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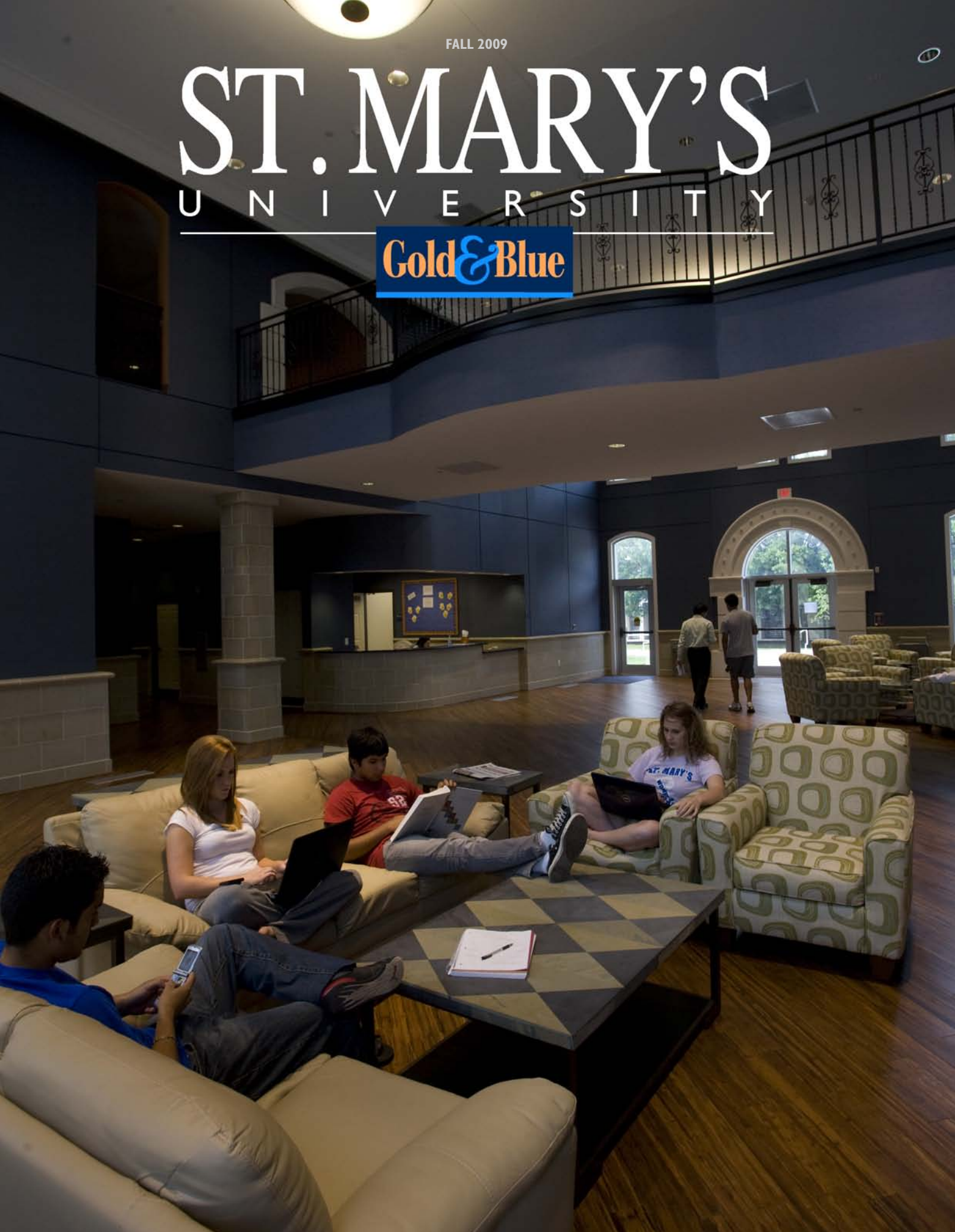
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FALL 2009

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Gold & Blue



F O U N D E R S H A L L



On Nov. 12, 2009, St. Mary's newest residence, Founders Hall, will be dedicated and affixed to the building will be a commemorative plaque that reads:

Founders Hall
is named in honor of the first four
Marianists who arrived in San Antonio.

Brother Andrew Edel, S.M.
Brother Nicholas Koenig, S.M.
Brother John Laignoux, S.M.
and the Rev. Xavier Mauclerc, S.M.

In May 1852, French Marianist missionaries
Brothers Edel, Koenig and Laignoux
founded St. Mary's Institute.

Joined in July by the Rev. Mauclerc, the institute opened
on August 25, 1852, with Brother Edel as its first director.

From these roots grew St. Mary's University,
committed to the Marianist ideals of fostering the formation
of people in faith and educating leaders
through community and academic excellence.

On the front cover:

Relaxing in the main lobby of Founders Hall, St. Mary's newest residential facility, are (from left) Resident Assistant Erik Oviedo, San Antonio freshman and biology major Abbie Riser, Houston freshman and theology major Larry Villalobos, and San Antonio freshman and biology major Morgan Meyer.

On the back cover:

Matt Vela makes a chip shot during tournament play last spring. He was one of the six-member team honored with the Golf Coaches Association of America Academic National Champion title for the 2008-2009 academic school year, marking the sixth national championship in Rattler athletics.

PRESIDENT

Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D.
(B.A. '62, M.A. '64)

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and friends three times a year by the
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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.



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**Class Notes and Notables
In Memoriam and Our Fondest Farewell**

From the Editor

As President Cotrell shares in his message, the new school year brings with it new faces, opportunities and challenges. But, mostly, I think the new year brings anticipation of what the future can be. An economy in flux has certainly taken its toll around the world; however, every day there are more reasons to be optimistic.

This semester, as the St. Mary’s University community welcomed new freshman and transfer undergrads, and graduate and law students to the campus, our hope for each of them is that they have a wonderful experience while here.

Students are attracted to St. Mary’s for many reasons, chief among them academic quality, so we’re pleased the University continues to be ranked high for quality and value in national publications. It doesn’t hurt to have terrific new facilities, either. Just ask the freshmen assigned rooms in Founders Hall, St. Mary’s newest residence that opened this fall. Tom Hoffman, Ph.D., writes about the new core curriculum that next year’s incoming class will encounter.

Faculty and staff research, development and outreach speak directly to St. Mary’s quality. In this issue, you’ll read about how some of them (and sometimes students) spent their summer vacation or “vocation” as the author states it. There’s news about St. Mary’s newest Fulbright recipients, you’ll hear from our new vice president for Mission and Identity and meet two former Rattler athletes turned legal scholars.

Years have gone by, but not so many that I don’t remember how it felt to be a freshman at St. Mary’s – excited, scared, apprehensive about whether the University had made a big mistake accepting me or if I had made one by picking this school more than 1,000 miles away from home.

What happened to me will undoubtedly happen to the majority of these new students. They will work hard, play hard, earn their degrees, make lifelong friends, and learn lifelong skills and enduring values that they’ll carry with them always. I hope St. Mary’s is as good a fit for them as it was for me.

—Candy Kuebker



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D.

New School Year Brings New Faces, Opportunities and Challenges

The commitment of our University community to the hallmarks of a St. Mary's education, including the personal attention we provide students and their access to faculty and quality academic programs, directly affects our overall success in general and, specifically, our enrollment, retention and graduation rates.

Taking the steps necessary to move forward in these difficult economic times speaks to the innovative spirit that has kept St. Mary's University an affordable, quality private school educational option for students throughout Texas, across the country and around the world.

Innovation is Key to Success

Previously I reported to you on the "Access St. Mary's" program for incoming freshmen, established in response to the challenges families are experiencing with the recession. The Access program was aimed at attracting high ability students with strong academic records and significant demonstrated need. This fall, we enrolled more than 50 percent of the students eligible for admission under the program criteria. These nearly 170 students represent more than 30 percent of the freshman class.

Successful programs like this have helped us achieve our freshman class goal while maintaining our admission selectivity. In fact, nearly all of this year's entering freshmen ranked in the top half of their high school graduating classes, with a third falling in the top 10 percent.

In addition, initiatives dedicated to ensuring every undergraduate student persists and graduates on time will continue to improve outcomes of student success. Thanks to these efforts, freshman to sophomore student retention this fall is 80 percent, far surpassing the national average.

Families still are making big sacrifices to send a child to St. Mary's, and they make that sacrifice because of the qualitative benefits their child receives. Small classes taught by professors with advanced degrees in their fields, classrooms supported by modern technology, and one-on-one mentoring sessions with professors are just a few of the benefits St. Mary's students expect, deserve and receive.

But St. Mary's doesn't just subscribe to traditional pedagogy; rather, we augment our teaching with new



technologies and online platforms in response to the unique demands of today's students. Many of them now have PDAs, so we created a mobile site – m.stmarytx.edu – where anyone can check sports scores, find a campus event, and hear late-breaking news and critical advisories. I'm using social networking sites to engage students, past and present, on topics we discuss in the classroom and on campus. I invite you to join the conversations happening on the University's Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and YouTube. And if we're not Facebook friends already, stop by and say hello at www.facebook.com/PresidentCotrell.

Rankings Speak to Quality

As you know, two new academic deans – Tanuja Singh, Ph.D., Bill Greehey School of Business, and Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., School of Science, Engineering and Technology – joined our community this summer. With their exceptional credentials, I am confident they will build on the quality of their respective schools. Already Singh is using her vast marketing background to promote the business school's programs, and Erevelles is leading his school's bid for re-accreditation of electrical and industrial engineering programs, and initiating steps for accreditation of computer engineering.

Speaking of quality, we were notified that St. Mary's, for a 16th consecutive year, is included in the *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" guide. While we are ranked No. 15 in the West for academic reputation (up from No. 16 last year), I am most pleased that St. Mary's retained its No. 4 ranking in the report's "Great Schools, Great Prices" category, meaning the higher the quality of the academic program, and the lower the cost, the better the deal is for our students. St. Mary's is one of only two schools among all of the colleges and universities in San Antonio listed in the top tier for quality and value.

Scholarship endowments help us to maintain high academic quality and that, along with excellent facilities, help us attract and retain high ability students. Our most recent example of this is Founders Hall, filled to capacity for the fall semester. We continue to raise funds for both scholarships and facilities through the *Extending the Tradition of Excellence* campaign, and I invite you to join us in this important fundraising effort. (*Read more about the campaign in the magazine insert.*)

Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's University. ■



NEWS

FROM AROUND THE GROVE

SHORT SUBJECTS

St. Mary's Keeps Quality, Value Ranking

St. Mary's University has a nearly 60 percent graduation rate of all students, which places it among the top colleges and universities in Texas. This is just one of the reasons why St. Mary's is again ranked fourth in the West Region for quality and value in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category of the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges."



As a Catholic Marianist University, St. Mary's continues to foster the formation of people in faith and educates leaders for the common good through community service, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence, as it has since its beginnings in 1852.

New Initiatives Set St. Mary's Apart

St. Mary's has implemented several new initiatives in the past year that speak to academic quality and excellence. Some highlights of these accomplishments include:

- Forensic science degrees with options in biology, chemistry or criminology – the first such degrees in San Antonio – became available this fall for new and returning students.

- Student-managed businesses are being explored in the Bill Greehey School of Business to provide St. Mary's students with the experience of managing a real company. Less than a dozen colleges and universities across the country offer this kind of experiential learning opportunity, and St. Mary's students are in the process of researching different businesses for consideration. Tom Contreras (B.B.A. '88), President of Texas Security General, and his wife, Leti (B.A. '89), contributed \$50,000 to establish the program.

- Automatic admission into the School of Law is expected to enhance recruitment of undergraduate students to St. Mary's that are interested in pursuing a law degree. Within three years of obtaining a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's, a graduate can qualify for automatic admission into the School of Law, provided the academic requirements are met.

Want More News? Go Online



Take a Photo Tour of Founders Hall

Vela Travels to Vatican to Explore Catholic Higher Ed

Senior Year in the Triumphant City – Scholarship helps future Foreign Service Officer focus on Arab language and culture

SABER Institute Studies San Antonio's Creative Industry, NAFTA

Business Leaders to Speak at Bill Greehey Business School Programs

www.stmarytx.edu

Introducing m.stmarytx.edu

St. Mary's has just launched a version of the St. Mary's website for mobile devices. By accessing m.stmarytx.edu viewers can get news, events, sports scores and schedules, as well as social networking sites, including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

According to a recent article posted by Online Schools (www.onlineschools.org), St. Mary's ranks among the country's "Top 100 Twitterers in Academia." According to the site, St. Mary's has "a near-perfect follow/following ratio and tweets about alumni, graduating seniors, and more."



Yellow Ribbon Status is Official

St. Mary's continued its more than 75-year partnership with the nation's military, officially becoming San Antonio's first Yellow Ribbon School this past June.

According to the new Department of Veterans Affairs program guidelines, if a Post-9/11 veteran takes advantage of the benefits made available under the new GI Bill, tuition and fees at any degree-granting school, up to those of the most expensive in-state public university, are covered. Under the Yellow Ribbon program, St. Mary's agrees to waive up to 50 percent of the difference, and VA will match the amount waived.

St. Mary's took the extra step to become a Yellow Ribbon School, assuring eligible veterans the University will cover the difference of their undergraduate or graduate tuition and fees that exceed the state's highest public school's costs.

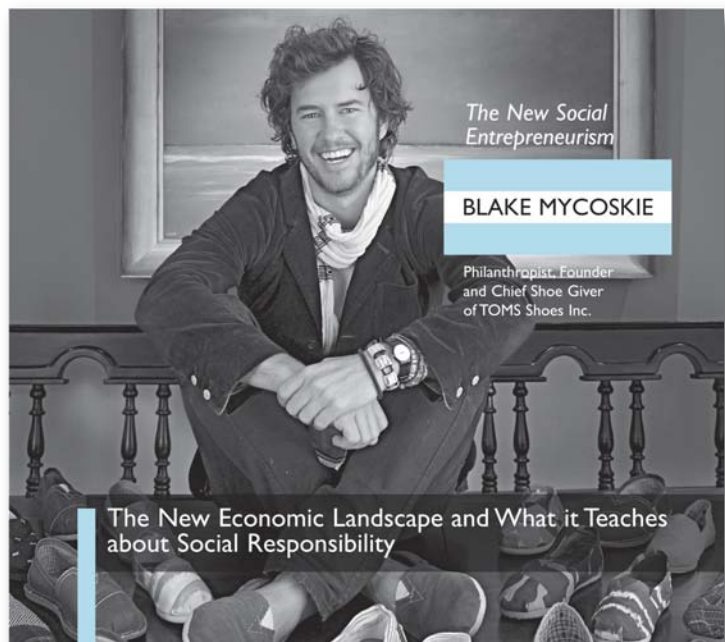
St. Mary's has a long history of support and collaboration with the military through its ROTC program and existing discounted rates for active members of the military. Becoming a Yellow Ribbon School to extend yet another funding option to the nation's distinguished men and women was a natural choice for St. Mary's.

The ROTC program at St. Mary's has commissioned more than 1,400 officers for service in the military, and the University has 27 alumni who have achieved the rank of general or admiral in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Yellow Ribbon initiative resulted in an additional 32 new students enrolling at St. Mary's for the fall 2009 semester, including 14 undergraduates, nine graduate and eight law students, and one doctoral student.

"It has always been a dream of mine to go to law school, but I would not have been able to achieve my dream and take care of my family without the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. I was thrilled to learn that I didn't have to limit my choices due to cost and I am able to attend a top school like St. Mary's School of Law."

— Peter D'Amico, Gulf War Veteran and U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel (Retired)



Lin Series Looks at Economic Landscape

The 2009-2010 Lin Great Speakers Series will explore "The New Economic Landscape and What it Teaches about Social Responsibility" when it brings to campus one of the new faces of American entrepreneurship and a nationally known journalist whose focus is economics and business.

- Oct. 14, 2009 – Blake Mycoskie, "The New Social Entrepreneurism"
- Feb. 16, 2010 – David Brancaccio, "Adventures in Economic Disaster: What the Financial Crisis Means for Justice and Jobs in the Next Generation"

Blake Mycoskie, philanthropist, founder and chief shoe giver of TOMS Shoes Inc., practices a "one for one" business model. For every pair of TOMS shoes sold, another new pair goes to a needy child somewhere in the world. Mycoskie will discuss how the purchasing power of individuals can foster the greater good and how an entrepreneur can succeed financially while making the world a better place.

David Brancaccio, the host of NOW on PBS, brings clarity to the complex social, political, and economic issues shaping our democracy. His lecture draws on his experience covering business and economic issues around the world. Fusing this experience with his years spent covering the global economy, he looks at how the economic downturn will affect all segments of society and commerce, today and tomorrow.

The lectures are free and open to the public, and take place at 7 p.m. in the University Center on the St. Mary's campus.

Law School Earns Service Recognition

The Texas Access to Justice Commission selected St. Mary's University School of Law as the 2009 Law School Commitment to Service Award recipient. According to the Commission, this award recognizes the law school that has most distinguished itself by actively educating its students about access to justice issues, thereby carrying forward one of the finest traditions of the legal profession in Texas. The Commission identifies St. Mary's School of Law's commitment to the provision of legal services to the poor as "truly exceptional."

The St. Mary's University Center for Legal and Social Justice faculty, staff and students are committed to providing legal services to the poor and disenfranchised of San Antonio and South Texas. According to St. Mary's School of Law Dean Charles E. Cantú, teaching students to serve their community is the best education – both Catholic and legal – St. Mary's can provide.

St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice provides a supportive learning environment for law students who, under the supervision of a faculty member, serve as the attorney of record for indigent clients not adequately represented by other providers. Law student volunteers serve the needs of clients in three practice areas – civil, criminal, and immigration and human rights.

The School of Law will accept the award at the New Lawyer Induction Ceremony in Austin on Nov. 16.



More than 500 students, faculty and staff participated in the back-to-school “Continuing the Heritage,” a semi-annual day of service organized by St. Mary’s Service Learning Center. Volunteers gave more than 2,100 hours of service to 17 area nonprofit groups in one day.

Service Learning Center Named “Partner of the Year”

St. Mary’s University learned during the summer that Communities in Schools (CIS), a local outreach organization, named the Service Learning Center as its “2009 Partner of the Year.”

CIS helps students stay in school and make the right choices by connecting schools with needed community resources. By bringing services, community agencies, parents and volunteers into schools, CIS works hand-in-hand with educators to reach out to students most at risk for dropping out of school.

The Service Learning Center at St. Mary’s challenges and supports students through service learning experiences that engage them in direct service work with the community, addressing systemic and recurrent social problems in their neighborhoods, and around the world. CIS is one of the organizations that St. Mary’s students work with, mentoring at-risk students at Memorial High School and Loma Park Elementary School.

Video Streaming Impacts Graduations

New during spring graduations this past May – and partly in response to the H1N1 (Swine) Flu situation – the University offered live video and audio streaming of both of its ceremonies. Collectively, hundreds of households logged into the events, including viewers from all parts of the country and from as far away as India. Because of this overwhelming response, St. Mary’s will offer live video and audio streaming of future graduation ceremonies.

On May 9, 381 undergraduate and graduate students walked across the stage after listening to commencement speaker Nevil Shed, a member of the Texas Western College National Championship Basketball Team (1965-66), whose story was the basis for the 2006 movie *Glory Road*. Shed spoke to graduates about overcoming adversity with determination, no matter what the challenges.

St. Mary’s School of Law held its 75th commencement ceremony on May 16, with Missouri’s Lieutenant Governor and St. Mary’s alumnus Peter Kinder (J.D. ’79) delivering the keynote address. There were 203 new J.D. and five LL.M. degrees awarded during the ceremony.



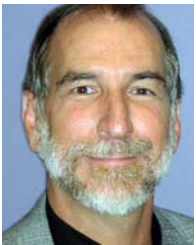
Fitz

Catholic Lecture Series Set

Now in its seventh year, the St. Mary’s University Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series invites men and women who have shaped the Catholic Intellectual Tradition to share their views of Catholicism itself, in all of its richness, complexity and ambiguity. The series’ goal is to examine Catholicism in its many dimensions, including historical, intellectual, cultural, artistic and devotional.

This year’s schedule includes:

- **Oct. 21, 2009** Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M.
- **Feb. 10, 2010** Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D.
- **April 7, 2010** Melanie M. Morey, Ph.D.



Galligan-Stierle

Brother Ray Fitz, S.M., was the longest-serving president in the University of Dayton’s history. Since stepping down as president in 2002 after 23 years, he has worked in the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community as the Ferree Professor of Social Justice at the University of Dayton, a position that connects Catholic social teaching and the social sciences through the community-building mission of the Center.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D., the vice president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, has more than 35 years of experience in higher education and various ministerial settings. The primary focus of his work is higher education and ministry with young adults. His book, *Gospel on Campus*, is a standard for Catholic campus ministry in the United States.

Melanie M. Morey, Ph.D., the senior director for Research and Consulting at NarrowGate Consulting, a division of the Catholic Education Institute, has worked for 35 years in the areas of education and administration. With expertise in Catholic culture,



Morey

leadership, institutional identity and governance, Morey is a recognized and sought after researcher and consultant to Catholic institutions of higher education as well other Catholic institutions.

All lectures are free and open to the public, and take place at 7 p.m. in the University Center on St. Mary’s campus.

Progress Continues on Area Revitalization

The St. Mary's Neighborhood Revitalization Project's Commercial Revitalization Committee, a group focusing on business development along Bandera and Culebra roads, has nearly completed the first phase of the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) Program. This phase involves meeting with business proprietors and assessing area needs as well as developing an action plan for revitalization. By obtaining the NCR designation, the St. Mary's Revitalization Project will receive \$360,000 over six years for commercial revitalization in the area.

In addition, one of the Project partners, San Antonio Alternative Housing Corp. (SAAHC), began their efforts to build 13 new houses in the area and provide mortgage education to potential first time homeowners. A SAAHC staff member is now available to meet with area residents in the AT&T Center for Information Technology on campus. SAAHC has already provided many training sessions to prospective homeowners.

The area around and including St. Mary's is a priority of San Antonio District 7 Councilman Justin Rodriguez

who is exploring opportunities for housing and commercial revitalization and considering financial support for these efforts. Plans are moving forward for a neighborhood pocket park, a collaborative effort between the city, the University Park Neighborhood Association and St. Mary's.



President's Peace Commission Searches for Good in a Bad Economy

In the fall of 2008, rumors of a recession were confirmed when the effects of Wall Street's troubles began to show up on the main streets of towns and cities across the United States and the rest of the world. The struggling financial sector, corporate cutbacks, and widespread layoffs became part of everyday news and caused economic woes for countless people.

During the President's Peace Commission's fall program, presenters will explore whether the impact the

recession has had on the political, economic, and cultural climate of the country is necessarily a bad thing, and whether, in a worsening economy, making changes in our values and lifestyles offers hope to us in this troubling time.

The University Center on campus is the site for all sessions during the Oct. 27-28 program, and the public is welcome to attend. Go to www.stmarytx.edu/ppc for more details and the full program listing.

Sigma Beta Chi Celebrating 60 Years

Sigma Beta Chi fraternity is celebrating its 60-year anniversary at St. Mary's University next spring. Plans for a fraternity reunion are in the works and will coincide with the annual St. Mary's Homecoming Weekend, scheduled for March 26-28, 2010. Alumni members will receive a mailing later in the fall. Questions may be directed to Walt Duvall at walter_duvall@sbcglobal.net.

NEWSMAKERS

Solma Appointed Provincial-Elect

The Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., has been appointed provincial-elect of the Marianist Province of the United States. Solma will serve an initial term of five years, beginning July 1, 2010. As Provincial, he will also serve as Chancellor of St. Mary's University.

A Cleveland, Ohio native, Solma earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and a master's degree from Boston College before attending University of St. Michael's College in Toronto where he received a Master of Divinity. Solma was ordained in 1978 in Dayton, Ohio. His experiences have taken him from Kalamazoo to Kenya, beginning as a teacher of religious education and English in high schools and including more than 25 years of ministry in Eastern Africa.

Currently, Solma serves as director of the Marianist Scholasticate and at Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School in Nairobi, where he has been actively involved in the school's development for more than 13 years.

McGrath Named AMU Executive Director

St. Mary's President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., announced in June that the Rev. John A. McGrath, S.M., Ph.D., has been chosen as the new executive director of the Association of Marianist Universities (AMU), beginning Jan. 1, 2010. Cotrell is chair of AMU.

McGrath, who has served on St. Mary's Board of Trustees for the past eight years, will replace Brother Ray Fitz, S.M., former president of the University of Dayton and the first executive director of the AMU.

McGrath served in various leadership positions within the Society of Mary, including as Provincial of the New York Province from 1977 to 1985. He currently teaches in the Religious Studies Department at the University of Dayton, where he has been since 1987.

St. Mary's University, the University of Dayton and Chaminade University of Honolulu make up the membership of AMU. Because of McGrath's deep commitment to the Catholic and Marianist mission of the universities, as well as his leadership experience and academic background, he is well suited to lead this collaborative effort between the three Marianist institutions.

American Hostages Tell Their Story

In 2003, three American civilians crash-landed in the mountainous Colombian jungle where they were held hostage for the next five and a half years by one of the world's most notorious terrorist organizations. Marc Gonsalves and Keith Stansell recounted their harrowing tale of survival, brotherhood and rescue at St. Mary's School of Law late last spring as part of the Center for Terrorism Law's Distinguished Speaker Series.

The men were prisoners of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, also known as FARC, a Colombian terrorist and Marxist rebel organization, and have written a book about their plight, *Out of Captivity: Surviving 1,967 Days in the Colombian Jungle*.

Chamber Honors Cotrell with Lifetime Achievement Award

The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award on St. Mary's President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., for his dedicated service to the San Antonio community and to the Chamber.

The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is the oldest organization of its type in the United States, having been originally chartered in 1929. Today there are more than 600 such chambers across the nation.

New Dean of Students Arrives on Campus



Timothy Bessler, Ed.D., arrived on campus in late June, assuming responsibilities as Dean of Students. Bessler comes to

St. Mary's from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, where he was Assistant Dean of Students. He attended Xavier University for his bachelor's degree and received his doctorate in higher education from Florida International University in Miami.

Bessler has more than 10 years experience in the field of student development. He has designed and implemented student life programs that have resulted in increased student satisfaction and overall retention. His leadership will help provide students with an energetic, educational environment that engages them civically and spiritually.

GOOD DEEDS

Marianist Trust Funds Scholarships, Programs

This past April, members of the Marianist Trust Board allocated more than \$275,000 to St. Mary's University for the 2009-2010 academic year, 90 percent of which is for direct student scholarships and financial grants.



NAIA Taps Meyer for Hall of Fame

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) will induct former St. Mary's men's basketball coach and player Herman "Buddy" Meyer into the NAIA Hall of Fame, recognizing him as "a person of outstanding quality, high

moral character, fine leadership ability and someone who is held in high esteem by colleagues, coaches and athletes."

Between player, assistant coach and head coach, Meyer spent a total of 41 years at St. Mary's. He was the head coach of the Rattlers for 27 years, serving as the athletics director at the school for 21 of those years.

As head coach for the Rattlers, Meyer won 530 games; he helped lead the Rattlers to 13 appearances in the NAIA National Tournament and four trips to the NCAA Division II regional tournament. He guided St. Mary's to 17 conference championships and was named conference coach of the year 11 times.

In 1989, Meyer led the Rattlers to the NAIA National Championship. He was named NAIA National Coach of the Year that season.

Meyer is one of 15 individuals who will be inducted into the 2009-2010 NAIA Hall of Fame. He will be inducted at the Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship in Kansas City, Mo., March 16, 2010.

Undergraduate students who will receive nearly \$200,000 in scholarships this year are participants in the Marianist Leadership Program at St. Mary's, where they engage in various academic and social endeavors under the direction of program moderator Sister Gretchen Trautman, F.M.I. Graduate programs receiving scholarship allocations from the Marianist Trust are theology, education, and international relations.

The Marianist Trust, established in the 1970s from the salaries of professed Marianists working at the University, continues to be a major source of financial aid for students. The current Board membership is composed of Brothers Charles Cummiskey, Fred Halwe, Terry O'Connor, Michael Sullivan and Reverends John Leies and Richard Wosman, all of St. Mary's University, and ex officio member Brother Joe Markel, head of Temporalities for the Marianist Province of the United States.

Alkek Foundation Funds Improvements, Scholarships

A \$200,000 gift from the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation is designated for use in the Bill Greehey School of Business. Funds will be used for upgrades in technology and new

equipment in four classrooms in the Albert B. Alkek Business Building, as well as for renovation and furniture in two additional classrooms in the building. Three one-year scholarships for M.B.A. students are also funded by the gift.

Law Scholarships on the Rise

Charles E. Cantú, dean, reports that gifts and pledges to the School of Law are on the rise. Recent gifts include:

- \$100,000 from the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of 1992 for the George and Elizabeth Huth Coates Dean's Scholarship Award
- \$30,000 contributed by Carol Thompson to the Sarah Thompson Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
- \$25,000 from the Rose-Walker Law Firm in Dallas for the Rose-Walker Law Scholarship Endowment
- \$25,000 from St. Mary's graduate Sara Dysart (B.A. '74, J.D. '81) to fund the Sara E. Dysart Law Scholarship Endowment

Moreover, pledges to endow scholarships include:

- \$50,000 from Ricardo Cedillo
- \$50,000 from The Sierra Title Insurance Group of the Rio Grande Valley
- \$25,000 from Roy Barrera Jr.

In addition, a \$10,000 gift to the Center for Terrorism Law came from XIT Networks LLC.

University Secures More Academic Money for Students

St. Mary's has received a number of significant gifts over the past several months in support of academic scholarships. They include:

- A planned gift of \$150,000 for undergraduate student scholarships from Robert P. Smith (B.B.A. '70) and his late wife, Karen Evans Smith
- More than \$130,000 to endow the Bill Crane Memorial Scholarship from the dissolution of the Bill G. Crane Trust
- \$125,000 from the John Frederic Estate to the Col. John Frederic Scholarship Fund, which now stands at \$325,000, for active Air Force personnel attending the University
- \$33,500 from the San Antonio Livestock Exposition Inc. (SALE) for students majoring in the biological sciences
- Nearly \$26,000 from the Alamo Area Council of Governments to establish the Al (B.A. '60) and Angela Notzon Endowed Scholarship for St. Mary's alumni pursuing a master's degree in public administration at St. Mary's
- \$25,000 added to the Brother Paul Goelz Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies by Dennis McCarthy (B.B.A. '51)
- \$25,000 from the Kenedy Memorial Foundation (KMF) for the KMF Initiative Scholarship
- \$24,000 from Hero Assemblers LP and Hero Logistics LP for the Hero Annual Scholarship for first-generation college students
- \$13,000 to begin the Gary J. Thompson Memorial Scholarship, named after the longtime St. Mary's Bookstore manager who died last November, and the awards from which will be for recipients' textbooks
- An annual \$7,500 gift added to the Leonard E. and Shirley Sterling Scholarship Fund from the foundation of the same name
- \$6,500 from Sembradores de Amistad of San Antonio, an organization that has supported St. Mary's with scholarship assistance for more than 20 years



Flores Named All-American

Junior softball player Arlynda Flores received first team All-American recognition by Daktronics as a utility player for her play during the season last spring. Flores, a native of Uvalde, earned first team honors after hitting .401 with 15 doubles, 24 homeruns, 72 RBI and 56 runs scored at the plate. Her homerun total tied the St. Mary's single-season school record, while her RBI total is a new school record. Flores' 24 homeruns tied for third in the nation last season.

The first team All-American pick is just another in a string of awards for Flores that include Daktronics first team All-South Central Region for the second straight season, first team All-Heartland Conference and Heartland Conference Player of the Year.

Flores is the 41st Rattler to earn All-American honors and the 16th since the Rattlers moved to NCAA Division II in 2001.

SPORTS CORNER

Rattlers Honored for Academics and Athletics

Eight St. Mary's student-athletes earned honors for their combined work in the classroom and on the field during the 2009 spring semester. Six Rattlers made *CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District, while two others earned GCAA Cleveland Golf All-American Scholar recognition.

Recognized with academic all-district honors were softball team junior catcher Kelly Baker and junior utility player Arlynda Flores, baseball team senior pitcher Scott Shimek and sophomore infielder Colin Stock, and junior tennis player Vitas Van Dijk.

In men's golf Preston Akromis and Alex Maurer both earned All-American scholar recognition, while Maurer also received academic all-district recognition.

Over the past 27 years, 213 Rattler student-athletes have received regional or national academic awards, including 12 who earned Academic All-American recognition.

Attendance at Events Targeted



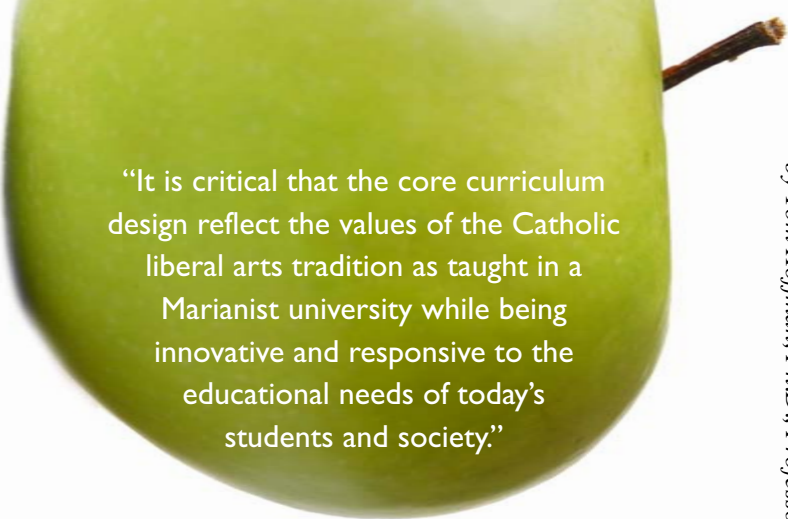
A major initiative began this fall to increase attendance at all home athletic events, using traditional and newer technologies to achieve success.

Social media, including Twitter and Facebook, are helping to spread the word about Rattler athletics. In addition, traditional methods such as e-mail, posters and the athletics website (www.rattlerathletics.com) will assist in the promotion of upcoming events.

To help increase attendance, plans are in the works for more contests, use of the video boards and performances to energize the atmosphere at home events.

Student-athletes themselves will more actively promote their home games to friends and classmates.

Alumni and friends are invited to join in creating one of the best home court advantages in the NCAA South Central Region and the state of Texas.



“It is critical that the core curriculum design reflect the values of the Catholic liberal arts tradition as taught in a Marianist university while being innovative and responsive to the educational needs of today’s students and society.”

by Tom Hoffman, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

Down to the Core

Such was the challenge by President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., to the Core Curriculum Revision Committee at its first meeting in April 2008. The 14-member committee, appointed by Cotrell and chaired by me, was comprised of faculty from the schools of Humanities and Social Sciences; Science, Engineering and Technology; and the Bill Greehey School of Business. At that meeting, Cotrell called for a collaborative and transparent process and, if possible, a formulated and approved core curriculum within a year.

On April 3, 2009 – after widespread consultation and votes by faculty, deans and University administrators – the St. Mary’s Board of Trustees adopted the new core curriculum for all undergraduate students, fulfilling President Cotrell’s directive.

Core has three-prong approach

Most of us likely remember the core we followed while at St. Mary’s. But what is unique about today’s core? Designed to aid in students’ development of an “authentic human life,” the new core educates them to engage with nature and with others, develop self-identity, and be in relationship with God. The committee developed objectives aimed at fulfilling these goals as well as common objectives. All of the new core curriculum courses are required to fulfill certain of these objectives. In short, the new core is well thought-out and purposeful.

The three major parts of the new core curriculum are the St. Mary’s Core, special features including a seminar and portfolio that support the St. Mary’s Core and a School Specific Core.

Graduates of St. Mary’s who complete the new core will share common characteristics. They will be independent thinkers, capable of critical inquiry. They will understand and apply information from many sources. They will be citizens of the world, comfortable discussing local, national and global issues in a thoughtful and open-minded way. They will be skillful communicators with sound problem-solving abilities. And they will have developed their spiritual lives in a community context. They will be prepared to improve humanity for



the common good, through their careers, their personal pursuits and habits, and their faith-filled lives.

Integrating the core

The culmination of the St. Mary’s Core takes place during the senior year with the Capstone Seminar: Prospects for Community and Civilization, designed to integrate all core courses before it. Leading up to the seminar, students complete a series of courses beginning with Foundations of Civilization, followed by Foundations of Reflection courses focusing on nature, others, self and God. Later, students take Foundations of Practice courses in ethics, civic engagement and social action, fine arts and the creative process, and literature.

From the start, students maintain a Core Portfolio of the work they do in their core courses to help them understand the integration of the coursework. Another unique requirement is completion of 30 hours of service or service learning, including a reflection component that is included in the students’ portfolios. All undergraduates complete the St. Mary’s Core, the capstone seminar, and keep a core portfolio.

While all students take introductory writing, speech, foreign language and

theology, the School Specific Core recognizes the three undergraduate schools have different emphases; therefore, the courses in this part of the core will vary. Thus, the coursework students take in social science/history, science, math/quantitative reasoning, fine arts, literature and advanced writing will clearly complement the student’s major course of study.

An “authentic human life”

The paths students follow to fulfill their degree requirements at St. Mary’s are many; however, the core helps each of them to develop an “authentic human life.” Students should graduate from St. Mary’s with the knowledge and skills they need to pursue their chosen careers. Hence, the new core is innovative and responsive to the educational needs of today’s students and society. The freshman class of 2010 will be the first to experience the new core.

While being able to make a living is one outcome of a St. Mary’s education, we want our graduates to be agents of positive change in society. That the design of the new core reflects the values of the Catholic liberal arts tradition as taught in our Marianist University is perhaps more important for our students – and for humanity – in that they are prepared to lead lives that are meaningful beyond their professions to the betterment of the common good. ■



Tom Hoffman, Ph.D., was handpicked by President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., early in 2008 to lead the Core Curriculum Revision Committee. Hoffman has taught in the Department of Political Science since

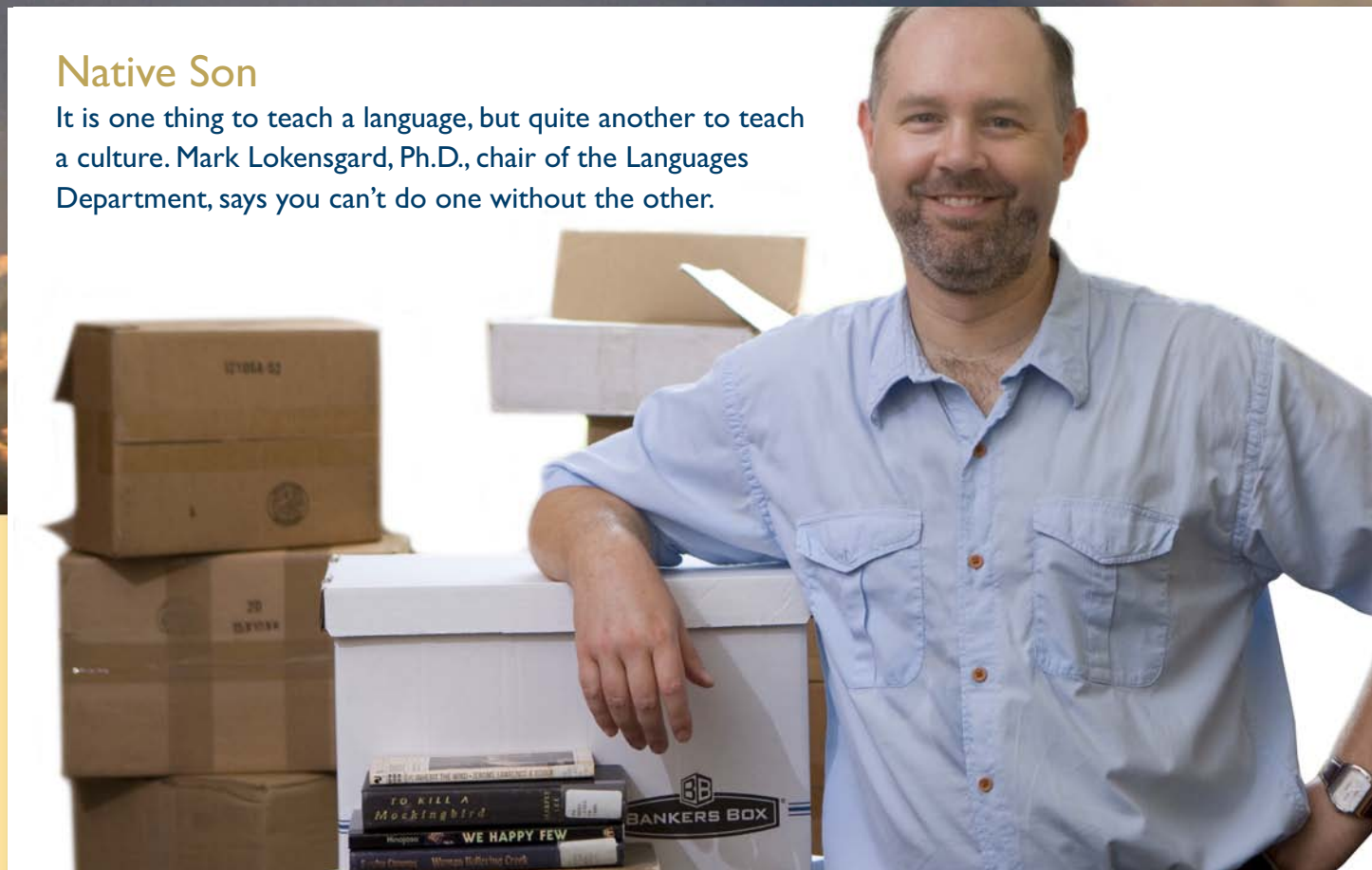
1982. After earning his bachelor’s degree in political science from St. Mary’s University, he went on to earn master’s and doctorate degrees in political science from the University of Arizona. At St. Mary’s, Hoffman teaches Texas Politics, Religion and Politics, Classical Political Thought and Political Research Methodology, among other courses.

by Lucha Ramey, Media Relations Director

Futures Bright for Two Fulbrights

Native Son

It is one thing to teach a language, but quite another to teach a culture. Mark Lokensgard, Ph.D., chair of the Languages Department, says you can't do one without the other.



That's the approach he used when he started the Portuguese program 10 years ago – one of few in the country – at St. Mary's. He incorporates Portuguese literature and cinema into the classroom to expose American students to the values, social structures, struggles and history of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Lokensgard first visited Brazil while working with a public health program in Paraguay the summer before his freshman year at Stanford University. He spoke fluent Spanish, but to his amazement it was of no use in Brazil where Portuguese is the official language. Counting only native speakers, Portuguese is the world's sixth most widely spoken language. Lusophone, or Portuguese-speaking,

nations also include countries like Angola and Mozambique. After that seminal trip, he became enamored with learning as much as he could about Brazil, even earning a double degree in English and Brazilian Literature from Stanford.

Lokensgard went on to get his doctorate in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies from Brown University. He has since dedicated his academic career to immersing himself in the Lusophone culture so he might impart its beauty and complexity to American students.

The tables will turn, however, next spring when Lokensgard travels to São Paulo, Brazil, to teach Brazilians about American culture. On a Fulbright

Lecturing Award, Lokensgard will teach American Studies at the Center for American Studies at the Armando Álvares Penteado Foundation. His goal is to use American literature and cinema to illustrate the American justice system and Texas' cowboy image.

For the first time, Lokensgard will become the *Native Son*. Along with this Richard Wright novel, Lokensgard will use a variety of books including *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *In a Narrow Grave: Essays on Texas*, and movies like *Twelve Angry Men* and *Friday Night Lights*, to delve below the surface of the America with which many Brazilians are already familiar.

Two of St. Mary's own have earned the nickname of "Fulbrighters" – a lighthearted nickname for a prestigious achievement. The competitive Fulbright Scholarship is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. This year, a professor and a student travel to opposite ends of the earth in search of mutual understanding between cultures.



Foreign Service not a Foreign Concept to Alums

The prestigious Fulbright is not just for professors – scholarships are also awarded to students.

"I'm interested in learning what happens when you teach about your native culture," explains Lokensgard. "What are the advantages and the pitfalls?" he asks.

Through his selections, Lokensgard will introduce his Brazilian students to American social structures and culture, such as race-based discrimination and the concept of a jury of your peers. Both are foreign concepts in Brazilian culture; discrimination is typically based on socioeconomic lines, not the color of one's skin in Brazil. In addition, judges make the decisions in the Brazilian courts, not juries. Lokensgard will also explore how and why Texas has become America's face to the world.

"Brazilians already know a lot about America, the people and our culture," Lokensgard says. But he hopes his courses will probe deeper. On his Fulbright Lecturing Award he hopes to answer the question: will Brazilian students' pre-existing impressions about Americans change or be enhanced? The answer, Lokensgard says, will help him when he returns to teaching students at St. Mary's. ■

Recently, international relations and economics alumna Vanessa Colón (B.A. '09) became the first St. Mary's student to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.

Colón has been meticulously planning the next six years of her career since her commencement this past May. In the spring of 2010, she will teach English to high school students in Malaysia – an experience that will help prepare her for a career in the Foreign Service, joining the ranks of 30 plus St. Mary's alumni who have become Foreign Service officers.

She was also named a fellow in the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, which sends her to Capitol Hill, enrolls her in graduate school, places her in an internship with an American embassy, and gives her a job in the State Department.

"St. Mary's gave me a sense of service and giving back," she explains. "Working for the State Department, I'd

be traveling and helping others." Colón is just the second St. Mary's student to receive the Rangel Fellowship.

At the beginning of this summer, Colón interned for Congressman José E. Serrano, D-N.Y. in Washington, D.C., as part of her fellowship. There she attended hearings and briefings on issues ranging from healthcare reform to the Iranian elections.

The Fellowship will expose Colón to the world of politics, experience she needs to become a well rounded and well informed Foreign Service officer. But it will also cover the majority of the cost to attend graduate school at Syracuse University while she pursues a master's in public administration and international relations.

Colón started classes this summer at Syracuse and will take a "break" from January to August in 2010 to conduct her Fulbright. After she returns from Malaysia and fulfills the remainder of her Rangel Fellowship commitments, Colón will work for the State Department for at least three years.

"Working for the State Department is my dream job," says Colón, and she plans on staying with the department past her required three years. ■



St. Mary's University holds a special place in the heart of two former Rattler athletes and current law students. Not only did they find their academic home here, but their life partners and the pathway to their futures.



Collanne Bramblett-West is a native of the small Texas town of Clint just outside of El Paso. She came to St. Mary's as a transfer student from West Texas A&M University interested in joining the Lady Rattler volleyball team. At St. Mary's she found her place on the volleyball court as well as a home in a close-knit community.

"I just really liked St. Mary's," said Collanne. "It was a smaller community, more personal, not a cookie-cutter program like the bigger schools. There was just a different feeling here."

She played volleyball for two years and finished her undergraduate degree in English communication-arts while working as a student assistant coach.

All his life, Christopher West grew up in Killeen playing different sports. A tennis player, he was recruited to St. Mary's from Temple Junior College. It was the love of sports that eventually led him to the love of his

life, Collanne. Chris was a member of the 'Spandex Crew' — a rowdy group of students that followed the volleyball team and boisterously cheered for them at all the games. Collanne was one of those volleyball players. Chris and Collanne met, fell in love, and were married on St. Patrick's Day in 2007, a year after her graduation.

When he wasn't helping to coach the tennis team as an assistant, Chris was completing his degree in biology with a chemistry minor and doing prostate cancer research at St. Mary's. He later went on to the University of Texas Health Science Center, working his way towards a doctorate in molecular medicine.

Though Chris was knee-deep in a medical career, those solitary days in the lab didn't feel right to him. He was instead inspired by the Bramblett family's legal legacy and how they all seemed invigorated by their careers. Collanne's parents Coll and Mary Anne Bramblett and her grandfather

Legally Bound

by Beth Barbee, Law Communications Coordinator

C.R. “Kit” Bramblett all are graduates of St. Mary’s School of Law, classes of 1980, 1982 and 1975, respectively. Her father is an El Paso lawyer, her mother a state judge for the 41st District Court, and her grandfather the Hudspeth County Attorney.

“After spending more time with my wife’s parents, who are both lawyers and really enjoy the field, it solidified that law was the right field for me,” said Chris. “I can debate and interact with people, exactly what I was missing in the lab.”

The newlyweds decided that their future would begin with three years of legal study at St. Mary’s School of Law. A new marriage and a full-time course load are daunting tasks on their own. But the pair of self-proclaimed overachievers decided that if they both were to tackle law school, they would do it simultaneously and side-by-side.

“It is beneficial for us to be in this together,” said Chris. “We see one another a lot, we know what the other is doing and going through. We don’t get tired of one another and we still love our date nights – when we get to take them. Going to law school together was one of the smartest decisions we’ve made as a couple. The competitiveness drives us to be better.”

According to Collanne, the competitive streak can be trying at times.

“Obviously, we are both extremely competitive,” she explains. “That has been the hardest to deal with. Starting out, we took the same classes, studied together, put in the same amount of work, so if one of us scored higher than the other, that could be a problem.”

As they begin to hone different interests, they also take different

courses but still spend time together at school and at the library. The competitive fire burning in both of these students always pushes them to be the best, a quality they attribute to their years in athletics.

“Law school is a very competitive atmosphere – many things I’ve learned playing sports have helped me here. Most importantly to be humble, you’re not always going to win,” said Collanne.

“Student athletes, especially at St. Mary’s, have a rigorous study schedule,” Chris continues. “It really teaches you how to work hard and focus. Being a student athlete, succeeding at both, and meeting my wife have been my greatest accomplishments.”

Today, Chris and Collanne are preparing for their third year of law school as they take on yet another challenge hand-in-hand – editing *St. Mary’s Law Journal* together.

St. Mary’s Law Journal is one of the country’s most frequently cited law reviews. A Washington and Lee University survey ranked the *Journal* as the 13th most cited law review in 2008 out of 1,443 law reviews. Student staff writers and members of the *Journal’s* Editorial Board strive to provide the judiciary and the legal community with relevant, well-written legal scholarship.

“It is such an honor to be chosen for the Editorial Board,” said Collanne. “It was such a surprise for us both to be chosen from the pool of so many great applicants. We are honored.”

“We worked hard,” agreed Chris, “so we were excited to take on these positions. I’m a little scared to live up to the reputation of the *Journal*, but I’m confident we can do it.”

Chris is the editor-in-chief of the *St. Mary’s Law Journal* for the 2009-2010 academic year. Collanne is the Symposium Editor, meaning she will put together the spring symposium on legal malpractice and professional ethics and then publish the articles from the conference in a special issue. Collanne sees her appointment at the *Journal* as the pinnacle of her law school career and her greatest accomplishment to date.

“This whole experience has taught me to have more faith in my own abilities,” said Collanne. “The first year, I didn’t think I’d make the grades I did. The second year I didn’t think I’d make the *Journal*, and the third year I didn’t think I’d make the board. I have learned to have more faith in myself.”

She may have doubted herself, but beginning early in her law school career, others saw her and her husband as standouts.

“[They] quickly stood out in their first-year class,” said Vincent R. Johnson, professor of law at St. Mary’s. “When they worked for me, they checked hundreds of cases in the third edition of my torts casebook to determine which were still good law and could be cited in the fourth edition. The work was extremely tedious, but essential—which is exactly the kind of work good lawyers do.”

Both spent the summer clerking at local law firms in their areas of interest and are looking forward to their last year of law school as editors of the *Journal*.

“Coming from where we have, both making the *Journal* and the board, it really shows how strong our relationship is and the kind of drive we both have,” said Chris. ■

Summer Vacation

by Nicolette Good, Communications Coordinator
and Lucha Ramey, Media Relations Director

A handful of St. Mary's professors and students spent the summer months on the coast, in the mountains, and in the idyllic countryside. But hardly taking the summer "off," this group spent the summer "on." Their excursions took them to Central America and New England in the name of artistic expression, social justice, and the Marianist charism.

Indigenous Development: Bolivia as a Case Study

For a group of 11 graduate and undergraduate students majoring in international relations, the task at hand for summer vacation was an up-close-and-personal study of Bolivia's oppressed indigenous people and their rise to power.

International Relations and Political Science Professor Larry Hufford, Ph.D., and Accounting Department Chair Tom Madison, Ph.D., arranged for students to meet with various Bolivian government and community organizations.

Evo Morales, elected in 2005, is Bolivia's first fully indigenous president in the 470 years since the Spanish Conquest. The majority of Bolivia's population is indigenous, but until recently, racism has kept the country's native Indians from having full citizenship.

Hufford, who has organized 21 immersion trips over the past 15 years, selects poor countries in transition to expose students to the complexities of developing nations.

As a Bill Greehey School of Business faculty member, Madison's participation helped students understand economic development and how the market system can work to benefit the world's poorest people. But Madison says these trips also benefit him when he returns to the classroom at St. Mary's.

"These trips have made St. Mary's mission statement come alive for me," said Madison. "It makes it easier to discuss the topics of business ethics and corporate responsibility in a more realistic and meaningful manner."

Criminal Justice and Criminology Professor Milo Colton, Ph.D., was able to add his insight during the trip as a Cherokee Indian. He felt a deep connection and had a tremendous amount of pride. "It was like reconnecting with my people," he said. "To see them in a position of power was something I've never experienced in my life."

However, at least one student felt that Bolivians remain



St. Mary's students and faculty in Bolivia.

fragmented. Graduate international relations student Mercedes Lopez (B.A. '04) felt that even though Morales is president, she didn't sense that the indigenous people "have accepted that they have come into power." Lopez says there's a strong feeling among other tribes that Morales only represents this group.

Senior international relations, economics and math major Alfonso de la Torre-Navarte's native country is Peru, which also has a large indigenous population. "Peru is more advanced when it comes to recognizing the indigenous in the law," he said, "but it is behind socially in accepting indigenous culture, which, in Peru, is seen as backward."

These various viewpoints crystallize the complexity of Bolivia and developing countries, says Hufford, giving students invaluable real life experiences.

"It is a good, short, intense experience," said Hufford, "that lets students know whether or not they are cut out for careers in foreign service, intelligence, development or conflict resolution."

Marianist Charism Abroad

University Ministry and the Service Learning Center gave eight students a first-hand look at the Marianist charism in action and the daily

struggles of Peru's poor indigenous peoples and communities in need last May.

The trip was organized by Brother Brian Halderman, S.M., university minister of social justice, along with Lynette Bernot, minister for spiritual development. Both Halderman and Bernot lived and worked with Marianist outreach

groups in Peru at

different times, and when they discovered their common bond, plans for an immersion trip took root.

During the 11-day trip, students traveled to Lima, coastal Callao, and Marianist institutions in mountainous Otuzco. They also worked with Marianist outreach organizations, including an elderly day center and a center for middle-aged males with psychological and behavioral problems.

The students lived with families in homes without heat, running water or indoor plumbing. But they also experienced the beauty of Peru's culture.

"The people really blew me away with how kind and generous they were," said public administration graduate student Gabe Hernandez (B.S. '09). "When we lived with the families, they didn't have much, but they tried to give us the best that they could. We learned a lot from what they told us."

There, Hernandez was able to apply his biochemistry major to real world environmental problems when he

aided the Asociación Marianista de Acción Social (AMAS), a group that educates villagers on the disastrous ecological impact that nearby silver mines have on their water supply. AMAS teaches villagers how to sanitize water using chlorine, monitor pH balances, measure oxygen levels, and check for bacteria in the water-capturing tanks.

"I got a big sense of what it is to be a Marianist," said Hernandez. "There are other ways to use what you've learned. It's not just about getting a job or raising money for a cause. You can get involved, use your education and what you've learned to teach others, which better enhances their lives."

This is just what Halderman hoped would happen. He looks for opportunities to help students make real and practical connections to Catholic social teachings.

Bernot said she wanted students to come away with a deeper understanding of Marianist values. "Despite the language and cultural differences," said Bernot, "our students felt the Marianist spirit in Peru just as they do in San Antonio. It transcends cultures; it is consistent throughout the world."

Halderman and Bernot plan to lead annual immersion trips to other developing countries and expose students to the real-life implementation of the Marianist way of life.



St. Mary's students helping indigenous Peruvians learn water sanitation techniques was part of the groups' immersion trip.

St. John in his Vermont painting studio.



Art of the Matter

Artist and Assistant Professor Brian St. John is accustomed to painting all summer long, but this year he set up painting shop inside a 154-year-old Vermont church. The church was just one of the draws listed in a brochure for the Vermont Studio Center—the country’s largest artists’ and writers’ residency program. Others included one-on-one talks with internationally lauded artists and the relative isolation of the Green Mountain State.

“Typically during my summers,” says St. John, “I’m in San Antonio working in the studio and occasionally teaching a class.” He never takes summers off entirely, but he was particularly prolific during his three week residency in Vermont. “In 11 days, I completed 25 paintings and about 10 watercolor drawings.”

St. John explored the terrain on long walks and then painted from memory. “The paintings become tangible objects of the impressions I have and the way I feel when I see something striking,” he explains.

For most, one summer break perk is sleeping in late. But when painting night time scenes, St. John sometimes stayed awake until 2:30 in the morning to complete a piece. “The sun rose between 4:30 and 5 a.m. there, so even if I went to bed by 2:30 a.m., I was up by 6 a.m.”

St. John looked forward to practicing new techniques during his residency—painting with less tension, producing pieces more quickly, and using broader strokes. But the Vermont Studio Center had another exercise for St. John.

“One of the missions there was to rewire the way we live in the world,” he says. “Instead of turning on the TV

when we were bored, we spent time with one another, went for long walks, and went to the studio to work.” Without a car or a television, St. John was able to focus solely on his art.

“I hope to bring to the classroom a renewed enthusiasm for making art,” says the artist. “That’s what I always try to bring, but now I will be reinvigorated.”

St. John found one of the greatest rewards not in the brochure, but at the dinner table. “They made us think about what we eat,” he explained. “At home I’d eat fried corn chips and salsa, but there was no fried food there.” The abundance of fresh vegetarian fare earned him mental and physical clarity that he channeled toward his work. “I’m going to really think about how I eat when I come back to the world.” ■

Cultural Identity

by the Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M., D.Min.,
Vice President for Mission and Identity

“St. Mary’s University will elevate and reinforce its Catholic and Marianist identity, celebrating within the University community and beyond the mission and core values that have successfully guided us in the past and that provide direction and a framework for planning and progress today and in the future.”

—From *Vision 2012*, St. Mary’s University Strategic Plan

The first of five goals stated in St. Mary’s strategic plan, *Vision 2012*, is to “Nurture a vibrant Catholic and Marianist culture.” As vice president for Mission and Identity, I will work collaboratively within the University community to ensure our Catholic and Marianist charism. I look forward to building on the good work of my predecessor, the Rev. Bernard Lee, S.M.

Our University community is comprised of nearly 5,000 students, faculty and staff, and here we find a diversity of backgrounds, opinions, interests and faith traditions. Collaborating with colleagues at our sister institutions, Chaminade University of Honolulu and the University of Dayton, and within the Catholic higher education community, is essential as we seek ways to develop or strengthen programs that help us to

cultivate our Catholic and Marianist culture.

Collaborating with colleagues in Catholic higher education

My collaborative efforts were launched on June 1 – the first day of my vice presidency – which coincided with the opening of the annual Marianist Universities Meeting (MUM), hosted this year in Hawaii by Chaminade University. Discussions focused on how we can enhance the Marianist Educational Associates (MEAs) program on the campuses of our universities.

The MEA program was established to address the reality of declining numbers of professed religious at our institutions. Marianist Educational Associates, selected on each campus from within the lay community, participate in ongoing reflection and

training designed to ensure the history and deep story – the Marianist charism – lives on. That charism was evident every day when most teachers and administrators at our universities were professed religious. Today we must rely on lay Marianists to help share and keep alive our culture and identity. This is especially fitting since the religious communities of the Marianist priests and brothers (Society of Mary – S.M.) and sisters (Daughters of Mary Immaculate – F.M.I.) arose out of lay communities that our founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, started as a way to reform the Church in post-revolutionary France.

During MUM, we examined the original intent of the MEA program, the successes and challenges of the program on our campuses, as well as the need to enhance the MEA formation experience. At St. Mary’s,



Five Essential Characteristics for Marianist Universities

The General Chapter of the Society of Mary of 1991 called for a contemporary articulation of the common elements of the Marianist educational tradition. To this end, serious research, consultation, and discussion were undertaken involving lay and religious educators who work in Marianist educational institutions throughout the world. The process was guided by the lived reality of Marianist spirituality, springing from the foundational charism of William Joseph Chaminade. In our philosophy and pedagogy, we aim to:

- educate for formation in faith**
- provide an integral, quality education**
- educate in family spirit**
- educate for service, justice, and peace**
- educate for adaptation and change**

my goal for the MEA program is to develop a clear plan of formation for faculty and staff.

“Initiation by fire” in my new job continued shortly after MUM when I had the opportunity to attend the Fifth Annual Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) Rome Seminar whose theme was “U.S. Catholic Higher Education in a Global Context.” What I encountered there – the passion and dedication of seasoned men and women dedicated to unfolding the Catholic identity and particular charisms of their respective institutions – was inspirational as well as educational.

During the week of the seminar, through a series of presentations, liturgical celebrations and formal and informal discussions, leaders of ACCU institutions had a first-hand opportunity to explore the intellectual and spiritual legacy of the Catholic Church in order to strengthen and promote the mission of Catholic higher education in the United States.

Since its founding in 1899, ACCU has been the collective voice of Catholic higher education in the United States and abroad. The organization hosts seminars (like the one I attended) that help to foster a vibrant international Catholic identity at member institutions, and supports cooperation among its membership for the greater good of society and the Church. With ACCU colleagues from colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, I explored the Eternal City’s spiritual treasures and had in-depth conversations with key representatives from within the Holy

See and Rome’s Pontifical universities. I was able to listen, learn, interact and network with Catholic leaders and scholars.

Identity reinforced by existing and planned initiatives

In the midst of all the international challenges that Catholic higher education is facing, during the seminar we still had the time to address issues that our institutions face daily.

Given this experience, I am proud to report that at St. Mary’s we have a tremendous grasp of our identity and mission.

My colleagues were impressed with our documents that describe the essential characteristics for Marianist universities (see sidebar), as well as several other initiatives that generated interest and conversation.

At St. Mary’s we have so much going for us that promotes and strengthens our Catholic and Marianist identity. Among them is the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series that brings to St. Mary’s women and men whose vision has helped to shape the Catholic intellectual tradition. As a University community, we are able to examine Catholicism itself. We have three exceptional speakers scheduled this year, including Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D., Vice President of ACCU, who I met during the Rome Seminar. I know he and the other speakers will generate lively and important discussion about our identity as a Catholic and Marianist university.

While we have established traditions and resources that affirm our identity, a very real challenge awaits us. As proposed in *Vision 2012*, we must be imaginative and courageous in the steps we take to maintain our identity. Last year the St. Mary’s Board of Trustees approved a policy, “Hiring for Mission.” In addition, the establishment of a Center for Catholic Studies will serve as a resource hub for discussion and deliberation of issues that may define the future Church, while elevating and reinforcing our identity.

Finally, I see the Marianist Forum and MEAs visibly continuing the implementation and development of the Marianist charism and heritage at St. Mary’s. Through them we can more effectively communicate the stories, symbols and rituals that make us distinctive. I am in conversation with Marianist Forum Co-Directors Kathy Sisoian and the Rev. Richard Wosman, S.M., and I am excited about exploring MEA and Forum connections for the future.

At St. Mary’s, there exists a solid foundation to “nurture a vibrant Catholic and Marianist culture,” but sometimes I think we take for granted the charism that Blessed William Joseph Chaminade has shared with us. In my new role, I hope to expand opportunities – through both existing and new initiatives – to foster formation in faith by developing communities of support and challenge, building our understanding of Mary by collaborating in Her mission of bringing Christ into our world, and striving to create unity in the midst of diversity. I am excited about what is happening, the direction our initiatives are taking us in, and what lies ahead.

Please keep me in your prayers. I will keep you in mine. ■



The Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M., D.Min., has his doctorate concentration in “Cross-Cultural Ministries,” from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At

St. Mary’s he served as program director and faculty member for the Spain Study Abroad Program and taught in the Department of Theology before his appointment as vice president. He has been program director and faculty member at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio and a missionary in Lima, Peru. Other appointments include the St. Mary’s President’s Peace Commission and Strategic Initiatives in International Education Committee. He serves on the University of Dayton’s Board of Trustees.



FOUNDERS HALL

Meeting the Needs of Today's Students

by Kathy Sisoian, Vice President for Student Development

When St. Mary's University set out to improve its Residence Life program, especially as it relates to first year students, it looked to its strategic plan, *Vision 2012*, which identifies as vital the quality of all aspects of campus life that support excellent academic education. Founders Hall, St. Mary's newest residential facility – and one that is designated specifically for first-year freshmen – supports the University's strategic goals while fulfilling an important component of our Facilities Master Plan.

Studies have long heralded the connection between a high degree of campus involvement – including living on campus – and students' retention and graduation rates. Our own experience with students bears this out, as do the results of various annual assessments. At St. Mary's, students who live on campus are more involved in student organizations and campus life, and have higher grades, especially during the first year. They stay in greater numbers and, therefore, more of them earn their degrees.

In anticipation of planning for the new residence hall, in early 2007 a University team from Residence Life and Facilities Administration attended a conference where residence hall designs of the future were unveiled. The best designs incorporated the amenities prospective students look for – and expect – when making campus visits. Back at St. Mary's, the team combined survey research from St. Mary's students with the essential features students are seeking and developed a comprehensive building proposal for a new residence hall. Architects were invited to submit plans and by the summer, we were working

with Randall Scott Architects Inc. on defining the design elements for what is now Founders Hall.

A three story, 81,000-square-foot building with 278 beds, the exterior of Founders Hall is reminiscent of St. Louis Hall and has a footprint about the size of the Louis J. Blume Academic Library. On the interior, students discover a fresh, modern building with spacious rooms, a variety of lounges and balconies, recreation areas and an expansive interior courtyard. The University's rich history and tradition is evident in the building's design, honors with its name the first Marianist settlers to come to

The hall includes a variety of spaces designed to improve community building among its residents and among first year students overall. The lobby, cyber café, interior courtyard and a large meeting room are accessible to all first year residential students with the intention of including all freshmen in community aspects of the building. In addition, hall residents can access study lounges on each floor, additional lounge and meeting areas, balconies, verandas and media centers throughout the hall.



“Founders Hall residents have movable furniture to support individual or roommate preferences, and the ability to personalize their rooms by adding floor coverings, shower curtains and closet drapes.”

San Antonio, and successfully anchors a campus edge on Culebra Road that reinforces the defining elements St. Louis Hall provides at St. Mary’s main entrance.

Founders Hall meets the University’s need for additional housing while enabling us to respond to the academic support and social needs of first year students. At St. Mary’s, we consistently look for ways to integrate the curricular and co-curricular lives of students, recognizing that improved integration contributes to academic success and a more meaningful student experience. The outcomes we expect include a more unified student body with additional opportunities to develop leadership skills, and an engaged student community more involved in campus life and Rattler pride that is evident.

Today’s college students are also more accustomed to privacy, want the ability to control their living space, and are concerned about security and energy efficiency. Founders Hall residents have movable furniture to support individual or roommate preferences, and the ability to personalize their rooms by adding floor coverings, shower curtains and closet drapes. Improvements in student safety and security are addressed by a security system that includes cameras and a recording device that can be reviewed when necessary. In addition, the design and construction of Founders Hall emphasizes sustainable products, energy efficiencies, water conservation and recycling, all in consideration of students’ interest in and concern for the environment.

This newest facility at St. Mary’s

celebrates the University’s commitment to living and learning in community, hallmarks of excellent educational preparation in the Marianist tradition. We are proud to welcome the Class of 2013 to Founders Hall and know they will enjoy their St. Mary’s experience with a Residence Life staff, programming, and facilities committed to academic success, student engagement, persistence and graduation of all students. ■



Kathy Sisoian has been at St. Mary’s since 1981 when she was hired to work in cooperative education. She has served in a variety of capacities in academic

affairs and student development, culminating in her appointment as vice president for Student Development in 1999. Sisoian is a recipient of the Marianist Heritage Award and currently is co-director of the Marianist Forum.



Bug Tracker Alum Helps St. Mary's Students Stay Healthy

Roger Sanchez (B.A. '76)

Roger Sanchez chases illnesses. Not literally, of course, because most illnesses are too small to see with the naked eye. But you can detect the symptoms and Sanchez, by spotting clusters of disease moving through groups of people, helps to stop their spread.

As Senior Epidemiologist at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Roger works to understand the spread of illnesses like meningitis, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and, most recently, H1N1 Flu, otherwise known as Swine Flu.

As part of his job, Roger works with area school systems and universities to educate them on prevention and assist them when they need treatments. Sandra M. Vasquez, M.D., Director of the St. Mary's University Student Health Center, has long collaborated with Roger for information on common illnesses among college students.

Sanchez has always been interested in biology and chemistry, but he didn't always know that he would end up in epidemiology, by definition the study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations. After graduation, he worked at the Texas Department of Health before coming to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District in 1985.

Besides assisting area schools, Roger also deals with health inspections for all types of food facilities.

"The booths that you see during Fiesta – whether food booths at the Oyster Bake or at events downtown – have to be inspected twice," he says.

With every illness and outbreak, Roger tries to identify the ebb and flow of the illness, its peak, and the age groups affected by it.

"We do what we do as a service to the community," he says. "If people need treatments but can't afford them, we provide those treatments. We want to help people however we can."

Though his college days are long behind him, Roger says he would have done things a little differently. "I would take more classes outside of the sciences, ones that just sounded interesting," he says. "St. Mary's is about branching out and expanding your boundaries."

A native of San Antonio and current resident, he can't remember a time when St. Mary's hasn't been in his life.

"I loved that I could see professors walking around on campus when I went to St. Mary's," he says. "It's such a beautiful campus with a very warm atmosphere and local flavor."

— by Lauren Madrid,
Communications Coordinator



Heart and Soul: Student Learns from Heart Disease, the Pope **Alyssa Treviño, Class of '12**

The summer after freshman year of college, most students return home, seek summer employment, and spend time with their families. But one St. Mary's student spent her summer vacation at the Vatican in the company of Pope Benedict XVI.

Biology major Alyssa Treviño came to meet the Supreme Pontiff because of a wish she made when she was 15 years old, when Pope John Paul II was head of the Roman Catholic Church. Alyssa has a history of heart problems; in fact, she had open-heart surgery when she was just 13.

Having a life-threatening condition changed Alyssa's outlook on life. "If I didn't have heart disease, I wouldn't be me," she says. "I've learned that life is so precious – I appreciate it and I try to live life to its fullest."

It is perhaps because of her strength and outlook that her wish was granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the Rio Grande Valley.

The organization helps children with life-threatening illnesses by fulfilling their wishes.

To grant her wish, Alyssa and her parents traveled to the Vatican within the city of Rome, Italy, to meet Pope Benedict XVI this past June. Every Wednesday, the public can meet the pope in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

While meeting the pope was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, Alyssa knows that this encounter won't change who she really is.

"I am very blessed to get the opportunity to meet the pope, because not a lot of people can say that they have. I will never forget this experience, but I still am and always will be the same person I am today," she says.

Fulfilling a lifelong wish was a phenomenal experience for Alyssa, especially since she has always been a spiritual person.

"I'm very involved in my faith," she says. "St. Mary's is very involved in the Catholic faith as a Marianist school, so that was important to me."

At St. Mary's, Alyssa often spends her spare time at the spiritual center of campus, University Ministry. "If you need to relax, study or eat before a class you can do it in a homey environment," Alyssa says. "There's always someone to talk to, and I love to talk!"

Though Alyssa is healthy now, she will never forget her time spent in hospitals as a child. Because of her newfound health, she plans to become a pediatric cardiologist.

"I've been around cardiologists all my life," Alyssa says. "I thought, 'Why not help children since I know what it's like to be a patient?'"

—by Lauren Madrid,
Communications Coordinator

Our Fondest Farewell

Brother Paul Novosal, S.M.

For more than 25 years, Brother Paul Novosal, S.M., was the face of library services at St. Mary's University. Brother Paul died on May 24, 2009, at the age of 91 and in the 72nd year of his religious profession.

Born in South St. Louis, Mo., on Oct. 5, 1918, Brother Paul came to know the Brothers of Mary when he attended Southside Catholic High School (known today as St. Mary's High School), and he liked what he learned about them. He joined the Novitiate in 1936 and made his first vows the following year.



After graduating from the University of Dayton, Brother Paul began teaching, first at Holy Redeemer School in Detroit, followed by assignments at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio and St. Joseph's in Victoria. He taught English and religion,

moderated the Sodality, and coached basketball, boxing and tennis. While at Central Catholic, Brother Paul attended Our Lady of the Lake College and, in 1941, he earned a degree in library science. The only male at the all-girls' school, excluding chaplains, his diploma read, "She is awarded..."

Brother Paul arrived at St. Mary's in August 1947 to manage the library that, at the time, was located in St. Louis Hall. Along other Marianists and students, Brother Paul built St. Mary's first "free-standing" library on the southern edge of the Pecan Grove. Centennial Library, named to acknowledge the 100-year anniversary of Marianist presence in the United States, was dedicated in 1949. Brother Paul led a planning committee for the new Academic Library (re-named the Louis J. Blume Academic Library in 2000) that opened in 1967. From his arrival at St. Mary's until his retirement in 1973, Brother Paul administered the library and taught English, advancing to Director of Libraries and tenured full professor.

Prior to 1973, Brother Paul he had been doing archival work "on the side" when the Province

Archives were moved to the Academic Library on campus. As archivist his task was to collect, organize and conduct research on the archives for an accurate historical building of the collection.

Over the years, Brother Paul also served as a historical resource person for many departments on campus that needed data and events verified or illustrated with photographs. He was an invaluable resource for *Gold & Blue* magazine.

For more than six decades, Brother Paul was a close and abiding friend to the Uvietta family of San Antonio. In fact, according to Melba (Uvietta) Fisher, who began her more than 40-year career at St. Mary's working for Brother Paul in the library, she doesn't remember a time when he *wasn't* a part of their family. At the Mass of the Resurrection, Melba recounted the memories she will keep of Brother Paul Novosal...

He had a deep and abiding devotion to Mary.

He had strong opinions about many things in life, which he eagerly shared with others.

He guarded his responsibilities as librarian and archivist with the tenacity of a mother lion guarding her cubs.

He was a gifted teacher of English and of the highest standards of excellence.

He was generous with his time and attention.

He loved the outdoors and sharing his knowledge of nature's wonders.

At times, he seemed to be a modern version of Don Quixote, flailing at the windmills that caught his passionate attention, seldom compromising or quitting.

He smiled often, laughed much, even at himself, and always left you feeling a bit better for having encountered him for a little chat. ■

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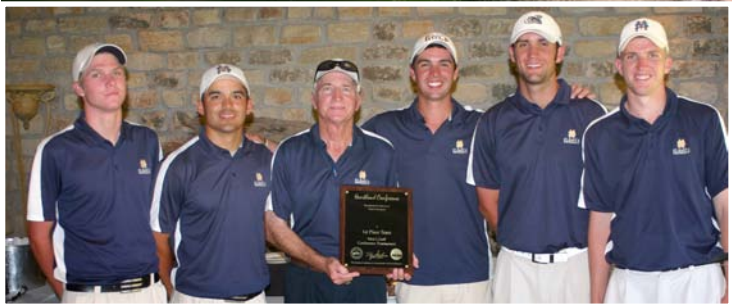
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Giving Forward

Alfonso de la Torre, Class of 2010

Karla Bayona, Class of 2012



Rattler golfer Matt Vela

It's in the books.

St. Mary's golfers are national champions!

Men's golf was named Academic National Champion in all of NCAA Division II for its classroom accomplishments by the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA). Out of 215 NCAA Division II schools fielding golf teams, the Rattlers scored the highest team grade point average of 3.62, earning them President's Special Recognition status. The 2008-2009 Rattler team was comprised of (pictured above, left to right): San Antonio golfers Sam Jernigan and Matt Vela, Coach Wes Skidmore, Alex Maurer of St. Louis, Preston Akromis also of San Antonio, Jeff Rein of Garden Ridge as well as James Grant of San Antonio (not pictured). Alex Maurer and Preston Akromis, who both graduated this past May, were named All-American Scholars by the Association, adding to St. Mary's honor roll of 12 Academic All-Americans, nine of which are golfers. The team won its third Heartland Conference Championship last spring, with Rein taking medalist honors.