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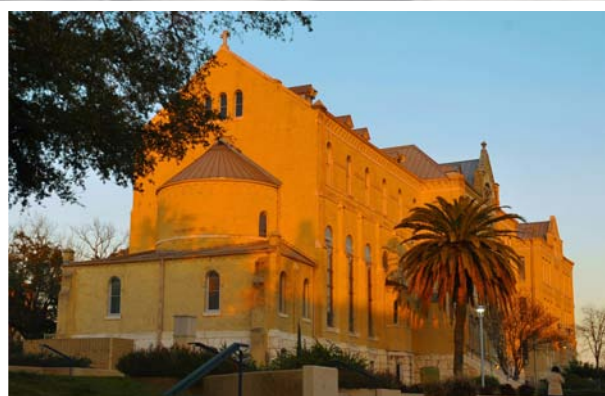
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SPRING 2009

# ST. MARY'S

U N I V E R S I T Y

Gold & Blue



REINBOLT HALL  
CELEBRATING A CENTURY



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(B.A. '62, M.A. '64)

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*Gold & Blue is produced for alumni and friends three times a year by the University Communications staff of the University Advancement Division.*

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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.

**On the front cover:**

St. Mary's second oldest building, Reinbolt Hall, as seen in the 1950s and today, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its dedication on Jan. 28, 2009.

**Above and on the back cover:**

Each year during Fiesta Week, St. Mary's President Charles and Mrs. Abbie Cotrell play host to the University's major donors at the annual Fiesta Oyster Bake President's Reception. Annual donors to St. Mary's of \$1,000 or more receive an invitation to the event, considered by many to be the hottest ticket in town. Music, oysters, and a Brazilian dance troupe are just a few of the attractions. To add to the festive atmosphere of the reception, Fiesta Royalty and their entourages – in vivid attire replete with crowns and colorful sashes bearing their titles – majestically enter the event and make their way to President and Mrs. Cotrell, where they exchange Fiesta Week's most popular mementos – Fiesta pins! You'll spot St. Mary's donors pictured above, and many of President Cotrell's "royal" guests appear on the back cover, including kings, queens, princesses and their courts.

*To learn more about becoming a President's Guild member – by donating \$1,000 or more each year to St. Mary's University – contact the Office of Development at (210) 436-3718.*



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## **From the Editor**

**O**n Jan. 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart shortly after its launch, killing seven crew members. Americans listened to accounts of the disaster and speculation that our nation's space program would never recover. Although the shuttle program and many other initiatives were deferred for awhile, the United States' space program is, as a popular 1960s television program would say, "Boldly going where no man [or woman] has gone before." Giovanni Fazio, Ph.D., profiled in this magazine in 1987 after the Challenger crash, fills us in on the past 20-plus years of space exploration. Don't miss the breathtaking photos.

Reinbolt Hall had a birthday this spring! At 100 years, St. Mary's second-oldest building continues to serve the academic and spiritual needs of the University community. I think you'll find interesting the brief explanation of the building's history and namesake. Be sure to get the full account in an article by Brother Bob Wood, S.M. at [www.stmarytx.edu/gold&blue](http://www.stmarytx.edu/gold&blue).

St. Mary's legacy of preparing leaders has produced hundreds of public servants. Students are getting hands-on public service training via the new Frank Madla Jr. and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program. Alumnus David Courreges writes about the inaugural class of interns that he's helping guide through the intricacies of government in Austin.

When Moe Vela first heard that St. Mary's students were traveling to Washington for President Barack Obama's inauguration – read some of their blog posts on page 17 – he insisted they have his personal cell phone number. "Government must be accessible to our young people," he told me, and it's a conviction he's living. Humbled by his success, Moe credits his parents, who expected their children to serve.

Finally, Ty Cobb is arguably baseball's greatest player. Bet you didn't know he played in an exhibition game right here on campus a century ago – maybe even in the shadow of the newly dedicated Reinbolt Hall. Like the mighty 'Casey at Bat' immortalized in Ernest Thayer's classic 1888 baseball poem, Cobb was struck out that day, in this instance by a young lad from St. Louis College. Many thanks to contributing writers Donald Olson and Robert Newton for sharing this bit of history with us.

The summer months will soon be upon us. Take some time to sit back, relax, and enjoy your family and friends.

—Candy Kuebker



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D.

As America's colleges and universities seek ways to deal with these uncertain economic times, at St. Mary's University we are mindful of the *Characteristics of Marianist Education* that call us to educate for adaptation and change. While recognizing the challenges the economy presents, at St. Mary's we are moving forward with confidence by focusing on recruitment and retention of quality students. The heart of our mission is education in the Catholic and Marianist tradition, and we believe that by building upon our strong academic reputation, St. Mary's will continue to attract the best and brightest students.



programs and faculty. Tanuja Singh, Ph.D., and Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., join our community this summer to lead the Bill Greehey School of Business and the School of Science, Engineering and Technology, respectively. Their areas of expertise, along with their experiences in international education and community outreach, will be of great benefit to our students.

At St. Mary's our goal is to feed the mind, body and spirit. Educating our students in the Marianist charism is a part of our mission that is helped immensely by the vice president of Mission and Identity. Filling this critical position is the Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M. (B.A. '76), who will work collaboratively within the University to ensure the Catholic and Marianist identity of St. Mary's.

## Addressing Access and Excellence

We have put into place a number of institutional aid programs—among them tuition assistance through the “Access St. Mary's” program, room grants provided by the Marianist Trust, and scholarships for international students—to ensure that the St. Mary's experience remains accessible and affordable to students. To remain vibrant, we will adhere to our strengths: our commitment to teaching and academic rigor; meaningful activities, services and residence life for students; and a beautiful and comfortable campus with quality facilities that will impact student enrollment, as well as retention and graduation of our students.

Academic rigor at St. Mary's includes the study of a core curriculum that introduces students to the foundations of civilization, reflection and practice found at the heart of a liberal arts education at a Catholic university. The new St. Mary's core, endorsed by the faculty and Board of Trustees this spring, incorporates such foundational courses; additionally, a school-specific core will address key skills and further enhance the understanding of disciplines introduced in the St. Mary's core. I am pleased with the new core curriculum because it is in keeping with the values of the Catholic liberal arts tradition while being innovative and supportive of professional educational excellence.

## New and Familiar Faces Fill Key Positions

St. Mary's is welcoming two new deans who will help shepherd compliance with the core while advancing academic excellence and invigorating their schools'

## Staying True to Our Strengths

## Boosting Scholarships and Building Facilities

Attracting, retaining and graduating the best students requires a robust scholarship endowment so they can enroll and remain at St. Mary's without undue financial worry. We are in the midst of the *Extending the Tradition of Excellence* campaign, whose focus is to raise \$10 million in academic scholarships to augment our existing endowment. The remainder of this \$23 million initiative is to build an outdoor sports complex to rival the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center, home to St. Mary's indoor varsity and recreational sports. Today's students expect and deserve exceptional facilities, and the outdoor sports complex will enhance recreational facilities for all students and expand our neighborhood revitalization efforts. Nearly \$15 million of the campaign total has been raised thus far, with \$6 million coming from Bexar County specifically for the sports complex.

I am confident we will be successful in recruiting and retaining quality students, advancing our quality academic programs, and continuing student successes while providing them with the personal attention, guidance and educational environment that is the added value of a St. Mary's education. Our financial strength, along with our dedication and creativity, will sustain our University.

As always, I welcome your input and am thankful for your support. ■



# NEWS

## FROM AROUND THE GROVE

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

### ■ SHORT SUBJECTS

#### Access St. Mary's

In response to the current economic climate, the University launched "Access St. Mary's," a new initiative that offers competitive award packages to students this fall.

The additional gift aid set aside by the University, coupled with the recent \$400,000 scholarship commitment by the Alumni Association, will help keep St. Mary's accessible and affordable.

"Access St. Mary's" is for freshman students entering in August 2009 who plan to attend full-time, live on campus, and have high academic merit and significant financial need.

Recruiting efforts are also being aided by the Marianist Trust which established the Marianist Room Grant to be awarded to freshmen who qualify for a merit scholarship and graduate from a high school with Marianist roots.

For complete information, go to [www.stmarytx.edu/admission](http://www.stmarytx.edu/admission) and click on "Access St. Mary's."

#### Yellow-Ribbon Program Helps Veterans

Trustee Maj. Gen. Alfred Valenzuela (U.S. Army, Ret.) is working with the University on marketing and recruiting strategies for veterans. Under the new Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, increased educational benefits are available beginning Aug. 1, 2009. Veterans pursuing undergraduate degrees and attending St. Mary's full-time could get nearly all of their tuition covered under the Yellow Ribbon GI Bill Enhancement Program.

#### Unlocking Clues to Forensic Science

St. Mary's has added two new forensic science degrees as a joint venture between the schools of Science, Engineering and Technology and Humanities and Social Sciences. The new B.S. degree in Forensic Science with a Biology or Chemistry option, and a B.A. degree in Forensic Science

with a Criminology option will be offered next fall.

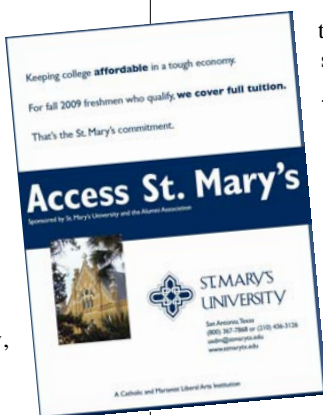
According to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 12,000 positions in the forensic science field, with a 21 percent increase in positions expected over the next 10 years. St. Mary's is the only university in San Antonio to offer a forensics degree.

#### Honor Roll Designation Makes Three in a Row

More than 70 percent of St. Mary's students participate in community service, giving more than 70,000 service hours annually.

To recognize this accomplishment, the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering, again honored St. Mary's with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

Launched in 2006, the Honor Roll is a collaborative effort with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, and is the highest federal



Want More News? Go Online



**Spring PPC Program Considers New Administration**

**Reinbolt Hall The Rest of the Story**

**Franzke Award Winners Honored During Women's History Month**

**AT&T Adds Artwork to Campus**

**People's Law School Reaches Out to Community**

**Las Americas Letters Showcases Tango Argentino**

**Spring Speakers Tackle Myriad Topics**

**Take a Peek at the President's Podcasts**

**Amazing Images from Space**

... and more

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



## Law Colloquium Tackles Catholic Social Teaching

Sparking debate in Catholic institutions nationwide has been the question of how, or whether, to integrate Catholic Social Teaching into the law school experience and how to best mesh Catholic identity into a school's mission. Deans from prominent Catholic law schools discussed those topics at a St. Mary's School of Law colloquium in February. From left, Thomas Mengler, University of St. Thomas School of Law; Veryl Victoria Miles, The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law; Mark Sargent, Villanova University School of Law, and St. Mary's School of Law's Charles E. Cantú discussed how their schools integrate faith and learning.

recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. St. Mary's has made the national Honor Roll every year.

### Mock Trial, Moot Court Teams Advance

The St. Mary's Black Law Student Association Mock Trial Team won the Rocky Mountain Region of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in February, earning a spot at the competition's national championship in Irvine, Calif., where they placed second in the nation,

defeating teams from St. John's University, Harvard and University of Virginia along the way. In regionals, the St. Mary's team went undefeated, beating teams from the University of Texas and the University of Oklahoma, among others.

In mid-March St. Mary's competed in the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regional Tournament in St. Louis, Mo., the largest national moot court competition in the country, with nearly 200 teams from law schools in practically every state competing for the right to qualify for

the National Finals in Chicago.

The team of third-year student Emily Jeffcott and second-year students Carolyn Skogman and Sarah Blackstone won their semi-final and final rounds, and were named Regional Champions, qualifying St. Mary's for the National Finals in April. This is St. Mary's sixth regional championship in the past eight years of competition.

### Revitalization Efforts Moving Forward

The Commercial Transformation Committee of the Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force has developed an organizational model to support the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) requirements by the City of San Antonio that is supported through a project partnership grant of \$10,000. The model includes the development of an NCR Board that would operate within the soon-to-be established Community Development Corp. More funding will be sought to support an NCR director that will report to Revitalization Project Director Steve Nivin, Ph.D.

In late March, a part-time housing counselor joined the Neighborhood Revitalization Project to provide housing, pre-purchase, credit, and first-time homebuyer counseling to low and moderate income families. The position, part of St. Mary's proposal for the \$600,000 HUD grant it received last fall, is being supported by the San Antonio Alternative Housing



## Law Mock Trial Team Second in Nation

The six regional winners of the annual Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition, hosted by the National Black Law Students Association, met at the national championship held in Irvine, Calif., in conjunction with the group's 41st Annual National Convention. St. Mary's team, which placed second in the nation, includes: in front row, from left, Christian Johnson, Bridgett Clay, Nicole Hines-Glover and Lysette Rios. Their coaches, in back row, from left, are Ken Bell (J.D. '06) and Daryl Harris (J.D. '04).

## Making Connections

With the click of a mouse, you can stay up-to-date on St. Mary's groundbreaking news and reconnect with old classmates. St. Mary's is now on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr, and you can even subscribe to your favorite St. Mary's RSS feeds. To get started, be sure to visit

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



## St. Mary's and Chamber Create Economic Think Tank

St. Mary's University, in a unique economic partnership with the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, has created the Strategic Alliance for Business and Economic Research (SABÉR) Institute.

The Institute, led by Steve Nivin, Ph.D., director of St. Mary's Neighborhood Revitalization Project and an assistant economics professor, will provide economic research services and business information that will facilitate business growth and long-term economic development in San Antonio and relevant trade regions throughout the world; and conduct and disseminate research that advances economic knowledge and translates to program and policy development.

With a global perspective, the Institute aims to become a leading research and educational resource on regional economic development, university-based economic development within neighborhoods, the economics of the Hispanic market, and the expanding creative economy. St. Mary's students will gain valuable experience as Institute researchers and interns.

Corp., one of the many community partners involved in the project.

Also, District 7 City Councilman Justin Rodroquez has designated \$50,000 in available city funds for the revitalization project's Pocket Park.

### ■ Newsmakers

#### Seven Trustees Named to Board

Robert Elizondo (B.S. '67) and Jack Paul Leon (J.D. '59) will continue to lead the St. Mary's Board of Trustees as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, and Maj. General Alfred Valenzuela (B.A. '70, M.A. '79) will serve as Board secretary. Elizondo retired from UPS in 2001 as the company's Miami-based vice president for operations in Puerto Rico, Mexico, South America, Central America and the Caribbean. Leon is a respected San Antonio attorney who heads his own firm, and Valenzuela is retired commander of the Army's U.S. Southern Command. Seven trustees also were elected to join the board, effective June 1, 2009.

Clem Lyons (J.D. '62), Of Counsel for Rhodes & Vela LLP, is currently the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association President and one of the premier personal injury lawyers in San Antonio. He has practiced law for more than 45 years, focusing on medical malpractice, with an emphasis on drug-related litigation.

Norma Martinez Lozano, Senior Vice President of Merger Integration at AT&T Services Inc., oversees activities associated with the merger of AT&T with purchaser SBC Communications. Lozano has earned numerous accolades for her dedication to work and community, being twice selected by Hispanic Business magazine as one of "80 Elite Hispanic Women" and receiving the "Breaking

Barriers Award" from the National Hispanic Employee Association.

Antonio "Tony" Flores Jr., Owner and Chairman of the Board of Hospital Klean of Texas Inc. (previously known as Rite-Way Services founded in 1970), and his wife, Irma, have grown the specialized cleaning business for private and military hospitals from a two-person operation to employing more than 700 employees in 14 states. He's provided leadership for many community and civic organizations.

Michael A. "Mickey" Schott (B.B.A. '68) is a shareholder in the accounting firm of Tsakopoulos Brown Schott & Anchors. Prior to beginning his career in public accounting, he was

a distinguished military graduate and served in the United States Army.

Schott is a member of the St. Mary's Athletics Hall of Fame, a 1999 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, and past president of the Alumni Association.

Philip J. Pfeiffer, Of Counsel at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, was partner-in-charge in San Antonio for 25 years and led the office's labor and employment practice. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, which profiles the top one percent of lawyers in the country, and was elected as a Fellow to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers in 1997. Pfeiffer's civic involvement is far-



#### Delegation Travels to Austin

In February, a delegation of St. Mary's students, faculty, staff and administrators traveled to Austin to visit with State legislators about funding the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program that assists some 1,700 St. Mary's students to the tune of more than \$6 million annually. On that day, St. Mary's was recognized in both Legislative Chambers with resolutions. Pictured in Senate Chambers are, from left, Sen. Carlos Uresti (B.A. '85, J.D. '92), Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert Elizondo, President Charles L. Cotrell, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, and Sen. Glenn Hegar Jr. (M.A., J.D. '97). View the video podcast from the Austin trip at [www.stmarytx.edu/president](http://www.stmarytx.edu/president) and click on President's Podcast.



reaching, and in 2008 he received a special Community Service Award for his leadership contributions to United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

Sister Laura M. Leming, F.M.I., Ph.D. (B.A. '79), has been a professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work at the University of Dayton since 1999. While at UD, she founded and was first director of the school's Graduate Internship Program. She was also the director of Novices at the Marianist Novitiate and a campus minister. Leming is widely published and has received numerous fellowships and grants to further her research.

Brother Thomas A. Wendorf, S.M., is a professor of English at the University of Dayton where he earned his B.A. in 1986. He joined the Society of Mary after graduation and professed perpetual vows as a Marianist in 1991. Brother Wendorf earned his master's and doctorate in English and American Literature at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and has taught English composition and literature courses in UD's program for Marianist brothers in India.

Illinois University. Her research and expertise is in global and cross-cultural marketing strategies, electronic commerce, and public policy issues in marketing. She is active in the Academy of Marketing Science, serves on editorial boards of two journals, and has consulted with Fortune 500 companies.

### SET Dean Announced

Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., currently dean of the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania, will become dean of St. Mary's School of Science, Engineering and Technology on Aug. 1.

During his 10 years at Robert Morris, Erevelles held several positions before being named dean in 2005. His accomplishments include designing new programs with engineering concentrations; creating engineering and science programs with institutions abroad; and developing

workshops, camps, conferences and competitions for middle and high school students to introduce them to the world of science and technology.



Winston Erevelles

Erevelles earned both his master's and doctorate in engineering management from University of Missouri-Rolla. His research and expertise is in computer integrated manufacturing, robotics, manufacturing automation, rapid prototyping, reverse engineering and manufacturing processes. He serves as a program evaluator for manufacturing engineering programs for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); he's also a member of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.



Tanuja Singh

### Singh to Lead Greehey School

Tanuja Singh, Ph.D., has been appointed dean of the Bill Greehey School of Business, the first woman to serve in the position. Currently chair of the Department of Marketing in the College of Business at Northern Illinois University, Singh will begin her tenure

as dean at St. Mary's on July 1.

At Northern Illinois, Singh worked closely with professional advisory boards, secured new scholarships, developed the prototype for the Center of Excellence in Global Business, and planned and conducted global executive education training for the first international executive program in the College of Business. She also successfully helped negotiate long-term executive education opportunities with government officials abroad.

Singh received a doctorate in business administration from Southern



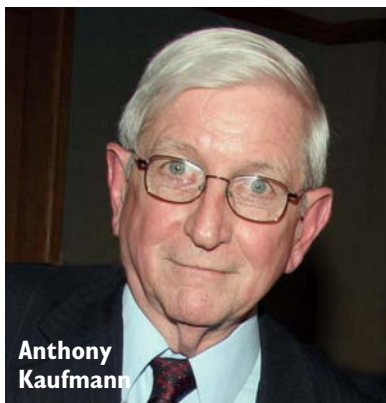
### Distinguished Faculty Lauded

Each year St. Mary's Alumni Association sponsors the Faculty Appreciation and Awards Dinner. In January, seven faculty members were recognized for community service and outstanding teaching. Honored with the Community Service Award was (back row, far left) Thomas Madison, Ph.D. Also standing, from left, are Distinguished Faculty Award winners Sonia Garcia, Ph.D., and Daniel Long, Ph.D., School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Stephanie Ward, Ph.D., Bill Greehey School of Business; and seated, from left, are Carol Redfield, Ph.D., Graduate School, and Gary Ogden, Ph.D., School of Science, Engineering and Technology. Not pictured is Richard Flint, J.D., Distinguished Faculty Award recipient from the School of Law.



## Law Grads Dominate the Fourth Court

Gov. Rick Perry named Marialyn Barnard (J.D. '92) justice of the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals to replace Catherine Stone (J.D. '82), who was elected Chief Justice of the Court. The Fourth Court covers 32 counties from Bexar County to Webb County and handles both civil and criminal cases. There are seven justices on the Court, and in addition to Barnard, far right, and Stone, center, the Fourth Court includes three other St. Mary's law graduates: Justice Phylis J. Speedlin (J.D. '83) and Karen Angelini (J.D. '79), second and third from left, respectively, and Justice Sandee Bryan Marion (J.D. '80), fifth from left. Also pictured are Justices Steve Hilbig and Rebecca Simmons.



Anthony Kaufmann

### Kaufmann Retires, Named Dean Emeritus

Anthony J. Kaufmann, Ph.D., first dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology, a role he has served in for the past 25 years, will retire on May 31, 2009.

Kaufmann, who has taught in the Department of Biological Sciences at St. Mary's for 40 years, also served as dean of the Graduate School from 1979 to 1984 before moving into his current position. At a retirement party held to honor him on May 7, President Charles L. Cotrell bestowed the honor of Dean Emeritus on Kaufmann, who will remain at St. Mary's to assist with alumni relationship-building, community outreach and fundraising.

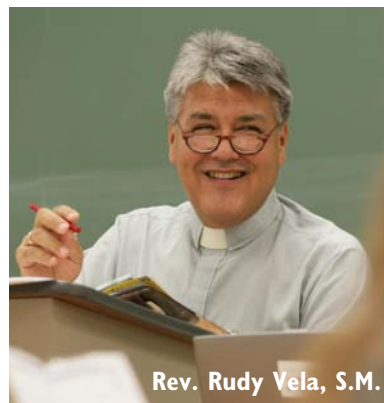
"Under Dean Kaufmann's 25 years of leadership, the School of Science Engineering and Technology built a strong undergraduate health program giving our students entrée to the best professional schools in the country,"

said Cotrell, adding that Kaufmann always strove to provide the best for St. Mary's students.

Historically, more than half of St. Mary's graduates who apply are admitted to medical and dental schools, well above the national average of 35 percent. During his tenure, Kaufmann built a strong faculty (100 percent of whom have their terminal degrees), oversaw the renovation of Garni Hall, and expanded degree offerings in the sciences and engineering. Also under Kaufmann, degree programs in Industrial Engineering and Electrical Engineering received and maintained accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). This past year, along with School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Janet Dizinno, Ph.D., Kaufmann was instrumental in developing the new forensic science degree program.

### New Mission and Identity VP Selected

The Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M., has been named vice president for Mission and Identity, the second person to hold the position. The vice president's primary responsibility is to work collaboratively within the University to ensure the Catholic and Marianist identity of St. Mary's. In addition, he will oversee the Office of University Ministry, the Marianist Forum, and the Marianist Educational Associates program.



Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M.

A 1976 graduate of St. Mary's, Vela has been an assistant professor in the Department of Theology since 2003 and the director of the Study Abroad Program in Spain since 2007. He received his Doctor of Ministry from the Chicago Theological Union.

Vela replaces the Rev. Bernard Lee, S.M., who was the first to hold the executive position.

### Law Student and Alum Awarded for Leadership and Service

Kristal A. Thurmond was awarded the Chief Justice Alma Lopez Woman in Leadership Award during a series of Women's History Month activities in March. Thurmond is a second year student in the School of Law. The Bexar County Women's Bar Association selects the recipients from among nominated law students based on outstanding leadership and community service.

The Honorable Roland Gutierrez (J.D. '98), State Representative of District 119, was named this year's Young Distinguished Law Graduate. School of Law Dean Charles E. Cantú presented the award to Gutierrez during a luncheon held at St. Mary's in conjunction with the law school's Homecoming CLE Program in March.



Kristal Thurmond and Alma Lopez



## 2009 Distinguished Alumni

The St. Mary's University Alumni Association honored the 2009 Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming festivities in April. Recipients of the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards are, from left: Ramiro Cavazos (M.P.A. '03), President of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Rick Aleman (B.B.A. '73), Owner of Selrico Services Inc.; and Leopoldo R. Vasquez Jr., U.S. Army Ret. (B.A. '64, M.A. '74), Federal Security Director for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at the San Antonio International Airport.

### UFW President Returns to Alma Mater

St. Mary's alumnus Arturo S. Rodríguez, president of the United Farm Workers (UFW), visited campus in March to speak to members of the University community. In his lecture "From César to Barack—Si Se Puede and Yes We Can," Rodríguez talked about the United Farm Workers union's legendary founder César E. Chávez, and the work he did to represent farm laborers. Rodríguez took over the helm of the UFW in 1993 upon Chávez's passing, and as president of the UFW he continues to build the union into a powerful voice for immigrant workers by pushing historic legislation on immigration reform and worker rights.

Rodríguez graduated from St. Mary's University in 1971 with a B.A. in sociology and was named a Distinguished Alumnus by St. Mary's Alumni Association in 1997.

### ■ Good Deeds

#### New Gifts Augment Student Opportunities

Included in efforts to keep tuition affordable is a recent \$100,000 gift from the Progress Foundation on behalf of an anonymous alumnus to establish the International Student Scholarship Fund. Awards will be made to 10 incoming students in fall 2009 and for the next four years.

The Herrmann Family Charitable Foundation gave \$50,000 to the

University to be used at the discretion of the President. Ronald J. Herrmann (B.A. '57, J.D. '59) was honored along with his class that graduated 50 years ago at the annual Heritage Club Reunion in April. The gift was given to honor years of graduation with a contribution of \$1,000 per year. In addition, an anonymous gift of \$25,000 has been given to the School of Law for the Ronald J. Herrmann Law Scholarship Fund.

Don Brennan (B.B.A. '90, J.D. '93), a past president and active member of the St. Mary's Booster Club, and his wife, Carla (B.B.A. '94), currently a vice president of the Booster Club, have made a gift of \$30,000 to athletics and the Outdoor Sports Complex, while Rick Aleman

(B.B.A. '73) contributed \$10,000 to the Buddy Meyer Scholarship Fund.

The Baptist Healthcare Foundation contributed \$15,000 to St. Mary's for the Graduate School's marriage and family counseling program.

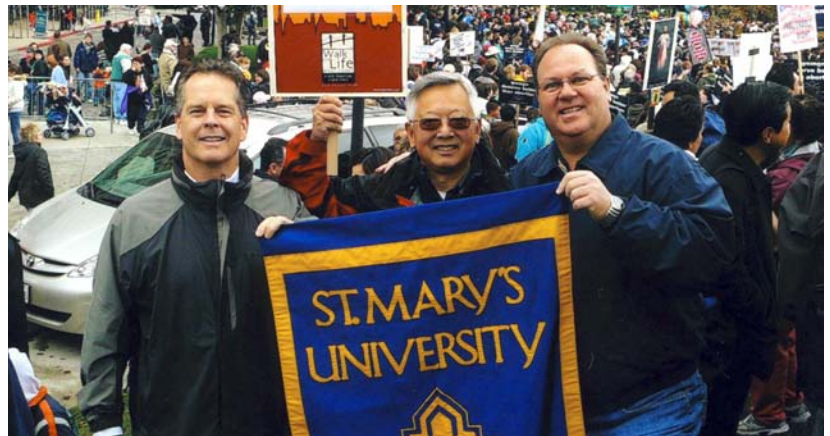
This past December, St. Mary's received a gift of \$10,000 from La Prensa Foundation for the Tino (B.A. '63, M.S. '77) and Amelia Duran Endowed Scholarship.

Retired FBI agent Bert C. Mereness (B.B.A. '57) designated his alma mater to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in criminal justice.

### Fundraising and Campaign Progress

St. Mary's fundraising initiatives as of late April totaled nearly \$4.7 million for academic year 2008-2009, and the St. Mary's Fund stood at almost \$400,000.

The Board of Trustees confirmed at its fall meeting that the University will move forward on the \$23 million *Extending the Tradition of Excellence* campaign for scholarships and the Outdoor Sports Complex. At this time, nearly \$15 million has been raised towards the goal, including \$6 million from Bexar County for the complex. Combined with scholarship dollars raised, the new total to date is well over 50 percent of the total campaign goal.



St. Mary's Trustee Vincent Lin, Ph.D. (B.S. '66, M.A. '68), is flanked by fellow Trustee Michael Belz (B.A. '75), pictured at left, and University Advancement Vice President Tom Galvin (M.P.A. '04), at the "Walk for Life" held in San Francisco in January. The three were among 50,000 walk participants.

Members of the Board of Trustees of the University have taken a leadership role by pledging nearly \$1 million to the campaign.

The Campaign Committee is co-chaired by Trustee Dave Dickson and Bruce Vaio, parent of a current student and President of Martin Marietta Materials West.

## Alums Fund Student Business

The Bill Greehey School of Business has proposed the implementation of a student-managed business program to provide St. Mary's students with the experience of managing a real company. Tom Contreras (B.B.A. '88), President of Texas Security General, and his wife, Leti (B.A. '89), have committed \$50,000 to establish the program. The program will be named in their honor for the company's first enterprise, a t-shirt business.

## ■ Sports Corner

### Women Win 2nd Straight Title, Gamez Named All-American

The Rattler women's basketball team won its second straight Heartland Conference Championship and advanced to the NCAA South Central Region Tournament again this year. The Rattlers finished the season with a 24-6 overall record and a 12-2 mark in conference play to win their second consecutive title. St. Mary's ranked as high as 16th in national rankings.

Senior Natalie Gamez capped a standout career at St. Mary's when she was named 2009 NCAA Division II State Farm/Women's Basketball Coaches Association honorable mention All-American. The San Antonio native led the Rattlers with 16.3 points, 6.0 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game this season. She also earned first team All-South Central Region and first team All-Heartland Conference honors. She ranks third in St. Mary's history in points scored with 1,484 and is the Rattlers all-time leader in three-pointers made (173) and free throws made (389).

Seniors Rachel Jones and Ashton Benford also received conference recognition. Jones, from Little Rock, Ark., received All-Heartland

Conference honors for the second straight season, averaging 11.7 points, 6.4 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game. Benford, who hails from Waxahachie, received honorable mention All-Heartland Conference honors after averaging 10.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game.

### Conference Honors Three

San Antonio senior Lorenzo Anthony, who averaged 5.1 points, 3.6 rebounds and 1.2 steals per game, was named Heartland Conference Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season. Senior Nick Morey of Belpre, Ohio, shot 52.3 percent from the field and led the Rattlers with 16.2 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. He was a first team All-Heartland Conference pick. Junior Curtis Mitchell of Milwaukee, Wis., received honorable mention All-Heartland Conference honors in his first season with the team. He averaged 10.8 points, 2.9 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game.



As a team, the Rattlers ended the season with a 17-11 record, finishing regular season play with a seven-game win streak to come in second in the conference and qualify for the Heartland Conference Tournament.



### Flores Among Top Homerun Leaders

At press time St. Mary's Arlynda Flores, a pitcher and first baseman from Uvalde, was in second place in homeruns with 23, within NCAA Division II competition. Flores, a junior, is majoring in mathematics and exercise and sport science. Check [www.rattlerathletics.com](http://www.rattlerathletics.com) to see how she finished the season.

### Experience Gained During Elite 8

St. Mary's hosted the recent NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Elite Eight at Bill Greehey Arena. And while the Rattler women didn't make the tournament as participants, the event touched St. Mary's students in a positive way. Several student organizations volunteered their time at the event, including coordinating a recycling program, surveying fans to determine the economic impact of the event, and serving as ushers and ticket takers.

In addition, a handful of students received an even more hands-on experience, working in the tournament's game operations. Women's basketball player and senior communications major Ashton Benford worked with the ESPN announcers calling the game, and junior exercise and sport science major Tom Huttenhoff worked with ESPN's production crew, helping behind the scenes with the set up and break down. Sophomore computer engineering major Sharlene Flescher ran the video boards and assisted ESPN with the broadcast of the tournament.

The Elite Eight tournament marked the first time a national championship has been held on St. Mary's campus. Minnesota State University-Mankato won the national title, defeating Franklin Pierce University of New Hampshire, 103-94, in the championship game. ■

by Giovanni Fazio, Ph.D.

# Marveling Space Exploration...

The mid-1980s were an exciting time for space exploration—and for me. Selected in 1984 as a Principal Investigator on one of NASA’s Great Observatories (now called the Spitzer Space Telescope), I was responsible for the observatory’s Infrared Array Camera. A year later I led a team that flew a small infrared telescope on the Spacelab II flight of the Space Shuttle. Also in 1985, President Reagan established the National Commission on Space to discuss NASA’s goals for the next 50 years that resulted in “Pioneering the Space Frontier,” a report that presented an exciting and optimistic vision of the future.

A

Everything changed, though, in January 1986, with the occurrence of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. It was an extremely difficult time for NASA, and suddenly the future of space science looked gloomy. Shortly thereafter, in the Winter 1987 issue of *Gold & Blue*, Vickie Sledge wrote “Discovering What’s Out There,” an article describing my research in space astronomy at the time and my hopes for the future. Therein I observed, “The Challenger disaster altered all that (vision), postponing the timing of many programs and causing everyone to stop and rethink space exploration.” But even then I remained hopeful: “It’s really a great place out there in space, and I hope that we get there someday.”

Now, more than 20 years later, it is a fitting time to explore what has happened in space during the past two

decades, and where we might be headed.

The simple answer is that the past 20 years have been an incredible and fascinating period, and the future looks even more exciting. We have made major advances in space science, especially in the understanding of our planet, our Solar System and the Universe. These advances came about because of several major accomplishments, including:

- our ability to place telescopes into space, where viewing is free from the absorption and turbulence of the Earth’s atmosphere and the entire electromagnetic spectrum can be observed;
- major advances in technology, permitting the construction of large ground-based telescopes and the development of electronic cameras with enormously increased sensitivity;
- the rapid development of computer power and massive data storage capability.

## Confirmation of Big Bang Theory

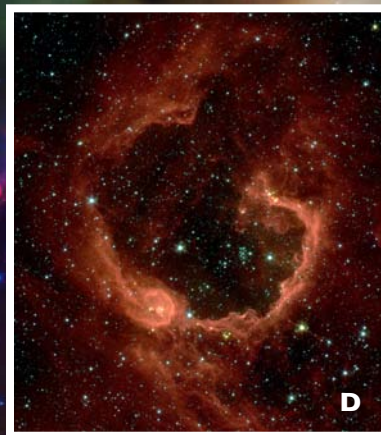
The most important scientific advances have been in our understanding of the structure and composition of the Universe and the confirmation of its origin, known as the Big Bang theory. In the late 1980s, astronomers found evidence for large-scale inhomogeneities in the Universe, including the discoveries of chains and sheets of galaxies and giant voids with very few galaxies in them, similar to a bowl of soap bubbles. NASA further confirmed the Big Bang theory when it launched the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite in 1989, which measured the remnant radiation from the initial explosion of the Universe and established that the curvature of space was flat.

After decades of planning, NASA was able to launch, beginning in 1990, its Great Observatory series of four



Spitzer Space Telescope

# and Still Searching for Answers



telescopes to view the Universe from space. The first mission – the Hubble Space Telescope – has changed our view of the Universe at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths, and has fascinated the public with its beautiful images. It also has allowed us to measure distances in the Universe and, hence, the expansion rate with minimal error, and helped determine its age, composition and size. From the measurement of distant supernovae, from both the Hubble and ground-based telescopes, it was discovered that the Universe is expanding much faster than expected, giving evidence that a mysterious form of energy called “dark energy,” whose gravity is repulsive, is a major constituent of the Universe.

As a result, we now know that normal matter, which makes up our immediate world, is only four percent of the mass of the Universe, and that exotic components such as dark matter

(23 percent) and dark energy (73 percent) make up the remaining mass. That means we still don’t understand what 96 percent of the Universe is made of. What happened before the Big Bang and the ultimate fate of the Universe still is unknown.

## Our Violent Universe

Other telescopes in the Great Observatory series, such as the Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, showed that the Universe is a much more violent place than we thought, full of super-massive black holes, exploding stars, fast spinning neutron stars composed of nuclear matter, and very energetic gamma-ray bursts whose energy is exceeded only by the Big Bang itself. The Hubble telescope has shown that super-massive black holes, containing millions and even billions of solar masses of material, are present in the center of virtually every

large galaxy, and some of them are shooting out extremely vigorous jets of matter and radiation. Even our own Milky Way galaxy contains a massive black hole at its center.

Just recently it was determined, using ground-based radio telescopes, that our Solar System is moving 100,000 miles per hour faster than we previously thought and, in fact, we are revolving around the center of the Milky Way at a speed of 568,000 miles per hour. This increase in velocity means our Milky Way galaxy is actually twice as massive as we previously thought, and this increased mass is primarily dark matter.

## Spitzer Shows Life and Death Cycle Reigns in Space

The last of the Great Observatories – the Spitzer Space Telescope – was not launched until 2003, almost 20 years after I was first funded to lead a

B

team to design and build one of its infrared cameras.

Spitzer views the infrared sky and unveils that part of the Universe we cannot see with visible light. Now in its sixth year of operation, Spitzer has made major inroads into our understanding of how stars are born from the collapse of interstellar clouds of gas and dust. It has also revealed that very young stars, as part of the condensation process, are surrounded by dense disks of gas and dust from which planets may form. These stars then evolve, and when their internal nuclear fuel is consumed, eventually die through explosions which return their matter to the interstellar medium. This life and death cycle of stars means that the oxygen, iron, and calcium atoms in our bodies were all once part of a star, and one day will be in another star.

Today we know of more than 340 exoplanets (planets orbiting other stars) with masses that range from almost twice the mass of our Earth up to 10 to 20 times the mass of Jupiter. One of the most unexpected results from Spitzer is the measurement of the properties of the exoplanets' atmospheres. These planets radiate most of their light at infrared wavelengths. Spitzer was the first telescope to detect the radiation from an exoplanet and, subsequently, has been able to measure its temperature and composition.

### Discoveries Changing Our View of the Universe

The Hubble Space Telescope and the Spitzer Space Telescope have given us some of the deepest views of the Universe, almost back to the era when the first stars and galaxies formed. Looking deep into the Universe is like looking back in time. Spitzer has detected massive galaxies

that existed only 700 million years after the Big Bang, and it's been able to measure their stellar mass. The Universe is now 13.7 billion years old, and these stars must have formed as early as 500 million years after the Big Bang. How the galaxies formed and became so massive so soon after the Big Bang remains a mystery.

NASA's planetary discoveries within our own Solar System over the past 50 years have been remarkable. Spacecraft have visited all the planets and many of their moons, and currently there is a spacecraft on its way to Pluto. These observations have changed the way we think the Solar System originated and how the moon and the Earth evolved. They also aid us in our search for evidence of life on other planets.

There has been great progress in understanding our nearest star, the Sun, and its influence on the Earth and the other planets. Our Earth exists in an inhospitable region called the heliosphere, which is the region influenced by the radiation and energetic particles from the Sun's outer atmosphere. Fortunately for us, the Earth's atmosphere and magnetic field shield us from this radiation, yet powerful solar flares and coronal mass ejections can affect our weather, disrupt communications and navigation, damage satellites and disrupt high-voltage power lines. While we have learned a lot about the heliosphere and its effects on life on Earth, we are just beginning to understand space weather. Another St. Mary's physics graduate, Jim Burch, Ph.D. (B.S. '64), vice president of the Space Science and Engineering Division of Southwest Research Institute, has made important contributions to understanding the heliosphere.

### Pondering the Future

These past 50 years have been called the "golden age of astronomy." Some even call it the "platinum age." It's been my great fortune to be alive and to have my research career coincide with this period, and it's been an incredible ride. Even now, bigger and better space and ground-based telescopes are being designed and built, some of which will certainly see the first stars and the first galaxies that were formed after the Big Bang, and perhaps even detect life elsewhere in the Universe.

The questions "Where did we come from?" and "Are we alone?" still haunt us. Seeing what has happened over the past 50 years, I would not even try to imagine what will be discovered over the next half century. But I will keep trying to uncover the mysteries of the Universe. ■



Giovanni Fazio, Ph.D., 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. In July 2008, Fazio was awarded the Massey Award from the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the Royal Society of London for his contribution to the study of space. The Massey Award is given in memory of physicist Sir Harrie Massey and recognizes outstanding contributions and leadership to the development of space research. Fazio received degrees in physics and chemistry from St. Mary's in 1954.

**A:** Great Observatories Present Rainbow of a Galaxy – NASA's Spitzer, Hubble, and Chandra space observatories teamed up to create this multi-wavelength, false-colored view of the M82 galaxy. The lively portrait celebrates Hubble's "Sweet 16" birthday.

**B:** Young Stars in Their Baby Blanket of Dust – Newborn stars peek out from beneath their natal blanket of dust in this image of the Rho Ophiuchi dark cloud from the Spitzer telescope. Called "Rho Oph" by astronomers, it's one of the closest star-forming regions to our own solar system, about 407 light years away from Earth.

**C:** A Classic Beauty – M51 is considered to be one of the classic examples of a spiral galaxy. At a distance of about 30 million light years from Earth, it is also one of the brightest spirals in the night sky.

**D:** A Bubble Bursts – RCW 79 is seen in the southern Milky Way, 17,200 light-years from Earth in the constellation Centaurus. The bubble is 70-light years in diameter, and probably took about one million years to form from the radiation and winds of hot young stars.

**E:** Fireworks Galaxy – NGC 6946, or "The Fireworks Galaxy," is one of about a dozen nearby neighbors to the Milky Way, and is located approximately 10 million light-years away in the Cepheus constellation.

# REINBOLT HALL

## CELEBRATING A CENTURY

The story of Reinbolt Hall must begin by answering Shakespeare's question: "What's in a name?"

Since arriving in the United States in the late 1840s, the Society of Mary had prospered and was in great demand. The Rev. John Nepomucene Reinbolt, Provincial of the Province of America, had a list of 125 requests for brothers, many from places deemed by Marianists living in the eastern United States to be far more attractive than the faraway mission in Texas.

Personnel was scarce and the needs far-reaching. St. Mary's Institute in San Antonio needed more men, too, so immediately after the Civil War, Institute Director Brother Andrew Edel traveled to Dayton to plead in person for help. There he learned available Marianists couldn't come close to filling the multiple requests and that, in fact, the General Administration in Paris was giving serious consideration to halting the brothers' work in San Antonio.

Brother Edel urged Reinbolt to come to San Antonio and see the work for himself. Being a practical and amiable man, Reinbolt agreed and in early 1866, he made the long journey from Dayton. He was so favorably impressed during his visit, he wrote the superiors in Europe that it would be "a crime" to withdraw from San Antonio. Trusting his judgment, the superiors agreed.

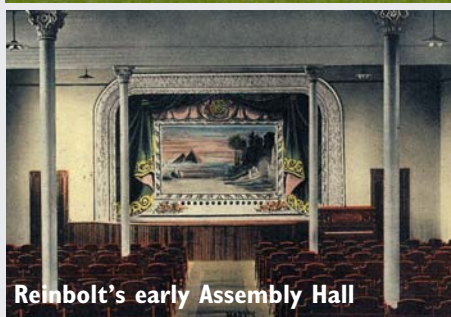
Reinbolt visited San Antonio five more times before retiring from office in 1886. During his 22 years as Provincial, the Society of Mary increased in numbers and opened new institutions, but for the Marianists in San Antonio, Reinbolt was the "savior" of the work here. With joy and gratitude, the brothers gave his name to the second building on the west end campus, then known as St. Louis College.

Prosperity instigated that new construction. The boarding

section of St. Louis Hall was so crowded that new applications were being turned down. To serve more students – and gain more space – in 1907 the Marianists received permission to construct another building. Architects James Wahrenberger & Son prepared plans for the \$80,000 structure that included two distinct sections. The first – 60 feet by 60 feet and four stories high, including a basement – contained class rooms, dining halls, dormitories and private rooms. The second section – 40 feet by 87 feet – held the college chapel and an assembly hall.

The groundbreaking took place on Feb. 2, 1908, "amid the waving of flags, the stirring sound of music and the loud cheers of the assembled multitude" and on Thursday, Jan. 28, 1909, in "one of the most grand and impressive religious functions that have taken place in San Antonio in a long time," Reinbolt Hall was officially dedicated.

At least five times over the past century various parts of Reinbolt Hall have been rearranged, reorganized and renovated. One hundred years after its dedication, it remains a popular classroom building whose theatre is home to numerous dramatic productions each year, and whose Chapel of the Assumption continues to serve the spiritual needs of the campus. But, perhaps most importantly, Reinbolt Hall stands today as a monument to the man whose appreciation and foresight saved the Society of Mary for San Antonio. ■



Reinbolt's early Assembly Hall

Special thanks to University Archivist Brother Robert Wood, S.M., for providing the history of Reinbolt Hall and the Rev. John Nepomucene Reinbolt, S.M., after whom St. Mary's second building is named. To read Brother Wood's expanded history of Father Reinbolt and Reinbolt Hall, please visit [www.stmarytx.edu/gold&blue](http://www.stmarytx.edu/gold&blue).



Archivist Brother Robert Wood, S.M.

Groundbreaking for Reinbolt Hall took place on Feb. 2, 1908 and the building was dedicated on Jan. 28, 1909.





# Alumni Legislators' Legacy Alive in New Internship Program

by David Courreges

Luminaries such as the late U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez and the multitude of men and women serving in local, state and national government today represent St. Mary's longstanding tradition of preparing and inspiring leaders. With a nod to this proud legacy and to the University's strategic plan, *Vision 2012*, the Frank Madla Jr. and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program was created. Named for two St. Mary's alumni whose service in the Texas Legislature made a huge impact on San Antonio and South Texas, the internship program allows current students to follow in the footsteps of legends, challenging them to truly make a difference within themselves and their communities.

For eight St. Mary's students, the internship program is an occasion to distinguish themselves while having the time of their lives. But it's not easy. Admission requirements and expectations are set purposely high, and selected students must commit to working in Austin at least 40 hours a week, while completing six credit hours of coursework. If they succeed, they'll earn 12 hours of academic credit toward their degrees.

Total immersion, supplemented by instruction and mentorship in the stimulating setting of the State Capitol, sets the St. Mary's program apart. Our interns receive weekly on-site classroom instruction that introduces them to the inner-workings of the Texas House and Senate, and the concepts they study are implemented in their day-to-day tasks. During the program, students become familiar with the Texas Constitution and the Rules of the House and Senate while learning how to research and draft legislation, analyze policy, and interact with constituents, the press, and fellow legislative staffers.

The program is quickly gaining popularity within the Capitol community. Soon after announcing the intern program, a waiting list had formed. From all indications, our interns have not disappointed.

## Legislators' expectations surpassed by interns

"As a St. Mary's graduate I'm proud of the tradition of public service that is instilled in our graduates," said Sen. Carlos Uresti (B.A. '85, J.D. '92). "The Frank Madla Jr. and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program is an outstanding opportunity for students to continue our University's legacy. My intern has set a very high bar which I have come to expect from all St. Mary's students."

Our students quickly learn that the duties of a "legislative intern" are far more comprehensive than what's expected of others. According to Rob Borja, Chief of Staff to Rep. David Leibowitz (J.D. '82), legislative interns typically serve thankless jobs, where expectations may be high and unforgiving for those unaccustomed to an unpredictable and exceedingly fast-paced work environment.

But it's the fast-paced nature of the legislature and the teamwork required to meet immediate demands that Andrea Chavez, a sophomore from El Paso who works with Borja, says she likes best about working in a legislative office. She is often called upon to help complete projects vital to ensuring that Rep. Leibowitz's constituents have a voice. Borja says Chavez has met the challenges *and* exceeded his expectations. "Andrea has become an invaluable member of the staff, and she truly outshines many of her peers. She has a genuine concern for serving the public."

Twins Mark and Matthew Reyna, juniors from San Antonio, have acclimated to the frenzied atmosphere at the Capitol. Mark, the "oldest," seems to have found his calling. In fact, he has become so adept in office operations, it's hard to call him an intern. Working on the staff of Sen. Uresti, Mark eagerly meets the new challenges that each day invariably

brings. Whether discussing responsibilities entrusted to him, or describing routine tasks such as filing a bill or maintaining the Senator's daily schedule, Mark beams with pride knowing he is serving the people of Uresti's district.

Matt Reyna shows equal enthusiasm for his position as the assistant clerk for the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, a job wrought with responsibility. On any given Wednesday, Matt can be found stationed at the front of the committee room, collecting witness affirmation forms and closely monitoring the activities of the Committee.

## Experience unlocks and directs interns' futures

"Working in the Capitol has been an awesome experience," Matt said. "This internship gives me an idea of what I need to do and how hard I need to work to fulfill my goals. I'll go back to St. Mary's with new skills for success, and I can't wait to see how well they work."

Like his brother, Matt quickly earned the respect and admiration of his co-workers. Christy Gonzalez, a committee senior policy analyst, is highly complimentary of Matt. "Having an intern from the program has been a wonderful experience for our office," she said. "Not only have we had the opportunity to mentor an eager learner in Matt, but he has provided much needed support and assistance throughout the session."

Sherita Simmons, of Bartow, Calif., is one of the three graduate interns pursuing a master's in Public Administration. On staff of Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, Sherita says her favorite part of working at the Capitol is the opportunity to play a role in shaping Texas history. With the desire to attend St. Mary's law school and



The inaugural class of the Frank Madla Jr. and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program are, from left: Ayed Ahabbi, Saad Aldosari, Mark Reyna, Intern Program Adjunct Professor David Courreges (M.P.A./J.D. '05), Matt Reyna, Sherita Simmons, Sarah Linares, Carolina Hernandez and Andrea Chavez.

eventually becoming a municipal administrator, Sherita came to Austin to gain first-hand knowledge of the legislative process and develop a better understanding of what the Legislature can do to help solve local issues.

As part of the intern program, students write a piece of legislation which they will use in various classroom activities. The exercise teaches research and drafting techniques that can only be learned through hands-on application. Sherita's legislation—to afford eligible Texas high school students the opportunity to vote in elections by requiring schools to give an excused absence for that purpose—was filed by Sen. Van de Putte on March 5. Senate Bill 1400 will be watched closely as it makes its way through the legislative process, providing a learning experience for all.

### Gaining insight into democracy

Graduate students Saad Aldosari and Ayed Ahabbi bring a unique perspective to the intern program. Natives of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, respectively, the duo decided to take on the challenge of working with the Texas Legislature to gain insight into the concept of democracy and the operations of the American legislative process. Saad (who has an extensive background working with the Saudi government) and Ayed hope the experience will allow them to return home to serve the citizens of their countries either in the public or private sector.

To help Aldosari and Ahabbi learn

as much about the legislative process as possible, they were placed with freshman Representatives Tara Rios Ybarra of South Padre Island and Roland Gutierrez (J.D. '98) of San Antonio, respectively. Typically there is a significant learning curve for freshman members of the House. But concepts taken for granted or simply overlooked by senior members are often given special attention by freshman legislators. With only 140 days to prove oneself to one's constituents, both the legislators and their staffs adapt quickly to the steps and customs that are necessary to run a successful legislative office.

As teammates on St. Mary's women's soccer team, San Antonio senior Sarah Linares and El Paso sophomore Carolina Hernandez developed a close bond that, today, is beneficial in unexpected ways. Working side-by-side in the Office of Rep. Joaquín Castro, Carolina and Sarah's pairing was quite a surprise, but has helped them adapt to the often unpredictable nature of the Capitol.

"Though a bit overwhelming at times, my internship has been a great learning experience," Carolina said. "I've learned more in such a short time than I ever could have imagined. Every day presents its own new challenges."

Rep. Castro's recent appointment as Vice Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee has allowed both women to learn about many of the policies that affect them as college students. When the committee meets, you will see them sitting in the front row taking in everything as it unfolds.

Sarah says her internship is like "taking a field trip to a historic location you only read about in school that now you actually participate in. I believe this experience will give me the necessary tools to successfully continue along my academic and professional path," she said.

It's a sentiment shared by her teammate. "Working at the Capitol has been like being a part of history," Carolina said. "I gravitated toward the political sphere's capacity to affect social change when choosing my major, and I've witnessed efforts toward such change here at the Capitol. I'm glad I took a chance and didn't let a grand learning opportunity slip through my hands." ■

David C. Courreges is an attorney at the Austin law firm of De Leon & Washburn, P.C. where he practices in the areas of administrative law, and legislative and governmental affairs. David earned his J.D. and M.P.A. from St. Mary's in 2005 and is currently serving the University as a legislative affairs consultant and an adjunct professor. The on-campus coordinator of the Frank Madla Jr. and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program is Political Science Professor Arturo Vega, Ph.D. (B.A. '81, M.A. '83).



*Editor's note: The Honorable Frank Madla Jr. (1937-2006) and the Honorable Irma Rangel (1931-2003) gave Texas nearly 60 years of dedicated public service. Both graduates of St. Mary's, Madla (B.A. '59, M.A. '64) and Rangel (J.D. '69), served in the Texas House of Representatives for 20 and 26 years, respectively, with Rangel becoming the first Mexican American female elected to the Texas Legislature in 1976. Madla also spent 13 years in the Texas Senate.*

# Lightning Strikes Twice

## Moises Vela Jr. Relishes Second White House Tour

by Candace Kuebker

“Not a minute goes by that I don’t remind myself what an honor it is to come to the White House to work each morning; that what I do will be part of history,” said Moises “Moe” Vela Jr. (J.D. ’90), Director of Administration for Vice President Joe Biden. Even more remarkable for this Latino from South Texas is this is his second stint in the White House, having served as Vice President Al Gore’s CFO and senior adviser on Hispanic affairs from 1996 to 2000.

“This [second] appointment is so humbling and mind-boggling,” said Vela. “I feel undeserving, but I’ve turned it into an opportunity.” For Vela, it’s all about advocacy and giving back, and he didn’t have to look far to find role models.

For the Vela family, service is a way of life.

### Success has no price tag

Moe’s father, Moises Sr. (J.D. ’55), a successful Harlingen attorney, spent much of his time doing pro bono work for the indigent. Mom, Mary Jo, taught pre-kinder children, often buying her poor students clothing and food.

“Watching my parents’ selfless work taught me that success in life is not about money, but what is in your heart and soul,” said Moe. “They

taught me and my siblings to always take care of those less fortunate, and it will come back to you.”

But before arriving inside the Beltway, Moe made a detour to Broadway.

After earning his B.A., he headed to New York City, convinced the theatre was calling him. Singing, dancing, acting lessons. Waiting tables, telemarketing gigs. Head shots, auditions...rejection. “The total experience,” said Moe. Even though he didn’t make it there, Moe counts his New York experience as one of the greatest in his life. “Live with no regrets. Give it a try. What’s the worst that could happen?”



Moe Vela chats with Vice President Biden, Press Secretary to Jill Biden, Courtney O'Donnell (standing, at left), Chief of Staff to Jill Biden, Cathy Russell (seated), on board Air Force Two during a return trip to Andrews Air Force Base from San José, Costa Rica.

### A new era for young Latinos

He carries that same philosophy with him in public service, especially when it comes to young Latinos. Moe is committed to making government more accessible to youngsters. “I want them to know it’s not about *whether* they’re going to do something that can make a difference, but *where* and *when*. I want them to see that if you set goals, you can accomplish anything.”

After leaving New York, Moe attended St. Mary’s law school. Upon graduation, he set his sights on increasing Hispanics’ involvement in government and urging companies to honestly and effectively market to Latinos, noting it takes more than brochures in Spanish to reach our country’s fastest growing ethnic group. Whether consulting with private sector marketing firms or advising the Vice President of the United States, Moe is adamant that “[The Hispanic community] must overcome our cultural humility – the ingrained sense that it’s unseemly to promote ourselves – because we’re losing jobs and opportunities.”

### Second tour a blessing

Moe is focused on convincing others that the Hispanic community is worth investing in. As a public servant, he would like his legacy to be

advancing inclusion and creating opportunities for the under-represented and disenfranchised. His biggest frustration? “I can’t reach every young person that might benefit from my experience.” Moe firmly believes that if children are shown the right path, as he was – to treat everyone with dignity, embrace education, and respect yourself and others – 99 percent of them will be successful.

This highest ranking South Texan in the White House reports directly to Vice President Biden, who he says is “beyond amazing, down to earth, rejuvenating and passionate.” And President Obama, whose path he crosses frequently, is “clearly a once-in-a-lifetime leader, so gifted, so committed to our nation.”

The recent presidential election is a historic moment in our nation and showed that “we all have a place at the table,” said Moe. But he remains genuinely humbled by his good fortune. “I often ask myself, ‘how do you say thank you to your nation, your God, your family, your University?’ I believe I can only offer thanks by putting into motion what I’ve learned,” he said.

“When you’re blessed with an opportunity, it’s your responsibility to give back.” ■



# Inaugural Road Trip

Obama was in his limo 10 feet from us as he entered Arlington National Cemetery on his way to lay a wreath at the tomb! My kids were so excited, it made their whole trip.

—Posted by Anita Ehler  
(B.A. '78) on January 18

After arriving in D.C. at 3 a.m., standing in line for hours and making a mad dash out of security, we're sitting down behind the reflecting pool in front of the Capitol anxiously waiting for the festivities to begin. We've made new friends from all over the country and we can't wait until noon. The energy of the crowd is intense.

—Posted by Gabriel Hernandez  
(senior) on January 19

Hey everyone, greetings from Little Rock. Words can't express the excitement and anticipation I feel as I sit here talking to my bus mate, Carlos, about what this election means for the future of the United States. I just feel blessed to be part of history.

—Posted by Vanessa Mendoza  
(graduate student) on January 18

Our home is right in the thick of all of the party action this weekend. I'm sure we'll see some sights. Who knows, maybe we'll even catch a glimpse of the Obamas, Stevie Wonder, or "The Boss."

—Posted by Adrienne Urrutia Wisenberg  
(J.D. '89) on January 16

Today has been UNBELIEVABLE! ... What may now sound cliché, but is no less true, is the amazing realization that, despite our different backgrounds, different locations, and different experiences, we were coming together for something that meant so much, not only to each of us individually, but to America as a whole.

—Posted by Elizabeth Kaigh (law student) on January 20

As the country prepared to inaugurate its 44th president, St. Mary's students and alums headed to the Capitol to witness the historic event. We asked them to blog about their experiences—here is what surprised and inspired them on their trek to Washington, D.C.

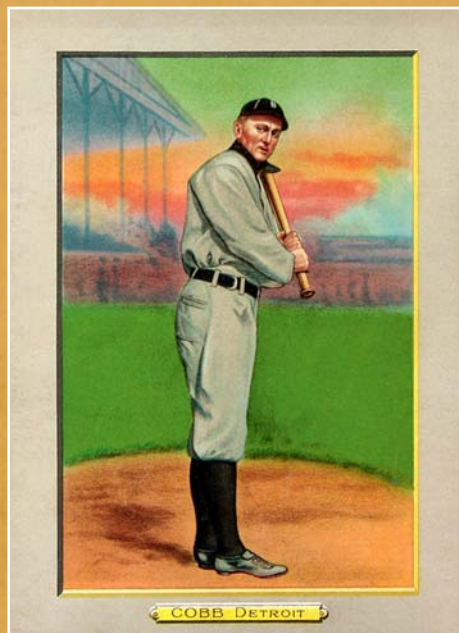
On my flight I overheard an 80-year-old woman who sat next to me. She came from a generation where every part of her life was based on discrimination. This inauguration represents a symbolic departure from a hurtful past; to her this inauguration is about so much more than Obama.

—Posted by Madhavi Kasbekar  
(law student) on January 16

Just got back from the Mid-Atlantic Ball. The Vice President showed up a little past 10 p.m. He spoke and danced with his wife, Jill. About an hour later the President and first lady arrived.

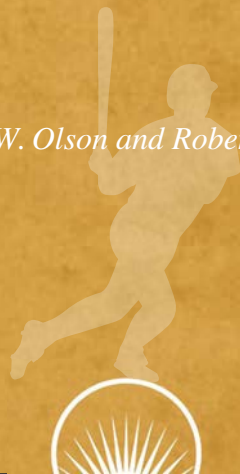
— Posted by Michael Kolenc  
(B.A. '03) on January 20

# Fanning the Mighty Ty Cobb



## St. Louis College vs. Detroit Tigers

*by Donald W. Olson and Robert H. Newton*



"Bert" Gallia

Ty Cobb



After the game, players from the Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Collegians posed for this photograph, taken on the front steps of St. Louis Hall.

A pitcher-batter confrontation played out in dramatic fashion, almost like a scene from a Hollywood script, in a baseball game on the campus of St. Mary's University 100 years ago.

When we recently discovered an eyewitness account of this long-ago game, we were reminded of the classic 1984 baseball movie *The Natural*. In that film a young unknown amateur pitcher (played by Robert Redford) first attracts national attention when an exhibition is arranged, and he strikes out the major league's greatest hitter (called "The Whammer" in a role clearly modeled on Babe Ruth and played by Joe Don Baker).

Something very much like this movie scene actually happened on the St. Mary's campus a century ago, when a seventeen-year-old student from St. Louis College (as St. Mary's University was known then) faced the greatest hitter in major league baseball – and struck him out.

The Detroit Tigers, champions of the American League in both 1907 and 1908, came to San Antonio for spring training in 1909. The Detroit team prepared for the upcoming season with daily workouts and exhibition games with local teams. On March 18, 1909, the morning edition of the *San Antonio Daily Express* announced a game with

the headline "Detroit vs. St. Louis College. Tigers to Face School Lads This Afternoon at West End."

### One of Baseball's All-Time Greats

The star player for Detroit was Ty Cobb, who still holds the major league record for the highest lifetime batting average.

Although modern baseball fans often name Babe Ruth as the greatest player of all time, baseball writers who saw both Ruth and Cobb play generally accorded that honor to Cobb. For example, when the Baseball Hall of Fame inducted the first group of players in 1936, Ty Cobb led the voting (with 222 votes out of 226 cast), with Honus Wagner and Babe Ruth tied for second (215 votes each).

The result was similar when the *Sporting News* in 1942 asked former baseball stars and managers the question "Who was the greatest player of all time?" Of the 102 replies, 60 voted for Ty Cobb, 17 for Honus Wagner, 11 for Babe Ruth, with 14 votes going to several others.

This was no ordinary player who led the Tigers onto the college campus in the spring of 1909.

### The Game

To face Ty Cobb and the rest of the Tigers, St. Louis College sent Melvin Allys "Bert" Gallia to the mound. An electrical engineering major from

Woodsboro, Gallia not only pitched for the team but also proved to be their strongest hitter, batting in the cleanup position. In the bottom of the first inning, Gallia stroked a double and took part in a double steal, as the students took an early 2-0 lead.

The newspaper account the next day described the young pitcher's memorable strikeout: "Gallia pitched good ball for St. Louis. He had the pleasure of fanning the mighty Ty Cobb and a couple of others just about as dangerous."

The Detroit lineup eventually prevailed and won the game, as expected, but the *Daily Express* noted that "the Collegians arose to the occasion with a spirit that surprised even their most hearty rooters. The game was a credit to the school and the Tigers complimented them on their showing."

### Discrepancies Put to Rest

Tales of this legendary game have been told and re-told over the years, but misinformation has crept into those accounts.

Recent baseball historians mistakenly place the game in March 1910, and although the Detroit Tigers did train again in San Antonio during 1910, in that year Cobb elected to work out by himself in Georgia. With this fact in mind, a search through the microfilm reels of the *San Antonio Daily Express* from 1909 yielded the

## Rattler Athletics – Extending the Tradition of Excellence

Although Don Olson's and Robert Newton's story may feature the "Collegians" of yesteryear instead of today's Rattlers, and that 1909 game likely was played on a patch of dirt on the "West End" campus instead of at V.J. Keefe Field with its stands that hold 2,500 fans, there is little disagreement that baseball – and sports overall – at St. Mary's enjoys a long, colorful and successful tradition.

With five national titles in four sports, winning at St. Mary's is a testament to the spirit of competition and the tenacity and talent of thousands of student-athletes.

While records show interscholastic competition began in 1902 with baseball, over the years women's and men's teams in 11 sports at St. Mary's have won more than 100 conference championships and advanced to NAIA and NCAA Division II postseason play more than 50 times.

Just as athletic competition a century ago hinted at the legacy of success that exists today, it is St. Mary's goal to expand our campus and our achievements through the *Extending the Tradition of Excellence* campaign.

The \$23 million initiative includes – along with scholarships and professorships – a new Outdoor Sports Complex that will rival the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center with its 3,800-seat Bill Greehey Arena, home to Rattler indoor sports. Nearly \$7 million has been raised or pledged for the \$13 million Outdoor Sports Complex that will feature facilities, fields and courts for baseball, softball, soccer and tennis.

These additions and upgrades to the University complement St. Mary's efforts to revitalize the neighborhood and the Westside, as well as strengthen our partnership with the city to make San Antonio an NCAA destination for championship tournament play. Last year the Bill Greehey Arena was site of the NCAA Final Four Slam Dunk/3-Point Shot competition and this spring the NCAA Division II Women's Elite Eight Basketball Championship.

Besides bringing with them the opportunity to host national sporting events, new outdoor facilities certainly will benefit St. Mary's by providing our students and student-athletes alike with the finest facilities for varsity and recreational play and by attracting prospective students to the University.

Through the *Extending the Tradition of Excellence* campaign, the leadership of St. Mary's is ensuring that the University's winning traditions and legacy of success, borne of the likes of Melvin "Bert" Gallia – the boy who struck out the world's best baseball player – live on in the decades to come.

For more information about the *Extending the Tradition of Excellence* campaign, contact the Office of Development at (210) 436-3718.

original accounts of the game.

Similarly, historians and yarn-spinners alike tell us that Ty Cobb gained a measure of revenge on Gallia by hitting a long home run late in the game. The box score shows five doubles by the Tigers and one triple – but no home runs by either side. The newspaper story praises Gallia for pitching "good ball" and explicitly states that the "triple was the liveliest performance off his delivery."

### After the Game

The Detroit Tigers won the American League pennant again in 1909. Ty Cobb himself achieved the rare feat called the Triple Crown,

leading the American League in 1909 in batting average, runs batted in, and home runs. Melvin Gallia went on to a major league career, pitching for the Washington Senators from 1912 to 1917, the St. Louis Browns from 1918 to 1920, and the Philadelphia Phillies late in 1920.

But it was 100 years ago that Gallia first showed that he was a "natural" – with the talent to strike out "the mighty Ty Cobb." ■



Donald Olson, a professor in the Department of Physics at Texas State University, is a lifelong fan of the Detroit Tigers. Olson

grew up in Toledo, Ohio, where the Detroit Tigers are considered to be the local team. While teaching at Texas State, Olson began researching Ty Cobb's visits to Texas and discovered the connection to St. Mary's University.



Like Olson, Robert Newton is an avid baseball fan and loves learning about how the game was played in years past. In

his senior year as a physics major, when he heard that his professor had made an exciting discovery pertaining to baseball history, Newton couldn't pass up the opportunity to be a part of the research.

### Acknowledgments:

The authors are grateful for research assistance from archivist Brother Robert Wood, S.M., of St. Mary's University and Margaret Vaverek of the Alkek Library at Texas State University.



## Taking a Bite Out of the Big Apple



**Alexis Carmona (B.A. '06)**  
**Henry Van de Putte (B.A. '07)**

It's not the dream of every St. Mary's graduate to move to the Big Apple, but it was the dream of two.

Alexis Carmona never imagined herself working in New York City for Bloomingdale's former CEO, but today she sits in a posh office as Marvin Traub's executive assistant.

"In a nutshell, I've unexpectedly landed in the middle of the fashion world," Carmona said.

Alexis believes the skills honed while studying English-Communication Arts at St. Mary's prepared her for the public relations aspect of her job, while her involvement in extra-curricular activities helped build her confidence and maturity.

"St. Mary's was such a positive influence in my life and one of the greatest experiences so far," she said.

Upon graduation, Alexis tried her hand in the sales and travel industries, where, she says, she got a glimpse of the "real world." She also learned that she wanted more.

After sharing a small apartment and eating lots of canned tuna, Alexis set her sights on Manhattan. With a

polished résumé, she started knocking on doors, including Marvin Traub's, who was in need of an executive assistant. After a 30 minute chat, he asked when she could start.

"This has been the perfect opportunity to discover who I am and what I want for my career. I'm enjoying this dream come true."

Another recent grad working in New York in a fast-paced, high profile career is Henry Van de Putte (B.A. '07). He attributes his ability to parlay his political science degree into a job as a Corporate Communications Outreach representative at ESPN to his experiences as a student leader committed to community service.

This St. Mary's Presidential Award and Marianist Leadership Award recipient is at ease in the big city, whether on the job or fielding calls while walking through Times Square.

Today, Van de Putte has his dream job and is married to his dream girl, alumna Rena Cortez (B.A. '06).

Henry's need to have spirituality front and center keeps him grounded, and he never hesitates to use the skills mastered at St. Mary's to help him lead a fulfilling life. At ESPN he interacts with nonprofit organizations on volunteer projects, such as the ESPY Celebrity Golf Classic, whose proceeds fund cancer research.

"It's like the Service Learning Center of ESPN," Henry said.

Self-motivation and lessons learned at St. Mary's have made dreams come true for Alexis and Henry. Their stories serve as reminders that by helping others along the road to success, life can be more fulfilling and worthwhile.

—Valerie Sanchez, Senior English-Communication Arts student



## Family Tradition Brings Change to City



**Nelson (B.B.A./J.D. '66) and Kevin Wolff (B.B.A. '91, M.B.A. '03)**

St. Mary's is a tradition in the Wolff family. Dad Nelson (B.B.A./J.D. '66) and son Kevin (B.B.A. '91, M.B.A. '03) also share another tradition. This past January, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff was joined on the Court by Commissioner Kevin Wolff. "Like father, like son" may be true of their call to public service, but that doesn't mean they share the same political philosophy.

Former San Antonio Mayor Nelson Wolff first considered public service while attending law school. "There was a lot of inspiration at St. Mary's from judges who had run for office," he said. In particular, Dean Emeritus James Castleberry pushed him to new academic limits. "He graded hard, scared his students to death and had high expectations."

With that standard of excellence, Nelson Wolff became only the second person in San Antonio in more than a century to serve as both mayor and county judge. As mayor, he helped bring the PGA Village and Toyota to the city and oversaw the construction of UTSA's downtown campus.

Unlike his dad, Kevin Wolff didn't always aspire to public office. "I was

five years old when [my father] first ran for office," Kevin recalled. "I grew up very proud of him but never thought I'd run myself." It wasn't until after a four year stint in the Navy and 20 successful years in the private sector that he started campaigning.

Kevin's career move wasn't the only surprise. "Generally as you get older, you get more conservative. Now the younger one is conservative and the older one is liberal!" said the elder Wolff of the difference in his and Kevin's political leanings.

The only Republican on the Court, Commissioner Kevin Wolff enjoys intelligent debate. He attributes his diplomacy to his time at St. Mary's and his upbringing: "I try to understand the other person's argument, if for no other reason than to defeat them," he said.

Luckily, issues presented to the Court are typically straightforward. "I don't care if you are a Republican or Democrat, nobody likes potholes," Kevin observed.

The ability of the pair to reconcile political differences is ideal for any governing body. "I respect [Kevin's] opinions and philosophies. That's important and something that's really lacking at the federal level today," said Judge Wolff.

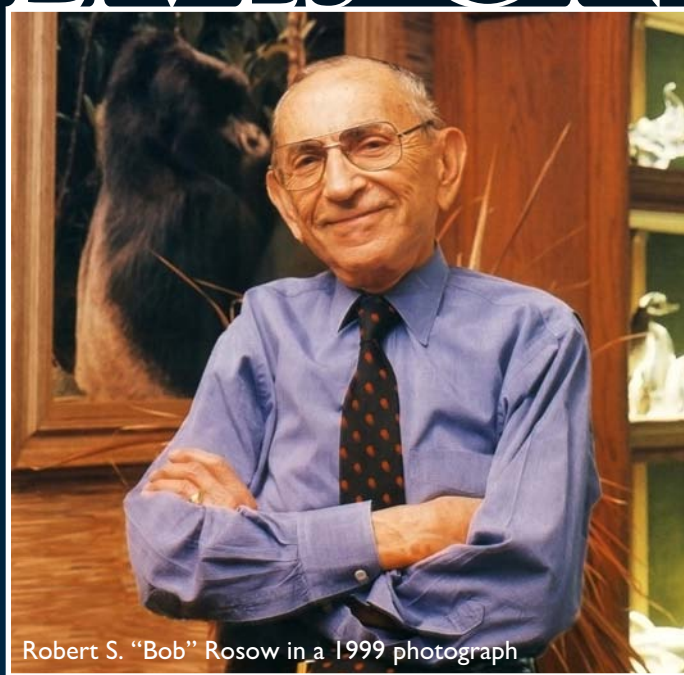
Both the Judge and Commissioner will tell you that the service ethic at St. Mary's contributed to their pursuit of public service. Judge Wolff agrees that "you don't have to be Catholic, but the principles that [St. Mary's] teaches you are the most important things in life."

And when it comes to public service, as Kevin puts it, you must "have the guts to get up and do it. Nobody remembers the folks who don't."

—Nicolette Good,  
Communications Coordinator

# ROSOW LEGACY LIVES ON

Bob Rosow (1919–2003) and his wife, Freida (1918–2000), loved St. Mary's. Because of their devotion to the University, the couple included a scholarship bequest in their estate plans. The Robert S. and Freida B. Rosow Scholarship requirements reflect the Rosows' belief that a strong work ethic is necessary for academic and career preparation and success. Since the scholarship was established, nearly 50 St. Mary's students who are working their way through college have benefited from the fund. Bob and Freida maintained their ardent support of St. Mary's University throughout their lives. In fact, Bob served as St. Mary's Alumni Association president in 1960 and was honored as the University Distinguished Alumnus in 1975, and the couple regularly attended St. Mary's events, large and small. Because of the generous bequest of Bob and Freida Rosow, their legacy lives on in perpetuity.



Robert S. "Bob" Rosow in a 1999 photograph

"I owe a debt of gratitude to St Mary's. It was the Marianists' vow of poverty that allowed me, a poor Jewish boy from the South Side of San Antonio, to attend the University in 1937. Their principles of honor and ethics made my time at St. Mary's so special. I want to pay back my alma mater until I can give no more."

—Robert Rosow, B.S.C. 1945

*For more information on how to make a difference in the future of St. Mary's University, please contact the Office of Development at (210) 436-3718.*

