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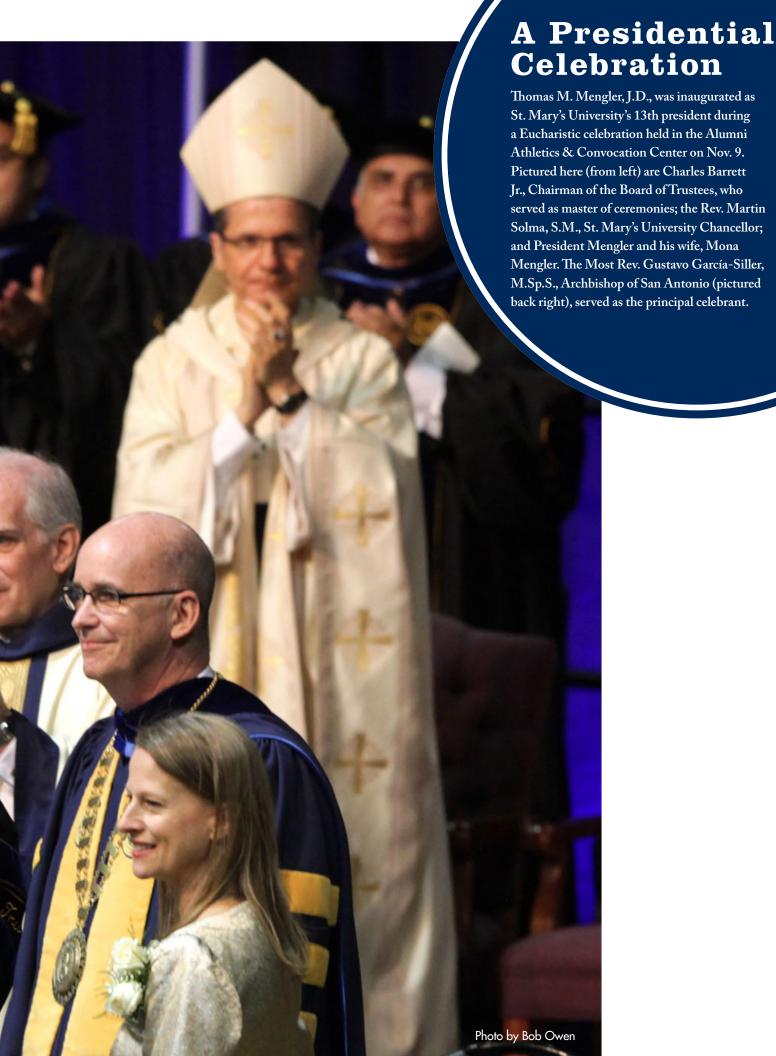




Barth Tones

Students get hands dirty in new environmental science program







I am bullish on

St. Mary's future.

I am humbled by the faith and confidence our Trustees and the Marianist Provincial Council have extended to Mona and me. I feel proud to be associated with St. Mary's University. Since June, I have become ever more conscious of the ways in which St. Mary's, for 160 years, has been a gateway for students and the San Antonio community.

I feel pride in our dedicated faculty and staff who work tirelessly to ensure that we graduate students formed in faith and prepared to lead purposeful professional lives.

I want you also to know that I am confident in our ability over the next 10 years to confront our challenges and to capitalize on opportunity, and I am bullish on St. Mary's future.

As I was preparing for the inauguration, I was drawn to thoughts of my parents, Rosalie and Ray Mengler, who passed away 10 and 20 years ago. My parents were members of the generation Tom Brokaw coined "the Greatest Generation" — the courageous men and women raised during the Great Depression who became adults while fighting World War II.

They lived fulfilling lives, grounded in and centered on faith in God, and with an overwhelming sense of obligation to God, to family, to community and to country. When they returned from war, they worked together to build the

greatest, most productive democratic society the world had ever seen — earning the name the Greatest Generation.

They embodied and put into action enduring values: God and family first. Self-sacrifice for the greater good. Duty, integrity, courage. Gratitude for blessings, despite hardships.

These may seem familiar to you, as some of our own Marianist values. Mary, with grace and serenity, urges us to follow through completely, with our eyes always on the mission. To act with integrity and compassion, to sacrifice for the common good, to do all that we are obliged to do.

So what are the uncompromising responsibilities of those of us who make up the St. Mary's University community? I believe we are obliged to do three things.

First, promote and expect excellence from all members of St. Mary's, to hold one another accountable for St. Mary's future. Members of the Greatest Generation didn't look to the other guy to complete the mission. Together, this community will develop a strategic vision over the course of the next year which will position us to become the finest Catholic university in the Southwest. Now, more than ever, we need the help of our alumni — including your financial help — to invest in our future and not wait for someone else to contribute. We need you to invest in our talented faculty, our programs and our facilities. Most of all, we need you to invest in our students.

Our second obligation is to promote a robust and pervasive

Catholicity and Marianist charism, not only in our undergraduate programs, but in our graduate and professional programs as well. Today, at every Catholic university, the professed religious are fewer in number. Increasingly, the duty rests on

our lay faculty and staff at St. Mary's to nurture and sustain our Catholic identity and Marianist charism.

Our third obligation, in effect, follows from St. Mary's Catholic and Marianist identities. We know that a core principle of St. Mary's is that we grow and mature in community, through community, and for community.

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade's profound insight is

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Can *your* smartphone throw a yard sale?

A former Army helicopter pilot built a mobile app just for military families on the move. Take that, Craigslist.

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Get a behind-the-scenes look

at how St. Mary's profs, staff

and students get to campus.

Spoiler alert: it's not a minivan.

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IN MEMORIAM

FONDEST FAREWELL

that we become more fully human, not in isolation, but in the experiences of life and in the ways in which we serve God, family, workplace, community and country. St. Mary's residential college experience is an important key to becoming more fully human through community. Our residential students are surrounded by faculty, staff and fellow students who treat one another with dignity, respect and an embracing concern.

But there's a lot more that we can, and should, do. Chaminade's insight about the importance of community speaks also to the ways in which students develop professional skills and values. Employers are looking for the skills and values of the excellent professional — the hard skills of effective writing and speaking, critical thinking and problem solving. And the skills and values that make us more fully human: teamwork, respect for fellow workers, listening, collaborating, and practicing honesty, leadership and integrity.

In the next few years, my colleagues and I need to change and innovate. We need to work together to provide more experiential and mentorship opportunities for our students so they see firsthand what is required to become an outstanding professional.

I believe that if we follow through on these three obligations together, we will become the finest Catholic university in the Southwest. I ask you to join me in prayer that the students of St. Mary's University will embrace our Catholic and Marianist values and become the next Greatest Generation.

Editor's Note: President Mengler's message is adapted from his inaugural address, given Nov. 9, 2012. The full message can be found at www.stmarytx.edu/president.

Extreme makeover:

St. Louis Hall edition A yearlong preservation project on St. Louis Hall has resulted in a building as majestic as ever.

Reading Jim Willerson's poker face

They say you have to play the hand you're dealt, and one law grad did just that. Read how Jim Willerson struck it big in the World Series of Poker.



Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

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(Denotes degree from St. Mary's University)

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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.



Catholic Lecture Series Continues in February

The 10th annual Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series continues on Feb. 1, 2013, with the Rev. Robert Schreiter's presentation titled "The Challenge of Charism in a Global World."

Schreiter has spoken and written extensively on the mission of the Church, religious life, the challenges of intercultural living, globalization and reconciliation. He served as consultant on intercultural communication to the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and he is also active in international peace building.

The final installment of this year's series will be St. Mary's Philosophy Professor Glenn "Chip" Hughes, Ph.D., who will present "Art, Love and Conversion" on April 3.

The theme of this series is "God's Mysteries and Greatness: Ingredients of Human Dignity." For more information, call 210-431-8094.

Noted Political Commentator E.J. Dionne Set for March 19

E.J. Dionne Jr., a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a syndicated columnist for The Washington Post and a Georgetown University professor, will visit St. Mary's on March 19, 2013, through the Lin Great Speakers Series.

A nationally known and respected commentator on politics, Dionne appears weekly on National Public Radio and regularly on MSNBC. He is a regular contributor to NBC's "Meet the Press," and has also appeared on PBS "NewsHour" with Jim Lehrer and other PBS programs.

Dionne began his career with The New York Times where he spent 14 years reporting on state and local government, national politics, and from around the world, including stints in Paris, Rome and Beirut. In 1990, Dionne joined The Washington Post as a reporter covering national politics and began writing his column in 1993. His best-selling book Why Americans Hate Politics (Simon & Schuster), was published in 1991. The book, which Newsday called "a classic in American political history,"

won the Los Angeles Times book prize and was a National Book Award nominee. His latest book is Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent, published spring 2012 by Bloomsbury USA.

Since 1990, St. Mary's University has offered the Lin Great Speakers Series to the public as a community service. The series is made possible by an endowment established in the memory of Shu Chi Lin by his widow, Mrs. Chang Le-Chiao, and his son, Vincent Lin, an alumnus and former St. Mary's faculty member.

38 Become Citizens During Civic Engagement Week

The St. Mary's University annual Civic Engagement Week focused on the power of individuals to make positive social change through civic involvement. In a week filled with activities dedicated to service, citizenship and the democratic process, the highlight was an official Naturalization Ceremony performed by U.S. Magistrate John W. Primomo, a 1976 St. Mary's School of Law graduate.

St. Mary's students, faculty and staff witnessed the 38 become U.S. citizens during the ceremony in September.



San Antonio Livestock Exposition Inc. (SALE), which organizes the annual San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, has made a \$96,000 commitment to renew its support for the San Antonio Livestock Exposition Scholarship, which funds scholarships each year for St. Mary's students majoring in Biology. SALE will also fund a \$16,000 scholarship for students majoring in Environmental Science.

Since 2002, SALE has donated almost \$700,000 to St. Mary's in SALE scholarships. Since its inception in 1984, it has awarded more than \$123 million to more than 5,600 students attending colleges across the state with the goal of developing the future leaders of the agriculture industry in Texas.

EVOLUTION OF A MASCOT

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS MAN AND THERE WAS THE SERPENT.

NO, WAIT, THAT'S A DIFFERENT SUBJECT.

The Rattlers nickname dates back to the 1920s, but Rattler Man wasn't officially born until the 1990s, when St. Mary's student Robert "Bert" Arista sketched a saintly superhero — half-man, half-snake. As we approach his 20th anniversary, this is as good a time as any to celebrate the history of Rattler Man.



A MONSTER WITH A HEART OF GOLD.

MID 1990s Rattler Man begins lurking around campus, frightening people with his menacing, chupacabra-like appearance. He debuts during halftime of a basketball game to a rousing ovation.



HERPETOLOGY 101

LATE 1990s A new incarnation of Rattler Man surfaces. He is less scary (even children trust him!), but looks more like a cobra than a rattlesnake.



SMELLS LIKE SERPENTINE SPIRIT.

EARLY 2000s Rattler Man gets a makeover. This mascot would serve St. Mary's faithfully for more than a decade, and by the end, he looked (and smelled) like it.

THE (RATTLER) MAN OF THE HOUR

2012 The new and improved Rattler Man makes his grand entrance. As part of a holistic re-branding of the mascot, he is now equal parts fun and menacing.

l

YOUR TURN:

Do you have photos of Rattler Men past? Post them on the St. Mary's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StMarysU.

HE'S A REAL CHARMER — A SNAKE CHARMER.

1960s Rattler Man is an actual man with an actual rattler. St. Mary's student Don Ganter (CL '63) is known as the resident rattlesnake aficionado and even totes a live snake to events. Risky business? You bet.

POW! BAM! KA-BOOM!

EARLY 1990s Robert Arista (B.A.'95), St. Mary's student and Rattler staff cartoonist, tells the first story of Rattler Man in the fall 1994 editions of the paper. It may be a comic strip, but it's heavy stuff: the reptilian super hero battles his nemesis Cascabel and defends the honor of his daughter, Virginia.

Three Distinguished Alumni Honored

The St. Mary's University Alumni Association honored three graduates as the 2012 Distinguished Alumni: a computer programmer who helped get Apollo 13 back from the moon; a philanthropist; and a longtime high school band director and successful businessman.

Homer Ahr (B.S. '68) is a retired IBM Corp. consulting architect who was on the console in Mission Control for Apollo 11, the mission that sent the first man to the moon. Ahr was a maneuver control operator on Mission Operations for Apollo 13 and a part of the team that safely brought the damaged craft back to Earth. Ahr's team earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award from President Richard Nixon for its efforts.

David C. Dickson (B.B.A. '68) is president of Great Central Mortgage, LTD. After graduating, he served as an Army helicopter pilot before starting his own business in the mortgage industry. Dickson has long been active with the Fiesta Oyster Bake, has previously served on the St. Mary's Board of Trustees, and was co-chair of the Extending the Tradition of Excellence Campaign.

of Excellence Campaign.
Henry "Pete" Van de Putte Jr. (B.A.
'72) is president and CEO of Dixie Flag
Manufacturing Company. He first built
a successful career as a high school band
director in the San Antonio Independen
School District before leaving teaching
to run the family business. He serves on
numerous boards and committees and is
involved in the Fiesta Oyster Bake.



Distinguished Alumni, from left: Homer Ahr, David Dickson and Henry "Pete" Van de Putte Jr.



The Cotrell Commons has become a popular gathering spot for students.

Outdoor sports complex site, November 2012

Sports Complex Gift Honors Marianist

Edward R. Mansfield, Ph.D. (B.A.'68), recently contributed a \$26,000 stock gift for the new outdoor sports complex currently under construction.

The gift, which is earmarked for the new tennis courts, honors Mansfield's uncle, the late Brother Edwin "Ed" Rohrbach, S.M. (B.S. '36). Rohrbach taught and coached tennis at various Marianist high schools and served as the St. Mary's Rattlers tennis coach.

Progress on the \$16 million complex continues, with completion scheduled for spring. The complex, which includes baseball's David C. Dickson Stadium and the Sigma Beta Chi Soccer Field, is part of what the University will begin referring to as "The Park at St. Mary's."

The Park at St. Mary's will also include the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center's Bill Greehey Arena and the flexible-use field that will host concerts and festivals, and attract local, regional and national events.

Cotrell Commons Dedicated

The Charles Cotrell Learning Commons, a new learning environment developed on the first floor of the Louis J. Blume Library, was officially dedicated this fall.

The Cotrell Commons, which is named for President Emeritus Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., and opened at the start of the fall semester, includes a new entrance opposite the University Center, new furnishings and study areas, extensive access to technology and on-site technology assistance, extended library hours and a Starbucks Express.

The renovated space is popular with students who use the area for group and individual studying, socializing and breaks between classes.

Student Newspaper Wins at National Convention

The staff of the Rattler student newspaper took home high honors at the 91st Annual Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association National College Media Convention in Chicago.

Competing with nearly 400 colleges and universities, the Rattler placed eighth in the best of show category for online news website and 10th in the Best of Show category for overall excellence for non-weekly student newspapers at four-year colleges and universities.

Representing the Rattler at the convention were Nicholas Canedo, editor; Alex Eakins, news editor; Briana Perez, commentary editor; Stela Khury, entertainment editor; and Brother Dennis Bautista, S.M., Ph.D., adviser.

Galindo Named Associate Dean for Student Research

Rene Galindo, M.D., Ph.D. (B.S. '91), has been named the associate dean for medical student research at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

In this role, Galindo oversees the Medical Student Research Office and medical student research electives, as well as manages grants and funding opportunities. While at St. Mary's, he participated in the MARC U*STAR Program, which provides undergraduate research opportunities to guide minority students toward graduate school and research careers. Galindo credits his experiences in that program with influencing his path.

"Those experiences as an undergraduate really cemented the idea that I wanted to be a disease-oriented physician-scientist," he said. "I understand how exposure to research leads people to appreciate the kinds of questions you can pursue. The idea that I am now in a position to do that for the next generation of physician-scientists is immensely gratifying."



Cultural Exchange

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Cultural Attaché to the United States Mohammad Aleissa, Ph.D. (pictured above), visited St. Mary's University in November to meet with more than 400 Saudi Arabian students studying at colleges and universities in the local area. The Saudi Students Association at St. Mary's invited the attaché and hosted the event, which garnered significant interest from Saudi media outlets. Tariq Alsheikh (pictured middle right), who oversees Saudi students studying in U.S. medical schools, answers questions from students. Saudi students (pictured bottom right) listen during a question and answer session.





Street Sign Project Picks Up Steam

The St. Mary's Gateway District Street Sign Initiative is well on its way to its goal of purchasing 322 new street signs for the neighborhood around the University.

The Street Sign Initiative allows businesses and individuals to purchase special street signs demarcating the St. Mary's Gateway District, which borders the campus. The signs are available for purchase by individuals or businesses at \$100 each, with a portion of the funds supporting scholarships. The signs will replace standard street signs in the area, and the project is a partnership of the St. Mary's Neighborhood Revitalization Project, Wells Fargo and the city of San Antonio.

In September, both Wells Fargo and San Antonio City Councilman Cris Medina presented the program with \$5,000 checks toward the project. For information call Cheyenna Villarreal (B.A. '06, M.A. '08) at 210-431-8035.



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Ewa Nowara

POLISH STUDENT'S RESEARCH LOOKS FOR CLUES TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE

by Chris Jarvis

Ewa Nowara, a sophomore Biophysics major and a citizen of Poland, had wanted very much to perform undergraduate research at St. Mary's. However, because most undergraduate research is funded by federal agencies whose primary mission is to aid American students, professors are often bound by strict hiring criteria that exclude international students.

S. Colette Daubner, Ph.D., associate professor of Biological Sciences, wasn't one to let a technicality stop a deserving student from pursuing her passion. She invited Nowara into her lab and helped her apply for and win — a \$3,000 grant by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation so she could be compensated for her work.

"I enjoy the challenge,"

Nowara said. "You don't know what you're going to find out. You don't know how you're going to do it; you have to figure that out on your own. You don't learn these things in class because nobody really knows the answers — that's why we have research."

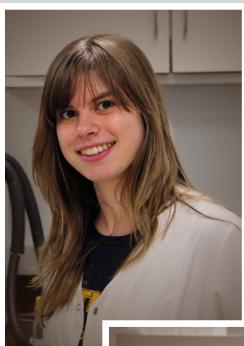
Now, Nowara works with Daubner in the lab probing the inner workings of tyrosine hydroxylase, an enzyme that helps synthesize neurotransmitters in the brain. Together they investigate the involvement of a protein called 14-3-3, which is believed to protect tyrosine hydroxylase from breakdown in the body.

Because low levels of tyrosine hydroxylase may be linked to Parkinson's disease, the medical community has a vested interest in understanding more about the enzyme. And Nowara's work could provide answers.

"If we can understand this structure and the way tyrosine hydroxylase works in the body, we can design treatments and understand what's happening to patients with Parkinson's."

Even though her grant term has expired, Nowara has no intention of halting her research; she continues to put in 12 to 15 hours a week in the lab voluntarily, at least until more grants come along.

Nowara said her research experience so far has been terrific preparation for her goal of attending medical school. "I'm just a sophomore so there's still a lot to learn," she said. "I just hope I can do something that is clinically relevant."







HUMANITIES



New Endowment Supports Liberal Arts

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences has received a \$125,000 gift to establish the Edward and Linda Speed Endowment, which will support Theology and Philosophy faculty research.

Ed Speed (B.B.A. '70, M.A. '86) is a member of the school's advisory council and a retired banking executive. Speed recently retired as president and CEO of Texas Dow Employees Credit Union, the largest statechartered credit union in Texas. He'd spent 35 years in financial services, real estate development and construction. He received the Brother Paul Goelz, S.M., Award from St. Mary's in 2003 for his community impact and Marianist values in business.

Las Américas Series Celebrates Arts. Literature

The 2012 Las Américas Letters Series in Literature and the Arts this fall featured three internationally acclaimed writers whose work encompasses literature, theater and film.

Carmen Tafolla, who is San Antonio's first poet laureate; Alicia Kozameh, an Argentine novelist and former political prisoner; and Paula Varsavsky, an Argentine fiction writer and daughter of a political exile, discussed how their work portrays issues of human rights, social justice and the spirit of strength through creativity. The event included readings and panel discussions.

SCIENCE



Keck Foundation Supports Improved Robotics Lab

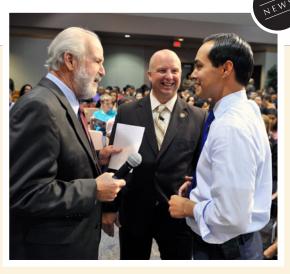
The W.M. Keck Foundation awarded St. Mary's University a \$250,000 grant to enhance undergraduate engineering education and research through upgrades to the School of Science, Engineering and Technology's Automated Manufacturing and Robotics Laboratory (AMRL).

The improved AMRL will strengthen courses in Industrial Engineering, Engineering Management and Engineering

Series Delves into Early Education

Community Conversations at St. Mary's University this fall focused on a proposed sales tax increase for San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro's Pre-K 4 SA initiative. The plan to provide full-day pre-kindergarten to more San Antonio students was approved on the Nov. 6 ballot. With more than 350 in attendance, Castro made his case for the initiative, with the alternative viewpoint given by Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff (B.B.A. '91, M.B.A. '03). Rick Casey (B.A. '68), host of KLRN's "Texas Week with Rick Casey," moderated the event.

The Community Conversations series is a part of the Institute for Public Administration, Politics and Public Policy at St. Mary's, and is housed within the Graduate School. One of the primary goals of the Institute is to develop outreach programs that foster dialogue between the University, the public, government agencies and nonprofits to address important public issues.



Rick Casey (from left), Commissioner Kevin Wolff and Mayor Julian Castro talk before the event.

Science; support the development of new courses in advanced manufacturing technologies; and offer capstone design experience support and undergraduate research opportunities to all undergraduate engineering programs.

The new laboratory, along with the implementation of an educational model called MARRS (Manufacturability, Assemblability, Reproducibility, and Repeatability Synergy) will engage students in the conceive-design-build engineering process and synthesize theoretical and practical knowledge.





Anthony Kaufmann with scholarship recipients Lauren Solis (left) and Evelyn Oliva.

The School of Science, Engineering and Technology's (SET) Marianist Health Sciences Scholarship Dinner in November honored the contributions of Dean Emeritus Anthony Kaufmann, Ph.D., who retired in 2009 after 40 years at St. Mary's.

Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., SET dean, announced that more than \$70,000 had

Continued on page 10.



Greehey Gives \$1 Million to **MBA Program**

St. Mary's University has received a \$1 million gift from Bill Greehey (B.B.A.'60) for the newly revamped MBA program.

"I am excited to support the new MBA program at St. Mary's University because it goes beyond a typical MBA curriculum. It includes a key focus on ethical leadership, social responsibility and social entrepreneurship, all of which are critical to the development of great future leaders who will care as much about their employees and communities as they care about their shareholders and bottom lines," said Bill Greehey, NuStar Energy LP's chairman of the board and director.

"I am particularly pleased that a significant portion of the gift will be used to provide scholarships to attract the best and brightest students with

high leadership potential, as well as stipends to help attract world-class professors," he added. This is another major gift from Greehey to St. Mary's. In 2006, his \$25 million gift resulted in the naming of the Bill Greehey School of Business.

"We have a goal of increasing opportunities for experiential learning and mentorship," said President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D., "so that our students see first-hand what it takes to become an outstanding professional, and this generous gift will help us do that in the Greehey School of Business."

Dean Tanuja Singh, D.B.A., led the effort to retool the MBA program to provide a core curriculum within the context of ethical, values-driven leadership. The gift will be used for a variety of purposes including the addition of national thought leaders who will add to the unique learning environment of the program.

"We know we are on the right track with our values-driven MBA when Mr. Greehey, with an outstanding record of a values-driven life, supports us with words and actions," Singh said.



Law Graduates Honored

The St. Mary's School of Law and the Law Alumni Association named the Hon. Lawrence "Larry" E. Noll (J.D. '72), Bexar County's 408th District Court Judge, and Dwain Dent (J.D. '76), founder of Fort Worth's The Dent Law Firm, as 2012 Distinguished Law Graduates.

A new award, the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award, was presented to Jennifer A. Tharp (J.D. '03), Comal County's criminal district attorney.

Noll practiced real estate and family law privately and served as Justice of the Peace and municipal judge before election to his current bench in November 2006. Noll has held many leadership positions in state and local bar associations. He is also an adjunct professor at St. Mary's, a past president of the St. Mary's University Alumni Association, and a current board member of the Hispanic Law Alumni Association.

Dent is a personal injury trial lawyer who litigated many class action pharmaceutical suits and founded the Spencer B. Dent Memorial Foundation for youth sports activities. He is on the board of directors for the West Side Lions Little League in Fort Worth.

Tharp is the first female district attorney in Comal County. She is president of the Comal County Sexual Assault Response Team and a co-founder of Comal Cops for Kids Foundation.



(From left) The Hon. Israel Ramon, Law Alumni Association President, with 2012 Distinguished Law Graduates The Hon. Larry Noll and Dwain Dent, Distinguished Young Alumna Jennifer Tharp, and Dean Cantú.

been raised for the Anthony Kaufmann Scholarship Fund, which will provide support to students majoring in Biological Sciences.

"Tony has left a legacy that few can match, and the Anthony Kaufmann Scholarship serves to remind us all of the difference one person can make in so many lives," Erevelles said.

The first two scholarship recipients are students Lauren Solis and Evelyn Oliva.

BUSINESS

The Princeton Review Lauds MBA Program

St. Mary's University's Bill Greehey School of Business is once again included as an outstanding business graduate school by the Princeton Review, an education services company.

The Princeton Review features the school and its Greehey MBA program in the 2013 edition of its book, The Best 296 Business Schools.

The MBA programs included in the publication were chosen based on academic programs and offerings, as well as a review of institutional data collected from the schools and student survey results.

The new Greehey MBA is an 18-month, cohort-based program that incorporates advanced graduate-level academic preparation with a special emphasis on ethical leadership, corporate social responsibility, sustainability and social entrepreneurship — topics that have become hallmarks of St. Mary's University and the Greehey School of Business.



GOOD Union Pacific **Continues Support**

For more than 15 years, Union Pacific Railroad — the largest railroad franchise in the U.S. — has helped promote St. Mary's University's mission and educational goals, most recently with a \$15,000 donation to the Bill Greehey School of Business.

The contribution is earmarked for the Greehey Scholars Program, Accounting Club, Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting, Finance and Marketing departments. Union Pacific also pledged \$3,000 to sponsor Business Week.

Union Pacific now has donated about \$75,000 to St. Mary's, and its most recent gifts elevated it to a Bill Greehey School of Business Platinum Partner in the University's new Corporate Partners Program.

MBA Student Recognized by Business Hall of Fame

St. Mary's University MBA student Raleigh Chen has been awarded a \$10,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation.



Chen

The scholarship awards were made during a foundation

event celebrating the organization's 30th anniversary. To date, the Texas Business Hall of Fame has awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to students pursuing an education at Texas' leading colleges and universities. A total of 19 Texas students received the scholarship this year.





Ed Whitacre Jr., former chairman and CEO of General Motors Company and chairman emeritus of AT&T Inc. (pictured above talking with students), was the La Quinta Keynote Speaker for the 2012 Business Week in November.

Hosted annually by the Greehey School of Business, Business Week features local business professionals who partner with St. Mary's to offer students optimal, real-world learning experiences.

Business Week provides St. Mary's students the opportunity to interact with business leaders and alumni who share their own professional experiences and expertise in accounting, applied management, corporate financial management, entrepreneurial studies, financial services and risk management, general business, information systems management, international business and marketing.

Fazio Addresses December Graduates

Distinguished alumnus and celebrated astrophysicist Giovanni G. Fazio, Ph.D. (B.S. '54, B.A. '54), was the keynote speaker at the 12th annual Fall Commencement Exercises. Fazio, a senior physicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, pioneered the development of gamma-ray astronomy using balloon-borne telescopes and was the co-principal investigator for the gamma-ray detector experiment on NASA's first Orbiting Solar Observatory. He also was the principal investigator for the Infrared Array Camera (IRAC) experiment on the Spitzer Space Telescope, one of NASA's "Great Observatories." The telescope was launched in 2003 and continues to produce spectacular images of the infrared universe.

LAW AND GRADUATE

School of Law Named "Best Value"

The St. Mary's School of Law has been selected by The National Jurist magazine as one of the 2012 Best Value law schools in

The September issue named 47 law schools that it deemed as the best education for the value. St. Mary's was one of two private institutions on the list and the only private institution in Texas. The formula used included bar passage rate, percentage of employed graduates, average indebtedness of graduates, and tuition and living costs.

The School of Law was also recognized by The Wall Street Journal as among the best in the nation for post-law school employment, according to analysis of 2011 law school graduate employment data.

Student Elected to ABA Leadership

Nick Guinn, a third-year law student and Student Bar Association president, was elected to a national position at the American Bar Association (ABA) Annual Meeting.

Guinn was named vice chair for Student Bar Associations in the ABA's Law Student

Division and will serve as president of the nation's student chapters. This is the highest position in which a law student can serve within the national organization.



Guinn



A Voice For Inspiration

by Chad Peters

As a child, Stacey Mazuca would stand on the balcony of her apartment complex, belting out Disney tunes to the parking lot.

"I would put on a cassette tape of 'The Lion King' or 'The Little Mermaid' and just sing out to the cars," she recalls. "Sometimes, people would come out of their apartments and watch me. I would try to sing super loud, envisioning I was on stage somewhere."

A gifted vocalist, Mazuca spent the past five years traveling the world as an entertainer. She has performed for U.S. troops in South

Korea; at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; at the Majestic Theatre in San Antonio; and in Mexico and Canada. Now, in her first year at St. Mary's as a Biological Sciences and Philosophy double major, the 27-year-old transfer student is singing the national anthem at Rattler athletic events.

But whether she is singing internationally or before a parking lot full of cars, Mazuca has always aimed to inspire.

"I probably won't be a famous entertainer," she says, "but I can still inspire people with a song."



Mazuca

The St. Mary's volleyball team (below) hosted its annual "Dig Pink" Breast Cancer Awareness Day in October, raising funds for the San Antonio 1000 Cancer Genome Project, which supports breast cancer research.





Former St. Mary's basketball point guard Lamb Autrey (above) is living out his dream to play professional basketball. Autrey was recently drafted into the National Basketball Association's Development League by the Houston Rockets' affiliate, the Rio Grande Valley Vipers.

SPORTS

Rattler Nation Unveiled

The University unveiled a new graphic look for Rattler Athletics this fall, and with it a new focus for boosters of its athletics programs — Rattler Nation.

The mission of Rattler Nation is to strengthen St. Mary's athletics teams by encouraging support and participation from Rattlers everywhere, uniting alumni and friends who have a shared love for St. Mary's and our student-athletes.

This means that the University is moving away from a membership-based booster club. Join Rattler Nation by making a gift to

NATION

the University, either for the athletics program overall or for a specific team. For more information on joining Rattler Nation, contact

Georgina Schmahl (B.B.A. '90), executive director of development, at 210-431-4244 or gschmahl@stmarytx.edu.

Women's Soccer Coach Reaches 100th Career Win

Corwyn Ritch (B.A.'94) recorded his 100th career win as St. Mary's head women's soccer coach in a 3-1 victory over Wayland Baptist on Sept. 1 — although some might say there's some room for interpretation as to when his 100th win really came.

Thanks to Ritch's successful two-year stint as the men's team's coach from 2001 to 2002, he technically reached career win No. 100 back in 2009 because of the 22 wins he racked up leading the men's squad. He took over the women's team in 2001 and is the program's all-time wins leader.

Former Women's Basketball Player Goes Pro

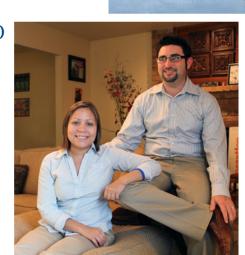
Few Lady Rattlers worked as hard as former St. Mary's guard Rebecca Cantu (B.A.'12). And such dedication has paid off, as she recently signed to play professionally with TK Hannover, a second-division team based out of Hannover, Germany, that competes in the Bundesliga.

Cantu, a San Antonio native, became the second St. Mary's women's basketball player to go on to sign a professional contract. She played three seasons for the Lady Rattlers, averaging 1.6 points per game as a reserve from 2009 to 2012 before graduating.

A Friend

Classmates step up to help alum seriously injured in chimp attack

by Chris Jarvis



Andrew Oberle (above). Anthony and Marissa Reimherr (left).

Anthony Reimherr (B.B.A. '07) will never forget the day he got the call that his close friend,

Andrew Oberle (B.A. '08), lay clinging to life in a South Africa hospital.

Oberle, who was working on his graduate thesis at the University of Texas at San Antonio, volunteered at the Jane Goodall Institute Chimpanzee Eden for the summer. On June 28, 2012, he stepped onto a rock near a chimp enclosure while addressing a group of tourists. It was a gesture that may have been viewed as a breach of territory by the two male chimps that proceeded to pull Oberle under the fencing and viciously maul him.

A STRONG FRIENDSHIP

Reimherr could only think about how to help his friend who was so far away. He and his wife Marissa (B.A. '07) quickly set up a WePay donation site to raise money to assist with travel and medical expenses for Oberle's family.

"He was going to need as much help as he could get," Reimherr said.

Within a few days, they had raised more than \$10,000.

Oberle was Reimherr's close friend, Chi Phi fraternity brother, and had even been his best man at Reimherr's wedding. When Oberle needed a place to live while in graduate school, the couple invited him to move in.

"No person ever thinks something like this is going to happen to someone so close to them," he added.

SPRINGING INTO ACTION

As details of Oberle's injuries emerged, it was clear that extensive surgeries and rehabilitation would be necessary. The at-first impressive sum the Reimherrs had raised would barely put a dent in the financial burden that lay ahead for the Oberles.

Previously planned engagements became impromptu fundraisers for Oberle, which Reimherr publicized on a Facebook page called "Help Andrew Oberle." He even spoke to news media about how people could help Oberle's family.

Reimherr's efforts soon garnered attention.

"Out of the blue," Reimherr said, he received a call from the secretary for Red McCombs — a San Antonio billionaire known for his car dealerships and as a former owner of the San Antonio Spurs.

McCombs had heard about Oberle and wanted to help, so Reimherr told McCombs about the fundraising he had done so far and the roadblocks he encountered when trying to obtain nonprofit tax status.

Within an hour, McCombs called Reimherr back. He used his connections to set up a tax-exempt fund for Oberle through United Way. After contributing \$5,000 himself, McCombs began a campaign of his own to collect donations. Between the Reimherrs' WePay site and McCombs' United

Way fund, they have raised more than \$100,000 for Oberle.

"We've been blown away by the outreach we've received, even from people that never knew Andy," Reimherr said. "It says a lot about how many people have been touched by his story, and we are honored by how many have stepped up to help."

A LONG ROAD

In August, Oberle was flown from a hospital in Johannesburg to St. Louis University Hospital, where he continues treatment and physical therapy. He has already endured numerous surgeries, and his recovery will be long.

His injuries are substantial, but Reimherr said that Oberle is determined to resume his life. He posted his first Facebook message since the accident in September to thank his supporters.

In a recent phone conversation with Oberle, Reimherr heard "the same old Andy," which he takes as a good sign. He believes Oberle will one day even resume his passion helping chimpanzees.

"I hope Andy can serve as an example that when people go through something like this, they can get through it and come out for the better," Reimherr said. "That's where the real inspiration lies."



 $FIVE_{
m professors}$ tackle a nebulous subject at the core of the St. Mary's Catholic and Marianist tradition

by Gina Farrell (M.P.A. '11)

The new St. Mary's University Core Curriculum, implemented in fall 2011, brought about fundamental changes in the way that academics, professional preparation, and Catholic and Marianist values were intertwined. One of the most striking changes was the addition of a class known as Foundations in Civic Engagement and Social Action.

This semester, five instructors are teaching this course, putting their unique twists on a vital and yet somewhat nebulous subject.

"The idea of 'What is civic engagement and social action?' is really an open question," said Megan Mustain, Ph.D.,

director of the Core Curriculum and an Associate Professor of Philosophy. "This is really a conversation about, 'What are the different forms of civic engagement, and what is our obligation as citizens and members of a community?""

The intent of adding this class to the Core was to take what St. Mary's has always done well - engage students in working for the common good — and make that a more formal part of the University.

"Having this course in our Core highlights and further institutionalizes our commitment that, as a Catholic and Marianist university, education is really about transformation."



Brother Brian Halderman, S.M. Adjunct instructor

The Catholic and Marianist tradition calls for us to be engaged citizens, and Halderman guides his students to engage in their communities, developing awareness of social issues such as education and poverty. While volunteering is an important part of any community, he wants students to develop a deeper understanding of their impact. "Volunteering is a one-time shot, such as spending an afternoon at the soup kitchen serving the homeless. If one is consistent in returning to the site on a regular basis, it becomes a form of civic engagement by helping solve a local issue with your time and talent."



Professor of Political Science

True to his political science roots, Hoffman delves into the structures, environments and factors that influence social engagement, including moral and ethical perspectives. He investigates the framework that a Catholic and Marianist education provides and how that influences interpretations of civic engagement and social action. His students identify and articulate a social problem and investigate how the solution might be an opportunity for civic engagement. "Having done this, the students approach a decision-maker to try to get resolution to the problem. Succeed or fail, they then analyze their process and see if they



Sonia Garcia, Ph.D. Professor of Political Science

Garcia's students are focusing on the challenges facing public education with emphasis on Latino students, their experiences, and how court decisions shaped education policy. They examine the relationship between civic engagement and education, imparting Garcia's expertise in court cases, Latino civil rights and Texas politics. As a class, they volunteered with Each One, Teach One, tutoring young adults for the GED. "Students come away from this experience with a real understanding that their service, even if it is just a few hours, has such a huge impact on the lives of these adult students."

Jordan Humphrey, Ph.D. Associate Director for Civic Engagement, Civic Engagement and

Career Development Center

Humphrey dedicates the final third of the semester to the history of social movements, including the African-American Civil Rights Movement, the Farm Workers Movement, the Free Speech Movement, and the San Antonio Pecan Shellers' Strike. "Examination of these movements allows my students a better understanding of what made each effort successful — for example, servant leadership — and also to see the important role students have had in advancing important social causes. Many tell me at the end of each semester that they never knew college students were (and could be) so influential. Success!"



Tom Hoffman, Ph.D.

would have done anything differently."



Bonita Dattner-Garza, Ph.D.

Visiting Lecturer of English and Communications Studies

Dattner-Garza wants her students to know that civic engagement is more complex than it might seem; it is at the very heart of pluralism, liberty and democracy. She has them explore the idea of "civic virtue" and how faith obligates participation in civic life. "We read and write about important contemporary issues in which liberty is violated or at risk and explore the significance of civic engagement for influencing changes or improvements to democratic citizenship."



Anthony Garcia's Road From an Army Combat Commander to Silicon Valley Entrepreneur

by Chris Jarvis

Anthony Garcia isn't one to tell war stories. Ask him about his years as an Army officer and helicopter pilot and you can bet he won't be quick to mention that during the height of the Iraq War he commanded the largest wartime medical evacuation unit ever assembled, safely transporting 6,500 patients.

What Garcia (B.B.A.'99) will mention is how the responsibilities and challenges of those years shaped him into the person he has become.

Today, Garcia is the co-founder and CEO of a burgeoning technology company in San Francisco's Silicon Valley. Started in 2011, Adjacent Applications Inc. uses geo-position data to create application software for mobile computing devices. In layman's terms, he builds mobile apps for smartphones.

The company unveiled its first product last June, a mobile app called Call Dibs. It is a sort of mobile garage sale, allowing users to upload photos of items they want to sell, trade or give away, and search through listings available in their area. The concept may sound familiar — Craigslist, anyone? — but there is something that makes Call Dibs special.

"When we came up with this concept, we thought it could service anyone, but we decided to focus on a particular audience that we're familiar with," Garcia said. In a nod to his understanding of the hardships of military life, Garcia made his first project something designed to ease the frequent moves and transitions of military families in a safe environment, since they know they are dealing with military members, spouses or veterans.

And here's the kicker: It's free.

With more than 400 downloads and 350 registered users and counting, word of Call Dibs is quickly spreading in military circles. Garcia and his business partner Derek Artz, co-founder and COO, travel the country hosting demonstrations at military bases. Garcia's father, Anthony Garcia Sr. (B.B.A. '73), has also been hands-on, promoting the app in their hometown of San Antonio.

While the startup business world is a far cry from a warzone both are fast-paced and high-stress — the type of environment Garcia thrives in. And the pressure-cooker leadership skills he acquired in the military have served

"In this atmosphere, you have to be very good with people, but you have to take action," Garcia said. "When I flew helicopters, everyone in that aircraft had a say. It's the same way on our team."

Though comfortable in his entrepreneurial skin, the transition from the war-weary military lifestyle to the civilian one was not easy. After his return from Iraq, Garcia was unsure of his next move before deciding to go back to school.

It was while completing his MBA at Cornell University in 2009 that the magnitude of two combat tours finally set in. He had been in life-threatening situations and emerged unscathed, while soldiers he had become close with never returned to their families.



Anthony Garcia (right) and business partner Derek Artz.

"The experiences I had, combined with trying to figure out what my new identity would be after being Capt. Garcia for four years, really put me in a bad situation," he said in a 2012 interview for "Veterans Helping Veterans," a California-based television show. "I realized it was time to start a new life. My military experience didn't define who I was, (but) it was a part of who I was — an experience I wouldn't trade for anything."

Garcia began to focus on his positive military experiences and how he could apply them. After seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he moved to Menlo Park, Calif., to work with a high-profile research and development company.

In November 2010, a casual conversation with Artz, then a co-worker, turned into an idea that prompted both to quit their jobs, start a company and develop Call Dibs.

"Anthony is the ultimate enabler when it comes to allowing you to achieve your best performance," Artz said. "His expectations for your performance are in line with your capabilities, and he wants you to achieve your best."

The duo has dreams of building Adjacent Applications into a million-dollar corporation, and they hope Call Dibs will one day become a worldwide phenomenon. But right now, their niche is helping service members.

When I flew helicopters, everyone in that aircraft had a say. It's the same way on our team.

Within the next six months, Adjacent Applications will roll out new features for Call Dibs that will help active service members and veterans — particularly those coping with PTSD — with networking and job placement.

In many ways, Garcia feels he's come full circle.

"It's just about giving back," Garcia said. "We could open this up to other organizations, but right now we're focused on the military, and they'll always be our number one customer."

Mo Boundari

Environmental Science Program covers lots of territory to teach students about issues all around us

In the new Environmental Science program, classrooms don't always have walls.

For professors Evelyn Mitchell, Ph.D., David Turner, Ph.D., and Melissa Karlin, Ph.D., who are leading the School of Science, Engineering and Technology's newest degree program, the world is their laboratory. And while textbooks are still important, they also find use for

painted ants, shopping centers, caves and sea monkeys.

SERIOUSLY.

Enchanted Adventure

On a crisp and windy day in October, 54 students traveled to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area near Fredericksburg. Turner and Mitchell led the hike while explaining the prehistoric processes that formed the rock all around them. The lesson included up-close looks at plant and animal life, including tadpoles and brine shrimp — also known as sea monkeys — in ephemeral pools of rainwater.

On another learning expedition this fall, Turner and Mitchell took a group to a decidedly less exotic location: Bandera Pointe Shopping Center, just a few miles from St. Mary's, where a geological bonanza is tucked behind an urban big box store. The group, mostly underclassmen Environmental Science majors, was asked to sketch or photograph the layers of a massive rock outcropping and draw conclusions about the folding and faulting of its features.

"I like geology because it's like being a detective," said Camila Acchiardo, a junior International Relations major working on an Environmental Science minor. "Dr. Turner can tell you all about what it is and how it got there."

Karlin, the University's first ecology expert, also leads young detectives. She came to St. Mary's this fall from North Carolina, where she tracked and studied endangered red wolves. It was only natural she develop something similar here: create a lab in which students paint and track ants.

"My goal with the students is to introduce them to the plant and wildlife issues that are a part of other issues in environmental science," Karlin said.

The faculty encourages a diverse educational experience, urging students to select electives that nourish their interests and goals.

"Environmental science is a multidisciplinary field by nature, so within our department we're trying to bring in faculty with different experiences so that we can share that with the students. They can benefit from all those experiences going out into the world," Mitchell said.

Continued on page 20.

Story by Andrew Festa Photos by Sarah Wilson





a news junkie to know that global warming, energy consumption, oil spills, droughts and floods are frequent talking points.

To address the need for experts in these subjects, Mitchell came to St. Mary's in 2008 to start a program that would prepare students for successful careers in environmental fields. Classes began in the fall of 2011.

The job market for environmental scientists is booming. Large corporations, as well as federal and state government agencies, employ them, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 19 percent increase in jobs for environmental scientists and specialists between 2010 and 2020.

"If this is going to be a big career opportunity for the next generation," Mitchell asked herself, "why would we not want to offer that as an option to our students?" If we don't offer it, she wondered, which schools will students choose instead of St. Mary's? "I had a number of students beating on my door asking, 'When is this starting so I can transfer to that major?""

1. David Turner, Ph.D., quizzes students about the unique features of Enchanted Rock and what processes may have caused them. 2. Evelynn Mitchell, Ph.D., and David Turner, Ph.D., professors in the Environmental Science program. 3. Melissa Karlin, Ph.D., guides a student during an exercise in which they use tiny paint brushes to mark and track ants.

4. Students examine a geological feature at a rock outcropping behind an unlikely site: the Bandera Pointe Shopping Center. 5. Karlin's class uses the power of their own breath to draw ants into a tube and chamber for further study.

Several freshmen have said the program attracted them to St. Mary's. "The program was definitely a big part of my decision," said freshman Whitney O'Connell, an Environmental Science major.

Geosciences, chemistry and ecology are now options for students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science.

"I wanted to be a geology major, and this was the closest thing," said Cody Boazman, a transfer student in his first semester at St. Mary's. "But once I started the program, I liked it better because it gives you more job options."

The program seeks to place students into internships so they'll gain experience, access to mentors and a professional network. Past interns have worked at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), Northeast Independent School District, and the St. Mary's Environmental Health and Safety Office.

"The Environmental Science program was launched after extensive consultation with government agencies at the local, state and federal levels; and research and consulting firms," said Dean Winston Erevelles, Ph.D. "The program is now in its second year and growing rapidly. I am confident that this program will continue to grow and serve the mission of our University and region."







Because so many of San Antonio's creeks and rivers have been turned into concrete channels, Turner hopes the University can assist local river ecosystem restoration projects similar to the San Antonio River Authority's Mission Reach, Museum Reach and Westside Creeks Restoration Project efforts. For example, did you know the concrete "moat" on campus is actually Apache Creek?

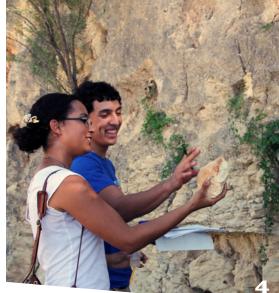
"St. Mary's is in an urban environment," said Turner, who has 20 years of experience and was a SwRI staff scientist. "So we look at the geology and geochemistry of that urban environment and how it might interact with the local ecology."

A faculty development grant will allow Turner to offer a geochemistry class in the spring. Students will collect and analyze water samples from local water systems and study urbanization's effects on water quality.

"I took an environmental science class my senior year of high school, and it opened my eyes about human activity's impact on the world — positive and negative," O'Connell said. "I want to work on the positive to protect the environment and keep things clean."

Learning opportunities also lie underground. Mitchell and her students have spent time studying the role carbon dioxide





plays in cave geology, which might reveal how caves are formed and how that might link to the aquifer.

"Having a good understanding of the processes that are forming caves can tell us more about the underground environment as a whole," Mitchell said.

She also has worked with SwRI researchers and a student to develop a mass spectrometer to analyze cave air. Their work at Robber Baron Cave was featured on a local television station, and their research paper was accepted by the journal *Review of Scientific Instruments*.

Environmental Perspectives

A hot-button environmental topic for South Texas residents is fracking, a process of using pressurized fluid to force energy sources from rock. It's also a topic of discussion in Turner's classes.

"This is like the second oil boom in Texas — it's going on right now, not even 100 miles from here," Turner said of the Eagle Ford Shale drilling, which has its share of both supporters and critics.

"There's a term that comes up often in environmental science: NIMBY — Not In My Backyard," Turner said. "'Energy production is great as long as it's not in my backyard.' "Waste disposal is great as long as it's not in my backyard.'"

There's no doubt fracking is a boon to the economy and an alternative domestic energy source, he said, but there are environmental — as well as cultural and social — costs.

"It becomes emotional," he said. "The story gets shaped in different ways by groups that have different perspectives." Because of the many perspectives, Turner brings in guest lecturers, such as Brother Brian Halderman, S.M., and Philosophy professor Andrew Brei, Ph.D., to discuss environmental

ethics. Historians, too, can teach future environmental scientists to consider the whole picture.

"There's a role for the humanities in environmental science. It's a good place for them all to come together," Turner said.

Reaching Out to Future Leaders

Outreach is a vital part of this program. Faculty members seek to inspire the next wave of environmental scientists through programs like the Earth Science Extravaganza and the Earth Science Museum.

To involve youth, the extravaganza is a popular event bringing hundreds of elementary school children to campus to participate in student- and faculty-led science experiments.

"Students in the program are very engaged ... in this outreach program, which builds upon our very successful Fiesta of Physics outreach initiative," Dean Erevelles said.

The Earth Science museum's collection of more than 1,300 minerals, rocks, fossils, maps and scientific instruments will reopen in the spring, highlighting new disciplines and rotating exhibits that showcase the Environmental Science program's work.

"Frankly, there's a selfish motive in that we want to recruit students, but we also want the students to have an appreciation of their surroundings," said Turner, who also visits high schools with the other professors to spread the word about the program.

"We need to help people understand the relevance of earth science and make it more accessible to the average person, so they can have an appreciation for the planet that surrounds them," Turner said.

FROM THE GROUND UP

Alum looks to transform common plant into viable biofuel

by Chris Jarvis

You could say that watching grass grow is as exciting as, well, watching grass grow. But for Zack Valdez (B.S.'10), it is not only stimulating work but also the focus of his high-profile research fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Valdez, who began his graduate work at Baylor University after leaving St. Mary's, was awarded the highly competitive three-year fellowship in April. He's working on his doctoral studies at Baylor's Institute of Ecological, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Valdez's research has him keeping an eye on switchgrass, a common North American plant with the unique ability to retain large amounts of carbon. That property could make it an ideal biofuel source, and Valdez is investigating optimal conditions for its growth.

Valdez spent this past summer in a switchgrass field in Michigan identifying the biochemical properties of soil samples taken from near the grass' root. His objective was to gather data that will help him determine optimal fertilization and harvesting techniques to retain carbon once the grass is harvested. It is information that could also help farmers maximize production while minimizing environmental impact.

For years the biofuel sector has attempted to wean the nation's dependence on oil, but corn, its main source, is not without flaws. Aside from requiring significant time, effort and space to cultivate, it's notorious for depleting its soil of precious nutrients.

With switchgrass, the opposite is true. It is inexpensive, requires very little fertilization, and is suitable for farming in even the toughest conditions. An added bonus: It doesn't dip into the global food supply like corn.

"When harvested for biofuel, the roots we leave underground are sort of a fertilizer within themselves because they hold a lot of carbon taken in from the plant's natural respiration process," Valdez explained. "We can grow switchgrass on lands that have been stripped of nutrients or are marginally developed."

Alternative energy has become a passion for Valdez. He hopes his work with switchgrass is just one component of the larger endeavor to wean the U.S.'s oil dependence, and he hopes his work will contribute to it becoming a viable biofuel option.

"My hope is that we find some sort of alternate fuel we can use," Valdez said. "I just want to save the world like everyone else." \blacksquare





From at-risk undergrad to chief mentor

by Gina Farrell (M.P.A. '11)



Tina Garza is mentoring young minority scientists, paying forward what her own mentors taught her 25 years ago.

Tina Garza (B.S. '91) came to St. Mary's University as a third-generation American, but a first-generation college student from a family with an income she delicately described as "of a certain level." Garza was what higher education professionals considered at-risk for not returning for her sophomore year, and perhaps a long shot for graduating at all.

Garza knows the deck was stacked against her. But she also knows what made the difference: the support of her mentors. A St. Mary's professor encouraged Garza to apply for a summer research internship far away from both campus and her hometown of El Paso. That summer at the University of California at Irvine changed the direction of her life.

Through that internship, Garza joined a national group that mentors and supports young minority scientists called the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). And earlier this year, she became the first scientist to be named executive director of SACNAS in its almost 40-year history.

It may seem counterintuitive that a research immunologist would become the leader of a nonprofit, but Garza knew all along that her path would lead her to mentoring.

She remembers a particularly challenging time during her graduate work in Virginia when she was the only minority in the entire graduate school.

"I'm a third-generation American, but I grew up in a town on the Mexican border. They made fun of me, said that I had an accent. They would say that I only received my fellowship because I 'had the right last name," she recalls. "I had to keep reminding myself that I got this because I was qualified."

And she doesn't believe her story is unique. The challenges she faced as a first-generation Hispanic student are shared by many students today, and SACNAS is there to help them find success.

"For members of SACNAS, there is this universal sense of how we should bring together both our culture and our love of science without losing our identity. I want students to know that they can be all of those things." ■

Who is Kristine M. Garza, Ph.D.?

Goes by: Tina Now lives in: Santa Cruz, Calif. **Quick CV:** Majored in Biological Sciences, earned her doctorate in Microbiology, completed post-doc work at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Canada, and joined the faculty at the University of Texas at El Paso as a Biological Sciences professor

Today she is: an immunology research scientist and director of a national nonprofit

At St. Mary's she was: a Presidential Scholar and participated in the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program

On planning: "Students are trying to make the right decisions about the rest of their lives when they are 22-, 23- or 24-years old. Remember: The only bad decision is not taking advantage of opportunities."

On preparing: "St. Mary's taught me how to solve problems that weren't mathematical or science-based. The classes I thought I dreaded — like theology and philosophy — were the ones that made me a well-rounded person and gave me a different way to solve problems."



in style.

Compiled by Nicolette Good Photo by Josh Huskin

out to be a vehicle that stayed in the garage. I take it out more now, though, and it gets so many looks. Older people say it reminds them of their childhood.

DREAM RIDE:

An old-school hot rod

gym. I skateboard after work quite a bit just to relax and have fun. Sometimes I go to a skate park, and I'm usually the only 40-year-old there.

DREAM RIDE:

The 1977 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am from "Smokey and the Bandit"



little nostalgic for that. Now $\ensuremath{\mathrm{I}}$ ride the bus almost every day. When I was a little girl living in Houston we'd take the bus downtown, and it was considered a very big deal. You had to dress up and wear gloves. But that was long ago.

DREAM RIDE:

Jetpack

so much strength and joy that I kept it up. I've been biking 20 miles a day for 10 years, and now I'm an institution: a middle-aged woman in neon. But I've always had pretty groovy modes of transportation. Growing up in North Carolina I hitchhiked on trailers and pickups.

DREAM RIDE:

1960s yellow convertible Volkswagen Beetle

urge to try the scooter life. I'm Vespa only, now. I notice things on my route instead of zoning out like I would in a car. If you're thinking about other stuff, you fall off. I even started a scooter gang called the "Stink Eye Scooter Club." We have patches. It's a kick in the pants.

DREAM RIDE

A white 1950s Porsche 356A

PRESERVING St. Louis Hall



Great lengths were taken to maintain the beauty and integrity of the Hall. Window air conditioners were removed and replaced with a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, and improvements were made to safety, energy efficiency, functionality and appearance. A decorative iron railing on the roof was replaced, restoring the building's original façade, and new front doors lead to a foyer where wood floors and a newly inlaid seal are found.

All of that effort was most fitting, as St. Louis Hall is the face of the University's enduring presence in San Antonio. You're invited to see the building for yourself during your next visit to campus.







Photos by Mark Gaynor and Mark Menjivar





To emphasize the building's original architecture, archways and decorative wood beams have been added, along with wood baseboards and wood panel long-leaf pine doors with decorative rosettes at the corners. Some ceilings were restored to their original heights, and full window heights are visible due to architectural pockets around every window.











NOTEWORTHY



Sir Nixon: Alum Granted French Knighthood

More than 65 years after his U.S. military service during World War II, Harry Nixon (M.A. '49), far right, was awarded France's highest honor given to foreign military service members. During a ceremony at the Army Residence Community in San Antonio earlier this year, Nixon was one of three area residents granted the status of Chevalier, or Knight, within the French Legion of Honor. Nixon, who will turn 90 this month, served with the Army's 103rd Infantry Division and was held captive by the Germans for five months. France's ambassador to the U.S., Francois Delattre, wrote in a letter to Nixon, "The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom."



Rattlers Spotted at 2012 Political National Conventions

by Nicolette Good



Pictured left: Benita Veliz, a grad affected by the DREAM Act, speaking at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. Pictured right: David Zapata, a Republican Party of Texas staffer, helping out delegates at the 2012 Republican National Convention

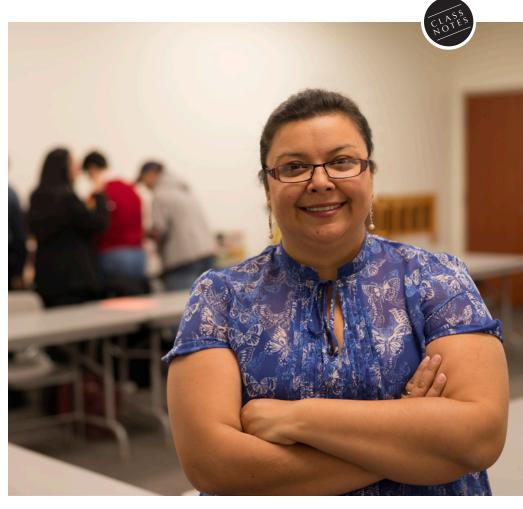
At the 2012 Democratic and Republican National Conventions, Benita Veliz (B.A.'06) and David Zapata (B.A. '10, M.P.A. '11) represented their parties, their political views and their city as first-time convention goers.

Veliz spoke about the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act and shared her personal story as an undocumented immigrant brought to the U.S. by her parents at a young age.

"The experience validated all the years that I have spent wanting to do something for my country — to apply the education I received and to feel like I made a difference."

Zapata, a Republican Party of Texas staff member, served the delegates during the convention. His work with the party focuses on Hispanic outreach and involving minority voters in as many ways as possible.

"As a Hispanic in our state, I believe that if we really want to get ahead, we need to make sure we are represented in both parties."



One to Watch

Neomi DeAnda believes thinking is doing when it comes to theology

by Rosemary F. Segura

Neomi DeAnda, Ph.D. (B.A. '97, M.A. '99), spends a lot of time interacting with people from many faith traditions - a trend she is certain is only going to continue.

"It's fascinating to me how our Church allows for all of these different perspectives and ways of being Catholic," DeAnda said.

At the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, DeAnda works with students from around the world every day, directing both the Oscar Romero Scholars Program and the Hispanic Theology and Ministry Program.

Many of her students don't speak English; yet, they all share the idea of living in community and serving one another. From where she's sitting, her diverse group of students embodies the different ways of being a church.

Women traditionally have been underrepresented in theological academics, and there is still progress needed in diversity, particularly when considering how few Latina Catholic theologians are working today. This past summer, however, the National Catholic Reporter recognized DeAnda and 11 others for being women under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the Catholic Church.

DeAnda was only one of two Latinas to make the list, and of those two, she was the only one with a terminal degree in theology; in the entire United States, she is one of fewer than 20.

DeAnda believes those numbers will only increase as more Latinas - and women in general — realize that theology is not something reserved for the professed. As she put it, "If you contemplate the spiritual or the divine, you are already 'doing' theology."



Design Mind

by Nicolette Good

Name: Chuck Kerr (B.A. '07) Age: 28 Location: San Antonio

Major: Music **Job:** Art Director, San Antonio Current

Quick look: Award-winning graphic designer for an alternative news weekly. First in his family to graduate from college. Moonlights as a jazz percussionist and songwriter.

When did you decide to pursue graphic design as a career?

I've always been really interested in two things: playing the drums and drawing. (Also, Batman.) At St. Mary's, if I wasn't in the music department, I was in the Rattler office. If the whole "best drummer ever" thing didn't take off, I knew I'd be happy doing graphic design.

How did you land your job with the Current?

My senior year I interned in the Current's production department. The art director left, and they needed someone to jump in quickly. It was a full-time position, and I was still a full-time student. I accepted on the condition that I could still take classes.

Was it tough pulling double duty?

For a year and a half, I worked a 40-hour week at the Current and took at least 12 hours a semester at St. Mary's. I was still an editor at the Rattler, and I was on a music scholarship, which meant playing in all the required ensembles. I was also playing jazz gigs downtown at night. It was pretty crazy.

Did the overtime pay off?

My first year at the Current I won first place for my cover design from the Association of Alternative Newsmedia. My professors — especially Dr. John Rankin and John Moore — were incredibly supportive of me during that hectic period. I literally would not be where I am today if not for the music faculty.

What's the toughest part of your job?

Trying to not repeat myself. Since 2006, I have designed more than 300 covers of the Current. Some of my best covers have come out of having thoughts like, "Well, I've never made the cover out of cake or Legos before, let's do that."

Who do you keep tabs on in your field?

My favorite weekly designer is Richard Turley at the ridiculously great Bloomberg Businessweek. This guy is like a rock star. It is the hippest, most fun magazine around, and it's all dedicated to the stock market, the economy and corporations.

> Chuck Kerr is a three-time winner of the Association of Alternative Newsmedia's cover design contest for publications with a circulation under 60,000.







by Beth Barbee

One San Antonio lawyer recently had the biggest win of his career, but it wasn't in the courtroom; Jim Willerson (J.D. '04) is on a hot streak at the poker tables.

So hot, he's temporarily boarded up his law practice to try his luck in some of the world's top poker tournaments.

This summer, Willerson won his first World Series of Poker event, beating more than 3,000 players and pocketing \$700,000. He began playing World Series of Poker tournaments in 2011, and while he had done well enough to win some money, he had not won a tournament. At last tally, his World Series of Poker lifetime winning total was more than \$805,000.

What got this successful attorney playing cards for a living? Competition, of course. Willerson grew up in Alamo Heights playing tennis on the junior national circuit and at Southern Methodist University. He thrives on competition — especially when the stakes are high.

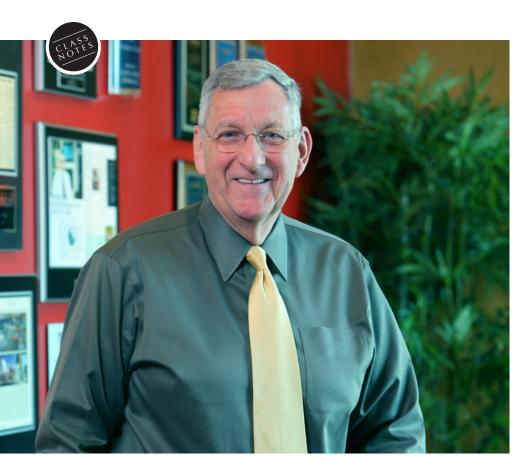
"Who wouldn't want to make money playing a game rather than day to day at a law practice?" he asked.

Although poker has exploded in popularity over the last several years, not many know the ins and outs of complicated tournament play. Not only are they expensive to participate in (buy-ins range from \$1,500 to \$10,000, plus travel costs) but major tournaments can also take two to five days of grueling 14-hour poker sessions.

Willerson says that everyone wants to be a star, but it takes time and experience to learn to read hands and opponents. The secret, he said, is to trust your instincts and be willing to go down when those instincts are wrong.

One of his favorite — and most surreal — experiences so far has been seeing his name on the marquee in the sportsbook at the Rio Las Vegas Hotel and Casino with odds on his play. In the World Series of Poker tournament that he won, his odds were 11-1.

"Of course, you can't bet on yourself."



Dybdahl Joins the Ranks of Consumer Electronics Greats

by Andrew Festa

Bjorn Dybdahl is big in San Antonio, but he's a giant in the world of consumer electronics. Dybdahl (B.A.'70), the founder of Bjorn's Audio Video, entered the Consumer Electronic Association Hall of Fame in October. Other 2012 inductees include the inventor of satellite radio, the inventor of the computer mouse and HTML, and the founders of Dish Network Corp., LG Corp. and Samsung Electronics.

Thomas Edison is a CE Hall of Famer. This is a big deal, folks.

"Being selected was quite a surprise because the people who are in the Hall of Fame are very well known and have done something very important in electronics," Dybdahl said. "For them to choose a small retailer in San Antonio was surprising."

Dybdahl was one of the first to specialize in home theater systems and custom installation. He helped introduce VCRs, CDs, DVDs and HDTVs to the public, and he takes pride in educating the community about new technology.

Dybdahl was born in Norway, grew up in Minneapolis and came to San Antonio while serving in the Air Force. He started taking night classes at St. Mary's in the late 1960s while working at Bill Case Sound, a small audio store.

In 1975, he forged ahead on his own, opening Bjorn's Stereo Designs. The birth of Betamax and VHS that year inspired him to add "video" to his store's name and eventually expand beyond one employee and 1,000 square feet of retail space.

"Back then, we were one of the first to get involved in big-screen televisions and surround sound. Not because I was brilliant or anything, but just because I enjoyed it," Dybdahl said.

Today, Bjorn's Audio Video is a 25,000-square foot showroom on the North Side, and Dybdahl remains active in the business, as well as at St. Mary's. He's a member of the Advisory Council of Executives for the Bill Greehey School of Business.

"It's been fun seeing how the school is growing and making a difference. When I get the opportunity to speak to students I thoroughly enjoy that."

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Rome and Beirut before joining The Washington Post in 1990. He began

writing his twice-weekly column for

the Post in 1993. Dionne is a professor

at Georgetown University and a senior

fellow at The Brookings Institution.

He has been a frequent commentator

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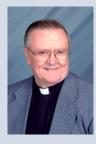
JAMES J. **FORKENBROCK**

James J. Forkenbrock (B.A. '63), a retired educator and member of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, passed away Sept. 16, 2012. A life-long public servant, he

taught high school for 42 years; most of that was teaching at Edgewood-Colesburg High School in Iowa, and he finished his career at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. Forkenbrock served as mayor of Edgewood, Iowa for eight years.

In 2010, Forkenbrock was named to a two-year term on the Board as the St. Mary's Alumni Association representative and served on the Catholic and Marianist Identity Committee. He was a president of the Alumni Association from 2008-2010 and had previously been chairman of several committees for the Fiesta Oyster Bake.

Forkenbrock is survived by his wife, Carol, of 51 years. They have three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



THE REVEREND EUGENE R. SWEENEY, S.M.

The Reverend Eugene R. Sweeney, S.M. (B.A. '55), 79, who for 10 years served as University Chaplain at St. Mary's University, passed to

eternal life on Oct. 27, 2012.

Born Sept. 22, 1933, in East St. Louis, Ill., to John and Adele Sweeney, he first made contact with the Marianists as a student at Central Catholic High School in East St. Louis. Sweeney professed his first vows as a member of the Society of Mary on Aug.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in Economics from St. Mary's University in 1954, he professed his final vows in July 1957. Sweeney was ordained in June 1978 following his studies at the University of Notre Dame and at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, where he completed a Master of Divinity. For more than 20 years he taught in Marianist high schools in Canada and the U.S., and he went on to serve as a retreat master, campus minister and parish priest in Omaha, St. Louis, Denton and San Antonio.

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