation college student, Keir attributed a lot of her success at St. Mary's to a scholarship created for Black students, as well as support from faculty and her friends on campus.

Now living near Washington, D.C., Keir has given back to the University by creating a scholarship. The scholarship, which honors the legacy of the Rev. Norbert Brockman, S.M., a longtime St. Mary's Associate Professor of Political Science, will be awarded to a Black student of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences over the course of three years.

"I just want to say I owe my success to St. Mary's," said Keir, who also serves on the College's Advisory Council.

Q: What do you remember most about your time at St. Mary's?

A: The Quad, the basketball games and, of course, the professors. I would also say the community service — I did a lot of community service at St. Mary's through the Student Government Association and the Black Student Union. It was like having an extended family. It's hard to feel lost when you have that family.

Q: Was there a faculty member who had a significant impact on you?

A: Norbert Brockman and Professor of Political Science and International Relations Larry Hufford, Ph.D. For anybody who was an International Relations major, those were two of the most important professors of my time.

“ We alumni recognize how the scholarship money affects students' lives. It gives them the opportunity to focus on their studies. ”

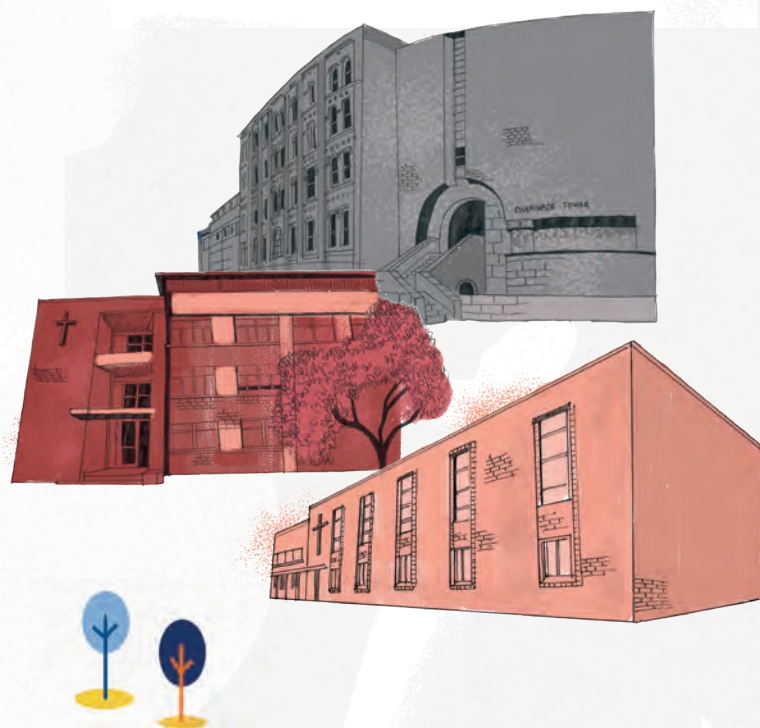


Q: Why did you choose to give?

A: When I was a college student, there was a scholarship for Black students. They only gave out two of those. I applied and I was given one of them. After that, Brockman told me, "If you apply every year, I'll give this scholarship to you." It relieved the burden of financial pressure. And because he did that for me, I'm paying it forward to do the same.

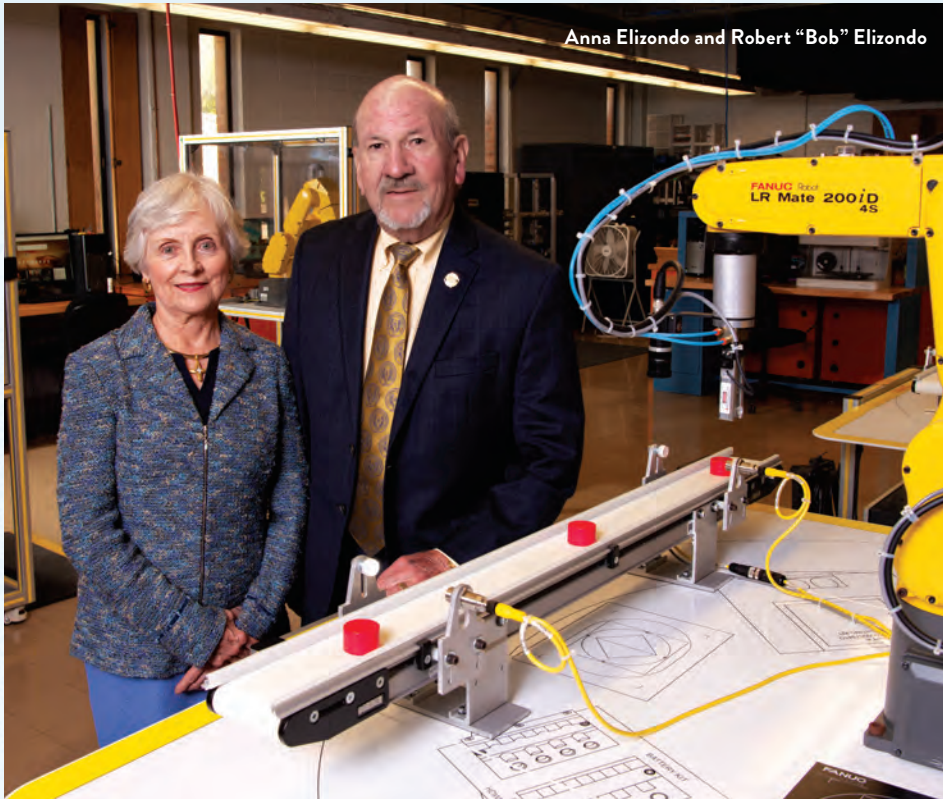
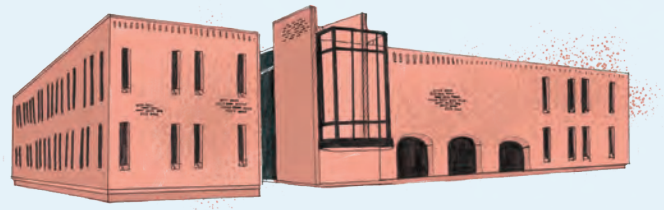
Q: What do you hope a student feels when they receive your scholarship?

A: I hope they feel blessed. We alumni recognize how the scholarship money affects students' lives. It gives them the opportunity to focus on their studies. I hope their scholarship relieves some burden. I hope they recognize somebody thought about them because God put that gift in my heart.



ENGINEERING FOR GROWTH

FORMER TRUSTEE WANTS TO SEE PROGRAMS
CONTINUE TO EVOLVE



Anna Elizondo and Robert "Bob" Elizondo

The best way to keep up with the rapidly changing world is by leaning into change and allowing it to take you where it goes, said Robert "Bob" Elizondo (B.S. '67).

The example he uses derives from when he was an Engineering student at St. Mary's University. Back then, he said, he was just one of 11 students in the program with classes taught in the basement of Reinbolt Hall.

Now, the Engineering program has expanded to not just having its own building, but also includes additional areas of study, such as Mechanical, Computer, Electrical, Software and Industrial Engineering.

As technology in the industry improves, Elizondo said the best way to keep students informed is to make sure everything is up to date so they can have the best advantages in their careers.

"You have to ensure St. Mary's University continues to attract students and, to be able to do that, you need to be able to keep up with what's going on with the new advancements in education," he said.

Bob Elizondo and his wife, Anna Elizondo, of San Antonio, have gifted the University \$500,000 for the Innovation Center of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology expected to break ground this year and provide space for innovation. A new building and new equipment, Elizondo said, will help keep St. Mary's competitive with other schools.

"If you can't provide the facilities, the technology or the professors, you can't attract the students," he said.

But technology and education are not the only things at St. Mary's to which Elizondo credited for his success.

As a student, Elizondo said he juggled multiple jobs to pay for school, such as selling shoes and working with the Texas Department of Transportation.

In July 1966, his senior year at St. Mary's, Elizondo married Anna Elizondo, whom he has known since first grade.

He also joined Rho Beta Gamma, a fraternity no longer active at St. Mary's. He says the organization enabled him to make some of his closest friends. Most of them still get together for golf or other outings.

Balancing school, work and friendships eventually paid off later in life.

"It's an opportunity to be able to learn how to manage your life," he said. "That's one of those things you really learn how to do in college."

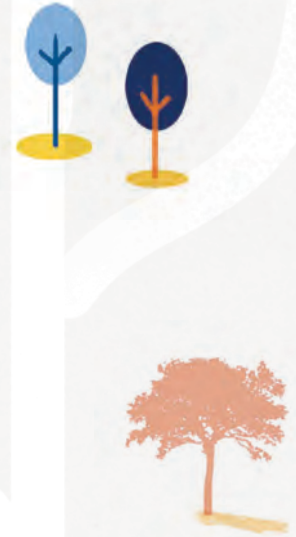
Elizondo retired as the Miami-based vice president of operations in the Americas for United Parcel Service in 2001 after working for the company for 31 years. Before joining UPS, he served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and with the Boeing Company's Launch Systems Branch.

He also served as a member of the St. Mary's Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2004 and as the chair from 2008 to 2012. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2005 and the Marianist Heritage Award in 2012.

Elizondo believes people do not become successful on their own, but do so with the support of family, community and a good educational institution. Giving back is the best way to help those coming behind you.

"St. Mary's gave me the opportunities to have a successful career and a successful life," he said. "By doing some of these things, it gives me an opportunity to pay it back."





PAVING PATHS TO SCIENCE

ALUMNUS HELPS NEXT GROUP OF STEM STUDENTS

Robert Massie, (B.A.M. '07, M.S. '14), D.Sc., lives by a simple hierarchy: at the top is service to God, followed by friends and family and, finally, himself.

As a Catholic, serving God comes naturally to Massie. When talking about friends and family, he lights up. But when asked to talk about himself, Massie tends to focus on the accomplishments of others.

When the senior software engineer at USAA discusses how St. Mary's University impacted his life, however, he's practically radiant.

His willingness to serve others coincides with the Marianist mission at St. Mary's. Massie, who has donated multiple gifts to the University, will tell you he did so simply to serve others.

"I just want to help people," Massie said. "You don't do this to tell everybody, 'Hey, look at me.'"

One gift will go toward the new Innovation Center for the School of Science, Engineering and Technology expected to break ground this year. Another funded an endowed athletic scholarship available to student-athletes in any sport.

While the athletic scholarship bears his name, he said both gifts were made in memory of his mother, Maria del Carmen Flores Massie, who he said was a big supporter of higher education.

"My mom was very proud of me for graduating. She didn't see me get my master's or my doctorate, but she saw me get my bachelor's from St. Mary's," he said.

For the athletic scholarship, Massie said his mother's love of sports inspired him.

The Innovation Center gift comes because Massie spent a lot of time in the

Science, Engineering and Technology buildings while pursuing his master's in Computer Science.

"If it weren't for Professor Douglas Hall taking me aside, I wouldn't be here today," Massie said. "If it weren't for Professor Carol Redfield saying I could get my doctorate, I probably wouldn't have done it. This University changed my life."

As St. Mary's looks to its future, Massie said he hopes people — especially women — will continue to explore futures in STEM fields.

"How many women in STEM are there? There are not a lot," Massie said. "So, I decided to give, hopefully, a transformative legacy in my mom's name."



GIVING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



ALUMNUS HOPES TO FUEL GROWTH OF BELOVED PROGRAM



For Juan Valadez Jr. (B.S. '03, M.S. '06, M.B.A. '11), attending St. Mary's University has become a family affair.

Earning his three degrees with St. Mary's, Valadez said his son, Michael, recently transferred to the University. When hearing about one of his days at school, Valadez said he was not surprised at how things played out.

"He was telling me a story the other day where he walked into the music building, because he's a musician, and they recognized him as a new guy and came over to introduce themselves," Valadez said. "I told him, 'Yeah, that's St. Mary's.'"

While he's happy to see the welcoming personalities of people haven't changed, Valadez said he felt compelled to donate to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign to help future students. His gift supported the new Unmanned Aerial Systems Laboratory, aka Drone Lab.

"It's my turn to give back," said Valadez, who is an IT consultant and Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. "When I was at St. Mary's, I had

grants and scholarships. That money comes from somewhere. This is my chance to give back to future generations."

Q: What drew you here initially?

A: I was going to go to the University of Texas at Austin, but I remember thinking the one thing I didn't like about their Engineering program was how the classes were insanely large. I was literally a number and I did not want that. Someone told me about St. Mary's and I applied, was accepted and decided, "You know, I'm going to take a chance." I'm super grateful I went through with that because it single-handedly created my career.

Q: What was your defining moment?

A: It was an opportunity to work as a junior UNIX administrator. Professor of Electrical Engineering Mehran Aminian, Ph.D., ran an advanced research lab. He was talking about the job and I remember going up to him and telling him, "You know, I'm dabbling in UNIX myself." He gave me an insane amount of trust and responsibility. I loved it.

Q: What else do you remember about your time here?

A: The community. Even to this day, all my classmates and colleagues, we're like a family. We all wanted to succeed together. It helped that the faculty was very immersing, and the upperclassmen were good at embracing us too. It was my sophomore year when I realized helping those coming up behind us is what we do.

Q: Why did you choose to give?

A: I've always been supportive of the vision of Professor of Electrical Engineering Bahman Rezaie, Ph.D., because he's worked tirelessly to expand the program and try to give the University and the students the tools they need to succeed and be competitive.

Q: What impact do you hope the gift has?

A: These students, they're my replacement. I have to start thinking I'm part of the older generation and I'm OK with that. But part of that comes with a lot of responsibility. My responsibility is to support the younger generations. It's a cycle.

Q: What do you think the future holds for St. Mary's?

A: This Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign has been huge. It really shows the University has put emphasis on fundraising. It's important we as alumni have confidence in it for future students. I'm excited about that.



BUSINESS STATE OF MIND

CEO'S SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS WOMEN IN BUSINESS

LLynda Ellis (B.A.S. '81) would be the first to tell you the business world is not easy.

As the CEO and owner of Capitol Concierge, Ellis knows the pressure of having to make day-to-day decisions that not only affect her life, but also the lives of the 345 employees who work for the company based near the nation's capital.

The ebbs and flows of the marketplace can be exhausting, Ellis said. But even with the turmoil, there are times when being a woman in business can be even harder.

In the past, she said women in executive manager roles could be seen as cold, unfeeling and callous. Ellis recalls a time when a woman she had worked with on multiple committees came up to her — after three years — and finally said she liked her as a person.

The perception of the hard-nosed woman in executive roles is changing, said Ellis, who is also a University Trustee.

“Over time, verbal and nonverbal communication has become easier as men and women consciously begin to embrace and accept one another as peers and not specifically as the opposite gender,” Ellis said.

To help encourage students — especially young women — to make their mark on the world, Ellis founded the Lynda Ellis Women in Business Excellence Award and Scholarship at St. Mary's University.

The annual award, created in 2018, will be distributed over 10 years and goes to a student entering her senior year. A separate award also recognizes an alumna or female member of the local business community each year.

“It meant a lot to me that I could make a difference in someone else's life,” she said, “that we could hold women in business up and say, ‘You can be this.’”

When she was a student at St. Mary's, Ellis recalled being older than some of her classmates, working multiple jobs and carrying a full course load.

But the support she received from her faculty and advisers helped carry her to the end of her studies. In addition to classwork, Ellis said professors pushed her to see other points of view.



Photo by Stacy Zarrn Goldberg

When she signed up for what would have been her third class with longtime Philosophy Professor Brother John Totten, S.M., she was surprised to learn he moved her to a different instructor for that course.

“That was the defining moment because he looked at me and he said, ‘You need to get other perspectives, Lynda, not just from me.’”

Her experiences throughout her life and with different educational institutions have given her an appreciation for

how St. Mary's treats each student as a person and not just a number.

“At St. Mary's, we understand there is only one you, whoever you are, and we celebrate that,” she said. “That's the magic of St. Mary's.”

“It meant a lot to me that I could make a difference in someone else's life.”



ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY

ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

Donors to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign enrich the campus community.

The alumni of St. Mary's University are as unique as our evolving landscape. The nearly 11,500 donors to The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign — the largest in St. Mary's University history — gave because they share our historical legacy and our vision for our campus' future.

Some you'll meet on the surrounding pages — such as Bill Greehey (B.B.A. '60), who has given more than any alumni before him, in particular to the business school — have been St. Mary's supporters for many years. Others, such as scholarship donor RaSheeda Keir (B.A. '01, M.A. '02) and Drone Lab contributor Juan Valadez Jr. (B.S. '03, M.S. '06, M.B.A. '11), were inspired to give during the latest campaign.

Each one has a story to tell about the people and places of St. Mary's that touched their lives and helped them envision what was possible for their futures. The legacy of their gifts will continue to enhance the St. Mary's environment for generations to come.

THE DEFINING MOMENT COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN



\$165M

TOTAL RAISED

BY THE NUMBERS



\$35M

ABOVE INITIAL GOAL



39

DONORS
\$1M+



4,886

DONORS
UNDER \$100



11,494

TOTAL
DONORS



14

NEW ENDED ACADEMIC
POSITIONS (41% MORE)



\$58.8M

NEW SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDING (90% MORE)



94

NEW ENDED
SCHOLARSHIPS (43% MORE)



\$5.2M

CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES
AND CATHOLIC MISSION



\$13.2M

FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE
LABS, CLASSROOMS

ANOTHER LOOK: BY THE SCHOOLS

\$20 MILLION

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

\$41 MILLION

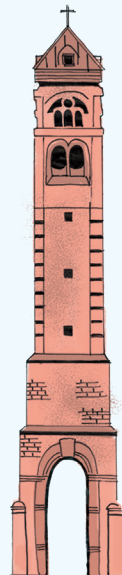
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING
AND TECHNOLOGY

\$32 MILLION

GREEHEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

\$22 MILLION

SCHOOL OF LAW





MANUFACTURING THE FUTURE

GIFT TO HELP FUND INNOVATION CENTER



Growing up, John Sieffert (B.B.A. '62) didn't stay in one place for long. With his father in the automotive business, Sieffert said the family occasionally moved for work.

After graduating from high school in Kansas City, Missouri, Sieffert attended a couple of colleges before arriving at St. Mary's University.

The decision to move to Texas was simple: after talking with some friends from high school who were attending St. Mary's, they convinced him to look at the campus. Not long after, Sieffert enrolled.

"It was basically done on the suggestions of my friends, who are still friends of mine," he said. "We enjoyed the experience."

During his college years, he got involved with campus life by going to athletic games, joining the fraternity Sigma Beta Chi and "just enjoying the overall atmosphere of the campus."

After graduation, Sieffert and two partners founded CBS Boring & Machine Company Inc. in Detroit in 1967. They sold the company 40 years later.

As part of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign, Sieffert gifted \$1 million to the Innovation Center for the School

of Science, Engineering and Technology, expected to break ground this year.

The decision to donate to the new building, Sieffert said, came after a meeting with Dean Emeritus of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology Winston Erevelles, Ph.D. Sieffert said Erevelles' association with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and a discussion on the direction of the automotive industry helped get his support behind the building.

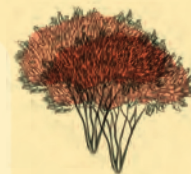
As the two talked, Sieffert said it made sense to donate toward helping the school update technology for manufacturing courses. As technology advances, Sieffert added, the best way to prepare students for the workforce is making sure they have the most up-to-date equipment.

"I feel they have to have as competitive a program as possible that offers high-tech courses with high-tech equipment," Sieffert said. "I just want them to be competitive."



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

COUPLE PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP FOR THOSE IN NEED



When Charles Scholz (B.B.A. '60) left Marshall, Texas, to attend St. Mary's University, he did so only because his family knew relatives in San Antonio would keep a watchful eye on him at college.

Scholz's wife, Sally Scholz, described her late husband's upbringing as humble. His father was a machinist who worked for the railroad. Charles Scholz was the first person in his immediate family to go to college.

When his father died of cancer during his freshman year, Charles Scholz contemplated leaving school because he was not sure how he would pay for his education.

That's when the Marianists of St. Mary's University stepped in to help.

Giving him odd jobs around campus and helping him secure a position in the library, the brothers helped Charles Scholz slowly save enough money to keep going to class.

He joined ROTC his junior year and occasionally received \$10 from his mother. Charles Scholz was able to continue his education before finally graduating with a degree in Marketing.

Upon graduation, Charles Scholz left school to join the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. He later worked for oil and gas companies, eventually retiring as vice president of Nippon Oil Exploration U.S.A. Limited.

He met his future wife on a train ride when they were both going home for Thanksgiving. According to her, he kept calling her afterward until she finally agreed to a date. He knew how to work a room no matter where he went, said Sally, calling his approach "extroverted on steroids."

No matter where life took him, Sally Scholz said her husband was always grateful for the opportunity given to him when he was a student and talked about how much it helped him get to where he was.

"If it had not been for the brothers of St. Mary's, Charles would have never had any hope of finishing school," she said.

As fortune favored them, Charles Scholz never forgot where he came from or how hard it was to get there.

To help students in need, the Charles and Sally Scholz Endowed Scholarship Fund was founded in 2018, shortly after his death. The scholarship benefits undergraduate students, including incoming freshmen, who demonstrate financial need and meet GPA requirements.

In total, the couple has donated more than \$1 million to the scholarship.

"Charles loved St. Mary's," Sally Scholz said. "The scholarship was made because he knew how some kids don't have a chance other than a scholarship. He was a very generous and very kind man."



Sally Scholz

Photo by Omair Cantu