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WINTER 2008

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Gold & Blue



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Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D.
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Candace J. Kuebker (B.A. '78)

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR
Steve Weed

PHOTOGRAPHY
Melanie Rush Davis
Davilin Hamel
Jeff Huehn
Tommy Hultgren

CONTRIBUTORS
Mary Almanza (B.B.A. '06)
Beth Barbee
Jessie Casares
Nicolette Good
Ronan McAshan
Lucha Ramey
Derek Smolik
Lauren Thompson

(denotes degree from St. Mary's University)

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of the University Advancement Division.

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On the Cover

The 56th Annual Red Mass was held on Oct. 30 at San Antonio's San Fernando Cathedral, carrying on a tradition that dates back to 1245. Open to people of all faiths, each year the legal community gathers to request God's blessings and guidance on the administration of justice. San Antonio's Red Mass is organized yearly by St. Mary's School of Law, with cooperation from the Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio and representatives from area legal organizations, the judiciary and the State Legislature.

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.



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From the Editor

Each day it seems that news on the economic front is more dismal and if you’re like me, you may wonder how we got into this mess. Four of our faculty members share their insight on how we got here and what the future may have in store. I found it enlightening and hope that you will as well. The good news is they all agree we’ll recover . . . eventually.

Graduate students in the Department of Counseling and Human Services are carrying out St. Mary’s mission of service in very real and important ways. As you’ll read in “Help for the Home Front,” students are providing an array of counseling services to active military and their families who have been deployed and impacted by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The writer’s story is a personal one, as her family experienced the struggles that come with deployment and utilized the counseling department’s services.

We’ve just come off the most expensive – and certainly the longest – presidential campaign in our nation’s history. Political Science Professor Steve Neiheisel thinks President-elect Obama’s victory is symbolic of a shift in American society. And he thinks the next president has a chance for great success . . . or failure, depending on his response to the challenges our country is facing.

Have you ever seen a trumpet play itself, or a robot responding to the blink of an eye? St. Mary’s engineering students see things like this all the time, because they make them. Students’ senior design projects are not only innovative from an engineering standpoint; they potentially could improve the human condition. What our students can do is, simply, amazing.

It’s true that 2008 has presented some challenges, but we all have so many things in our lives to be thankful for and optimistic about. At St. Mary’s we are especially thankful for you. You’ll find our annual Honor Roll of Donors included in these pages; we sincerely appreciate your gifts. Please know that your ideas and enthusiasm and support are central to St. Mary’s success and to the success of our students.

Happy New Year! Best wishes to you and your family for a year filled with joy and peace, good health and happiness, and all of God’s blessings.

—Candy Kuebker



NEWS

FROM AROUND THE GROVE

More Late-Breaking News Online



Shannon Lowry, Bill Greehey and Sara Wilkinson

Greehey Scholars Tops in National Competition

St. Mary's Scores Highest Bar Passage Rate in 17 Years

Students Work to Change the Justice System

Grant Research Explores Effect of Light on the Eye

Hispanic Chamber and St. Mary's Announce Economic Research Institute

Law Clinic Gets Grant to Help Low-Income Clients

Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Honored

Post-Season Honors Announced

www.stmarytx.edu

■ SHORT SUBJECTS

Revitalization Effort Begins

St. Mary's University President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., announced the University's far-reaching neighborhood revitalization efforts designed to respond to the immediate needs of the community during an October news conference. The revitalization initiative supports the University's 156-year history, and Marianist tradition of community service and outreach.



St. Mary's President Cotrell

The effort is part of its strategic plan, *Vision 2012*, which calls for St. Mary's to collaborate with its neighbors to revitalize the areas around the campus. The Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force began its efforts in 2007 under the leadership of Task Force Chairman Ramiro Cavazos, president/CEO of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a St. Mary's alumnus.

St. Mary's has hired Steve Nivin, Ph.D., the former chief economist and industry development manager for the City of San Antonio, as the director of the revitalization project. Nivin's expertise ensures that residents, homeowners and business owners seeking assistance will get the help they need. Nivin also teaches economics at St. Mary's.

As part of the project, a resource center will open for area residents and business proprietors. When fully operational, the on-campus center will serve as the community's epicenter for change, providing housing, economic and volunteer resources to area residents and business owners.

Staffing and the future opening of

the resource center are made possible by a nearly \$600,000 HUD grant. Additional leveraged funds for the project have come from private and public sector partners, including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San

Antonio Alternative Housing Corp., Community Development Loan Fund, Citi Foundation, ACCIÓN Texas, St. Mary's Alumni Association and the City of San Antonio.

St. Mary's faculty, staff, students and alumni are on board to provide 4,500 hours of technical assistance and community service

through service learning and organized community improvement and beautification projects.

St. Mary's Atop Rankings Again

St. Mary's is ranked this year as the fourth best for quality and value in the West region by the annual U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" guide. In the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category, St. Mary's was ranked fourth in the West region. Schools in this category are evaluated by relating academic quality to the net cost of attendance. This marks the 15th-straight year that St. Mary's has been included in the guide as a top-tier school.

Key indicators in this year's list were three areas in which St. Mary's excels – high graduation rates, high quality faculty, and student access to faculty in terms of small class size and faculty availability.



Top Female Role Models in B-School

The Princeton Review's annual "Best 296 Business Schools" ranked St. Mary's graduate business program eighth in the nation for "Greatest Opportunity for Women." Based on factors including the percent of students and faculty who are women, resources for female students, a culture supportive of female students, and coursework for women entrepreneurs, St. Mary's M.B.A. program has been highly ranked nationally for opportunities for women for the second year in a row.



Lin Great Speakers Series Goes Green

This year the Lin Great Speakers Series focuses on the environment with the theme "Green or Gone? What is our environmental future?" David Orr, Ph.D., presented the first Lin lecture, "The Changing Climate of U.S. Politics," in November during which he discussed sustainability and related



environmental issues.

Renowned for his work in ecological design that helped launch the green campus movement, Orr's interests span fields as diverse as the environment and politics, environmental education, green building and climate change. He is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College and a James Marsh Professor at the University of Vermont.

On Jan. 27, 2009, Alan Weisman will address the same theme in his lecture "The World Without Us." Weisman is a preeminent sustainability journalist and author of "The World Without Us," Time magazine's Best Non-Fiction Book of 2007.

VITA Program Assists Neighbors

Faculty, staff and students participating in the St. Mary's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program have helped low-income citizens prepare their taxes for six consecutive years, offering invaluable service and support to the San Antonio community.

Tax preparation services this past spring were offered at the St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice. More than 100 volunteers from the business and law schools, as well as St. Mary's alumni and San Antonio-area Wells Fargo employees, saw a significant increase in clients. Returns were prepared for more than 500 clients, resulting in some \$765,000 in refunds.

VITA clients, who are mostly residents in the area surrounding the University, received nearly 1,750 hours of volunteer assistance during the peak tax season.

Community Overcomes Invisible Wounds of War

A workshop held on St. Mary's campus this fall helped the military community understand how invisible wounds impact families and provided information to connect them with civilian, community-based support services. St. Mary's co-hosted the workshop with the San Antonio Area Foundation which, in partnership with the Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Fund, awarded the University's Department of Counseling and Human Services a grant to provide counseling services for military members who were deployed to these areas.

Speakers, including Lt. Gen. Charles Rodriguez, Adjutant General of the Texas National Guard, discussed the on-going effects of war on members of the Armed Forces and their families. (See "St. Mary's Counseling Students Offer Help for the Home Front" on page 10.)

Mock Trial Success Continues

This year sees the continuation of law student success in advocacy competition. In September, a team of Thom Nisbet and Russell Lorfing won



The late Keith A. Russell, Ph.D.

Trading Room Dedicated in Former Dean's Honor

A ceremony in September was attended by trustees, faculty, staff and students to celebrate the naming of the Trading Room in memory of Keith A. Russell, Ph.D., dean of the Bill Greehey School of Business from 2005 to 2008, who died unexpectedly last April.

Located in the Albert B. Alkek Business Building, the Trading Room was envisioned and implemented by Russell so that St. Mary's finance majors could gain unique learning experiences in a real-world investment environment. They gain that experience by researching opportunities and discussing the social implications of investment policy while using up to \$1 million of the University's endowment to make stock purchases.

the annual Larry G. Hyden Mock Trial Competition held by the Board of Advocacy (BOA). The second place award went to the team of Jason Goss and Chris Stoy, and the best speaker title was awarded to Thom Nisbet.

St. Mary's Hosts 12th MOAS

The Model Organization of American States General Assembly began in 1980 as a joint project between the Organization of American States and Georgetown University, with a goal to educate University students about issues related to the Americas.

In 1995 Ambassador Gene Scassa, international diplomat-in-residence at St. Mary's, initiated the program in San Antonio – the first Model OAS organized outside of the Washington area. With significant support from the San Antonio World Affairs Council, faculty from several area universities and corporate sponsors, the MOAS is an important educational opportunity for students interested in international policy making.

In the past 12 years, some 1,800 students have participated in the MOAS, developing skills in diplomacy on an international level. During the fall program, 230 students and faculty participated, representing 14 universities, including three located in Mexico as well as the University of Dayton, the University of New Mexico and nine Texas schools.

The Model OAS exemplifies St. Mary's broader commitment to internationalization, reaching across borders, and providing students an opportunity to broaden their horizons.

■ NEWSMAKERS

Fields Named Pillar of Character

St. Mary's Softball Coach Donna (Eckert) Fields (B.A. '87, M.A. '01) is one of six outstanding graduates of San Antonio's Northside Independent School District honored as the 2008

"Pillars of Character."

Selected each year are alumni and living role models who represent a character trait that is taught in the district's classrooms as part of its character curriculum. Fields, who is entering her 12th season as head softball coach at St. Mary's, was

recognized as the district's Pillar of Fairness. She is a 1983 graduate of Northside's Holmes High School. The district stated that "Being fair and being a winner epitomizes Donna Eckert-Fields."

Fields is the only St. Mary's Rattler to earn a national championship as both a player and coach. She has 504 career wins as the softball coach, was a St. Mary's Athletics Hall of Fame inductee in 1998, and entered the Holmes High School Hall of Fame in 1999.

Burch and Fazio Receive International Awards

Two prominent St. Mary's University alumni received international recognition from the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) for their contributions to the study of space.

James L. Burch, Ph.D. (B.S. '64), vice president of the Space Science and Engineering Division of Southwest Research Institute, was awarded the inaugural Jeoujang Jaw Award from COSPAR and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Giovanni Fazio, Ph.D. (B.A., B.S. '54), who is a senior physicist with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, a lecturer in the Astronomy Department at Harvard University and a faculty member of the International Space University in Strasbourg, France, was awarded the Massey Award from COSPAR and the Royal Society of London.



James L. Burch



Giovanni Fazio

St. Mary's to Host ABC's Quiñones

ABC network's co-anchor of "Prime Time" John Quiñones, a 1974 graduate of St. Mary's, will be on campus in the spring to discuss his newly released book "Heroes Among Us: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Choices." St. Mary's will host the author at a book signing in the University Center.

In his book, Quiñones captures America's can-do spirit and shows that through the slightest good deed, each one of us harbors a hero within us. He shares his personal narrative of humble roots in San Antonio to network anchor and includes St. Mary's in his



John Quiñones



2008 Law Distinguished Graduates Named

St. Mary's School of Law honored Fourth Court of Appeals Justice Sandee Bryan Marion (J.D. '80) and Houston attorney Paul R. Vahldiek Jr. (J.D. '79) as its 2008 Distinguished Graduates. The award is given each year to two individuals with both outstanding achievements in the legal profession and dedicated service to St. Mary's School of Law. (Read more about Bryan Marion and Vahldiek at www.stmarytx.edu/news/.)

story. Since his graduation from St. Mary's, Quiñones has generously and consistently shared his time and talent with the University's students.

■ GOOD DEEDS

Trust Leads Gifts to Law Scholarships with \$1 Million

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust gave another \$1 million to St. Mary's School of Law for scholarships to be awarded to outstanding students from Webb County.

The Trust presented its first \$1 million gift to St. Mary's in June 2007. President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., and School of Law Dean Charles E. Cantú

continue to work with co-trustees of the Trust, the Honorable Solomon Casseb Jr. (B.A. '38) and J.C. Martin III (B.A. '62), on ways to support South Texas students.

Cotrell and Cantú traveled to Laredo in November for the presentation of this second gift to law scholarships, which will be used to establish the Dean Charles E. Cantú Scholarship for students from Webb County.

In addition, several gifts totaling almost \$20,000 have been received by the St. Mary's School of Law. The local law offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc., Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, and Chilton Maverick Inc., as well as alumnus Theodore Craver (B.B.A. '56, J.D. '57), made contributions to endowed scholarships at the law school recently.

Alumni Association Donates \$437,500 to Scholarships, Revitalization, Programs

The St. Mary's Alumni Association presented a check in the amount of \$437,500 to the University during its annual San Antonio Christmas reception for alumni.

Association President Jim Forkenbrock (B.A. '63) made the presentation to University President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., during the December celebration. Almost \$265,000 of the gift will be added to the Association's Endowed Scholarship Fund, \$15,000 will go to the St. Mary's neighborhood revitalization project, and the rest will fund alumni programs.

Booster Club Benefits Rattler Athletics

For the St. Mary's athletics program to maintain its high level of success, the University counts on the Athletics Booster Club to support the program as fans and members. In September, the Booster Club made another significant gift of nearly \$15,000 in support of Rattler teams.

Women's teams in volleyball, softball, soccer, cross country, tennis, basketball and golf received funds to augment their respective budgets as did the men's teams in basketball, baseball, soccer, golf and tennis.

The Booster Club raises funds to support Rattler sports teams and



Union Pacific Gift Helps Business Majors

Union Pacific Railroad has made a gift of \$10,000 to provide scholarships to undergraduate students majoring in accounting and finance in the Bill Greehey School of Business. The railroad began recruiting St. Mary's students for internships this year at the suggestion made several years ago to Union Pacific by the late Benjamin Biaggini (B.A. '36), former CEO of Southern Pacific Railroad and a 1973 St. Mary's University Distinguished Alumnus. Cecil V. Brasher (second from right), director of auditing for Union Pacific Railroad, presented a scholarship check for St. Mary's business students to Tom Madison, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the accounting department in the Bill Greehey School of Business. Also on hand for the presentation were, from left, Lindsay Wilson, development officer; Kathy Sisoian, vice president for Student Development; and Norma Gaier, director of Career Services.

member activities through their annual membership drive and proceeds from the club's chalupa booth at Fiesta Oyster Bake.

Breakfast Forum Receives Local Support

The San Antonio law offices of Cox Smith Matthews Inc. and Fulbright & Jaworski LLP have contributed nearly \$9,000 to the Forum on Entrepreneurship Breakfast Series. The series is a partnership between St. Mary's University and the San Antonio business community whose purpose is to advance entrepreneurial activities in San Antonio and promote the development of student scholarships at St. Mary's.

Started in 1986 by Brother Paul Goelz, S.M., Ph.D., the series is conducted by the Meadows Center for Entrepreneurial Studies within the Bill Greehey School of Business. Speakers during the fall semester included Charles "Marty" Wender, co-founder and CEO of Wender & Hall LLC, and Peter Holt, CEO of HOLT CAT and chairman, CEO and principal owner of the San Antonio Spurs.



Marty Wender



Peter Holt

Newest Alumni Chapter Makes Gift to Meyer Scholarship

Established in January 2007, the Great Lakes Alumni Chapter is the newest St. Mary's University Alumni Association affiliate group. Recently, Chapter President Dave Ronzani (B.A.

'78) traveled to San Antonio to present a check from the chapter's golf tournament proceeds to the Herman A. "Buddy" Meyer Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The \$7,000 gift from the Great Lakes Alumni Chapter brings the endowed fund total to more than \$181,000.

Scholarships from this fund are awarded to athletes whose athletic eligibility has expired and who require one year or less of coursework to complete their degrees and graduate. Since

the establishment of the fund in 2005, 16 athletes have received nearly \$40,000 in Meyer scholarships.



Gaither C. Cooke Jr.

Gift to University Rocks

A unique doublet collection has been given to St. Mary's in honor of Gaither C. Cooke Jr. The doublets – a type of gem composed of two sections that are sometimes used to imitate other, more expensive gems – were presented to St. Mary's by former student and Cooke's daughter Eileen Cooke-Mueller and her husband, Ron Mueller. The collection will be on permanent display in the University's Department of Geology.

Gaither Cooke Jr. started polishing stones in 1974 when he got out of the Air Force. During his military service a sergeant in North Carolina taught him about stones and how to cut and polish them. Cooke picked it up as a hobby and stuck with it. When he retired to Texas, he further developed his interest by joining the Gem and Mineral Society in Austin and then the Southwest Gem and Mineral Society in San Antonio.

Cooke traveled all over Texas and the southern United States showing and selling his doublets and other stone pieces, including hand-made jewelry. When he died in 1999 at the age of 83, Cooke left his collection of doublets and other precious stones to his daughter, Eileen.

Cooke-Mueller, who attended St. Mary's in the early 1990s, and her husband Ron decided to donate parts of Cooke's collection to St. Mary's Geology Department. The doublets have been collected from the Bishop Ranch, Walker Ranch, and the Woodward Ranch. All collection pieces are one of a kind, hand-made doublets, many of which are very rare.

Alum Promotes Faculty Development

Through a gift from alumnus Edward Speed (B.B.A. '70, M.A. '86), the St. Mary's Department of Theology will be able to establish a fund for faculty development. The gift will assist theology faculty with costs related to research, professional development workshops and conferences and other related activities.

SPORTS CORNER

St. Mary's to Host National Championship

St. Mary's University has long been known for producing national champions and nationally competitive teams. This year the University will host its first national championship when the NCAA Division II Women's Elite Eight Basketball Tournament is held at Bill Greehey Arena in March.

Co-hosted by the San Antonio Sports Foundation and St. Mary's, the tournament will bring the eight best teams in NCAA Division II to town. This is one of several major events held at Bill Greehey Arena since its opening in 2000. Most recently the ESPN Slam Dunk and Three-Point Championships and Heartland Conference Volleyball Tournament were held in St. Mary's 3,800-seat arena in 2008.

Volleyball Again Recognized for Academics



The Rattler volleyball team received the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award for student-athlete excellence in the classroom during the 2007-2008 academic year. With a team cumulative grade point average of 3.46 for the academic year, the honor marked the fourth time in five years the Rattlers have been a recipient of the award.

All 15 members of the Rattler team had at least a 3.00 GPA, making the Rattlers one of just 39 teams in NCAA Division II to win the award. There are 265 teams in NCAA Division II. To qualify, teams must maintain at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale during the school year.



Tara Wicketts

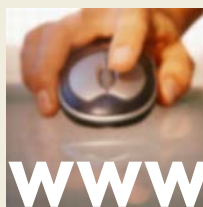
Wicketts Is Heartland Scholar Athlete of the Year

Cross Country runner Tara

Wicketts was named Heartland Conference Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. A senior from Cibolo, Wicketts received the honor for the first time as a Rattler. She earned first team Academic All-District honors for the second straight year, and was a Heartland Conference President's Honor Roll student for the fourth straight year.

In cross country, Wicketts finished in the top 20 in five of the six meets last season for the Rattlers, earning her All-Heartland Conference honors for the fourth-straight season. She is the first Rattler to accomplish that feat in cross country.

An outstanding all-around student, Wicketts graduated in May with a degree in psychology and a 3.94 grade point average.



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

The “R” Word



Rarely since the Great Depression has the U.S. economy – and economies around the world – experienced the volatility seen during the past months. The “R” word is now part of our daily lexicon. ▼ During the presidential campaign, there was plenty of finger-pointing to go around; but now that the campaign is over and the country is officially in a Recession, President-elect Barack Obama says addressing the economy is priority number one. ▼ Such economic upheaval didn't happen overnight and it likely won't be fixed quickly either. In an effort to gain perspective on the current economic situation, we asked four St. Mary's faculty members to answer the question,

*“How did we get here,
and where are we headed?”*



Adrian Cowan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Finance

The previous Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, blamed securitization of low quality loans for the global crisis. I believe there were many players, and as one market weakened, others followed suit. It likely began with individual consumers buying more than was prudent and a financial system that exploited their desires.

When sales of overvalued homes slowed and home values declined, homeowners could no longer borrow against the equity they once depended on. When faced with a personal financial emergency, they risked defaulting.

The subprime market only exacerbated problems in the general housing market. Many subprime loans were adjustable rate mortgages (ARM), so when a homeowner's ARM was repriced upward or when he or she was laid off, the homeowner had no recourse but to default. Housing loans, especially ARMs, began to default at rates beyond anyone's prediction.

Securities were the next domino to fall. Banks packaged risky loans in products called mortgage-backed securities, thus collateralizing their debt obligations. In order to attain high quality credit ratings, banks enhanced the credit of low quality collateral by purchasing credit insurance – similar to having someone co-sign for a loan. Credit rating agencies then assigned a high rating, and banks used this badge of quality to sell the products, thus transferring the risk to investors and insurers.

With unusually high default rates on properties within these securities, bond insurers and insurance companies scrambled to raise capital to cover the defaults they had insured against.

Just as consumers drove our previous economic prosperity, their confidence and willingness to spend will be the key to the next cycle of prosperity. However, it is likely that prosperity

will be led by a new breed of consumers – those who have savings and do not live paycheck to paycheck. We can hope that the federal government will do more good than bad in responding to the crisis, but government is typically reactive and rarely proactive. If it had been proactive, the crisis would have been prevented; now we have to trust that these same overseers will find a way out.

Our economy runs on credit, and unless and until the credit markets thaw, damage to the real economy will be severe.



David W. Sommer, Ph.D.
Charles E. Cheever Professor of Risk Management and Chair of the Department of Finance and Quantitative Management

With enthusiastic approval from many politicians, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac exercised poor risk management in encouraging the issuance of mortgages to people in no position to make the payments on long term loans.

Lenders required little or no down-payment, in spite of poor credit histories, and sometimes without even verifying the income of applicants. Individuals took out loans they could not afford.

In a desperate search for yield, investment banks and other financial institutions exercised poor risk management in purchasing financial instruments backed by these suspect mortgages.

Some insurers exercised poor risk management in guaranteeing these mortgage-backed securities against default. The Federal Reserve exercised poor risk management by keeping interest rates too low for too long while the housing bubble inflated, encouraging all of the aforementioned activities to continue.

Everything would have continued to sail along nicely if housing prices kept rising, as so many naively assumed they would. Once housing prices began to fall, borrowers found themselves unable to make their mortgage payments and unable to sell or refinance their homes. This led to mortgage defaults and massive losses in mortgage-backed securities and related derivatives. Eventually credit markets were brought to a standstill, with everyone afraid to lend to anyone. Our economy runs on credit, and unless and until the credit markets thaw, damage to the real economy will be severe.

Now, a serious global recession is nearly certain. Beyond that, nobody knows because we are in uncharted territory.

Government and finance leaders around the world are grasping at straws for a solution to a crisis many of them played a large part in creating. Hopefully they will succeed, and we will all learn some valuable lessons for the future.



K. Matthew Gilley, Ph.D.
Bill Greehey Chair in Ethics and Corporate
Social Responsibility



Steven Nivin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Economics and Director
of St. Mary's Neighborhood Revitalization
Project

In many regions of the country, home prices rose dramatically in comparison to wages and were largely unsustainable. However, borrowers and lenders continued to exchange billions of dollars in real estate transactions through questionable financial arrangements, such as stated income loans (or "liar loans") and zero-down mortgages. At the heart of the current economic upheaval were Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac: Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) whose political clout and questionable business practices have been a concern for years. Of particular concern were Fannie's earnings manipulation and promotion of unconventional, i.e. "risky," mortgages.

St. Mary's graduate Armando Falcón (B.A. '83) was front-and-center in the fight to prevent the kind of catastrophe we're now experiencing. As then-director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's regulating agency, Falcón understood the risks posed by the GSEs' practices, and he worked to bring transparency to their operations. Testifying before Congress in 2005, Falcón urged that Freddie and Fannie needed additional oversight and that the OFHEO required improved funding so it could ensure the two groups "meet their charter obligations in a safe and sound manner." Because of OFHEO's inability to set capital standards for Fannie and Freddie, he asked Congress for a greater role in monitoring "the health of our nation's housing finance system," calling it "a very critical segment of our economy."

When the OFHEO discovered accounting irregularities at Fannie, Falcón said, "I am proud to say that the OFHEO has been able to identify and correct the problems at Fannie Mae before more serious damage occurred. But we might not be so fortunate next time." How right he was.

While the severity of this downturn is still unknown, it has changed the U.S. financial system in ways unimaginable a few months ago. As with other economic bursts and busts, this will resolve itself in time and our economy will finish strong. However, greater government involvement in financial markets is inevitable – an ironic twist given that Government Sponsored Enterprises created this mess to begin with.

When comparing the U.S. to San Antonio, we have a tale of two economies.

For many months, I've argued that the U.S. economy is in a recession that will continue into 2009. Yet by most criteria, it doesn't meet the strict definition of a recession: two consecutive quarters of declining growth in gross domestic product. Many other economic indicators, however, point to decline.

For eight consecutive months, employment has fallen and corporate profits have continued to decline – all of this *before* the word "crisis" hit headlines. I think it will take the housing and financial markets hitting bottom before the financial system regains its footing. Even this won't occur until housing inventory clears out.

While this year's wild stock market gyrations eerily resemble those during the Great Depression, one-day percentage point gains in that period were still much greater than today's. I believe the recession will get worse before it gets better, but I don't see a depression on the horizon.

The economic outlook is more positive for Texas and San Antonio. Our local economies continue to grow despite the national climate. But why?

Unlike cities in Florida and California, San Antonio and Texas did not experience a housing bubble. Our housing market has been hit by the national malaise, but home prices hold steady.

San Antonio's economies are very diverse, and the industries that thrive here, such as the healthcare industry and the military, are stable, recession-resistant enterprises. Germs don't know there's a recession, and sick people still need healthcare. San Antonio will also experience a huge military increase with 12,500 new positions and \$2.1 billion in construction flowing into the area in the coming years.

On top of this, San Antonio's hospitality industry had a record year by some measures. Tourists are foregoing expensive, long-distance vacations and are opting to visit to nearby cities with great attractions, like the Alamo City.

In my opinion, the San Antonio and Texas economies will continue to grow, albeit at a slower rate than average, but still stronger than the national picture would suggest. ■

**St. Mary's graduate
Armando Falcón (B.A. '83)
was front-and-center in the
fight to prevent the kind of
catastrophe we're now
experiencing.**



Armando Falcón (B.A. '83)

St. Mary's Counseling Students Offer Help for the Home Front

by Gina Farrell


When my husband boarded a plane in November 2007 that would take him to Iraq for more than six months, I felt unprepared to deal with the challenges of suddenly being a single parent.

I felt alone, with two small children depending on me for support and answers while their father served our country more than 7,000 miles away. The truth is that I was far from alone. Since October 2001, more than 1.6 million U.S. troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, with nearly one-third of them facing multiple deployments and stressful conditions affecting them long after they return home. In the meantime, families are left to figure out how to adjust when the military member leaves – and adjust again when they come home.

Experts nationwide are concerned about the psychological toll of these deployments on the military members and their families. A recent study by the RAND Corp. estimates as many as 20 percent of all military service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan experience severe marital distress and debilitating mental health problems as a result of their service. It is a problem that is felt in virtually every community in the nation, and especially in San Antonio where the military population is so large and such a significant part of everyday life.

A community problem, a community solution

An estimated 20,000 troops from the San Antonio area have been deployed (and redeployed) to Iraq and Afghanistan, with another 14,000 to 19,000 family members affected by their tours. Based on those estimates, as many as 18,000 warriors and family members in the local area are in need of mental health services. It's a level of need that is stretching thin available resources.



... he will be able
to see the same
moon in the night sky
as his father sees while
deployed, no matter
how far apart they are.



“Thousands of families in the San Antonio area are dealing with the stress and emotional demands of having family members deployed, sometimes more than once in a short period of time,” said Dan Ratliff, Ph.D., associate professor of counseling in the Graduate School and clinical director of the St. Mary’s University Family Life Center, which provides a variety of counseling services to the local community. “It is a significant and widespread mental health crisis that will take the efforts of many different partners – government and private sector – to adequately address.”

In the face of growing public concern over the government’s ability to meet the military’s mental health needs, community partners are stepping up to meet the unique challenges of providing care to this growing population, and St. Mary’s University is among them.

The St. Mary’s Department of Counseling and Human Services last fall was awarded an almost \$300,000 grant to provide mental health services for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. The grant is from the Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Fund (TRIAD) of the San Antonio Area Foundation, and it allows advanced graduate counseling students at St. Mary’s to provide a range of services to local military members and their families. Available services include marital therapy, family therapy, play therapy, and individual counseling at multiple sites across the San Antonio region.

A common story

We had 10 months of warning before my husband Tim was deployed to Iraq, and he and I tried to prepare the kids – and ourselves – as best we could. I bought them stuffed dolls with Tim’s picture in uniform on them to help them feel connected to him. We had inflatable globes with “Iraq” and “San Antonio” marked with a Sharpie. We watched the Sesame Street video on deployment often. Aidan, who was five, particularly liked the part where Elmo realizes he will be able to see the same moon in the night sky as his father sees while deployed, no matter how far apart they are.

Although I thought Aidan had an understanding of how long Daddy

would be gone, within a few days of Tim’s departure he was asking “How much longer?” Two-year-old Keagan wouldn’t talk on the phone to Tim much, and he often refused to participate in our Webcam chats. On Christmas Day, just six weeks into the six month tour, Keagan spent a good part of the day crying for Daddy. It was not the holiday I had planned.

I was worried that none of us were coping as well as we should. I knew St. Mary’s had just started offering services through the TRIAD grant, so I reached out for help.

What I learned from our weekly play therapy sessions was that the boys were doing pretty well, given the circumstances. Their reactions, while sometimes upsetting to me, were normal. At a time when I had a lot to worry about, it was comforting to have our graduate counselor tell me things were okay – at least in this regard. I am grateful to have had help so close that was no-cost and specifically designed for the needs of deployed military.

Tim returned home from deployment in May, and I was again worried about how the kids would adjust. I was ready to sign us all up for more therapy if the transition didn’t go smoothly. Fortunately, none of us missed a beat, but it was reassuring to know that if we needed it, help was near.

Sometimes it seems like Tim’s deployment was a long time ago, even though only a few months have passed. I know Aidan still remembers it vividly. Every once in a while when he spies the moon, he will quietly say, “Mommy, remember that was the same moon that Daddy would see.”

Expanding the program’s reach

Since the program began last fall almost 100 families have received assistance from St. Mary’s, and Ratliff is hoping to reach even more through stepped up community education and outreach in the coming months.

“Our next focus is going to be on more information workshops to community groups and schools. We want people to know that these problems our military members and their families are facing are problems that we provide help for. It is not something you have to just live with,” Ratliff said.

Although the need for services to

this specific population has increased dramatically, few in the mental health fields are prepared to address the particular mental health needs of returning veterans and their families. In order to develop mental health professionals who are ready to meet that need, the St. Mary’s counseling department offers a course called “Counseling Military Families.”

This unique course prepares counseling students to better understand the culture and issues of the military so that they can offer the right kind of help. It includes an overview of military culture designed to train the counselor who doesn’t have a military background. “Then we move on to the mental health needs that result from deployment and talk about the studies that have been done on returning soldiers and their unique problems – marital distress, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders,” Ratliff said. Students also learn about the service members who come back without problems, and try to learn why some are affected differently than others.

Ratliff has been pleased with the way the classroom learning has translated into real-world counseling services.

“Essentially, it has called upon us to use what we are teaching in our counseling program in a very real way. What we are doing is coming out of our ivory tower and putting our teachings into practice with people who most need it,” he said. “I’m pleased to see that the ideas that we are teaching in the classroom really do work.” ■

Gina Farrell was the St. Mary’s media relations director until Tim’s military duty called again. The family has recently relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Keagan greets his daddy, Lt. Col. Tim Farrell, upon Tim’s return to San Antonio from a six-month deployment to Iraq.



Hoover
Roosevelt
Truman
Eisenhower
Kennedy
Johnson
Nixon
Ford
Carter
Reagan
Bush
Clinton
Bush
Obama



An Idea Whose Time Has Come

by Steve Neiheisel, Ph.D., Political Science Department Chairman

Barack Obama is the first American president of the 21st century and the first of a new political generation. He not only made history, but was made *by* history. While his political talents are significant, his electoral success should be understood as a product of social change in America – the flow of a historical stream that has run for decades, an idea whose time has come.

Presidential Narrative Marked by Time

Presidents symbolically, as well as through the values and policies they espouse, reflect the narratives of their generation, embodying attitudes and values forged by the significant experiences of their formative years. Some presidential elections have marked the turning of time, although perhaps not neatly prescribed by the calendar, and some the transitions of generations. President-elect Obama marks both.

Andrew Jackson, elected in 1829, is considered the first president of the 19th century because he was the first elected president not directly linked to the 1776 generation of Americans. (He succeeded John Quincy Adams who, although young during the American Revolution, still represented the classical republican ideals of his father's generation.) Jackson's support for popular democracy, as well as being the first president born west of the Allegheny mountains, marked the transfer of political leadership from the well-bred, well-read aristocrats of

Jefferson's generation to that of the self-made frontiersmen, thus marking the beginning of the 19th century. The horror of World War I that shattered the Victorian social class values of the 19th century and the international isolationist ideas of America made Woodrow Wilson, elected in 1913, the first president of the 20th century.

Historical change can also be marked by generational shifts. Presidents Grant through Hayes embodied the experiences and values of the Civil War generation. John Kennedy, the first president born in the 20th century, spoke of new values, new ideas, a "New Frontier." Presidents Eisenhower through George H. W. Bush of "The Greatest Generation" promoted the values forged in the World War II experience – "The Good War." Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, on opposite sides of the 1960s cultural divide, together completed the narrative of the 1960s generation.

Election Symbolic of Shift in American Society

The election of Barack Obama marks yet another transformation in American social and political life. He is both the first American president of the 21st century, as well as the first president of his generation.

Too young to serve in Vietnam or to march in Vietnam War protests, Obama came of political age in the Reagan era, when American attitudes shifted to the center-right.

During the primary campaign it was not surprising to hear Obama – although noting disagreement with Reagan era policies – admiringly call Ronald Reagan a transformational leader. Obama understands clearly the importance of hope, optimism and clarity in presidential leadership – concepts he watched President Reagan employ effectively. His primary campaign speech in Berlin that called for world unity was an echo more of Reagan than Kennedy. On the home front, candidate Obama preached the virtues of personal responsibility and family values, talking in inspiring terms about the promise of American life, an echo more of Reagan than

Walter Mondale.

Obama is the first post-1960s, post-Baby Boomer president. Too young to have been a soldier in the culture wars, his basic political instinct is to bridge differences (as Reagan had his conservative Democrat supporters, Obama has his moderate Republican supporters), use inclusive political language and build coalitions. All of these tools might help the nation finally move beyond the divisive language and acrimony of the 1960s that has defined the national political debate since the Vietnam War.

Being the first black president is of significant symbolic importance. His election represents not only a magnificent personal achievement, but a stunning social achievement for America. Redeemed is the sacrifice, in blood and fear, of the Civil Rights pioneers who struggled before him. Smashed is the final glass ceiling for African-Americans. His victory is their victory and America's as a whole.

Furthermore, being the first biracial president is also of symbolic consequence. In his DNA and in his life experiences, he represents an integrated America, an America of more than one place, of more than one race, of more than one cultural experience.

Ascendancy of a New Political Generation

Adding the non-anglicized name *Barack Hussein Obama* to the roll call of presidents is socially significant as well. It signals the end of the advantage of men with northern European pedigree, just as Kennedy signaled the end of Protestant religious advantage. Everyday usage of this name will create, over time, a public comfort level for strong ethnic names in political life, a marker of the acceptance of the American ethnic melting pot at the highest levels. No longer will the ethnicity of one's name be a detriment to political ambition.

Obama is post-partisan in that he shakes up our understanding of party lines and political ideology. He speaks about personal responsibility (Republican) and redistributing wealth (Democrat); he raised obscenely large



Across the nation, millions of young, first-time voters went to the polls to cast their ballots for President of the United States. Student leaders at St. Mary's organized Debate Watch which served as an active lesson in civics. Hundreds of students gathered to watch the contests between the presidential and vice presidential candidates. Debate Watch concluded with a lively, student-led discussion of national and political issues.

sums of campaign money (Republican) from small donors (Democrat); he's a wordsmith who seems to deeply touch people on a personal level (late 20th century) yet used the impersonal glare of the Internet to amplify his campaign message (early 21st century) and confidently turned red states blue.

But like others before, him, President-elect Obama has a chance for great success or great failure. Times are hard for the American people, with economic recession and two wars. Yet it is only in the crucible of crisis that presidential greatness is possible. Presidents are not born to greatness. The great presidents – Washington, Lincoln, FDR – are considered great because they rose to the challenge when greatness was called for. Presidents are made, or unmade, by their response to great events. The historical trap for presidents in times of crisis is that only greatness or failure is possible. Being merely good or mediocre is not an option – the times do not allow it.

President-elect Obama, like Kennedy and Reagan before him, embodies an idea whose time has come. His election heralds the ascendancy of a new political generation and the beginning of the 21st century. It is morning in America, again. ■



Steven Neiheisel, Ph.D., is chairman of the Department of Political Science. His teaching and research specialties include American politics, social and civic leadership, and government leadership.

DOWN TO A SCIENCE

Senior Engineering Students Face Struggles, Experience Triumphs in Design Class

by Lauren Thompson, Communications Coordinator

A trumpet begins to play “The Star-Spangled Banner.” It’s not an unusual rendition, or especially complicated. But it is impressive, because the trumpet is playing and there’s nobody around.

This particular trumpet sits on a tripod in the middle of a room filled with computer equipment. In a clear box attached to the trumpet are lots of wires and electronic boards. There is a computer screen nearby reading the notes of “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the trumpet plays.

It’s a trumpet that plays itself. And it was built by St. Mary’s students.

Planting the Seed

The trumpet works with software that reads the notes of a musical score. The box of wires and electronics tells which keys to press and for how long, creating music. The trumpet can be played through the computer, or by a person using a glove connected wirelessly to the computer.

This trumpet came to life because of the rigorous engineering curriculum in St. Mary’s School of Science, Engineering and Technology. Engineering students at St. Mary’s are required to create a senior design project in a class that spans both semesters of their senior year. Because of the depth and intensity of the projects, students are encouraged to begin thinking of ideas for their senior projects early in their junior year.

“I tell them that if they come to the first day of the Senior Design Project class without an idea, they will already be behind,” said Bahman Rezaie, Ph.D., chair of the engineering department and adviser to the design project students last year.

The projects entail weekly reports given to the entire class, detailed logging of research and progress, written proposals, design specifications, and lots of time and hard work.

When it comes to formulating the initial idea, the engineering professors push their design students to think of the broader

Josh Cavazos (B.S. '08) with his self-playing trumpet.



implications of their projects.

“We were told that our design should be both innovative and potentially helpful to the world,” said Damon Cardenas. Cardenas worked with Misty Garcia on a robot that was operated by eye movement.

“I wanted to design something to help people who had physical challenges,” Cardenas said. “I specifically targeted those who were paralyzed. I can hardly imagine what life would be like if I couldn’t move some of my limbs; this robot was designed to help those who are handicapped in this manner.”

The student-designed robot is controlled by eye movement, which is captured by a Web camera. When the user looks up, down, left or right, the robot moves in the corresponding direction. While the design may sound simple, it could potentially help physically disabled people experience greater mobility.

For Joshua Cavazos, the desire to help those with physical challenges spurred his project, too. Cavazos, a trumpet player in the St. Mary’s band, encountered a fairly large obstacle when, as a youngster, he picked up a trumpet for the first time. Because he couldn’t move his fingers fast enough to play the keys, he was told he’d never master the horn. He eventually did learn how to play, but he never forgot that struggle.

“I wanted to design something that could help someone like me, someone who couldn’t move their fingers fast enough,” Cavazos said. He and partner Carlo Agapito created a glove that wirelessly pushes down the keys of the horn. The beauty of their project is it can assist those with manual dexterity challenges as well as people with diminished hand strength, such as arthritis sufferers who might not be able to effectively operate the keys.

Goal in Sight

The St. Mary’s engineering senior design course illustrates why students seek a college education – to stretch their minds, learn and develop in-depth skills and prepare for their future careers.

“I worked harder on that project than anything else at St. Mary’s,” Cavazos said. “Between the project itself, the documentation, the presentation – it was a lot of work.”

This project, and senior capstones in other majors, equips students with more than professional competence; it teaches them to work collaboratively, and builds their confidence and their aptitude for creative and critical thinking.

“The students have to get up in front of their peers and give reports,” said Djaffer Ibaroudene, Ph.D., professor of computer engineering and adviser of this year’s senior design class. “Along with evaluating the technical and innovative aspects of their designs, in the end students also are graded on their appearance, their presentations and how well they answer questions.”

The culmination of the year-long design course – the final presentation – is given in front of St. Mary’s engineering professors, engineering faculty from area universities, fellow students, and professionals in the engineering field. Most students would find it daunting to speak in front of what is typically a packed house, but the senior project advisers prepare students well for the final day.

“In the beginning, I was nervous about the presentation,” Garcia said. “But reporting in front of the class every week helped. When the time came, I was ready.”

Last year’s seniors continue to pursue rewarding opportunities in engineering. Carlo Agapito is a project engineer at Energy Solutions in Houston and Misty Garcia is an engineer at Syracuse Research Corp. in San Antonio. Josh Cavazos is working in the Avionics Division at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio while pursuing a graduate engineering degree at St. Mary’s. And Damon Cardenas sustains his dream of helping others as he works towards his master’s degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

“We were told that our design should be both innovative and potentially helpful to the world”

“The project I worked on helped me discover what I wanted to do in the future,” Cardenas said. “It helped me unlock the potential I have as an engineer.”

The Machines of the Future

Senior design projects are well underway this year. Students have presented their ideas and proposals have been accepted.

“They all seem feasible to me,” Ibaroudene said of the projects. “There are 12 students in the class, and while a few of them may experience difficulties with their designs along the way, all of the projects look good right now.”

Design proposals given the green light include a radio frequency identification tracking system for packages, a device that notifies users if an appliance is left on, a system that helps optimize solar energy, and a battery that draws power from ocean waves, among others.

Now that proposals have been approved, each student must buckle down and focus on the hard task of completing their senior design project. But hopefully, they will keep in mind that they are undertaking an extraordinary task.

“[The design project] gave us the opportunity to show our friends, families and professors – and ourselves – that we are capable of being engineers,” Cardenas said. “We were doing things that most people couldn’t do. We learned we can make a difference.” ■

Writing Gives Alum Insight into New Worlds



André Frieden (B.S. '91)

San Antonio might seem like an unusual place for André Frieden (B.S. '91) to choose to attend college. After all, he had lived in Africa, Switzerland, and India and all over the East coast of the United States. He'd seen more during his childhood than most people see in a lifetime.

But in some ways, San Antonio was a logical choice for André.

"I wanted a town and a school with history to it," he said, and San Antonio and St. Mary's University fit the bill.

As a novelist, André is very familiar with the importance of history. His most recent book, *Tranquility Denied*, grappled with the effects of the Cold War.

After studying biology at St. Mary's, he pursued a doctorate in molecular biology at the University of Texas at Dallas. That's where his fiction career began.

"I would go to a park while I waited for experiments to finish," André said. "I'd write poems and short stories, and after three years, I realized I had enough material for a book. Those

writings eventually became my first book, *Canvas Sunsets Never Fade*.

After getting his law degree from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1997, André jumped into the legal world, focusing on biotechnical law. As senior counsel at Follett Corp. in Chicago – and a writer – he doesn't have a lot of free time.

"I keep vampire hours," André said, "and I'm a caffeine junkie. I write three nights a week until 3 a.m., and I spend Sundays doing research. I have to make the time to write. I use my vacations to research my novels."

When he wrote *Canvas Sunsets Never Fade*, André had never taken a writing class. After publication of his first book, he took some classes at Columbia College in Chicago and joined a local writing group. The group recently published a book of short stories, *SIN: A Deadly Anthology*, and it has plans to publish a second book.

As much as he enjoys writing, he doesn't plan to make it a full-time job. For now, it's an extremely rewarding hobby.

"The law grounds me into reality," André said. "My job gives me insight into other people and worlds. I can blend my profession into my fiction and it enriches the characters."

André recently traveled to Chile and New Jersey to research his upcoming novel. He hopes to make a stop at his alma mater on his next book tour.

"I loved my time at St. Mary's," he said. "I'm always curious to experience new places, and I'm glad St. Mary's was one of them."

—Lauren Thompson
Communications Coordinator

A Canadian in the Alamo City



Keltie Gower **Graduate Student**

Keltie Gower is still in her twenties, but she's already lived in five countries. How did this woman from a small town in Canada wind up in San Antonio? During her undergraduate studies at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Gower spent a semester studying abroad in Belgium. Since then, working and studying in foreign countries has become second nature.

"My mother was from the United Kingdom," she said, "and my sister lived in London and Ireland. I just fell in love with the lifestyles there."

Gower's passion is marketing, so after graduating, she moved to London where she found a job with a large recruitment agency called Hays Specialist Recruitment.

"Hays is huge in Dubai," she said.

Web sites, design, advertisements – these and more were under her watch as an account manager for companies like Toys"R"Us Inc. and Virgin Mobile. To take the next step in her career, she decided to pursue graduate school.

"I wanted to get my master's in business, so I enrolled in FhS Schmalkalden in Germany. I moved my whole life to Germany – two years in

two suitcases."

Schmalkalden's unique program of nine months of study in Germany with the possibility of a semester abroad allowed Gower to earn an M.B.A. from St. Mary's and a master's from Schmalkalden in two years.

"I love the education system here in the United States and at St. Mary's," she said. "It emphasizes practice over theory. All the professors talk about what they've *done*."

In addition to taking courses in the Bill Greehey School of Business, Gower works with Mathew Joseph, Ph.D., the Emil C. E. Jurica Distinguished Professor of Marketing, to hone her skills.

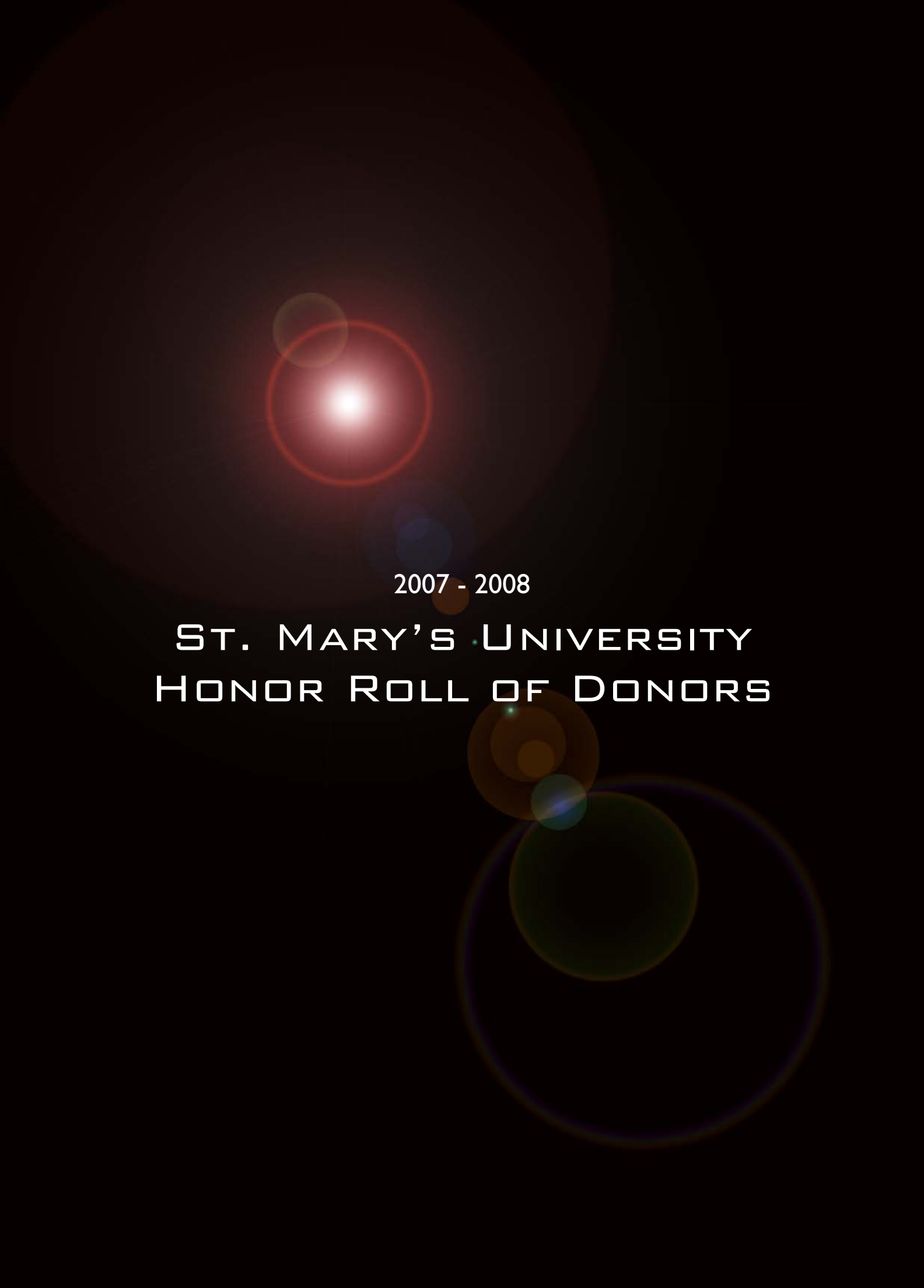
"Dr. Joseph pushes me and teaches me to apply my skills. Instead of doing what he calls 'donkey work,' he encourages me to pursue things that are challenging. For instance, I organized a focus group on branding of Texas universities – something I knew nothing about!"

While other students from the Schmalkalden exchange return to Germany to complete their theses, Gower wants to stay in San Antonio.

"I was really surprised how the professors and administrators take time to sit with me. They go out of their way to help people, and the students in my focus groups say the same thing. I'm staying in San Antonio to write my thesis because it's a better environment for me."

With commencement looming, she's anxious to find work in the United States through a sponsor company. There's no telling where life will take her next, but there's no doubt that Gower's international experiences have prepared her well.

—Nicolette Good
Communications Coordinator



2007 - 2008

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS



THE INTEGRATION OF FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE

In mid-November, St. Mary's hosted its Annual President's Dinner for key benefactors, during which our guests were able to witness, through a newly created video, the important research and exceptional teaching skills of our faculty. They also were able to see the ways our faculty – through their dedication, passion and compassion – helps to instill in our students a moral foundation that guides their future success in their personal lives, in their chosen careers, and in their civic and community participation.

I'd like to invite you to view "The Integration of Faith and Knowledge" at the St. Mary's University Web site (www.stmarytx.edu/faithandknowledge). I believe that the video compellingly reveals the ways the St. Mary's faculty connects their teachings and expectations of learning to the University's Catholic and Marianist mission.

St. Mary's has long been identified by its academic quality and its Catholic and Marianist tradition. In today's parlance, that's our "brand," and it is reinforced publically in our much

recognized and highly visible University logo. I suggest to you, however, that there is another branding that is not as visible, but far more meaningful in the lives of our students and the University. It is a brand embedded in the culture of our campus that flows from our mission, and it is reflected in the lives of our students, our faculty and the entire University community. As Engineering Professor Bahman Rezaie articulates so well in the video, "[It] is not something only taught in class; it is caught in the environment."

The integration of faith and knowledge defines the St. Mary's educational experience. You'll find our brand – the strength and dedication of an innovative faculty and the qualities of a successful student body – powerfully reflected in the video. You'll see that all of the teaching and research endeavors showcased in the video have a higher purpose, indeed a transforming effect, on the development and character of our students. I believe that this transformation is pervasive on our campus.

There are a number of initiatives undertaken at St. Mary's during the past year that will reinforce our brand and expand opportunities for our students. I'd like to share a few with you.

St. Mary's officially launched its Neighborhood Revitalization Project at a news conference in October. As you know, the revitalization effort is part of *Vision 2012* and began more than a year ago with the establishment of a Task Force. After much work and community collaboration, and with the assistance of some \$650,000 in grants, St. Mary's soon will open a neighborhood revitalization center on campus to help us work toward enhancing our surrounding neighborhoods in the areas of commercial transformation, housing rehabilitation, and infrastructure and quality of life improvements. Our students and faculty will stay involved in these efforts through volunteer programs.

Augmenting our revitalization efforts will be a new economic development think tank housed at St. Mary's. The creation of the

“A teacher affects eternity; no one can tell where the influence stops.” — Henry Brooks Adams

Strategic Alliance for Business and Economic Research (SABÉR) Institute, the result of a partnership with the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, will be directed by Steve Nivin, Ph.D., professor of economics and also the recently-hired director of the Neighborhood Revitalization Project. The work done by Nivin and others through the SABÉR Institute and the revitalization project will provide educational internship opportunities for our students.

Co-curricular opportunities are critical to the retention and graduation rates of our students. Recently the Board of Trustees approved the “Extending the Tradition of Excellence” initiative that includes raising funds for the Outdoor Sports Complex, as well as for scholarships and academics. The initiative will raise money to build championship-caliber facilities for baseball, softball, soccer and tennis. Bexar County has already pledged \$6 million for that complex from visitor tax revenue. Quality sports facilities help St. Mary’s attract the best academically-qualified student athletes to our Division II programs and also increases our opportunities to host national competitions.

Modern amenities are important to prospective and current students. Along with the proposed Outdoor Sports Complex, construction of the new residence hall is more than halfway done and will open for students by fall 2009. Its completion will add nearly 300 beds to a growing

resident population while adding another contemporary facility to our expanding physical plant.

Another cornerstone of the St. Mary’s experience is community service. It is our legacy and our tradition and we are extremely proud that this past year alone, some 3,000 students, faculty and staff provided more than 70,000 volunteer hours to various programs and projects. One of the newest among them is the Restorative Justice program carried out by students in our School of Law, who work with jail inmates and their victims to develop skills that lead to peacemaking. That work, along with the important legal assistance provided, pro bono, by our students to the poor through the clinics at the School of Law Center for Legal and Social Justice is, as Clinic Director Ana Novoa says in the video, “The Catholic and Marianist charism on its feet in the community.”

These are but snapshots of the ways St. Mary’s is advancing. All of these initiatives and so many more add to the quality of our students’ educational experience and each plays an important part in that experience. We are all aware of today’s uncertain economic climate and, of course, we will move forward thoughtfully and judiciously. But we *will* move forward, and with confidence. While there are challenges to be sure, St. Mary’s University is financially sound.

Thank you for your encouragement, your ideas, and your financial support. You are a vital part of the St. Mary’s success story and you are a vital part of St. Mary’s future. Today, more than ever, your gifts are critical to that success and future. It is your contributions to our efforts, both large and small, that allow new generations of St. Mary’s students to benefit from the people, academic excellence, and spirit of community that characterize the St. Mary’s educational experience.

We aspire to continue to live up to, and exceed, your hopes, dreams and expectations for St. Mary’s University.



Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., President

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Marianist roots can be traced to the Bordeaux region of France where the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary, and Sister Adèle de Batz de Tranquelléon, founder of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, spent their early years building the religious communities.

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In 1852, four Marianist brothers arrived in
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 St. Mary's University, the oldest Catholic
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 From its beginnings, St. Mary's founders
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Your Parents, Lovely Sisters, Grandmothers and Tia Mimi

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Congratulations to these graduates for their generous support and fundraising efforts. They have helped build class unity while giving back to the University and future generations of students.

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SHARING THE ST. MARY'S STORY

by Thomas B. Galvin, Vice President for University Advancement

Each year, I welcome this opportunity to pause and say thank you to all of our alumni and friends who support St. Mary's University, our mission, and our Marianist traditions.

The University Advancement staff continues to articulate the University's needs while providing first class alumni events and communications. Our development team strives to build new relationships in Texas and around the nation to bring the St. Mary's story to you, as well as to prospective students.

More than a year ago we created a plan for a first class Outdoor Sports Complex on par with Bill Greehey Arena, our outstanding facility for indoor sports. During that process we partnered with Bexar County and San Antonio as they developed long term plans to make San Antonio an NCAA destination. Through the County's visitor tax initiative, last summer St. Mary's was awarded \$6 million for sports facilities construction. V.J. Keefe Field, celebrating its 50 year anniversary this year, is in need of

a complete overhaul, and so too are facilities for our championship softball program as well as for soccer and tennis. During the next 22 months, St. Mary's will launch an aggressive fundraising initiative to match the County's gift. We will call on you to assist us as we move forward to provide our student athletes and student body with facilities worthy of our winning traditions.

This past spring Fiesta Oyster Bake, a premier Fiesta Week event, grossed its highest revenue ever – more than \$2.23 million – with net revenues of \$745,000. Proceeds from the event fund scholarships for many St. Mary's students, as well as alumni programs and activities. Fiesta Oyster Bake continues to reap state and international awards, including for Best Event to Benefit a Charity and Best Safety and Security Plan. Fiesta Oyster Bake 2009 is April 17-18, so mark your calendars now. We sincerely thank the Alumni Association and the thousands of volunteers who annually conduct a family friendly event.

During the summer our communications staff redesigned the St. Mary's Web site. Please enjoy the new and improved www.stmarytx.edu and visit it often to keep up on what's happening at St. Mary's. (Check out the alumni page for this year's reunion schedule – we may be in your area soon.) We appreciate your positive feedback on the Gold & Blue magazine. We look forward to providing you with stories about alumni, students and faculty that keep you informed and excited about St. Mary's.

This past year, the St. Mary's Fund raised \$456,000, a seven percent increase over the previous year. We thank all of you for your support, including our many first-time donors. Although the current economic climate has presented challenges, our alumni and friends continue to come through for St. Mary's, and we appreciate your generosity.

Thanks again for all you do for St. Mary's University.

Professor Hufford cares about global outreach, so for 18 years he's spent his summer breaks bridging international borders. And he's taken our students with him every time.

At St. Mary's University, learning starts in the classroom, but that's not where it ends. Whether it's humanitarian efforts in India or studies of indigenous development in Bolivia, theory and practice go hand-in-hand adding up to our bottom line, and yours.

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Larry Hufford is just one of St. Mary's professors who stands out in a crowd, and stands up to today's human development challenges.

We reach the unreachable. Who will you reach?



Larry Hufford, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science

Stop whatever you're doing on Saturday afternoon, January 24!

Tune in as St. Mary's women's basketball team plays on national television for the first time. Pitted against their crosstown rival, University of the Incarnate Word, the contest commences at 2 p.m. in Bill Greehey Arena on the St. Mary's campus. Off to a quick 8-1 start (as of Dec. 6), and defending last year's Heartland Conference Championship, the Rattlers and their fans expect great things this season. *Be sure to watch the live broadcast on CBS College Sports.*

