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SPRING 2008

ST. MARY'S

U N I V E R S I T Y

Gold & Blue



**A Conversation with the Cardinal – Religious Leader Speaks at St. Mary's
Staying at the Table**

The Rattler Battalion – Preparing Leaders for 75 Years

Diane Bertrand – Inspiring the Next Generation of Writers

On the Covers

On the front cover: His Eminence Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Ph.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, lectured at St. Mary's University this spring as part of the Lin Great Speakers Series, addressing the theme "Interfaith Dialogue: A Pathway to Peace." In a pre-lecture interview, the Cardinal shared his hopes and dreams for harmony in the Holy Land.

On the back cover: St. Mary's students are riding in style with the purchase of a new 50-passenger bus that features drop-down viewing screens, study alcoves and Internet connectivity.



In the weeks leading up to Homecoming Oyster Bake, the St. Mary's Service Learning Center sponsors a program where student organizations compete to see which group can collect the most food for the San Antonio Food Bank. Points are assigned to different food items and the two organizations with the highest food point totals select one of their members as Homecoming king and queen. Crowned during the March 29 "Baby Bake" was Queen Christian Padron of Alpha Phi Sorority and her escort King Andrew Oberle of Chi Phi Fraternity. More than 19,000 pounds of food was collected and delivered to the food bank by student groups this year.

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



MISSION

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



CONTENTS

2

International Outreach, Civic Engagement at the Forefront at St. Mary's

by Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D.

3

News From Around the Grove

8

Staying at the Table

by Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, Ph.D.

13

A Conversation with the Cardinal Religious Leader Sees Hope for Peace in the Holy Land

by Candace J. Kuebker

16

The Rattler Battalion Preparing Leaders for 75 Years

18

Diane Bertrand Inspiring the Next Generation of Writers

by Gina Farrell

20

Class Notes and Notables

24

Our Fondest Farewell

From the Editor

During a semester replete with notable visitors, among them two presidential hopefuls, a former U.S. Secretary of HUD and a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, I must admit my favorite meeting took place in a quiet alcove at La Mansión del Rio in downtown San Antonio. There I had the amazing opportunity to interview His Eminence Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington.

The Cardinal was in San Antonio to speak as part of St. Mary's Lin Great Speakers Series. I'd never met him (or any other such prominent leader of the Church) and I was a bit unhinged by the whole idea. My interview questions were directed at the Cardinal's many efforts to move forward the peace efforts in the Holy Land through interfaith dialogue, the focus of this year's Lin series.

Cardinal McCarrick is a leader in this inter-religious dialogue movement internationally, and I believe you will read with interest his thoughtful reflections. And although you'll see glimpses of him as he speaks about the centuries-old problems that exist in the Middle East, I'm not sure you'll get the full sense of his passion. In his presence, it is abundantly clear that the Cardinal is a man of principle, a compassionate and understanding believer that we each have much to offer. His calm conviction is that most children of God desire and strive for peace and the Common Good. With this spiritual leader at the forefront of the efforts to realize peace in the Holy Land, I believe we all have reason for hope.

—Candy Kuebker



Editor interviewing Cardinal McCarrick



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D.

International Outreach, Civic Engagement at the Forefront at St. Mary's

Commencement exercises are near and our students are hard at work, completing projects and preparing for their final exams. St. Mary's leadership, too, continues to diligently work to fulfill the goals outlined in our strategic plan, *Vision 2012*.

Our efforts to advance academic quality and innovation are numerous. Internationally we are pursuing more partnerships that will give our students and faculty beneficial exchange opportunities. This spring on a trip to Taiwan and mainland China, in addition to visiting alumni from that part of our world, we signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with three more institutions. Last year, St. Mary's entered into agreements with both Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce and Wuxi South Ocean College in China. The partnership with Shanghai Lixin is already producing results: this spring, two of their faculty scholars are spending time on our campus and we anticipate student exchange to begin as early as this summer.

In addition I, along with others from St. Mary's, are working on local and statewide initiatives to build a strong college-going culture in Texas that, ultimately, will mean more high-ability students at St. Mary's.

Civic engagement has a long and storied tradition at St. Mary's and our efforts to develop a strong sense of civic responsibility in our graduates continue to expand. In February our



inaugural Civic Engagement Week coincided with requests from two presidential candidates to appear at St. Mary's. Their names are added to a long list of national and international figures in government, the arts and sciences, business, religion and more, who have visited our campus.

The sheer number of prominent visitors here over the past 50 years is remarkable: from future and former presidents Eisenhower, Ford, Reagan and Bush (the first) and presidential hopefuls Mondale, Nader and Perot, to civil rights activists Dick Gregory, Mrs. Medgar Evers and Cesar Chavez; from authors Carlos Fuentes and the Rev. Andrew Greeley to journalists ranging from William F. Buckley Jr. to Molly Ivins; and from religious leader Cardinal John Krol to groundbreaking heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, these are but a few of the many well-known individuals who have joined in conversation with St. Mary's students.

In recognition of our leadership in,

and culture of, civic engagement, for a second consecutive year St. Mary's was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This is the highest national government recognition a school can achieve for service learning and civic engagement, and I believe it confirms our efforts.

I think you'll find "Staying at the Table," an article about civic engagement in the Marianist and Catholic Intellectual traditions, on page 8 and written by alumna and former English Professor Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, Ph.D., to be of great interest.

In April, the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI invited the presidents of U.S. Catholic colleges and universities to Washington. It was an honor to be among my colleagues to hear the Pope's thoughts on higher education. We were honored earlier this semester to have another respected religious leader on campus as part of the Lin Great Speakers Series. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick spoke at St. Mary's about interfaith dialogue. "A Conversation with the Cardinal" on page 13 is an intriguing glimpse of interfaith efforts in the Middle East, in which the Cardinal is an active participant.

Finally, please join me in thanking David P. Manuel, Ph.D., who has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs, for his eight years of dedicated leadership in that role. We have underway a national search for his replacement and hope to have that very important position filled by this summer. ■

Trip to Asia Results in Exchange Agreements

St. Mary's President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., and Fu Jen Catholic University President Bernard Li sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a recent trip by Cotrell and others to Taiwan and China. MOUs, which promote exchange of students and faculty between institutions, were also signed by Cotrell with Yangtze University – Tai Lake College of Creative Technology and Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, both in China. With MOUs signed last year with Wuxi South Ocean College and Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce of China, St. Mary's now has five agreements with Asian institutions that will benefit undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. Also, School of Law Interim Dean Charles Cantú has successfully established a new study-abroad program in China. Following a visit to Shanghai and Beijing last fall, the Institute of Law at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing has been chosen as the partner school.





NEWS

FROM AROUND THE GROVE

■ SHORT SUBJECTS

Students Win Elevator Pitch Contest

For a second consecutive year, a St. Mary's student took first place during the National Entrepreneur Scholar Elevator Pitch Competition in Kansas City in February.

Armando Sanchez, a senior studying international business and marketing, won first place. Samantha Karam (B.B.A. '07), a continuing studies student, placed second, while Marika Whitehurst, a sophomore marketing major, also was a top 10 finalist. The students were required to develop a business idea and then present a 90-second pitch detailing the product or service offered, their competitive advantage, the intended market, financial needs and management team.

SLC Introduces Civic Engagement Week

The Service Learning Center, whose goal is to foster servant leadership opportunities and experiences within St. Mary's co-curricular educational programs, presented St. Mary's inaugural Civic Engagement Week this spring.

"Making a Difference through Community and Civic Engagement" was addressed through a variety of activities, including voter registration and blood drives, airing of a documentary that focused on community advocacy, a discussion of the Catholic Church's report "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," and the Annual Not-for-Profit Career Expo. Nationally known community advocate David Arizmendi, founder of Proyecto Azteca in San Juan, Texas, spoke to students on the role of civic engagement through community advocacy.

St. Mary's Makes President's Community Service Honor Roll

St. Mary's learned it has been named to the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for a second consecutive year. The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

Honor recognition is based on selection factors including scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

The Honor Roll is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, and Campus Compact.

'The Muslim World' Focus of Peace Commission

Conflict and injustice often result from fear and misunderstanding rooted in incomplete or inaccurate knowledge, and in the ambiguities that haunt every religious tradition. Islam, like Christianity and Judaism, is hardly uniform in its beliefs, peoples and practices.

The President's Peace Commission (PPC), in its quest to foster justice and peace, devoted its spring program to a presentation of Islam. Through a program of presentations and panel discussions, the PPC attempted to develop an appreciative understanding of the Islamic world while paving the way for constructive dialogue between people based on mutual respect.



Want More News? Go Online



Hear Cardinal McCarrick and other Lin speakers online at www.stmarytx.edu/speakers

■
St. Mary's Feminists Lauded with Franzke Award

■
Texas Sen. Glenn Hegar Named Distinguished Young Law Alum

■
Cletus Hangs Out Shingle at New Art Gallery

■
China Rising at School of Law

■
Campus Celebrates Marianist Charism, Leadership

■
Writer Promoting Peace Wins Recognition

■
Cotrell, Boggess Lead Efforts to Close the Gap

■
Supreme Court Justice Scalia at Law School

www.stmarytx.edu



Charles F. McAleer III (B.A. '66, M.A. '73), Mutual Trust Financial Group's senior vice president of Sales & Marketing, and president of MTL Agency Inc. (middle row, center), poses with St. Mary's student scholars during their recent visit to the financial services organization in Oak Brook, Ill.

Business Students Visit Windy City

St. Mary's business students – 27 students from both the Greehey Scholars and Entrepreneurial Scholars (E-Scholars) programs – recently visited the Mutual Trust Financial Group in Oak Brook, Ill.

Accompanying them were business faculty Brooke Envick, Ph.D., Stephanie Ward, Ph.D., and Benjamin Hart, director of St. Mary's Annual Fund.

The E-Scholars program attracts students from across academic disciplines that are able to experience unique learning models through travel, service and academic competition. The Greehey Scholars program also provides exceptional learning opportunities as well as full scholarships to high achieving business students.

During their visit to Mutual Trust – a 104-year-old financial services organization that provides a full spectrum of insurance, annuity and investment products – students participated in a series of departmental overviews presented by senior management. Alumnus Charles F. McAleer III, Mutual Trust's senior vice president of Sales & Marketing and president of MTL Agency Inc., planned the students' visit and was on hand to welcome them. The program included overviews of sales and marketing, client services and underwriting, legal issues, product development, finance, accounting and much more. Following a question and answer session, students were given a tour of the company's facilities.

Mutual Trust's leadership was impressed with both the Greehey Scholars and E-Scholars programs, citing them as outstanding opportunities for students to learn in-depth business applications and theories and how they are implemented in daily business operations.

McNair Scholars Grant Expands Program

St. Mary's does many things well and one of them is to send large numbers of its students on to graduate and professional programs. Recently St. Mary's received a four-year, \$879,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to establish an expanded comprehensive McNair Scholars Program.

The program – named for NASA astronaut Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., who died on Jan. 28, 1986 when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded – prepares 25 undergraduate students each year for success in graduate school and also helps minority students to achieve a doctoral degree within 10 years of graduating from St. Mary's. Students in the program are dedicated to succeeding in graduate school but have been identified as possibly having factors that place them at risk for not entering or completing graduate school.

Mock Trial Team Ranks No. 2 at Nationals

The St. Mary's University School of Law mock trial team finished second in the nation at the Eighth Annual National Trial Advocacy Competition held last fall at Michigan State

University College of Law. St. Mary's was edged out by Southern Methodist University in a hard-fought trial that marked the final round.

Twenty-six teams from the country's top schools participated in the three-day tournament. St. Mary's fielded a team of Allison Skipper, Jeff Starnes, Thom Nesbit, Matt Hill and Austin Sanford, coached by Bill Squires and assistant coach Morgan Matson.



Task Force Initiatives See Progress

The Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force (NRTF) established by St. Mary's in 2007 collaborates with neighbors to enhance and advance its environs by focusing on revitalization that includes commerce, housing, infrastructure and quality of life issues. The NRTF completed its first year in March by reviewing its progress, finding several initiatives completed and many more moving forward.

A group of task force members is developing the framework for a nonprofit entity for the University Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) and the surrounding vicinity in order to improve the area.

Landscaping design plans for a pocket park down the street from St. Mary's on Cincinnati Ave. are complete and a proposal for funding is forthcoming.

In the area of infrastructure, the city will construct bike lanes along Cincinnati Ave. from St. Mary's to San Pedro Park this spring. And, the City of San Antonio has selected the area that includes St. Mary's as one of its reinvestment areas. The City assists reinvestment areas with strategic planning and assistance with applying for funding opportunities.

■ Newsmakers

Humanitarian Award Goes to Trustee Belz

St. Mary's Trustee J. Michael Belz (B.A. '75), President and CEO of Catholic Life Insurance, received the 2008 Humanitarian Award from the United Communities of San Antonio (UCSA) at its annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Awards Dinner this spring.

Formerly known as the National Conference for Community and Justice, the mission of UCSA is to create safe and inclusive communities, particularly among young people, by promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through dialogue, education and awareness.

St. Mary's Stories Recorded by NPR's Story Corps

National Public Radio's Story Corps brought its mobile recording bus to San Antonio during February to record segments for its popular Story Corps project. As part of NPR's outreach, St. Mary's was invited to identify several individuals among the St. Mary's community to give snapshots of their lives that illustrate the rich history of the area and the University. The stories, which may be aired on NPR and Texas Public Radio, will be retained in the Library of Congress.

St. Mary's participants in Story Corps included the Rev. George Montague, S.M., Professor of Theology; alumnus Claude Stanush (B.A. '39) and his wife, Barbara; Political Science Professor Larry Hufford and Rebecca Brune, a current graduate student; Henry Flores, Graduate School Dean, and Gwendolyn Diaz, Professor of English.

Greehey Chair Named Ethics Fellow

Matt Gilley, the Bill Greehey Chair for Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility in the business school since January 2007, has been invited to become a Fellow of the Ethics Resource Center (ERC).

The ERC is the oldest nonprofit in the United States dedicated to the study of organizational ethics and is based in Washington, D.C. The ERC Fellows program was established more than a decade ago to serve as a unique forum for dialogue and action that includes in its membership a select group of corporate, government, nonprofit, and educational leaders.

Quiñones, Corbett to Address Grads

Two distinguished alumni have accepted the University's invitation to speak during its graduation ceremonies in May. ABC news correspondent and co-anchor of "Primetime" John Quiñones (B.A. '74) is commencement speaker at the May 10 exercises during which bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees will be awarded.

Law alumnus Thomas Corbett Jr. (J.D. '75), Attorney General for the State of Pennsylvania, will address School of Law graduates during commencement exercises on May 17.

■ Good Deeds

Marianist Trust, Province Continue Commitment

The Marianist Trust continues its ardent support of St. Mary's with its recent gift of almost \$180,000. A portion of the gift will support a scholarship awarded to students who attend Marianist high schools, enabling those students to continue to pursue an education imbued with the Marianist ideals of academic excellence and a commitment to serving their communities.



The St. Mary's University Alumni Association selected four outstanding alumni who were feted during the organization's annual Distinguished Alumni Dinner in March: from left, Major Gen. (Ret.) Alfred A. "Freddie" Valenzuela (B.A. '70, M.A. '79), Herman A. Ahr (B.B.A. '62), the Rev. Joseph A. Tarrillion, S.M. (B.A. '55), and Christopher Maguire III (B.A. '67).

Since its \$100,000 gift last fall, the Marianist Province of the United States has increased its gifts to the Office of Vice President of Mission and Identity as well as to the Eva Moran/Marianist Province Endowed Scholarship for Marianist Religious Tuition Assistance.

Law School Experiences Boon of Support

Since late last fall, the School of Law has received more than \$700,000 in scholarship support from alumni and philanthropic organizations. Most gifts have been designated for students who demonstrate a propensity for academic success in addition to financial need. Several gifts were added to existing endowments in memory of Hal Walker, John H. Wood and Sarah K. Thompson.

The largest gift, more than \$500,000, established the Paul E. Casseb Scholarship in memory of Mr. Casseb (J.D. '41), distinguished leader within the San Antonio legal community. This gift will be added to a previous gift from Casseb to create a \$1 million scholarship program for law students. Recipients will be called Casseb Scholars, the first of whom will be designated this fall.

And in February, St. Mary's President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., Interim Law Dean Charles Cantú and distinguished law alumni from Laredo visited Texas A&M International University to announce the details of the special \$1 million endowed Lamar

Neiheisel Hall Opens at Marianist School in India



In early January, Neiheisel Hall at Prabat Tara Marianist School in Singphur, India, was dedicated by Bishop Vincent Barwan of Ranchi and Steven Neiheisel, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at St. Mary's University and his son Steve Jr. (back row, center). The hall is a four-story science and computer science classroom building with physics, biology and chemistry laboratories, computer science classrooms, multi-purpose classrooms and an auditorium. It is a gift of Neiheisel and his wife Margaret D. Neiheisel, M.D.

Bruni Vergara Scholarship that will provide highly qualified Webb County students with tuition and fees at St. Mary's School of Law.

The Lamar Bruni Vergara trust was established to ensure the philanthropic efforts of lifelong Laredo resident Lamar Bruni Vergara continue long after her death.

Parents Support Children's Alma Mater

John and Bonita Benschoter have established an endowed scholarship for Spanish language majors. Their two children, Jessica and Blake, graduated from St. Mary's in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

The wonderful experiences both Blake and Jessica – who teaches English as a Second Language – had while at St. Mary's prompted the Benschoters to establish a scholarship in languages.

Keeping Education Affordable and Accessible

Thousands of alumni have chosen to support St. Mary's goal of expanding the educational experience. As of March 17, gifts totaling nearly \$4.8 million have been received from alumni, friends, students, faculty, staff, corporations and foundations. Almost \$380,000 has been contributed to the

St. Mary's Fund, closing in of the annual goal of raising \$502,000 by May 31. With these gifts, St. Mary's graduates will possess the superior academic tools needed to impact society as well as the ability to reach their full potential as human beings.

In addition, nearly \$195,000 has been contributed by alumni, friends, foundations and corporations in support of undergraduate scholarships since last fall. With 86 percent of the student body dependent upon financial assistance to complete their education, securing scholarship support remains a top priority at St. Mary's.

To make a gift, call (210) 436-3303 or go online to our secure Web site at www.stmarytx.edu.

Grant Helps Military Families Cope with Deployment

The St. Mary's Department of Counseling and Human Services has been awarded a two-year, \$284,000 grant to fill the gap of mental health services needed for San Antonio area military members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families.

The grant is from the Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation. The St. Mary's counseling department will provide a range of services to military members and their families including marital therapy, family play therapy, individual counseling and neurofeedback therapy at multiple sites across the San Antonio region. Dana Comstock, Ph.D., is chair of the Department of Counseling and Human Services, and the grant coordinator is Dan Ratliff, Ph.D.

Consumer Advocacy Target of Grant from Texas AG

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott awarded \$110,000 to St. Mary's School of Law, which will use the funding to expand the legal services its consumer law clinic

provides to South Texas residents. The law school strives to graduate students with a dedication to excellence, a passion for service and a commitment to the ethical practice of law. A large part of that educational process is the work done through the clinics at the Center for Legal and Social Justice.

The award is funded by the liquidation of a San Antonio-based company that marketed and sold an unproven weight-loss product. The Attorney General persuaded the bankruptcy court that the funds remaining in the case could best be used to advance consumer law education in Texas.

The legal clinic will use the funding award to cover start-up expenses for its new Consumer Advocacy Program, which will help expand its direct legal services to consumers.

■ Sports Corner

Women Make History



2007-2008 Rattler women's basketball squad

This season was one to remember for the St. Mary's women's basketball team. After a slow start the Rattlers caught fire and went on to reel off 24 straight victories, blowing away the previous school record of 19 straight wins set in 2002.

The streak earned the Rattlers a national Top 25 ranking and helped them earn their fourth NCAA Division II South Central Region Tournament appearance. The Rattlers saw the streak end in dramatic 75-73 overtime loss to the University of Central Oklahoma.

Before they earned a berth at regionals, however, St. Mary's had to win the Heartland Conference regular season crown, which they did with a

perfect 14-0 record. The women followed up that feat by winning the Heartland Conference Tournament crown.

For their play this season the Rattlers received numerous honors. Head coach Jason Martens was named Heartland Conference Coach of the Year, Natalie Gamez was named Player of the Year and Mallory Moeller was named Freshman of the Year.

Men's Basketball Wins Heartland Title



2007-2008 Rattler men's basketball team

The men's basketball team capped off a rollercoaster ride through the season by upsetting their biggest rivals, the University of the Incarnate Word and St. Edward's University to win the Heartland Conference Championship and secure an automatic berth into the NCAA Division II South Central Region Tournament.

The eighth-seeded Rattlers gave top-seeded and host Tarleton State University all they could handle before falling by six points, 70-64. The conference championship was the 33rd in St. Mary's history and their fourth since becoming an NCAA Division II and Heartland Conference member in 2000.

For their play this season Lorenzo Anthony was named conference Defensive Player of the Year, Robert Owens was picked as the Heartland Conference Tournament MVP while Marcus Hill and Alan Coleman also were picked to the All-Tournament team.

Softball, Baseball Off to Strong Starts

The softball and baseball teams are proving to be forces to be reckoned with this season on both the regional and national scenes.

The softball team started the season ranked ninth in the nation and picked to win the Heartland Conference Championship for the eighth straight season. The team hasn't

disappointed, winning 33 of their first 40 games as of April 1. Senior pitcher Malissa Magee earned Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week honors three times in the first six weeks of the season.

The baseball Rattlers, despite fielding a starting lineup that includes five freshmen and no returning starting pitchers, have surprised nearly everyone in the South Central Region by earning a national ranking and winning 25 of their first 33 games as of April 1. Sophomore Jonathon Cisneros is a big part of the season's success, earning Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week honors twice in the first six weeks of the season.

Softball's Joyce Joins Rattler All-Americans

Softball player Elizabeth Joyce is the latest St. Mary's student-athlete named to the prestigious National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) 2007 Academic All-American team. Joyce, who played in 34 games last season as a true freshman, is a member of the St. Mary's Honor Roll and the Heartland Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll with a 3.76 grade point average. The Rattlers have had 36 student-athletes earn NFCA Academic All-American honors since the program began in 1999. At



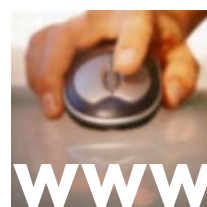
Five outstanding athletes were inducted into the St. Mary's Athletics Hall of Fame in January. The 2008 Hall of Fame Class includes, from left, Mike Zolecki (B.B.A. '98), baseball; Chris LeGrand (B.A. '95), basketball; Aimee Silva (B.A. '94), softball and volleyball; John Kosub (B.S. '83), baseball; and Lacy Hampton (B.B.A. '98, M.B.A. '01), basketball.



Elizabeth Joyce

least one Rattler has been honored each of the nine years, including a school record of seven during the Rattlers national championship year of 2002.

In the history of athletics at St. Mary's, 136 student-athletes have earned All-American honors for their play on the field. Another 61 have been rewarded with national recognition for their work in the classroom. ■



Read complete stories about happenings at St. Mary's by visiting our News Center site at www.stmarytx.edu/news



1



2



3



4



5



6

Staying at the Table

by Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, Ph.D.

Since its foundation in 1852, St. Mary's University has gathered students, faculty, staff, and members of the wider community around the Marianist table to wrestle with the challenging civic questions of the times. Conversations about slavery, war, economics, civil rights, and many other critical facets of the Church's call to build a culture of life have unfolded at this table. However, it is important not to romanticize this conversational history; these discussions have often been contentious with unpopular views being raised and challenged. Over the years, quite often due to critical thinking skills honed in our University classes, there has been much disagreement amongst us about how we are to answer the Church's call to create a society where the dignity of each person is respected. Nevertheless, regardless of such disagreement, the Society of Mary reminds us that in the Catholic faith, "[w]e commit ourselves to dialogue with

all who differ with us in religious conviction, political opinion, or lifestyle, convinced that the Holy Spirit is working in the heart of every person." This commitment – to stay at the table for the tough conversations that we in turn support with firm civic action – is an uncomfortable requirement of our Marianist heritage within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Our Marianist Heritage in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

This tradition is a hard-earned gift graciously offered to us by contemporaries and forbearers who have stayed at the table during such tough conversations. At St. Mary's, a few of these forbearers have included blood brothers and Marianists Brother Herbert Leies and the Rev. John G. Leies, as well as the Rev. J. Willis Langlinais, S.M. Brother Herbie, a sociologist, served as an advocate for the poor throughout the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights movements, consistently bringing their needs to the forefront of

For more than 50 years St. Mary's University has attracted the famous – and sometimes infamous – to the conversation table. Among them: **1** Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower, World War II hero and 34th President of the United States **2** Anne L. Armstrong, prominent Republican and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom **3** William C. "Willie" Velásquez, Chicano movement organizer and founder of the Southwest Voter Registration Project **4** John Connally, Texas Governor and both U. S. Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of the Treasury **5** Dr. Michael DeBakey, pioneering cardiovascular surgeon and researcher **6** César Chávez, American farm worker of Mexican descent, labor leader, and civil rights activist who co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (which later became the United Farm Workers)

This commitment – to stay at the table for the tough conversations that we in turn support with firm civic action – is an uncomfortable requirement of our Marianist heritage . . .

the conversational agenda. Father John G. and Father J. Willis, both theologians, served as liaisons to other religious traditions, actively participating in inter-faith dialogs amongst Christians, Muslims, and Jews. These individuals nurtured these challenging topics and realities at the table even when it was uncomfortable or unpopular to do so.

These three men, along with countless numbers of their fellow brothers and students, lived out the mandate for civic participation made by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. In their document *Faithful Citizenship*, the Bishops state that “[i]n the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become informed, active, and responsible participants in the political process. As we have said, ‘We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity [more fully] to participate in building the culture of life. Every voice matters in the public forum.’”

Every voice matters in the public forum. This mandate, itself, guarantees that the conversation around the Marianist table will regularly be contentious. Fortunately, those who preceded us at this table have left us with strong models of attentive listening and transformative conversation. Faithful Citizenship, as a call to civic action, is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, a pillar of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. This pillar emerged from Pope Leo XIII’s insistence of staying in a complex conversation about the harsh conditions of the working class and the competing solutions offered by socialism and capitalism to alleviate these conditions. To broaden this conversation, Leo wrote the first papal encyclical on social justice, Rerum Novarum (“On the Condition of Workers,” 1891), which invited all peoples, especially Catholics, to discuss and work to improve the situation.

Leo’s steadfastness in the discussion inspired Pope Pius XI to push the topic further by expanding Rerum Novarum’s examination of the working poor to one of the social and political structures which had created this situation. Pius’ work,

7 Ronald Reagan, former movie star, California Governor, and 40th President of the United States under whose realm the Cold War ended **8** Mexican author Carlos Fuentes, one of the best-known novelists and essayists in the Spanish-speaking world **9** Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio Mayor and former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development **10** Henry B. Gonzalez, elected 17 times as U.S. Representative of Texas’ 20th District, who chaired investigations of the deaths of both John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. **11** Molly Ivins, award-winning and controversial journalist whose nationally-syndicated columns appeared in more than 400 newspapers **12** Dr. Albert Sabin, medical researcher and developer of the oral vaccine that effectively eliminated polio from the United States **13** William F. Buckley Jr., author, political commentator, founder of the political magazine *National Review*, and for more than 30 years, the erudite host of television’s *Firing Line*.



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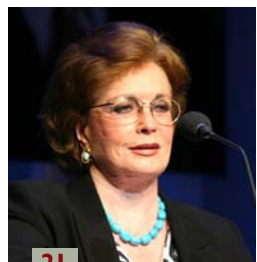
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Quadragesimo Anno (“On the Reconstruction of the Social Order”) written in 1931 during the Great Depression, in turn, inspired a young Marianist priest, the Rev. William Ferree, S.M., to invite others to the table. He did so through his work, *The Act of Social Justice*, (1947) which is still considered by moral philosophers worldwide as a classic in the field.

Marianist Founders Serve as Models for Dialog

Despite the horrors of the Second World War, Father Ferree remained faithful to the difficult post-war civic conversation by drawing upon the model of those who had endured the impact of previous post-war realities: the founders of the Marianist Family, William Joseph Chaminade, Marie Therese de Lamourous, and Adele de Batz de Trenquellion. The founders had struggled to reconcile the radical ideas of the French Revolution – *liberté, fraternité, égalité* – ideas which we now take for granted – with the remains of a religious hierarchy that had traditionally not valued such ideals. The founders upset many by their fresh approach, rooted in small Christian communities with lay leadership instead of parishes with clerical leadership, to revitalize French Christianity. The distress caused by their encouragement of lay leadership prompted Chaminade to ask, “Who does not see that ... a new fulcrum must be found for the lever that moves the world?”

The answer was that many did not see that a new fulcrum was needed. They wanted France to return to a

theocratic monarchy instead of engaging in an experimental democracy that prompted fresh religious expressions. For the founders, the reconciliation of these various sides of the conversation was taxing, indeed; however, they had only to remember the massive dialogic project undertaken by St. Thomas Aquinas for inspiration to stay at the table. In an unparalleled contribution, Thomas initiated the Catholic dialog between faith and reason in the *Summa Theologica*. In the contentious, raucous conversation of his day at the University of Paris, Thomas reconciled the gifts of the Greeks, including rational thought and basic scientific inquiry, which had been held in trust by Arab Muslim and Jewish scholars, with the gifts of Christianity.

Of course, even Thomas might have grown discouraged with such a task and fled from the table if not for our original Christian example of conversational persistence: Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus sat at the table with prostitutes and tax collectors as well as his friends, family, and teachers, exploring the questions of the Common Good, considering what belonged to God and what belonged to Caesar. His love of all people led him into conversations with all people, many of whom he transformed, many of whom he did not, all of whom he died for. Our tradition – the works of Thomas, the founders, the Marianists, the popes – stands in testament to this transformative potential of Christ’s way of engaging others in the quest for the Common Good.

More guests at the conversation table over the years: **14** New York Senator and 2008 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton **15** William F. Sessions, former U.S. District Judge and Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation **16** Antonin Scalia, jurist and second most senior Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court **17** Michael D. Huckabee, ordained Southern Baptist minister, 11-year former governor of Arkansas, and 2008 Republican presidential candidate **18** Lloyd Bentsen, four-term U.S. Senator from Texas, 1988 Democratic nominee for vice president, and former Senate Finance Chairman and U.S. Treasury Secretary **19** John Quiñones, ABC correspondent and co-anchor of ABC News program *Primetime*, winner of six Emmys and the George F. Peabody Award **20** Dick Gregory, American comedian, social activist, writer and entrepreneur **21** Jehan Sadat, wife of slain Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, and an activist and proponent of human rights around the world

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At the St. Mary's Table, Today

With this as our dialogic tradition, the St. Mary's community continues to risk engaging in tough conversations to reach for an understanding and creation of the Common Good. During this current election cycle, the University has already hosted two presidential candidates, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Sen. Hillary Clinton, to come to the Marianist table to share their understanding of the needs of our nation. Each of these candidates holds positions contrary to the Church's call to build the culture of life. Both Gov. Huckabee and Sen. Clinton support the death penalty which is contrary to Church teaching. In addition, Senator Clinton supports a woman's right to choose abortion which is, also, contrary to Church teaching. Both candidates supported the United

States' invasion of Iraq even as Pope John Paul II decried the military action. The presence of these issues alone makes the conversation at our Marianist table contentious during this campaign season. It would be tempting for the University simply to back away from its moral obligation to civic participation by refusing to facilitate such thorny discussions. It would be tempting to refuse those who hold contrary views to the Church a place at our table – even if the Bishops remind us that every voice counts, even if the Marianists remind us that the Holy Spirit is working in the heart of every person. It would be easier to step away from the table, even if doing so dishonored our heritage with its legacy of tough conversations in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

However, the Bishops have insisted that even though “[s]ometimes it seems few candidates and no party fully reflects our values ... now is not

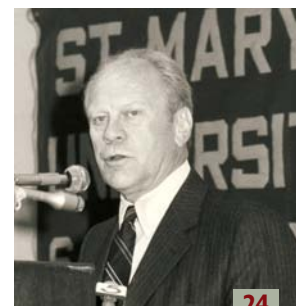
22 Ann Richards, the second female governor of Texas and the first elected in her own right to that position, catapulted to national prominence after giving the keynote address at the 1988 Democratic Convention **23** The Rev. Andrew Greeley, S.J., best-selling author, sociologist, and journalist who regularly contributes to the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *The New York Times* **24** Gerald R. Ford, 25-year U.S. Representative from Michigan and 38th President of the United States who signed the Helsinki Accords, marking a move toward détente in the Cold War **25** George H. W. Bush, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and 41st President of the United States **26** H. Ross Perot, Texas businessman who founded Electronic Data Systems, and independent presidential candidate in 1992 and 1996.



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Despite divergent positions, we must risk recognizing the divine presence in those who believe and act differently from us, just as Brother Herbie and Fathers John G. and J. Willis did before us. We must stay at the table with them.

the time of retreat.” The Marianists, in their General Chapter document, *Partners in Hope*, reinforce this insistence. “Many believe that it is impossible for people with strong differences and interests to communicate with one another and to build a community which supports a common good to all. To be a peacemaker in our world today calls us to understand history, culture, ideas, and institutions and to have the skills to intervene in situations of conflict and tensions among people and communities.”

The University, by risking contentious conversations at our table in this election season, models for its students how to be such peacemakers, how to stay at the table, how to intervene in situations of conflict so that each of them, some day, contributes to shaping the Common Good. Facilitating such conversations provides students with the extraordinary opportunity to grapple with the movement all St. Mary’s students wrestle with once they have tackled Introduction to Philosophy: the developmental movement from experience to meaning. At St. Mary’s, students strive to create what the Common Good means to them by experiencing, understanding, judging and shaping through their civic actions the Great Conversation of their day. In our globalized world, it is inevitable that this conversation crosses boundaries, highlights differences, and ultimately bridges some traditional divisions.

To build a culture of life, rooted in the examples of an attentive conversationalist from Galilee and his intellectual progeny, we must sit down with those with whom we disagree to thrash out a richer understanding of the Good Life. Despite divergent positions, we must risk recognizing the divine presence in those who believe and act differently from us, just as Brother Herbie and Fathers John G. and J. Willis did before us. We must stay at the table with them. We must stay with them because the conversation is never completely over. The papal concern for the rights and responsibilities of workers and owners remains; Chaminade’s concern for the roles of lay and clerical leadership continues; Thomas’ concern for the relationship between faith and reason is unabated; Brother Herbie’s concern for the poor along with Fathers John G. and J. Willis’ concern for inter-faith dialogue is on-going. Sadly, even the conversation about slavery, once had

during the earliest days of the University, continues as Sister Ann Semel’s current work against human trafficking reminds us. However, even with these fine examples of conversational persistence, we will still struggle to stay at the table. There will be some uncomfortable moments with periodic displays of bad manners. We may squirm in our seats; we may raise our voices in vehement disagreement; we may even grow silent. However, to honor our tradition, by answering the call of the Bishops to fulfill our moral obligation of civic participation, we may not be excused from the table. We must remain. ■



Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, Ph.D. (B.A. '86, M.A. '90, M.A. '91), is a former tenured associate professor in the English and Communication Studies Department at St. Mary's. Whereas after graduating from St. Mary's, she interned for National Right to Life in Washington, D.C., her recent participation in the Great Conversation has been by serving as an election judge in Tarrant County. Co-written with her husband, Andrew J. Hill (B.A. '86), and other fellow alumni including Patricia Mejia (B.A.'01, M.A. '04) and Migdalia Garcia (B.A. '04, M.A. '07), her recent article about student participation in the Great Conversation in 2004, “*Ductus Exemplo: Student Leadership by Example in Civic Engagement*” may be found in the current issue of the *Journal of Civic Commitment* at www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/engagement/Journal/.





Religious Leader Sees Hope for Peace in the Holy Land

by Candace J. Kuebker, Executive Editor

Not a day passes that we don't read or watch news stories about the ongoing struggles for peace in the Holy Land. Recognizing the global significance of this struggle, St. Mary's chose as the theme of this year's Lin Great Speakers Series "Interfaith Dialogue: A Pathway to Peace." Invited to speak on campus were eminent representatives of the three religions whose traditions reach back millennia into the Holy Land – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – to address the religious and theological issues that seem to frustrate attempts to establish a viable peace in that land.

The series presentations addressed the theme from the perspective of each speaker's faith tradition. Rabbi Jack Bemporad, D.D., Director of the Center for Inter-religious Understanding and Professor of Inter-religious Studies at the Vatican's Angelicum University, opened the series last fall. He was followed this spring by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Ph.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, and Jamal Badawi, Ph.D., a well-known North American lecturer on Islam and Muslims. To conclude the series, a panel of students and alumni representing Judaism, Christianity and Islam responded to the three lectures.

To all of them was posed the question: Is it possible to reach a mutual understanding that respects religious traditions but also supports a peaceful solution to political and territorial claims? They agreed that there are no easy answers, but dialogue among different faiths is the first step to understanding.

I had the great pleasure of interviewing His Eminence Cardinal Theodore McCarrick during his visit to San Antonio and asked him what he thinks of the efforts being made – internationally, nationally, and by the Church – to address, through interfaith dialogue, this centuries-old conflict.

Editor: You are considered a leader in efforts to promote dialogue between faiths. How is it that you first became involved in interfaith dialogue?

The Cardinal: I've always been involved in working with the poor and you find many of the poor in countries where there are difficulties with regard to different groups of people. It comes naturally that you want to help the poor and the people who are living there. One of the ways to do it is by getting them to be more comfortable with each other. I've also always had very good relations with both the Jewish and non-Catholic communities and, over the years, because of travel, people I've worked with, and my

interest in the Holy Land, a very strong relationship with Muslims and Muslim leaders has come about. All those things work together and suddenly you find yourself very much involved.

Editor: Your colleague Rabbi Jack Bemporad – your biggest fan, by the way – spoke at St. Mary’s in November. He stated that Vatican II prepared the ground for all other religious dialogue by examining the Catholic Church’s own past, especially its relationship to, and perception of, Jews and Judaism. Do you see the Catholic Church as the leader in promoting interfaith dialogue, and why and in what ways?

The Cardinal: I would hope the Church would be because I think [interfaith dialogue] is certainly the way to peace and harmony and greater understanding in the world. And I think Rabbi Jack [Bemporad] – who is a very brilliant man – put his finger right on it when he said that it was the Second Vatican Council that opened the door.

When Pope John XXIII greeted the Rabbis of Rome he said, “I am Joseph, your brother.” This was the great remark of the patriarch Joseph when his real brothers came and didn’t recognize him because he had been

... and I think it’s because we’re on the road that begins with understanding, then appreciation, then cooperation, and finally love.

gone for so many years. When Joseph finally revealed himself, those were his words, “I am Joseph, your brother.” By using those words, Pope John XXIII reminded the Rabbis that we are all brothers and sisters, not only in God’s one human family, but also in the family of Abraham. In that most important of our liturgical prayers, the Roman Canon, we pray “Abraham, our father in faith.”

And *Nostra Aetate*, the decree of the Second Vatican Council, put us on this road where, hopefully, we’ve always been but now we’re there with greater understanding and focus. John Paul II and at the present Pope Benedict, too, have really made the effort to be



involved in this dialogue. Pope John Paul II was the first to go into a synagogue as Pope and he also went into a mosque. Pope Benedict has followed very much in the footsteps of John Paul II.

Editor: Is it the Catholic Church’s responsibility to lead this effort?

The Cardinal: Absolutely, because the Lord has placed us in this special way: We truly believe this is the Church that Jesus founded and with all of the desires of the heart of the Lord to bring peace and harmony and understanding in the world. If we are the Church of

Christ, we must do the work of Christ. This is what we believe in our heart.

Editor: Do you think there is more tolerance and understanding between major world religions today and, if so, what are some major accomplishments in interfaith dialogue?

The Cardinal: Yes I do, and I think it’s because we’re on the road that begins with understanding, then appreciation, then cooperation, and finally love. Those are the steps to that loving relationship we should always have, and because we are all brothers and sisters in God’s one human family, we must truly learn to work together, and I think we are.

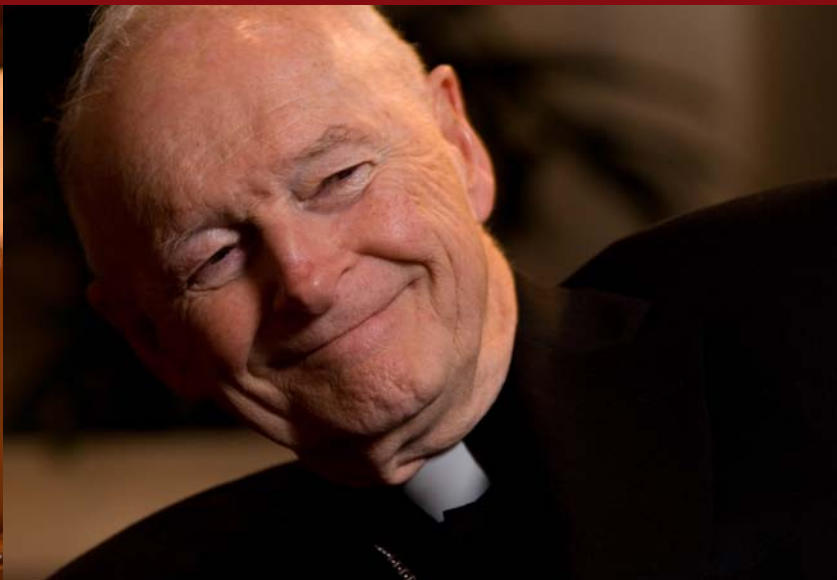
There are so many efforts, especially in the Holy Land, where it is necessary to get together in situations of real concern and situations of trouble and difficulty. And so, in the United States

a group – the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the World (NILI) – was established to work to get our country more involved in seeking peace in the Holy Land. That group, to which I belong, is encouraging a council of leaders of religious institutions in the Holy Land to try to work together. Little by little they’re getting to know each other, seeing those of other faiths don’t have horns, and perhaps beginning to believe they can work together. We haven’t solved all the problems but we’re beginning to isolate them so we can work on them together.

Editor: With the progress you’ve just talked about, how do we counter the very emotional response provoked by extremists’ rhetoric and actions, even though these groups are in the minority?

The Cardinal: We counter by doing what Pope Benedict XVI said when he spoke to the Muslim leaders in Cologne at World Youth Day three years ago. The Holy Father said, “The moderate voices must speak.” This is what we’re trying to encourage and in many cases we’re succeeding.

The group of 138 Muslim leaders who recently wrote the Holy Father are people willing to say that we need to find a way to build a bridge. That’s a very good sign as is the Holy Father’s response to it. The Amman Statement* is wonderful, too, and King Abdullah II of Jordan has been instrumental in bringing many leaders together to talk about tolerance, cooperation and human rights for everybody. We may not always understand those things the same way, but it’s a step in the right



direction. I've spoken to King Abdullah often about this and I know he is truly dedicated as are many other Muslim leaders in the world.

In the United States, the Islamic Society of North America issued a very powerful *fatwa* recently that talked about the respect for human life, and against suicide bombing and the killing of innocent people. The great sorrow is that [no media] picked it up. This is one of the most important statements of a Muslim group in modern history, and they made it with courage and clarity. They presented it publicly at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington to me, as a representative of the Catholic Church, and to a Protestant and a Jewish Rabbi. It's a great sign that there are many moderate people who are speaking out. There are problems that are going to be around for awhile, but they will only be solved through communication, understanding, cooperation, and love.

(*Ed.'s note: The Amman Statement was released the eve of the 27th of Ramadan, Nov. 9, 2004, by King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein in Amman, Jordan. The statement sought to declare what Islam is and what it is not, and what actions represent Islam and what actions do not. Its goal was to clarify to the modern world the true nature of Islam and the nature of true Islam.)

Editor: The U.S. Catholic Church is committed to the road map, developed in 2003, supporting a permanent, two-state solution for Israeli-Palestinian peace that gives Israel recognized borders and freedom from terrorism

while giving Palestinians a viable and peaceful state. What do you perceive as the biggest impediments to a lasting peace in the Middle East?

The Cardinal: You brought up extremists before – certainly they are an impediment – but I believe that 80 percent of both Israelis and Palestinians want peace and are willing to make reasonable compromises to get it. A wonderful Jewish Rabbi friend who also is in NILI with me has said, “We all know [most people want peace]. We all know that at some point in time these compromises are going to have to be handled. What we don't know is how many innocent people are going to die before that happens.”

Editor: That really speaks to why we've put this theme together for the Lin Great Speakers Series. You've spent a lot of time in Catholic institutions of higher education. What do you see as the role of higher education in general, and Catholic higher education in particular, in leading efforts to encourage communication between faiths to increase tolerance and understanding, not to mention peace in the Holy Land?

The Cardinal: I think that the Church and its universities are uniquely positioned to prepare the minds and hearts of young people; to make them willing to be instruments, as St. Francis said, of peace in the world. And if the Church, with its teaching, its understanding, its Gospel value, cannot do that, then nobody can. So, I think one of the roles of the university has to be that.

Editor: Do you see more of a willingness for universities to take that on directly?

The Cardinal: Definitely. More and more I see groups being formed in different Catholic institutions (and others) that are looking toward the problems of the world – poverty, violence and war, interfaith dialogue – and many of them are now understanding that academe is no longer an Ivory Tower but, instead, has to be a marketplace. ■



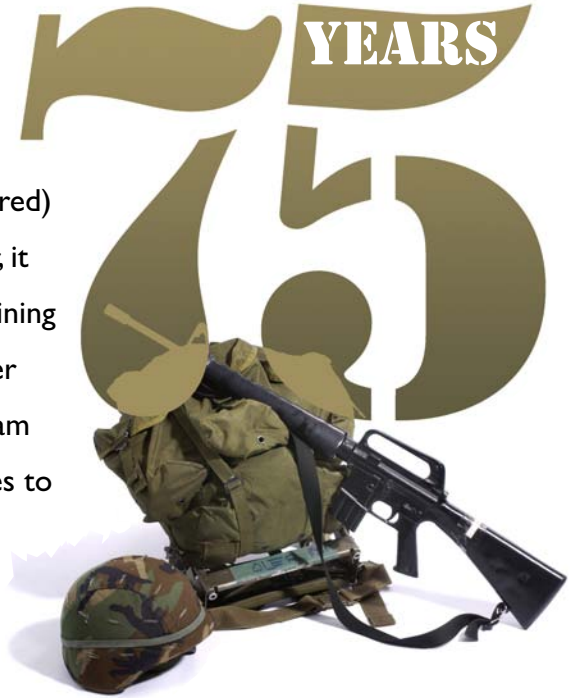
The Lin Great Speakers Series concluded March 18 with a panel of students and alumni representing Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Moderated by President Emeritus, the Rev. John A. Leies, S.M. (far right), the panel included, from left, senior Floyd Contreras, alumnus Aaron Tyler, Ph.D. (M.A. '00), alumna Barbara Scharf-Zeldes (J.D. '93), and graduate student Veysel Demir. Each panelist responded to the three lectures from the perspectives of their own faith traditions.



RATTLER BATTALION

PREPARING LEADERS FOR

When the Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) was founded at St. Mary's University by Capt. Frederick Cox, U.S. Army (retired) during the 1932-1933 academic year, it became only the second military training unit at a Catholic institution of higher education in the country. The program made an impact then and it continues to do the same today.



1930s

1940s

1950s



From its founding during the 1932-1933 school year by U.S. Army Capt. Frederick Cox (retired), the St. Mary's ROTC program is known for its large-scale military exercises and ceremonial displays, often held on the open fields of the campus.



In 1941, Cadet Joseph J. Cody Jr. – who later becomes the first ROTC graduate to make general officer (retiring as a major general) – is commissioned; St. Mary's suspends its ROTC program for five years during World War II; in 1949, Regimental Day convenes (pictured).



The popular ROTC Marching Band is a favorite at local parades and also impresses at symphonic concerts; Sandra Easton (pictured with Cadet Col. Ray Luna and Easton's escort Cadet Roger Dollus) is the Rattler Battalion's 1957 Sweetheart of the Military Ball, the most important social event on the ROTC calendar; the ROTC Rifle Team becomes a powerhouse.

Ransom Marlow was the first Rattler Battalion officer commissioned during ROTC's inaugural year at St. Mary's, and since then more than 1,400 men and women have completed the ROTC program and received their lieutenant's bars in the U.S. Armed Services.

Along the path of St. Mary's renowned ROTC program there have been significant milestones over the years. Among them: Until the late 1960s, the Rattler Battalion was large enough to boast the popular St. Mary's ROTC Marching Band, a crowd favorite at area parades and symphonic concerts; the crack rifle team, Marian Guard, won scores of trophies during its heyday in the 1950s and 1960s; only a few years after opening ROTC to women, St. Mary's senior Karen Pospisil (B.B.A. '76) became the first female in the nation to command a Corps of Cadets; and the St. Mary's ROTC program has, since the late 1970s, included extension units of cadets, first at The University of Texas at San Antonio and today at the University of the Incarnate Word.

For 75 years St. Mary's University has provided leadership in the U.S. Armed Forces, with 27 alumni attaining the senior rank of general or admiral. That stellar group of leaders includes ROTC graduates who represent the Army, Air Force and Navy at the highest ranks of the military. Among them are the late William H. Schneider (B.B.A. '55) and retired Lt. Gen. Marc A. Cisneros (B.B.A. '61), both of whom commanded the Fifth U.S. Army, and Major Gen. Alfred A. "Freddie" Valenzuela (B.A. '70, M.A. '79), who became the then-highest ranking Hispanic officer in 2000 when he was named Commander of U.S. Army South.

Rattler Battalion graduates defended the United States in World War II and they defend it today in the Middle East and around the world.

These women and men are leaders; they are American soldiers and they follow their creed, "...I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life." ■



2000s

In 2004, Memorial Plaza – located between St. Louis and Chaminade halls at the front of campus – is dedicated in memory of 1st Lt. Edwin Frank Dietzel Jr. (B.S. '41), who lost his life during World War II. The plaza's monuments bear the names of all St. Mary's soldiers who have died defending their country during wars and major conflicts around the world.

1960s



St. Mary's sees some of its largest classes of commissioned officers in the program's history and they continue the tradition of attending the annual ROTC Summer Camp at Fort Sill, Okla.; late in the decade, the University drops the mandatory two-year ROTC requirement, making the program completely voluntary.

1970s



The Rattler Battalion opens its doors to women in 1976 and Cadet Karen Pospisil (B.B.A. '76, pictured above) becomes the first female in the United States to command an ROTC Corps of Cadets; she also is one of the first women to be commissioned at St. Mary's.

1980s



The Rattler Battalion moves from drill-and-ceremony-oriented activities to patrolling-and-ranger-oriented activities; extension units of the St. Mary's ROTC program continue to expand to other institutions throughout the City of San Antonio.

1990s



During the Class of 1995 Officer Commissioning Ceremony, for the first time in the more than 60-year history of Army ROTC at St. Mary's University, women surpass men in number of officers receiving their lieutenant's bars.



Inspiring the Next Generation of Writers

by Gina Farrell, Director of Media Relations

Growing up in San Antonio's Woodlawn Lake neighborhood, trips to the public library were a frequent outing for Diane Bertrand. It was an inexpensive pastime for a family with seven children, and it instilled in her a lifelong love of the written word. But Bertrand recalls that few of the books she found in the library reflected the world she knew.



"If there had been books like the ones I write, perhaps I would speak both English and Spanish today."

Bertrand, writer-in-residence at St. Mary's University, has made a name for herself over the past 15 years as a children's book author, focusing on stories and themes that reflect the experiences of urban Latino children and their families. She has written seven novels for young adults and nine children's picture books, all of which are peppered with the people, places, traditions and language of San Antonio, as well as the neighborhood around St. Mary's.

Perhaps the most common recurring character in Bertrand's books is San Antonio itself. That is intentional, she said. "I remember when I started writing romance novels, I noticed that commercial fiction was often set in New York or Los Angeles. I thought, 'Hey, I live in a romantic city, too!'"

The idea that San Antonio is a worthy backdrop continued even after she made the switch from romance novelist to successful children's book author. In virtually every book, her childhood neighborhood as well as her family's traditions and activities run through the pages like a ribbon. It is all

part of writing books that Latino children can identify with, she said.

Filling a niche

Each of her children's books incorporates Spanish in some way and several are completely bilingual with passages written in both languages, but one is truly unique. *The Ruiz Street Kids/Los Muchachos de la Calle Ruiz*, published in 2005, gives readers the option of English or Spanish, depending on which way the book is held. The unusual format has been a success, with several literacy projects incorporating the book and a reprinting scheduled to meet demand.

"It has been one of my greatest honors and the source of many blessings to write for Latino families, to have them read my books together and to hear many children tell me, 'I want to go to college.' I'd like to think I play a small role in creating readers and writers for tomorrow's college classrooms when I develop stories for children."

Her two latest works include her first non-fiction children's book, *Ricardo's Race*, a biography of Ricardo Romo, Ph.D., president of the University of Texas at San Antonio, and her first book for toddlers and preschool children called *We Are Cousins/Somos Primos*, a vibrantly illustrated book that focuses on experiences familiar to all children to make a point of the connectivity of family. Her next project is a young adult novel she tentatively called *The F Factor*, and it is again set in the neighborhood around St. Mary's.

If her children's books help create writers for tomorrow's college classrooms, Bertrand's work in the classroom of St. Mary's is molding the

writers of today. As writer-in-residence, Bertrand has release time to continue her writing, while teaching courses such as composition and communications, and working closely with students on independent study projects where they write a first draft of a short novel. For student

writers, putting together a draft can be an eye-opening experience, Bertrand said. "It's a harder endeavor than many students anticipate, but those who finish a draft learn a lot about their own process."

Nurturing young writers

The writer-in-residence position was created in 1999 at the urging of English Professor Sister Ann Semel, S.S.N.D., Ph.D., and then-Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Rev. Charles Miller, S.M. It was envisioned as a way to strengthen St. Mary's commitment to humanities and the fine arts while fostering the development of creative writers, particularly among Mexican-American students. Bertrand, who has been a faculty member since 1992, was already a successful children's author, and the position was created with her in mind.

Lynette Gonzales (B.A. '96, M.A. '99) is one of those students who benefited from Bertrand's mentorship. "Through her classes, I wrote a variety of stories and poems about the people and places I had only dreamed about. She helped me see ideas in my





Writer-in-Residence

DIANE BERTRAND

everyday life, finding inspiration while waiting for a ride or watching people in the Quad,” said Gonzales, who is now an adjunct professor in the Department of English and Communications Studies. “Anytime that I would falter or second-guess myself, Diane was there to encourage me to submit a piece to the literary magazine, explore an idea or put a childhood story on paper.”

Bertrand grew up virtually in the shadow of St. Mary’s, and even today lives close. She describes joining the faculty at St. Mary’s in 1992 as a “homecoming.”

Last year, when the President’s Peace Commission focused its spring program on the neighborhood surrounding St. Mary’s, Bertrand was asked to participate by reading passages from her novels where the characters are talking about the neighborhood. “I think it helped our students realize the value of our St. Mary’s neighborhood as a setting for a good book. Perhaps it will inspire one of them to use their own hometown or neighborhood for a future writing project.”

The greatest reward

For Amanda King (B.A. ’07) that is exactly the kind of inspiration Bertrand passed on to her. “Above all, she affirmed that I ought to be pursuing a career as a writer. That’s something that every writer must question at one point – we think we’re good, but it’s hard to tell if anyone else will be interested in what we’re writing. I could not have asked for a more valuable mentor.”

Bertrand’s children’s books have received many accolades and awards, including the prestigious Schneider Family Book Award from the American Library Association for *My Pal Victor*, Best Bilingual Children’s Book from the National Latino Literary Awards for *The Empanadas that Abuela Made* and Best Bilingual Children’s Novel from the National Latino Book Awards for *The Ruiz Street Kids/Los Muchachos de la Calle Ruiz*. But the greatest rewards, she says, come from the readers she touches through her books. Recently, she received a packet of letters from a middle school class in Fort Worth that had read her book *Trino’s Choice*. Repeatedly the children wrote, “I don’t

A Sampling of Bertrand’s Books and Awards

The Ruiz Street Kids/Los Muchachos de la Calle Ruiz

(Arte Publico Press, 2006)

- Skipping Stones Award, Best Bilingual Children’s Book
- National Latino Book Awards, Best Children’s Novel (Bilingual)

Upside Down and Backwards

(Arte Publico Press, 2005)

- Paterson Book Award for Young People, Honorable Mention

My Pal Victor

(Raven Tree Press, 2004)

- American Library Association Schneider Family Book Award

The Empanadas That Abuela Made

(Arte Publico Press, 2003)

- National Latino Literary Awards, Best Bilingual Children’s Book

Uncle Chente’s Picnic

(Arte Publico Press, 2001)

- National Latino Literary Hall of Fame, Best Bilingual Book

Trino’s Time

(Arte Publico Press, 2001)

- National Latino Literary Hall of Fame, Best Young Adult Book (English)

Trino’s Choice

(Arte Publico Press, 1999)

- ForeWard Magazine’s Book of the Year 1999
- National Latino Literary Hall of Fame, Best Young Adult Book (English)

Family, Familia

(Arte Publico Press, 1999)

- National Latino Literary Hall of Fame, Best Children’s Book (Bilingual)

Lessons of the Game

(Arte Publico Press, 1998)

- New York Public Library books for Teen Age List

like to read, but I liked your book.”

“That sentiment means more to me than any book award,” Bertrand said. “Literacy among children is a growing concern because children want gadgets, not books. I am doing what I can to keep books on the shelves that kids want to read.” ■

The Family That Learns Together, Stays Together



Torres Siblings Learn From Each Other, St. Mary's

If it hadn't been for Vanessa Torres' first grade teacher, she might not have a St. Mary's degree... or two. At Hondo High School, both Vanessa and her brother Reynaldo were urged to join the U.S. Army. But Vanessa always remembered what her first grade teacher had told her – go to St. Mary's.

"My parents and teachers always emphasized education," said Vanessa (B.A.'07, M.A. Class of '09). "My brother and I are the first generation in our family to attend college, so it's always been important to us."

These siblings have made the most of their educations at St. Mary's. Both have had internships with the National Parks Service – Reynaldo in Washington, D.C., and Vanessa in Alaska and Arizona. Reynaldo, who plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in 2010, is a mentor in the Emerging Leaders Program and helped start the Environmental Conservation Organization at St. Mary's.

"I like the personal attention I get here," Reynaldo said. "I came to St. Mary's because of Vanessa, but also because it's a great school that's helped me become involved in the community."

Even before attending St. Mary's, Vanessa was involved in the community, including a job at the Medina County Clerk's office while in high school. During her sophomore year at St. Mary's, this determined political science major decided to take on a bigger challenge: She ran for a seat on the Hondo City Council.

"I felt that the Council wasn't representing all its constituents," Vanessa said. "They were all businessmen who didn't really know the community well."

With the help of her Gender Politics classmates, her friends and her brother, Vanessa launched a grassroots campaign based on improving Hondo's drainage system, building a skate park and increasing the public library's funds. Vanessa came within 48 votes of winning a seat.

"Hopefully, I became an inspiration to young people," Vanessa said of that experience.

She's certainly inspired one person – brother Reynaldo has worked with Vanessa on many service and civic activities, such as working on his sister's campaign and participating in the César Chávez march.

"We're very different, but we're always there for each other," Reynaldo said.

*–by Lauren Thompson,
Communications Coordinator*

Alumna follows her dreams, earns an Emmy award



Michelle Lepe

Michelle Lepe's workday is anything but typical. She hangs out with a star (literally) that can talk. She breaks into song and spends a good portion of each day making crafts and teaching sign language. And for all of that, she has been recognized with an Emmy, one of television's most coveted honors.

Lepe is the host of *The Goodnight Show*, a program on PBS Kids Sprout, a 24-hour cable channel for preschoolers. The three-hour show includes filmed segments hosted by Lepe sandwiched between traditional PBS kids' shows. It is intended to offer quality programming that helps preschoolers wind down from the day and get ready for sleep. Playing the role of host "Nina," Lepe interacts with viewers through songs, sign language lessons and craft segments.

Michelle Lepe is her stage name – a tribute to her mother's maiden name – so former classmates are more likely to remember her as Michelle Ockenfels (B.B.A. '97).

The unusual workplace feels perfectly natural to her – talking puppets and all. "When I see the star puppet, I see my co-host. We have a lot of fun improvising and working off of each other. It's a fantasy world, and when I believe, that's when the kids and their parents believe."

Show business was not the path Lepe had expected. She describes herself as a serious, career-driven student while studying international business at St. Mary's. After graduating, she went to work for a national Hispanic advertising agency. In the back of her mind, acting was something she wanted to try. When she moved to Miami to be near her fiancé in 2000, Lepe took the leap and soon landed jobs as a morning radio host, in national advertisements, and in a Spanish miniseries on Telemundo.

She was selected to host *The Goodnight Show* in 2006 during a nationwide search. Last year, her talent was recognized again when she won an Emmy at the Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards for Best Host.

"The Emmy was really unexpected and such a wonderful surprise. You can have goals and expectations, but a lot of times you don't know where this crazy path is going to take you. I'm having so much fun, and I feel really lucky to be doing this."

She credits her St. Mary's business education with preparing her for the surprises of her career. "Being an actor, you're your own boss. I've spent the last eight years marketing myself, running my own business. I could not be where I am or doing what I'm doing without my business degree."

- Gina Farrell, Media Relations Director

St. Mary's Looks to Score with New Sports Complex

St. Mary's game plan is to have the finest sports facilities around for our Rattler teams and to attract premier sports events, including NCAA championships and tournaments.

The Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center, with its 3,800-seat Bill Greehey Arena, scores high as a terrific venue for volleyball and men's and women's basketball.

Now it's time to finish the game with the completion of a proposed new 30-acre, \$12.5 million Sports Complex for baseball, softball, soccer and tennis.

In May, Bexar County residents will choose whether or not to continue assessment of the visitor's tax to fund city-wide initiatives. If approved, St. Mary's will receive \$6 million for construction from these taxes. Additional funding for the Sports Complex will come from St. Mary's alumni, friends, foundations and corporations.

Who wins? St. Mary's University, the community and you!



Visit www.stmarytx.edu/sportscomplex to read more about the Sports Complex.

Visit www.bexar.org/elections to find out more about the venue tax election scheduled for May 10.

New Bus Captures Spirit of St. Mary's



It rolled on to the St. Mary's campus in early March just in time for an inaugural run to Kingsville where first-time passengers, the Rattler softball team (pictured above), won a double-header over Texas A&M – Kingsville on March 4. Two days later, both the men's and women's basketball teams boarded the new Rattler bus – a state-of-the-art, 50-passenger coach that includes Internet access and media

capabilities – to Denton for the Heartland Conference Tournament where both teams were victorious. While the bus provides student-athletes with safe passage to competitions in Texas and elsewhere, it will help meet the transportation needs of all St. Mary's community departments and organizations.