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Spring 2014

### Gold & Blue, Spring 2014

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MEET SISTER NICOLE: 22  
A NUN FOR OUR TIMES

ALUM WINS BATTLE FOR VETERANS WITH 26  
SERVICE-RELATED PARKINSON'S

# GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Spring 2014



*Does this professor  
have an answer for  
world peace?* 18







“Close your eyes for a moment and think about home,” Lianna Duran tells visitors to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. “Now, open them.”

As an interpretive park ranger at Yellowstone National Park, **Lianna Duran (B.A. '11)** gives educational tours and shows visitors the majesty of a natural environment that is home to countless animals, plants and natural resources.

“There’s a rich history that’s existed here before modern man,” Duran said of the 2.2 million-acre park known for its wildlife and geothermal features such as the geyser Old Faithful.

Within each mile of the park, the geology changes, and Duran meets with thousands of visitors from around the world each year to teach them how to be good stewards of the land while they visit Yellowstone.

“  
Every day is  
an adventure.”





## Purposeful Lives Rooted in Mary

by Thomas M. Mengler, J.D., St. Mary's University President

St. Mary's University is a gateway for the young adults who live, learn, pray and mature together here. For generations, the Marianists have taught us to humbly appreciate that our talents and treasure are gifts to be stewarded wisely and generously. Since 1852, the Marianists and the lay people who work at St. Mary's have gently prodded students to begin to discern how God is calling them to serve family, workplace and community.

As I write this message to you, Marianist Heritage Week has just ended, appropriately including worship (in recognition of the 164th anniversary of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade's death), community (especially our Heritage Awards Ceremony for faculty, staff and students), and service (with more than 500 students, faculty and staff "Continuing the Heritage" by volunteering on a Saturday afternoon).

The stories of outstanding men and women in this *Gold & Blue* demonstrate that our graduates are continuing the heritage throughout the world in profoundly different ways. The career path that may seem most obviously an answer to God's call is that of Sister Nicole Trahan (page 22), who earned two master's degrees from St. Mary's and is now a member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. After years of prayer and reflection, Sister Nicole found that her ministry lies in a Marianist religious life involving prayer, community and education.

But the Marianist charism, as the Founder intended, flourishes in our lay graduates too. Our 1961 graduate Jud Schroeder's vocation is both

inventor and entrepreneur. Jud (page 24) has brought benefit to the San Antonio community through his creative genius and strong business acumen. In Jud's view, his defining achievement is not the company's revenue figures or the ingenuity of his many patented inventions, but the meaningful work his companies have produced for hundreds of his employees.

The research of graduate Beverly Lindsay, Ph.D., Ed.D., (page 30) is intended to open up opportunities for the underserved. By studying how U.S. and British universities recruit and retain students, particularly minority students, in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics, Dr. Lindsay may help answer how these countries can meet the future demand for professionals in these fields. Another graduate, Vietnam veteran Lorenzo Gonzalez (page 26) is following his passion to advance the interests of veterans who, like himself, are suffering from Parkinson's disease and who may have contracted this illness from exposure to Agent Orange, a Vietnam War defoliant.

Our cover story about Interim Dean and Professor Aaron Tyler, Ph.D., (page 18) should provide confidence that St. Mary's University will continue to be a gateway for our graduates to exceptional lives as servants and leaders at home, in the workplace and in their communities.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Gold & Blue* and its stories of the Marianist charism at St. Mary's University.



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Vocalist Wednesday Ball, a Music With Teacher Certification major from Somerset, serenades dinner guests at the annual President's Dinner in November 2013.



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Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

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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.

## From Our Readers

From the editor: This letter references the fall 2013 issue's cover story on a School of Law graduate and former photojournalist who specializes in First Amendment law.



This is an interesting perspective on First Amendment rights, but it tells only one side of the story. We should be concerned or at least debate, when the statement is made, that "if a person is lawfully present in a public space, he or she has every right to take photographs and to record video of anything in plain sight ..." Beyond the legal right to do so, there is the moral and ethical duty to respect the rights of those being photographed for display. Having the mutilated body of a loved one photographed to be displayed to the public is not just a First Amendment issue. Our university should strive to balance the presentation of legal rights with ethical ramifications, which were totally missing from the article.

— David Biegler (B.S. '68)  
Member of the St. Mary's Board of Trustees  
Dallas

From the editor: In the last issue, we printed a photo from the 1960s and asked if our readers recognized anyone in the group.



I recognized the photo in the latest edition — Students gather in Dougherty Hall (page 32) — and found myself in it: the person cut in half on the left side. The photo features a student from Peru playing his guitar, and some of the others in the photo I think are international students. If I remember correctly, I was the vice president of the International Student Club; perhaps it was called by a different name during 1968-1969 when I got my M.A. in English at St. Mary's.

— Heidemarie Z. Weidner, Ph.D. (M.A. '70)  
Professor Emerita, Tennessee Technological University  
Cookeville, Tenn.

## We want to hear from you

We are proud to include letters and comments from our readers. If you would like to offer a comment, compliment or criticism, please let us know. The letters we publish here may be edited for space, style and clarity. We print only those letters referring to the most recent issue of the magazine, but not those responding to letters or commenting on topics not addressed in the most recent issue. Letters can be emailed to the editor at [gfarrell@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gfarrell@stmarytx.edu) or mailed to Gina Farrell, *Gold & Blue* Editor, St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas 78228-8575.



# Campus News



From top, clockwise: **1.** President Thomas Mengler announces the grand opening of The Park in front of the Softball Stadium in October 2013. **2.** New coaches offices and conference space were added to The Park, many with impressive views of the playing fields. **3.** Dickson Stadium added new locker rooms, concession stands, stadium and berm seating, a concourse, a ticket office and a batting cage. **4.** Rattler athletes enjoy improved training facilities like this weight room in Dickson Stadium.

## Opening of The Park is Grand

St. Mary's University formally unveiled its newest sports venue with the dedication of The Park at St. Mary's in the fall 2013 semester.

The Park is a modern, multi-use complex capable of hosting NCAA championship events. It now features upgraded facilities for athletes and fans, including renovations to the baseball field and construction of new baseball facilities, additional tennis courts, two soccer fields and two softball fields with a stadium.

The \$17.3 million complex was completed thanks to numerous contributions from University alumni and friends, including a \$6 million grant from the Bexar County Community Venues Program.

Special guests at the dedication included Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff (B.B.A./J.D. '66), County Commissioner Paul Elizondo (B.M.E. '57), Mayor Julian Castro and District 7 City Councilman Cris Medina.



Photo by Sarah Brooke Lyons

# Blame it on Facebook?

by Andrew Festa

Some people are social media gurus. Some are relationship experts. Jessie Smith is both.

The St. Mary's doctoral student in the Marriage and Family Therapy program recently co-authored a study with University of Missouri graduate student Russell Clayton titled "Cheating, Breakup, and Divorce: Is Facebook Use to Blame?" and published this summer by the journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking*.

Naturally, we were curious.

## Q What sparked your interest in this subject?

**A:** Russell Clayton and I saw a lot of our friends experiencing relationship problems because of conflicts arising because of Facebook.

## Bet you've heard some juicy stories. Any you can share?

A friend of mine was in a long-term, long-distance relationship, and she found out her boyfriend was cheating when she saw pictures he posted of himself with another girl. Then, instead of calling to break up with her, he just changed his relationship status. Now, was Facebook to blame — who knows? But it definitely led to conflict.

## What are some of your most interesting findings?

The more you use Facebook, the more likely you will experience Facebook-related conflict, which leads to negative relationship outcomes. However, this is only the case for people who are, or have been, in relationships of three years or less.

## Is Twitter safer?

Russell Clayton just ran the study on Twitter and found the same results except that the length of the relationship did not make a difference. This means our findings quite possibly apply to any form of social media.

## What's next for your research?

Right now I am a part-time graduate research assistant for Jason Northrup, Ph.D., and he and I are running a study looking at the positive side of the coin. Are there things satisfied couples are doing on Facebook that are actually facilitating their relationships?

## What's been your favorite part of this?

My friends, family, co-workers and peers always tell me what they have been through because of Facebook. It just reiterates to me that this research is very relevant in our day and age. To be a part of discovering what is better to do, or not do, in your relationship on social media sites is very exciting.

## Any advice for social media-savvy couples?

Don't be consumed by the online world. Make sure you set boundaries and that those boundaries are discussed and agreed upon with your partner. Use Facebook to help your relationship, not hurt it. ■



## St. Mary's Among the Best for Veterans

St. Mary's University has been ranked eighth in the West region in *U.S. News & World Report's* inaugural "Best Colleges for Veterans" rankings.

The new rankings were developed to help veterans pursue a college education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, according to *U.S. News*. The rankings provide information on institutions that offer federal benefits, including tuition and housing assistance, to veterans and active service members.

"We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve our country," said University President Thomas Mengler. "Helping them further their education is one way we show our thanks. I'm pleased that we are considered one of the best at doing so."

To qualify for the rankings, institutions must be certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program and Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium. A total of 234 schools were ranked in 10 categories.

# Business



The business school's Network of International Business Schools Worldwide Case Study team, pictured from left: Ernesto Negrete, Kelsey Davis, Stefano Cabello and Ginnette Garcia.

## St. Mary's Team Reaches Worldwide Competition Finals

The Bill Greehey School of Business' Network of International Business Schools Worldwide Case Study team is headed to London in March as one of 16 squads reaching the finals.

The competition will be at the London Southbank University, with teams challenged to come up with the best ideas and solutions for strategic business problems. For every case, the teams have to present and defend their strategic plan for a jury of professional and academic experts.

Jeffrey Johnson, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Global Business Studies at St. Mary's, leads the team of four undergraduate students.

## Students Take Top Prizes at Elevator Pitch Contest

The St. Mary's Entrepreneur Scholars (E-scholars) won the top two spots at the 2014 National E-scholars Student Consortium's elevator pitch competition.

In the competition held in Denver, students "sell" unique business ideas in 90 seconds or less — about the length of an elevator ride. Entrepreneurs, small-business advisers and investors judge the competition.

Lysette Flores, a junior Entrepreneurial Studies major, took first place for her concept: a company called Diced & Ice, offering gourmet shaved ice refreshments with all-natural ingredients at professional sporting event venues in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Paola Retes, a junior Corporate Finance major, placed second with her idea: Spin My Closet, a business offering an online wardrobe rental service for women in Austin.

# Rewarding Excellence

## 2014 Distinguished Faculty Honorees

### Bill Greehey School of Business:

Feng Zhang, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor of International Business*

### School of Humanities and Social Sciences:

Bill Israel, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of English and Communication Studies*

### School of Humanities and Social Sciences:

Teresa Van Hoy, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of History*

### School of Science, Engineering and Technology:

Susan Oxley, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Chemistry*

### Graduate School:

Gregory Pool, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Psychology*

### School of Law:

Bernard Reams Jr., Ph.D., *Professor of Law*

### Early Career Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research:

Marshall McCue, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences*

### Senior Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research:

Alice Kersnowski, Ph.D., *Professor of English and Communication Studies*

## 2014 Marianist Heritage Awards

### Student Leadership Award:

Eric Uriegas (B.A. '13)

### Marianist Heritage Award Winners:

Carlos C. Sanchez, *Physical Plant Groundskeeper*

Katherine Lehman-Meyer, *Director of Academic Media Center*

Michael Losiewicz, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Chemistry*

Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I., D.Min., *School of Law Chaplain*



# Law and Graduate

## School of Law Again Earns Service Award

The Texas Access to Justice Commission has honored the St. Mary's University School of Law with the 2013 Law School Commitment to Service Award, which the law school also earned in 2009.

The Commitment to Service Award honors the law school that has most distinguished itself by educating students about access to justice issues, carrying forward one of the finest traditions in the legal profession. The Commission recognized the St. Mary's School of Law's commitment to providing legal services to the poor as "truly exceptional."

The Texas Access to Justice Commission was created by the Supreme Court of Texas to coordinate services for people who seek legal representation but may not be able to afford it. The Commission works to reduce barriers to the justice system for low-income Texans.

## Center Receives \$372,000 in Grants for Social Justice

The School of Law's Center for Legal and Social Justice was awarded nearly \$372,000 in grants in recent months. The grants enable the Center to expand its reach and continue to provide high-quality legal and community services to local residents and communities throughout South Texas.

The Internal Revenue Service, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Fund, and the Nationality Law Section of the State Bar of Texas awarded the funds.



Charles E. Cantú, Law School Dean

## Professorship Established for Outgoing Dean Cantú

For more than 80 years, the St. Mary's School of Law has been dedicated to educating prudent, successful and ethical attorneys. And for more than half of that time, Charles E. Cantú (J.D. '64) has been a part of the effort — first as a law student, then as a faculty member and, for the past seven years, as dean. A national search for the next dean is underway, with an announcement expected this spring.

Cantú will retire as dean at the end of the spring 2014 semester. In honor of his service and dedication to the University and its Catholic and Marianist heritage, the University has established the Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law professorship. For more information on giving to this distinguished professorship, contact **Collanne West** at [cwest1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:cwest1@stmarytx.edu) or 210-436-3774.

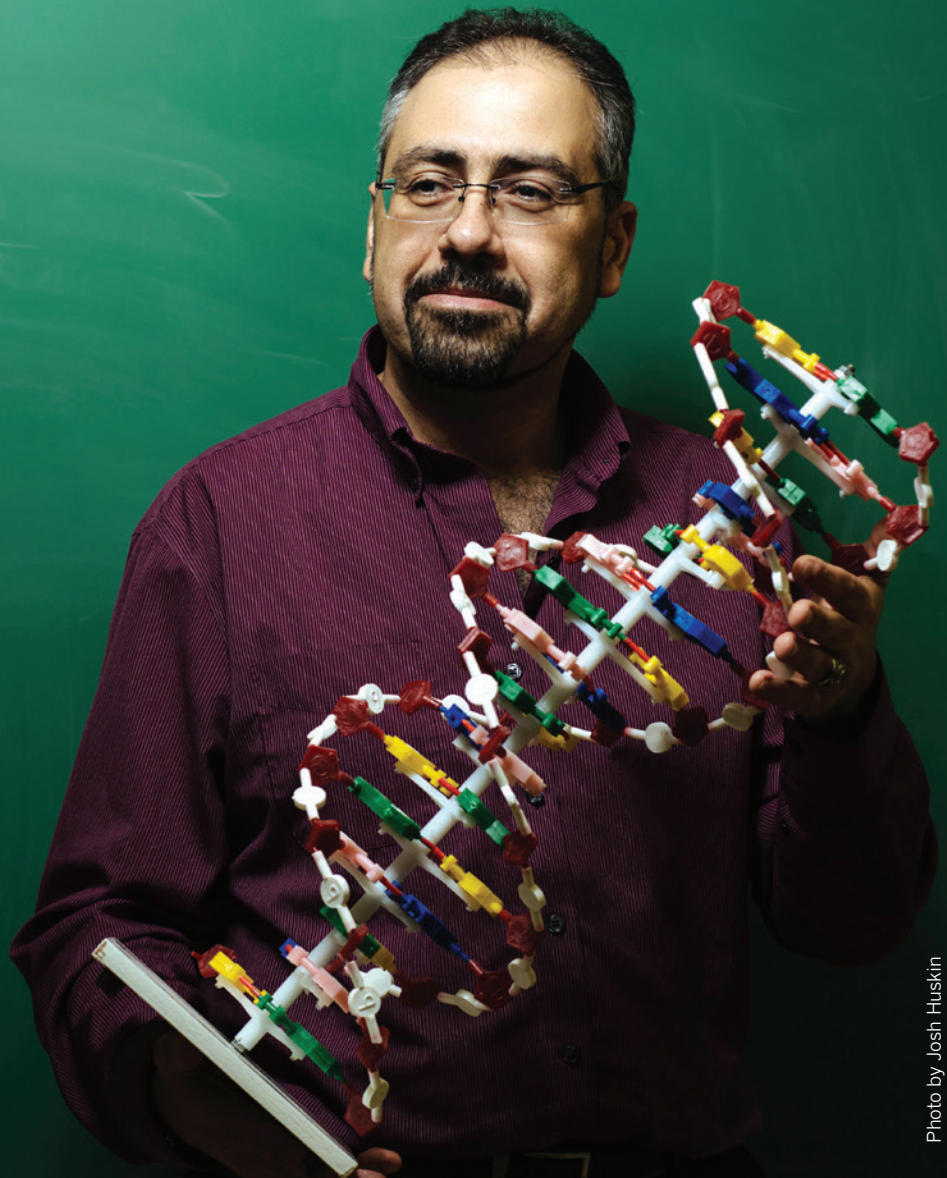


Photo by Josh Huskin

# Outlining a Mystery

**Biological Sciences prof compares normal and abnormal genes to shed light on Lou Gehrig's disease**

*by Chris Jarvis*

Ahmad Galaledeen, Ph.D., was a doctoral student when his faculty mentor showed him a graphic of what appeared to be colorful abstract patterns. In fact, it was a brand new molecular diagram of an important enzyme, and Galaledeen was among the first to see it.

"I had always been amazed at how everything is able to work inside the cell," said Galaledeen, who is now an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at St. Mary's. "But to realize you could contribute to public knowledge in this way — it was fascinating."

Think of it as Galaledeen's "aha moment."

To structural biologists like Galaledeen, molecular diagrams are blueprints for molecular structures including proteins, which are an integral part of all living things. These diagrams can be treasure troves of medical information, giving clues for new drug therapies and vaccinations.

Galaledeen's current research focuses on outlining mutations in the gene superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1), an essential enzyme for normal cell activity. Abnormalities in SOD1 have been linked to

Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which attacks the cells that control muscles), and Galaledeen hopes that comparing normal and abnormal gene structures might give insight into the origins of ALS or even an effective treatment.

"People have been working on ALS for 160 years now, since it was discovered, but we do not have a single drug that can make a person live one month longer," Galaledeen said.

Though ALS remains a mystery, work like Galaledeen's to understand its molecular makeup is a significant piece of the puzzle. In June 2013, Galaledeen was named a Biaggini Research Program fellow at St. Mary's, allowing him to continue his research.

Outlining molecular structures is a tedious process, but one Galaledeen pursues with verve.

"It's exciting that you might get to figure out something nobody else will, especially when you have a hot project and you're competing with other scientists," he said. "It's not sports, but it is a competition for the brain." ■



# Between Two Worlds

**St. Mary's English prof's latest book sheds light on the people of the South Texas border**

by Carmel Tajonera

Born and raised in Laredo, Refugio "Ito" Romo, Ph.D. (B.A. '83, M.A. '93), has seen firsthand the trials that many endure while living in the small towns along the U.S.-Mexico border. In fact, Romo's family has lived on both sides of the border for nine generations.

Perhaps it is personal experience that has led to so much acclaim for his latest work, *The Border is Burning* (University of New Mexico Press), a collection of 13 short stories that take place in towns on the U.S.-Mexico border. Through evocative vignettes, readers get a glimpse of characters' broken lives and dreams.

"I want you to see the border no one wants to see," said Romo, Associate Professor of English and Communication Studies at St. Mary's.

Since its release, the book has

“

I want you to see the border no one wants to see.”

received praise from book editors at *Texas Monthly*, San Antonio Express-News, San Antonio Current, The Texas Observer, Tucson Weekly and El Paso Times.

In the stories, themes of addiction, alienation, depression and poverty are ubiquitous. Romo says these issues are rampant

throughout the border towns, yet society has been quick to look the other way until the concepts no longer seem real anymore.

"I want to shake people up," Romo said. "I want to bring attention to the people we've pushed to the fringes of society — people we've demonized." ■



Photo by Ricardo Mario



# Science

## Grant Will Fund New Summer Learning Program

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Welch Foundation that will help establish the Chemistry Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, increase the availability of on-campus summer research opportunities in the chemical sciences, and enhance the quality of education in the chemical sciences through strong ties between research and teaching.

This grant will advance the University's goal of providing students opportunities to immerse themselves in their programs of study. The grant was developed by Department Chair and Associate Professor Michael D. Losiewicz, Ph.D., who worked with Chemistry Department colleagues Dmitriy Khon, Ph.D.; Susan Oxley, Ph.D.; Jeff R. Schoonover, Ph.D.; Jose R. Tormos Melendez, Ph.D.; and Timothy Pieprzyca, S.M.



## Funding Continues Pre-med Camps

St. Mary's has again received funding from the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) for pre-med camps to promote pathways to medical careers. The funding will provide high school students and incoming freshmen who are interested in careers in medical fields with academic enrichment and clinical experience activities.

Two summer camps will be held jointly on the St. Mary's and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) campuses. As part of these camps, students will hear lectures and participate in hands-on activities at UTHSCSA, including in a dental casting lab, and visit the Bulverde EMS Anatomy/Cadaver Lab.

# Humanities

## Students Ace Educator Certification Exams

Students from the Teacher Education Department at St. Mary's University were perfect in passing the 2013 teacher certification examinations.

The Texas State Board of Education released the 2012-2013 results, and St. Mary's students' pass rate was 100 percent, with 32 students passing 61 tests. The statewide rate was 92 percent.

"True to our mission, the Teacher Education Department effectively prepares teachers who are ready to make a difference in

the lives of young people," said Janet Dizinno, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

St. Mary's students have exceeded the state average every year since 2000 and have never had an initial pass rate below 94 percent.

## Spring Drama Productions Set

The Drama Department has two student-written productions scheduled for the spring 2014 semester.

The first is part of a theater production course in which students are creating an original work based on the theme "Faith."

It will be staged March 20-22 at 7:30 p.m. in Guadalupe Chapel.

The second production is both written and directed by St. Mary's students. The one-act play titled *Greyhound: Boring Bus Station, Interesting People* by Marissa Rodriguez, a senior English-Communications Arts major, will be performed in the Quad Amphitheater April 3-5 at 8 p.m. Josue Vargas, a senior Political Science major and Drama minor, will direct.

Check the University calendar online at [www.stmarytx.edu/calendar](http://www.stmarytx.edu/calendar) for additional information.

# Sports

Reserve your seats at the all-new [www.StMUTickets.com](http://www.StMUTickets.com)

Excited to check out The Park at St. Mary's?

Visit [www.StMUTickets.com](http://www.StMUTickets.com) to reserve your seat for any of our home sporting events. Tickets are \$5 for all men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball and volleyball regular-season home events. Students, faculty and staff receive complimentary admission with a St. Mary's ID card.



Richter (no. 30) celebrates with her teammates.

## Softball Player in the NCAA Record Books

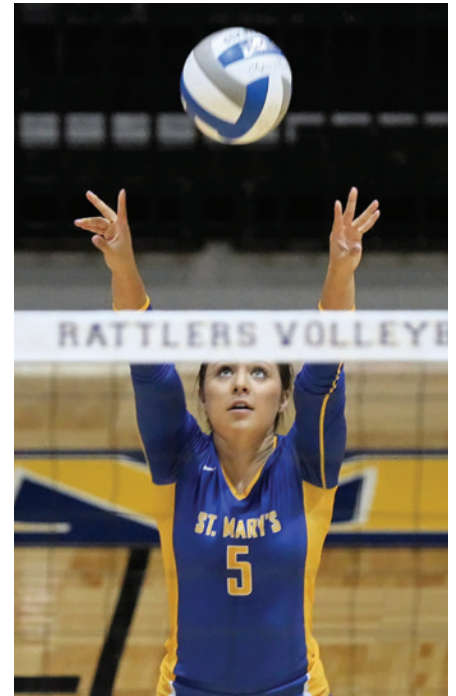
St. Mary's softball player Haley Richter has made it into the NCAA record books.

Richter, a junior, became the Division II record holder for consecutive games with a grand slam (three) and tied the all-time mark for grand slams in a season with four in 2013. This spring, Richter and the entire softball squad are going for their 13th Heartland Conference title in 14 years.

## Martinez Sets Volleyball Record

Volleyball player Victoria Martinez had a sensational season, guiding St. Mary's to the Heartland Conference Tournament.

Martinez, a libero, finished fourth in the nation in digs per set (6.45) and set the all-time, single-season St. Mary's record in that category. With 1,787 career digs, Martinez will enter her senior season next fall on pace to surpass Katy Migl Guevara (B.B.A. '06) for the Rattler career mark.



Martinez





Photo by Josh Huskin

# The Big Serve

by Robin Johnson (B.A. '11, M.A. '13)

As a St. Mary's freshman, Michael Maciel already is a decorated member of the tennis team, and he is channeling his own passion for the sport to inspire young people in the community.

As a Greehey Scholar in the Bill Greehey School of Business, Maciel had to choose a service project to participate in, but he ultimately decided to create his own.

"The first thing that came to mind was tennis," he said.

His project provides free tennis lessons to interested Northside Independent School District students who couldn't afford to take lessons on their own.

"Tennis has always been something that has been a huge part of my life," he said. "I know the values and structure that it's brought to my life, and I was wanting to give that back to children who may not have had that opportunity."

Maciel's project offers three clinics tailored to different age groups and playing levels.

"I knew it was going to be a challenge starting my organization as opposed to doing a service project that has already been underway, such as Habitat for Humanity," Maciel said. "But it was a very good opportunity to give back to the tennis community, which has done so much for me in my life."

Maciel's project kicked off in September, and he hosted six clinics over a weekend that served more than 100 students, many of whom were trying the sport for the first time.

St. Mary's head tennis coach Lisa Dausin said that Maciel's achievements are fitting of the person she met when she recruited him from his native Sugar Land.

"Michael's outstanding success on the court stands on its own, and his impressive academic record and accomplishments are also well recorded," Dausin said. "What you can't see on paper, however, is the strength of character this young man possesses."

Maciel will continue his tennis clinics throughout the year while helping the Rattlers go for a third-straight nationally ranked year. ■

Michael Maciel, a freshman from Sugar Land, came to the University as a four-star tennis recruit ranked No. 175 in the nation. In his first collegiate season with the Rattlers, he is already the team's top player in the top bracket and claimed the championship at the Fourth Annual Doc Skogman Invitational in the A singles bracket.



# Tools of the Trade

Compiled by Chris Jarvis

Labs in the School of Science, Engineering and Technology have received an infusion of cutting-edge technology — almost a half-million dollars worth — thanks to grants from two top philanthropic foundations. As a result, students in the departments of Engineering, and Physics and Earth Sciences are getting their hands on a bunch of cool, innovative equipment.

The grants — \$250,000 from the W.M. Keck Foundation and \$200,000 from the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation — were used to purchase an array of devices, most of them so technical they are challenging to describe here. So instead of reading lots of technical jargon, take a look at our students and professors interacting with these high-tech gadgets.

This new machinery not only gives St. Mary's a competitive edge in the fast-growing world of research-based schools, they will be an educational boon for students for years to come. It's more than just financial support from a foundation to a university; it's a partnership that serves the public good.

**Some gifts really do keep on giving.**

## Niton (XL3t 500) Industrial Portable XRF Analyzer (and accessories)

Not a metal detector, even if it looks like one. This provides compositional measurements of soil and mining samples for Environmental Science applications.



## Olympus Digital Ultrasonic Thickness Gage (38DLP-X-ET-E-EN) Sonic System

Researchers in Environmental Science use this device to measure the structural property of any rock.

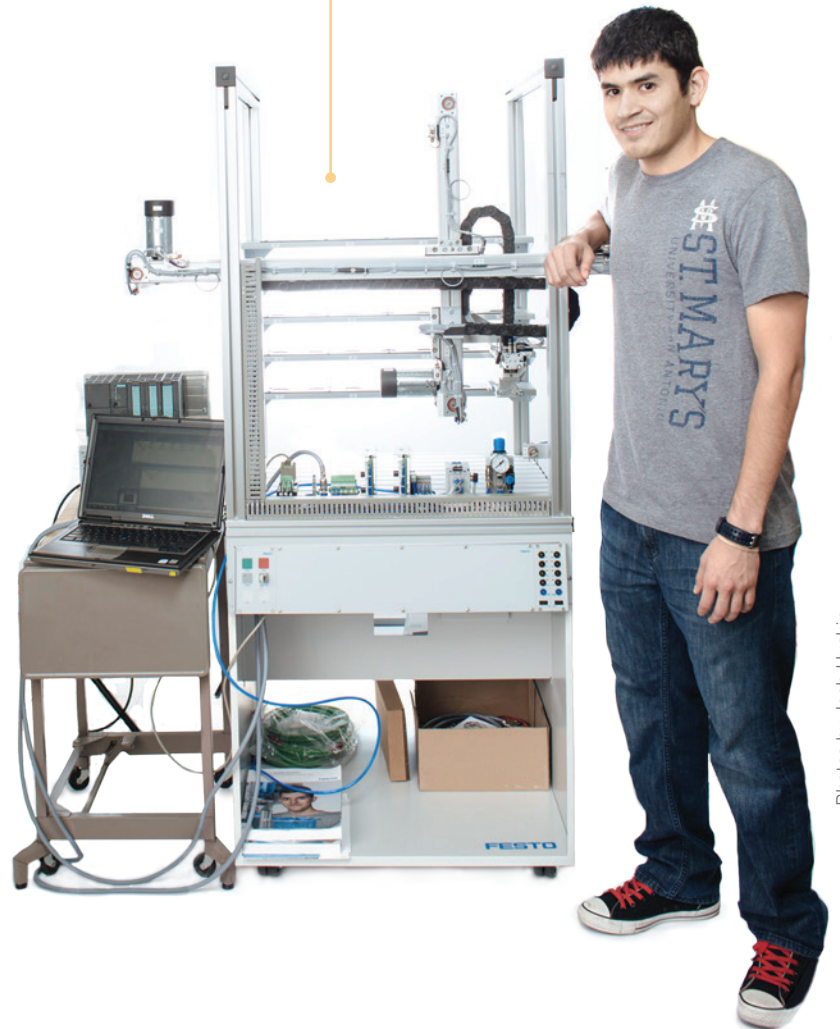
## ASD FieldSpec 4 Wide-res Spectroradiometer

Environmental Science students and faculty use this handheld scanner to collect field data and map vegetation at a high speed.



## FESTO Warehouse MPS 500

This small-scale test environment allows Industrial Engineering students to test theories on optimizing robotic assembly and transportation.



*Continued on page 16*

Photos by Josh Huskin



## SolidWorks Software

Getting ideas from conception to production is where this product comes in for Engineering students. Complex software turns concepts into computer-aided renderings that can be brought to life using the next two machines.

## Haas CNC Mini Mill

On a deadline and missing a part? This device will manufacture just what is needed from any metal, keeping Engineering students on track.



## Techno Patriot CNC Production Center

Engineering ideas go from concept to reality thanks to this device that builds 3-D models made from plastic and wood.

## FARO Edge Measurement Arm and Laser Line Probe

This device scans a 3-D image of just about anything and then communicates with other equipment in the Engineering lab to build it.

## Haas CNC/Manual Toolroom Lathe

Cuts, sands or drills materials — just about any material, including plastic and metal — with exact symmetry and precision. If an Engineering student needs a unique bolt or screw for a project, this can do it.



## Geomagic Studio and Qualify

This software works hand-in-hand with the FARO arm to get the images to production.

## MasterCam for SolidWorks

This is another high-tech software product that designs virtual parts for a variety of apparatus and guides machining tool paths on the CNC devices to create them. ■



# *Lessons in Peace*



# Aaron Tyler believes faith — any faith — can be the foundation for transforming conflict

by Nicolette Good

Aaron Tyler grew up in the Baptist religious tradition, the son of an Air Force chaplain. It was a childhood that uniquely prepared him for a life dedicated to the study of faith-based peace building.

“Imagine different people from different backgrounds coming together every week, whether they’re Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic or Mormon,” Tyler said of how his dad’s role shaped his views. “That ecumenical background influenced me very much.”

Tyler earned his Ph.D. in Religion, Politics and Culture at Baylor University, became an ordained Baptist minister in 2001, taught at Truett Seminary in Waco, and pastored a church in Oglesby for six years while completing his doctoral studies — another experience that would prove influential in his life’s work.

Faced with extreme poverty, Oglesby’s residents struggled with unemployment, drug addiction, domestic violence and poor living conditions. Pastoring to a community in such need allowed Tyler to leave the “ivory tower” of academia and to serve people who were struggling daily, often without the community resources they desperately needed.

“Pastoring in Oglesby taught me a lot about working with people going through challenging issues,” Tyler said. “It’s immeasurable how that kind of thing impacts you.”

Tyler came to St. Mary’s in 2006 where he continued researching the role that faith-based organizations play in peace-building initiatives. He was especially drawn to those that addressed identity conflicts — conflicts in which a person or group’s sense of self is threatened or not legitimized.

While studying these groups, Tyler became immersed in the actual work the organizations were doing.

“(My research) got me thinking about how St. Mary’s could play a more direct, contributive role in peace building and conflict transformation — how we could partner with some of these other faith-based organizations in creating a holistic and comprehensive look at conflict transformation.”

## Religion: The Cause and the Cure

As Director of the International Relations graduate program at St. Mary’s, Tyler created an Academic Certificate in Conflict Transformation built on the groundwork of the department’s already successful online-classroom capabilities. The certificate, which welcomed its first class in fall 2013, is a sort of global classroom, geared toward people working on the ground in conflict and post-conflict zones and marked by the same academic rigor of the University’s master-level courses. However, its niche is in a two-week field study at Corrymeela, a Christian community in Northern Ireland that promotes reconciliation and healing of social, religious and political divisions.

“We look at how to participate in strategic listening and narrative analysis, and how to allow all sides to explain their perspective,” explained Tyler, who is also Interim Dean of the

Graduate School. “Oftentimes you’re not necessarily dealing with reality, but with how people perceive reality. And that’s what’s important: understanding how these stories are framed.”

It is precisely in navigating these complexities that the St. Mary’s program shines: unpacking the events, patterns and identities at the root of a conflict, and identifying and implementing concrete, workable solutions that lead to positive outcomes.

The International Relations Department combines coursework on conflict resolution, security, policy and sustainable development within its approach, seeing each as interdependent. Tyler’s expertise in religion and peace building informs much of the certificate curriculum, as well.

“I am interested in the role of religious-affiliated organizations in identity conflict — the role of religion in causing conflict, but also the role of religion in helping to heal conflicts.”

## From Victimization to Understanding

In June 2013, Tyler led an educational community trip to Corrymeela with members of his San Antonio Baptist church, as well as St. Mary’s alumni and staff. There, they discussed topics of peace and justice from a faith perspective.

The group included Wilson Gathungu, a native Kenyan and graduate from Central Seminary in Kansas City, who learned of the trip through his institution. Gathungu would soon after enroll in the Conflict Transformation certificate program. As Tyler and Gathungu got to know each other, it turned out they had much in common in the way of peace work.

Wilson Gathungu was born in Kenya during the Mau Mau Rebellion in the 1950s, a bloody and complex conflict between Kenyan tribal groups and the British army.

“My mother was among many women who lost their husbands and sons in the war that lasted for seven years,” said Gathungu. “Brought up by a widowed woman who was a victim of that violence, I learned about the horrors and the cruelty of war in narratives told in the evening around fireplaces as the meals were cooked.”

Gathungu’s mother avoided tough questions that would stir up emotions of revenge and hatred in the community. And her instincts were keen: All sides of the conflict were responsible for excessive brutality.

“In fear of rekindling revenge, my late mother made us believe that our grandfather’s grave was our father’s grave just to calm us,” said Gathungu.

“Oftentimes you’re not necessarily dealing with reality, but with how people perceive reality. And that’s what’s important: understanding how these stories are framed.”

— Aaron Tyler, Ph.D., who created the Academic Certificate in Conflict Transformation

*continued on page 20*



He later learned that the location of his own father's grave was unknown, and that his father was killed by rebels for refusing to support either side.

His mother's deftness in handling their family's history kindled his passion for achieving sustainable peace and justice, and he started a peace organization in Kenya called PRARI: Peace, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation Initiative. Gathungu invited Tyler in June 2013 to help lead one of PRARI's conferences in the city of Kamwaura. PRARI hosts workshops and conferences to train peace agents, installs community-based peace forums, and finds homes for displaced families and orphaned children.

Much of Kenya's conflict today is a consequence of decades-long political tensions and territory issues. The politics in Kamwaura are rooted in tribal identity: You stick close to your tribe, and, if you don't, there is a fear of one group overtaking another. Elections have been known to escalate to the point of physical violence in Kamwaura.

"Politicians often come through these small villages and communities close to election time," explained Tyler, "and they can stir up tribal identities, tribal animosities, narratives of victimization, resentment and even vendetta. These are issues that are not uncommon in other places, whether Northern Ireland or elsewhere."

PRARI's conference brought together Kamwaura's chiefs, elders and leaders for three days of intensive training in mediation, community-building and social action.

"We talked about how to reframe narratives of understanding," said Tyler.

The workshops also addressed how the participants could prepare their communities for election cycles when politicians would undoubtedly attempt to rekindle tribal tensions.

"We discussed how to react in a responsible and community-building way," said Tyler. "Most conflicts are identity conflicts at some level, whether they're between nations or between tribes, ethnicities or religions. When you get to some of those deeper conflicts that have religion or tribe involved, they are a lot harder to break as opposed to national conflicts, in which case elections, economics or politics can change things more quickly."

Tyler noted that the struggles that people in Kamwaura experience are not so different from those that residents in the Central Texas town of Oglesby deal with. During one exercise in Kenya, Gathungu and Tyler asked, "What is conflict?"

"They said alcoholism, domestic abuse, idleness, unemployment," recalled Tyler. "While it was a very different context and scenario, there were a lot of similarities."

### Taking Off Your Shoes

To introduce difficult topics and issues surrounding peace and conflict, Tyler and Gathungu needed common ground. So, they used Bible stories like Moses in the Book of Exodus when God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Tyler proposed a similar course of action to the participants for when they encounter difficult situations.

"We set the stage with, 'this can be a sacred opportunity,' and they began to see this conflict as an opportunity to make positive change," said Tyler. "There was an emphasis on seeing themselves as Kenyan and as children of God beyond their tribal identities."

The workshops also used physical models to demonstrate how power was distributed in the participants' communities. The attendees created a sculpture that they felt represented power dynamics, and then Tyler asked, "How would you rearrange it to better represent an equitable relationship in your community?"

"It started as a quiet atmosphere, tense, a little pensive as we began to work through these stories," Tyler said. "By the end of it, there was music and celebration. It's an evolution you could see in just 72 hours. These people are working on these things with or without us. I was there to frame the learning experience; I don't come to bring them anything, but to partner and walk alongside them during it."

Soon after, Gathungu enrolled in the Conflict Transformation certificate program, receiving a scholarship to participate. Now he is part of a global network of practitioners and professionals who are committed to the human work of conflict transformation, from faith-based peace builders in Pakistan to those working with juvenile delinquents and gang members in San Antonio.

"We are there to teach, but we're also there to help create a community of activists committed to social action and constructive conflict transformation, not just locally but globally," said Tyler. "You'll study the theories, but you'll also pay attention to what others are doing in the field and learn from one another. It's a new framework of partnerships for peace building." ■



“  
I learned about the horrors and the cruelty of war in narratives told in the evening around fireplaces as the meals were cooked.”

— Wilson Gathungu, a Kenyan student in the Conflict Transformation certificate program





Photo by Christena Dowsett



# A Nun for Our Times

**Nicole Trahan wasn't a practicing Catholic growing up, and she didn't hear about the Marianists until after college. But at age 38, she took final vows and became one of them.**

*by Candace Kuebker (B.A. '78)*

Nicole Trahan's path to becoming a member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate — the Marianist sisters — wasn't direct.

"Religious life was never even a thought in my mind. The sisters I knew seemed so perfect. I wasn't."

Although she attended Catholic school through high school and was involved with retreat teams and youth groups, religion didn't take a prominent place in her family. She didn't think about becoming a nun.

Trahan (M.A. '02, M.A. '11) studied biomedical sciences at Texas A&M University, and she served on liturgical teams and sang in the choir at St. Mary's Catholic Church, the local parish providing campus ministry for the university's Catholic students. But it was her work at the church's Catholic Center that she was most passionate about.

"That's where I got my energy," she said. "When I was about to graduate, I started thinking about what kind of ministry I could do, but I didn't know enough."

## In search of the call

Not sure of her life's direction, Trahan spent the next several years exploring different opportunities in search of what would ignite her passion.

She volunteer-taught several grade levels and disciplines to economically disadvantaged students at a Catholic elementary school in Uvalde for a year. Then, she enrolled in the St. Mary's University Catholic Leadership Program after a chance meeting with its director and even began a second master's degree in Pastoral Ministry to bolster her educational background. Trahan began teaching religion at Central Catholic High School around the same time.

"On my first day of graduate class, a lay Marianist named Bob Schmidt came up to me and asked if I knew I was teaching at a Marianist high school. I didn't know much, but Bob started to tell me about them and it was the beginning of a lesson."

Though she wasn't familiar with the Marianists, it was as if Mary was illuminating Trahan's path all along.

Teaching at Central Catholic, she learned about The Marianist LIFE (Living in Faith Experience) program for high school students — a weeklong immersion in the Marianist charism. She introduced it to her students, but it also brought Trahan closer to finding her own niche. She was invited to join the national LIFE team, and for the next eight years she helped to plan and direct the program.

## Saying yes

Still, pursuing religious life was not yet apparent until she returned to the St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station and met students considering religious life themselves.

"It struck me that I'd never explored the possibility," she said. "I was sure I wanted to live my life in ministry, and to do that fully it would have to be my first priority."

Several things became clear to Trahan as she began to consider religious life in earnest. She realized that, for her, living and praying alone was not "life-giving." She attended a campus ministry conference attended by many Marianists, and she realized how much she enjoyed them being part of her everyday life.

She went on a discernment retreat in 2005 with a list of reasons religious life would not work for her, but none turned out to be valid. At this point, Trahan had a pretty good idea where she was heading.



“

Religious life was never even a thought in my mind. The sisters I knew seemed so perfect. I wasn't.”





Photo by Peter Coe

Trahan entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate as a novice, with some family members voicing concerns about her decision. However, when her family witnessed Trahan taking final vows in the summer of 2013, her oldest sister said, “I finally understand why you did it, and I’m very happy for you.”

### A creative time for religious life

Today, Sister Nicole Trahan, F.M.I., teaches religion at Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School in Dayton. She’s also vocations coordinator for all Marianists in Dayton and national vocations director for the sisters.

She acknowledges that in the future it is likely religious congregations will be significantly smaller than they have been in the past, but for her that’s OK.

“It’s not about the numbers. I think we’re entering a more creative time in religious life, with more collaboration between congregations and lay people. That’s hopeful — it’s good to have to think of things in different ways. It’s scary for some, but for me it’s exciting.”

Trahan admits that not many GenXers like her went into religious life because “we were taught individualism, to make our own way.” But she sees more Millennials considering the possibility. She had to leave behind her individualism, but she’s gained a broader worldview.

“Being a religious has expanded my perspective

on the world. I’ve traveled a lot more than I ever thought I would and met people from cultures I’d only read about.”

Trahan see herself as the new face of the professed religious? Well, yes and no. “Many people entering religious life now are graduating from college, going out into the world, like I did, and getting work experience. Many are minorities. And many enter religious life for prayer and community life, not necessarily because of the group’s mission. I fit that general trend.” But, she continued, people who consider entering religious life have some things in common, but each person’s path is unique.

“Since taking final vows, my interest in working with young people remains strong. But now there’s permanence and stability that was absent before. It may sound counterintuitive, but stability leads to freedom.” ■





# Ideas on Tap

**Alfred A. “Jud” Schroeder (J.D. ’61) is a glass half-full kind of guy – literally.**

*by Chris Jarvis*

With more than 100 issued patents related to the modern drink dispenser, Jud Schroeder has revolutionized the beverage industry, making significant improvements to carbon-dioxide regulators, cooling mechanisms and syrup pumps. From fountain drinks and slushies to beers on tap, Schroeder has had a hand in improving it all.

As an inventor, Schroeder is closer to being an engineer than an attorney (he completed law school but never took the bar exam). But his law degree has helped

him navigate complex U.S. patent law and ensured he would be able to hold on to his own great ideas.

“I figured in order to really be successful at this, I would need to understand the legalities a little better,” he said.

Schroeder’s journey began when he partnered with his brother, George (J.D. ’69), in 1960 to market his first idea, a plastic holder that prevents checks from smearing while being copied by the “wet copy” process of the time. Soon after, they found success producing Styrofoam coolers.

Schroeder’s breakthrough idea came in 1967: a snap-fit valve that connected carbon dioxide tanks and soft drink syrup — and it was revolutionary. The brothers founded Lancer Corporation in San Antonio, and it soon caught the attention of The Coca-Cola Company. It was the beginning of a 30-year partnership that launched Lancer from a small, local business into a multi-million dollar global company.

“Lancer started as a component manufacturer and evolved into a full product line,” Schroeder said.



“

One of my defining achievements was building an organization that provided jobs for a lot of people.”

Bar gun dispensers like these are the new tools of the beverage industry, allowing users to serve better quality drinks quicker, easier and more accurately.

But to him it wasn't just about building a large corporation. His creations meant meaningful work for many San Antonians, and Schroeder liked that.

“One of my defining achievements was building an organization that provided jobs for a lot of people.”

Lancer became the leading manufacturer of dispensing systems with facilities in the United States, Mexico and Australia, but it had lost its homegrown feel. In 2006, Lancer was sold to Hoshizaki America, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial kitchen equipment.

“The decision broke our hearts,” he said. “Being a public company was no longer ‘fun.’ It became all about the next quarter and audit committees.”

That's when Schroeder decided to return to doing things his way. He founded Schroeder America that summer to manufacture a new and improved generation of drink dispenser models. In a 50,000-square-foot headquarters facility that employs about 120 people, every part that is made is systematically molded and assembled by hand.

Schroeder America has already developed a clientele in the food and beverage industry, both nationwide and abroad, that includes behemoths like Chick-fil-A, Pepsi and Coca-Cola.

“I'm really proud of our company,” he said. “It started from nothing, just an idea I had while I was bored at home. We do really good things because of our staff, and I'd do anything in the world for them.” ■



# The Unknown Cost of Agent Orange

## Alum's search for answers ends in milestone achievement for Vietnam vets living with Parkinson's

by Chris Jarvis

Lorenzo Gonzalez (B.S. '79) served three tours during the Vietnam War, but his days of fighting are far from over.

As a co-founder of the nonprofit organization United States Military Veterans with Parkinson's (USMVP), Gonzalez is lobbying for research and support for veterans with service-connected Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders.

"I won't rest until I know what causes Parkinson's and whether we can stop it altogether, not just cure it," Gonzalez said. "That's the fight I'm fighting right now."

Gonzalez, too, has the disease.

### Seeing Orange

The diagnosis came in 2005.

Suddenly the mysterious symptoms that had been plaguing him — the lag in his gait and the slurring of his speech — made sense. What didn't make sense was how a longtime health and fitness enthusiast like Gonzalez could have, at the relatively young age of 57, an illness often associated with the elderly.

"I started thinking about all of the chemicals I was exposed to in Vietnam and if my exposure to Agent Orange had anything to do with it," Gonzalez said. "I just knew that every 14 days they were spraying strategic areas we were in."

Agent Orange, an herbicide that contains the highly toxic chemical dioxin, was used by the U.S. military to clear acres of foliage in hopes of depriving opponents of cover. Named because of the orange stripe painted on the 55-gallon drums in which it was stored, Agent Orange is believed to be the source of devastating health effects in an untold number of veterans and Vietnamese nationals.

Gonzalez was involved in the U.S. Navy's efforts to transport ammunition through Vietnam's Mekong Delta between 1969 and 1971. At the time, he thought little of working in the extensive stretches of jungle that had been killed off by the potent herbicide.

Though an exact cause of Parkinson's has never been determined, Gonzalez couldn't shake the hunch that it might somehow be connected to Agent Orange and other wartime chemicals.

### A New War Begins

Gonzalez poured through scientific articles that analyzed chemical toxicity and Parkinson's. Amazed at the amount of research that had been done in the public sector and appalled at the lack of follow-up investigation by the government, he began an investigation of his own.

"Even today, the military uses a wide range of chemicals that have never been tested," Gonzalez said. "We suspect we're going to see these same problems again 20 or 30 years from now."

He started with a list of 250 veterans with Parkinson's and began interviewing them about various chemicals they could have been exposed to while in the services.

A few of them who shared Gonzalez's suspicions about Agent Orange joined his cause. Together they began contacting congressmen, demanding funding for more research on the correlation between dioxin and neurological disorders. Their efforts led to the formation of USMVP in 2008.

But even when they did find legislative support, money always seemed to be an underlying issue.

"It seems like there's always enough money to send people to war or to buy ammunition," Gonzalez said. "But there's never enough money to figure out why these guys are getting sick."

### A Battle Won

By 2008, the debate on Agent Orange-related illnesses was as hot-button an issue as ever.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) had caught wind of Gonzalez's push for more research on the toxin's relation to Parkinson's and, in March of that year, asked him and his colleagues for a presentation of their findings during a meeting in San Antonio.

Gonzalez's team contended that enough data existed to support a connection between

dioxin exposure and early-onset Parkinson's, adding that affected veterans should be eligible for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The IOM agreed.

In a pivotal 2009 ruling, the VA, following a recommendation from the IOM, officially added Parkinson's to the Agent Orange presumptive list of service-connected diseases.

"We knew this wouldn't happen overnight," Gonzalez said. "The key was patience and a lot of prayer, and we gave a lot to both."

Today, Gonzalez helps veterans affected by the disease apply for and receive the medical compensation to which they are now entitled. The payoff is that Gonzalez gets to see the effects USMVP's work is having on others' lives.

He once received an impassioned phone call from the wife of a veteran, thanking USMVP. Her husband, a farmer, was suffering from Parkinson's and no longer able to work.

Without the VA's ruling and the benefits they subsequently received, they would have had to sell their land to cover medical expenses.

"If we hadn't come around and done what we did, when we did it, they would've lost their farm," Gonzalez said. "That's the kind of thing that keeps me going."

### Life With Parkinson's

Now 66, Gonzalez had imagined he would be enjoying his retirement with his family. But he is devoted full time to the USMVP, which has grown to more than 300 members. He continues to assist ill veterans and pursue funding for new research.

Gonzalez is also adjusting to his own life with Parkinson's.

He has good days where he can carry on relatively normally and bad days where the symptoms are nearly debilitating.

But he refuses to be defeated by his illness.

"If you want to define Lorenzo Gonzalez, he's a guy looking for answers," Gonzalez said. "That's me — plain and simple." ■

“

I won't rest until I know what causes Parkinson's.”





Photo by Jeff Wilson



# Class Notes

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The Marian Guard Drill Team marches through downtown San Antonio during the 1965 Battle of the Flowers Parade. This photo was submitted by Juan D. Hidalgo (CL '66) of Spring Valley, Calif.

## Do you have a photo to share?

If you have photos from your time at St. Mary's University that you would like us to consider for publication, please send a digital version to [gfarrell@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gfarrell@stmarytx.edu) or send it via regular mail to the address below. If you are mailing a hard copy and would like your photo returned, please let us know.

Gina Farrell, *Gold & Blue* Editor  
St. Mary's University  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, Texas 78228-8575

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### 1951

**Roy R. Barrera Sr., LL.B.**, San Antonio, and wife Carmen celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5, 2013.

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### 1956

**William Gonzaba, M.D., CL**, San Antonio, president and chief executive officer of the Gonzaba Medical Group, received the Medical Award at the 2013 La Prensa Foundation Leadership Awards Gala.

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### 1960

**Frank R. Southers, B.A./LL.B.**, Austin, has published his third novel, *To Get Even*, a thriller about San Antonio lawyers and the third book in his *Grievance Committee* series.

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### 1961

**Marc A. Cisneros, B.B.A.**, Corpus Christi, a retired army lieutenant general and current chief executive officer of the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, was honored, along with the Kenedy Memorial Foundation, at the annual gala benefiting St. John Bosco School (San Antonio).

**Victor L. Flieller, B.S.**, San Antonio, was promoted to the rank of Knight Commander With Star within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Catholic chivalric and charitable order.

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### 1962

**Charles T. Barrett Jr., B.B.A.**, San Antonio, president and chief executive officer of Barrett Holdings Inc. and chairman of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, received the Business Award at the 2013 La Prensa Foundation Leadership Awards Gala.

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### 1963

**Rupert J. Weynand, B.A.**, McKinney, and wife Diane celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7, 2013.

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### 1964

**Lt. Col. Elroy D. Simnacher, LL.B.**, Lubbock, was promoted to the rank of Knight Grand Cross within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Catholic chivalric and charitable order.

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### 1965

**Robert C. Cowan Jr., B.B.A., J.D. '73**, San Antonio, who is of counsel in the Law Offices of Tyler & Peery, has been named to the board of governors of the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, a component institution of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

**Herman A. "Buddy" Meyer Jr., B.A.**, San Antonio, was inducted into Antonian College Preparatory High School's Athletics Hall of Fame. He was Antonian's boys' basketball coach from 1965 to 1968 and led the team to a state championship in 1968.

**Charles J. "Chad" Muller III, B.A., J.D. '69**, San Antonio, a shareholder in Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry, has been named to the *Texas Super Lawyers* 2013 list in the area of tax and tax controversy, and litigation.

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### 1967

**The Hon. Lawrence E. Noll, B.A., J.D. '72**, judge of the Texas 408th District Court, along with his brothers **Robert J. Noll, B.A. '70**, a retired Valero Energy Corp. executive, **Richard H. Noll, B.A. '72, J.D. '75**, an attorney in private practice, and Michael Noll, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Holy Cross of San Antonio's 2013 President's Blue and Gold Gala.

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### 1970

**S. Curtis Bonner Jr., J.D.**, Harlingen, is a partner in Bonner & Bonner, which received the Texas Treasure Business Award, a Texas Historical Commission honor recognizing independent businesses that have operated in Texas for 50 or more years. His family's firm was originally founded as Goodenough and Bonner in 1957.

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### 1971

**William E. Hauser Jr., M.D., B.A.**, Atlanta, has been named retail market vice president of senior products for Georgia and South Carolina for Humana Inc., a health care company.

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## 1972

**H.P. "Pete" Van de Putte Jr., B.A.**, San Antonio, president of Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co., was named a fellow of the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas, a society devoted to researching, preserving and publicizing the history and use of flags in Texas.

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## 1973

**Michael Bresnok, B.B.A.**, Seguin, has retired from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) headquarters in Dallas and is now a planner with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

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## 1975

**Elizabeth N. Flores, B.A.**, Corpus Christi, received the Dr. Aileen Creighton Award for Teaching Excellence from Del Mar College, where she is a Political Science Professor.

**Charles E. Hardy, J.D.**, Dallas, general counsel in Austin Industries, received the Robert H. Dedman Award for Ethics and Law from the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of the General Counsel Forum. The award honors an in-house attorney demonstrating the highest ethical professional standards.

**James N. Higdon, J.D.**, San Antonio, a partner in Higdon Hardy & Zufacht LLP and former aviator in the U.S. Navy, has been elected national first vice president of National Sojourners Inc., a military Masonic organization. He also has been named to the 2013 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers* and to *S.A. Scene* magazine's 2013 Top Lawyer list.

**Richard Meyer, J.D.**, Manassas, Va., is senior vice president and general counsel for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

**Allan Polunsky, J.D.**, San Antonio, managing partner in Polunsky Beitel Green LLP, was a 2013 San Antonio Business Journal Outstanding Lawyer Award recipient in the category of Real Estate Law.

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## 1976

**Rex L. Easley Jr., B.A., J.D. '80**, Victoria, a shareholder in Cole, Cole & Easley PC, has been elected to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates.

**Timothy T. Griesenbeck Jr., J.D.**, San Antonio, a shareholder in Plunkett & Griesenbeck Inc., has been named to the 2014 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

**The Hon. Polly Jackson Spencer, J.D.**, San Antonio, received the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio Inc. Lifetime of Faith and Service Award.

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## 1978

**The Hon. Elma Salinas Ender, J.D.**, Laredo, was promoted to the rank of Lady Commander With Star within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Catholic chivalric and charitable order.

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## 1979

**Charles S. Frigerio, B.A., J.D. '82**, San Antonio, was named Texas Lawyer's litigator of the week for Nov. 25, 2013 for a defense win in the case *Dusti Kelly-Fleming vs. City of Selma*.

**Peter E. Hosey, J.D.**, San Antonio, a partner in Jackson Walker LLP, was named to San Antonio Business Journal's 2013 Who's Who in Energy list.

**Glenn W. MacTaggart, J.D., M.A. '89**, San Antonio, was named to the Port San Antonio Board of Directors.

**Joyce G. Mazero, J.D.**, Dallas, has joined Perkins Coie LLP as a partner in the firm's franchising and distribution, food and beverage, and retail industries and consumer products practices.

**Mary Jo McCurley, J.D.**, Dallas, a name partner in McCurley Orsinger McCurley Nelson & Downing LLP, was listed in the Top 100 Texas Super Lawyers, Top 50 Women Texas Super Lawyers, and Top 100 Dallas/Fort Worth Super Lawyers in the 2013 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers*.

**Frank Ruttenberg, J.D.**, San Antonio, a partner in Haynes and Boone LLP, was a 2013 San Antonio Business Journal Outstanding Lawyer Award recipient in the category of Real Estate Law.

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## 1981

**Patrick B. Tobin, J.D.**, San Antonio, managing partner in the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker LLP, was named to San Antonio Business Journal's 2013 Who's Who in Energy list.

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## 1983

**Albert E. Hindrichs, B.A.**, Baton Rouge, La., has been promoted to senior environmental scientist with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

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## 1984

**Daniel B. Abkemeier, B.B.A.**, St. Louis, is a managing director with Stifel Nicolaus & Company Inc.

**J. Stephen Green, J.D.**, Houston, was promoted to the rank of Knight Grand Cross within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Catholic chivalric and charitable order.

**Scott A. Schawe, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, chief financial and human resources officer for Carenet Healthcare Services, was honored in the medium private company category at the San Antonio Business Journal 2013 Best CFO Awards.

**Margaret M. Vera, B.A.**, San Antonio, an attorney in private practice, was inducted into the Harlandale Independent School District Hall of Fame.

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## 1986

**The Hon. Alan E. Baxter, B.B.A., J.D. '89**, Windcrest, mayor of the city of Windcrest and men's golf coach at Our Lady of the Lake University, won the 2013 Greater San Antonio Mid-amateur Championship.

**Eddie Metz, B.A.**, Von Ormy, is a manager for Green Metals Inc., a recycling and waste management firm.

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## 1987

**Michael D. Bernard, J.D.**, San Antonio, has joined Bracewell & Giuliani LLP as a partner.

**Kim A. Watson, B.A.**, San Antonio, is a teacher at O'Connor High School in the Northside Independent School District.

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## 1988

**Peter A. Hansen, B.B.A., M.P.A. '04**, San Antonio, was named to the Western Australia State Basketball League 25-Year All-star Team. Hansen was a center for the Perry Lakes Hawks in the league before being called up to the National Basketball League's Perth Wildcats.

**Christopher A. Heeb, D.C., B.A.**, Bridgeton, Mo., who is president and CEO of Performance Health of St. Louis chiropractic practice, has opened a second location at St. Louis Rams Training Academy.

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## 1989

**Zona Jones, J.D.**, Beaumont, an attorney with Provost Umphrey Law Firm LLP, was co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs in *JJJJ Walker LLC vs. First National Bank*, a 2012 jury verdict that was recognized with induction into Texas Lawyer's Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame as the top contracts case since 2010.

**Bernice Kearney, B.A.**, San Antonio, is news director for KSAT-TV, the ABC affiliate in San Antonio.

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## 1990

**Fred G. Dickenson, M.A.**, Bridgeport, has published a memoir, *Hard Knocks & Consequences Too: You Still Have a Lot to Learn* (WestBow Press). A collection of short stories and anecdotes, it looks back on his life, which includes a 30-year career in journalism and communications, and service in the U.S. Air Force.

**Blaine D. Edwards, J.D.**, Houston, associate general counsel at Superior Energy Services Inc., was named Best Associate General Counsel of a Small Legal Department in the 2013 Houston Business Journal's Best Corporate Counsel Awards.

**Niki M. Ficarra de Soto, B.A.**, Salem, Ark., is a vice president of VitAlex Inc., a marketing and media services company.

**Anna Benavides Galo, B.A.**, Laredo, was promoted to the rank of Lady Commander within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Catholic chivalric and charitable order.

**Rodney C. Mendoza, M.B.A.**, Fulshear, is a senior negotiator with BP America Production Co.

**Patricia F. Sitchler, J.D.**, San Antonio, a shareholder in Schoenbaum, Curphy & Scanlan PC, was a 2013 San Antonio Business Journal Outstanding Lawyer Award recipient in the category of Elder Law and Estate Planning.

**Matthew J. Sullivan, J.D.**, Austin, a partner in DuBois, Bryant & Campbell LLP, has been named to the 2013 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers* and the 2014 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

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## 1991

**The Hon. Jennifer A. Rymell, J.D.**, Fort Worth, judge of the Tarrant County Court at Law No. 2, is the 2013-2014 chair of the American Bar Association's Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division.



# Diplomacy Through Education

Alumna puts her educational experience to work in international projects

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

At her core, Beverly Lindsay, Ph.D., Ed.D. (B.A. '69), is a diplomat. “Diplomacy occurs in so many ways — through international relations, economics, sports,” Lindsay said.

But education is also an essential kind of diplomacy, she added, and she would know. A four-time Fulbright awardee, she’s spent plenty of time abroad as what she calls an “educational diplomat” in South Korea, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and, most recently, Indonesia.

Lindsay’s Fulbright at a Mozambique university followed a period of intense conflict in that region, including continuing wars in Rwanda and the Republic of Congo. When she arrived in 2007, Mozambique was rebuilding after its civil war while also taking in refugees from other conflicts.

Her focus was on helping the university develop graduate programs that would educate students who could manage infrastructures, as well as effectively administrate and budget — basic functions of a working government and skills that were in short supply following the wars.

Countries in conflict for years or decades often have few citizens with the education and training required for rebuilding.

“The master’s students in that program were not only education students, but also from government agencies wanting to learn to be effective managers,” she said. “The conflict may end, but it takes 10-15 more years for substantial changes to occur.”

Lindsay’s latest project took her in another direction — specifically, to London, where she is the principal investigator for a National Science Foundation grant comparing graduate and doctoral programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the United States and England. She is comparing institutions with large minority populations to evaluate how they prepare, attract and graduate students in these fields.

This, she said, is “scientific diplomacy,” and it is vital to the future of both nations considering the changing demographics and substantial increase in minority populations.

Both President Barack Obama and Prime Minister David Cameron stated that each nation needs at least 100,000 new STEM professionals in the coming decade. So Lindsay and her team want to identify where and how these goals can be achieved.

“For any nation to flourish economically, it has to have economic stability, viable infrastructures and sound political processes and leaders,” she said. “But you can’t have those if there aren’t enough people trained in scientific and technical fields.” ■

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Beverly Lindsay has a doctorate in Administration and Management from American University and an Ed.D. in Higher Education and Policy Studies from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is a Professor of Education and former dean at both Pennsylvania State University and Hampton University (Va.), is a four-time Fulbright awardee, and has developed new education programs at numerous universities.

She is currently an Invited Visiting Professor at the Institute of Education-University of London.

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## 1992

**William G. Swaim, J.D.**, Austin, a senior special projects attorney with the Travis County Attorney's Office, was awarded the Prosecutor Service Award from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Texas State Office for exceptional work prosecuting DWI cases.

**Sandra J. Wolff, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, is senior executive strategy analyst in the San Antonio Water System's Office of the President/CEO.

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## 1993

**David Dauphine, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, is controller for Goodwill Industries of San Antonio.

**Paige Glicksman Mims, J.D.**, Plano, is the Plano city attorney.

**Mónica Ramirez Trollinger, B.A., J.D. '96**, San Antonio, received a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University-San Antonio, was inducted into Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society, a business administration honor society, and was promoted to deputy general counsel in the Legal and Patent Office at Southwest Research Institute.

**Stephanie Monroe Williams, B.A.**, Livermore, Calif., is a physical therapist with Sunshine Home Health Care.

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## 1994

**Teresa E. Chapa Camacho, B.A.**, Corpus Christi, is an eighth-grade counselor at Kaffie Middle School in the Corpus Christi Independent School District.

**Julia C. Mann, J.D.**, San Antonio, a partner and chair of the litigation practice group with Jackson Walker LLP, was a 2013 San Antonio Business Journal Outstanding Lawyer Award recipient in the category of Litigation. She was also named to the San Antonio Business Journal's 2013 Who's Who in Energy list.

**Thad D. Spalding, J.D.**, Dallas, is of counsel in Kelly, Durham & Pittard LLP.

**David T. Weber, J.D.**, Austin, in-house counsel at Hochheim Prairie Insurance of Yoakum, has been awarded the professional insurance designation Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter by The Institutes.

**Charlotte P. Yochem, J.D.**, Corpus Christi, has opened a solo legal practice.

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## 1995

**Shirley A. Gonzales, B.B.A., M.B.A. '00**, San Antonio, and husband Kevin welcome son Ian, born Oct. 17, 2013.

**Annette A. Idalski, J.D.**, Atlanta, a shareholder in Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry, was named to the 2013 Super Lawyers Business Edition list in the category of Employment Litigation.

**Jon Todd Koenig, J.D.**, Austin, is senior trust team manager over personal trust administration at Wells Fargo Wealth Management's Texas Trust Center.

**Denise N. Monreal, Ph.D., B.A., M.A. '99**, San Antonio, is a teacher at Holmes High School in the Northside Independent School District and an Adjunct Professor at Concordia University's San Antonio Center.



## Alum Shares Her Hollywood Experiences With Graduates

Vanessa Martinez (B.A. '01), an actress who has starred in both television and film, was the keynote speaker at the 13th annual Fall Commencement Exercises. "You're made in the image of an extraordinary God, so use your talents to live extraordinary lives," Martinez told the 277 graduates. Her film projects include *Casa de los babys* and *Warrior*, and she soon will appear with Kevin Costner in a new film, *McFarland*. She played Young Pilar in the Academy Award-nominated film *Lone Star* in 1996. Martinez is the first college graduate in her family.

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**The Hon. Walter T. "Four" Price IV, J.D.**, Amarillo, is a shareholder in Sprouse Shrader Smith PC.

**The Hon. Daniel A. Sanchez, B.A.**, San Benito, and wife Alejandra welcome daughter Alessia, born July 24, 2013.

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## 1996

**Jeffrey G. Alvarez, B.B.A.**, Boerne, and Leticia E. Garcia married on Oct. 11, 2013.

**Amber Liddell Alwais, J.D.**, San Antonio, a partner in McCurley Orsinger McCurley Nelson & Downing LLP, was named to the 2013 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers*.

**Benjamin F.S. Herd, B.A.**, Dallas, a counsel in the real estate and banking section of Thompson & Knight LLP, was named to the 2013 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers*.

**Rohan Pal, M.S.**, Tyrone, Ga., is global chief information officer for Recall Corp., a global document storage company.

**Maria Elena Rodriguez, B.A.**, San Antonio, and Dominic Treviño married on March 15, 2013. She is a sales operations manager for the Cox Media Group.

**The Hon. Tina C. Torres, J.D.**, San Antonio, previously an attorney with the Torres Law Firm PC, was appointed to fill an unexpired term as judge of Bexar County Court-at-Law No. 10.

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## 1997

**The Hon. Carlos Villalon, J.D.**, Mission, an associate judge for the Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley West, has been appointed to the Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families.

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## 1998

**Delfino Avila, B.B.A.**, Houston, is an account executive for Harris CapRock Communications.

**Jesse Robert Ayala, B.A.**, San Antonio, is of counsel in Escamilla & Poneck LLP.

**Blakely Latham Fernandez, M.A., J.D. '02**, San Antonio, has joined Bracewell & Giuliani LLP as a partner.

**Courtney Solcher Marcus, J.D.**, Dallas, has joined Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as a partner in the firm's global finance practice.

**Martha L. Oestreich, M.A.**, Alpine, is director of development for Sul Ross State University.

**Anne E. Ohlrich, J.D.**, San Antonio, has opened The Ohlrich Law Firm PLLC, specializing in immigration and business solutions.

**Joyce Heinsz Pipes, B.A.**, San Antonio, and husband Nathan welcome daughter Grace, born June 10, 2013.

**Sarah M. Place, M.B.A.**, Raleigh, N.C., is founder and CEO of online brokerage firm Place Trade Financial, which is one of three online brokerages that earned a four-and-a-half star rating in Barron's Best Online Brokers of 2013 rankings.

**David M. Robinson, M.B.A.**, Nichols Hills, Okla., is assistant vice president and senior counsel for American Fidelity Assurance Company.

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## 1999

**Bianca Darley, B.A.**, New Braunfels, and husband Ronald welcome son Nicholas, born Sept. 13, 2013.



**Patricia S. Garcia-Villarreal, B.A., M.A. '06, M.A. '08**, San Antonio, and husband Anthony welcome son Patrick, born March 28, 2013.

**Cheri L. Williams, M.A.**, Chesterfield, Mo., is an energy specialist with Graybar Services Inc.

## 2000

**Andrew R. Borrego, J.D.**, San Antonio, a name partner in Moreno & Borrego PLLC, has been named to the Our Lady of the Lake University Board of Trustees.

**The Rev. John-Mary S.W. Bowlin, B.A.**, Tyler, is parochial vicar of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

**James Gonzales, B.B.A.**, and **Whitney Brown Gonzales, B.B.A. '02**, Frisco, welcome son Sawyer, born Sept. 19, 2013.

**Benjamin S. Hart, B.B.A., M.P.A. '04**, Grapevine, is a real estate agent with Roxann Taylor and Associates.

**Anna M. Villareal Sanchez, B.A.**, Albuquerque, N.M., senior development director at the Central New Mexico Community College Foundation, was a 2013 Albuquerque Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree.

## 2001

**Elizabeth Baker Djenic, B.A.**, and **Brano Djenic, B.S. '07**, Phoenix, welcome daughter Mila, born June 5, 2013.

**Ronnie Guerra, B.A.**, Edinburg, is a general agent with ING Financial Services.

**Nicolas Ronquillo, B.S.**, El Paso, is a forensic scientist with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**Gabriel R. Sanchez, Ph.D., B.A.**, Albuquerque, N.M., is interim executive director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico. He is also the director of research at the polling group Latino Decisions, and the director of the American Economic Association Summer Training Program.

**Librado Ray Tena, B.A., M.S. '03**, San Antonio, and **Andrea Cortez Tena, B.A. '02, M.A. '04**, a contract administrator for San Antonio Independent School District, welcome son Librado, born Nov. 12, 2012.

**Susan Tourk, B.A.**, San Antonio, and **Andre DeLeon, B.B.A. '03**, married on April 20, 2013. She is a teacher at Cibolo Green Elementary School in the North East Independent School District.

**Roger Walz II, B.S.**, California, Md., and Kathleen McClernan married on Oct. 26, 2013.

**Russell Williams, B.A.**, Bentonville, Ark., is a field operations manager for The Hershey Company.

## 2002

**Sylvia Acosta, Ph.D., M.A.**, Irvine, Calif., is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Constituent Development at the University of California, Irvine.

**William R. Tatum, J.D.**, Sherman, is a federal prosecutor assigned to the Sherman office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. He was previously an assistant U.S. attorney in the Western District of Texas' Midland office.

## 2003

**Karla Jackson Edwards, J.D.**, Dallas, is a trial attorney with the United States Department of Labor.

**Charles Jackson, M.A.**, San Antonio, and Victoria Bentley married on Aug. 8, 2013. He is a licensed practitioner of the healing arts (LPHA) with Camino Real Community Services, a medical group practice.

**Melissa Martinez Moncivais, B.B.A.**, Alamo, a human resources leader for General Electric's aviation and energy division, and husband Joseph welcome son Robert, born July 5, 2013.

**Colin L. Murchison, J.D.**, Benbrook, an associate with Jackson Walker LLP, was selected as a 2013 Fort Worth Top Attorney by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine.

**Christine Roman, B.A., B.S. '03**, Brooklyn, N.Y., and husband Darren welcome daughter Kristen, born on Sept. 30, 2013 and named in memory of **Kristen Faudree, B.A. '03**. Christine is principal at Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, which is part of a network of Catholic college-prep schools nationwide for low-income students.

## 2004

**Donna Brunkenhoefer Barton, J.D.**, Wilsonville, Ore., is a site acquisition manager for wireless network services company Velocitel Inc.

**Jason B. Binford, M.A./J.D.**, Dallas, has been elected a director of Kane Russell Coleman & Logan PC.

**James E. Feicht Jr., B.A., M.A. '10**, and **Kelly D. Canales, J.D. '10**, San Antonio, married on Aug. 3, 2013.

**M. Alexander Nava, J.D.**, San Antonio, was named chairman of the board of directors for Port San Antonio, a 1,900-acre business park and aerospace complex on the site of the former Kelly Air Force Base.

**Jaimie G. Sanchez, B.A.**, and **Nadia Madrid Sanchez, B.A., M.A. '09**, San Antonio, welcome daughter Alessandra, born Sept. 18, 2013.

**Emily Duncan Tobar, B.A.**, Houston, is an integrations specialist with MIRUS Restaurant Solutions.

**The Rev. Jason M. Valendy, B.A.**, Fort Worth, and wife Estee welcome son Evan, born Dec. 28, 2012. They are co-pastors of Saginaw United Methodist Church.

## 2005

**Christopher Gonzales, B.B.A.**, and **Jessica E. O'Con, B.B.A. '06**, San Antonio, married on Sept. 9, 2013. She is a human resources manager for STAR Anesthesia PA, a medical group that provides anesthesia services.

**Theresa Warner Martin, B.B.A.**, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and husband Steven welcome daughter Zoe, born Aug. 31, 2013.

**Riann Bensel Moore, M.A./J.D.**, Dallas, and husband Stevenson welcome son Connell, born May 24, 2013.

**Jason T. Scrimpsheer, B.B.A.**, Austin, is a market research analyst with the Texas Association of School Boards.

**Grady L. Williamson, J.D.**, Kirkland, Wash., is an associate attorney with Livengood Fitzgerald & Alskog PLLC.

## 2006

**Anne Claire Andaya-Nauts, M.A.**, Guangzhou, China, and husband Duncan welcome son Barrett, born Sept. 9, 2013. She is vice consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou.

**Alexis Carmona Calabretta, B.A.**, San Francisco, is a regional sales director for Compass Group, a global contract food service and support service company.

**Jaclyn Iacovino Macioce, B.A.**, Cranberry Township, Pa., and husband Thomas welcome son Dominic, born May 18, 2013.

**Sean C. Markey, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an attorney with Allen & Associates LLP.

**Keri Tavarez Olivas, B.A.**, San Antonio, is a math teacher at Warren High School in the Northside Independent School District.

**Guillermo A. Ramirez-Long, B.A., M.P.A. '13**, San Antonio, is a member of the Central Catholic Alumni Association board of directors.

**Miriam Granados Treviño, B.A, M.P.A. '11**, San Angelo, and husband Michael welcome son Michael, born Nov. 15, 2013.

**Toti Walia, J.D.**, Mercer Island, Wash., is an attorney for the MultiCare Health System.

## 2007

**Kristen Flores Benson, B.A.**, Beeville, and husband Nigel welcome son Paul, born Feb. 14, 2013. She is an English teacher with the Beeville Independent School District.

**Yvette Changuin, B.A., J.D. '12**, San Antonio, is a staff attorney for the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services.

**Patricia A. Garcia, B.S.**, San Antonio, and Adam Luna married on Oct. 19, 2013.

**Ross M. Grahmann, B.B.A.**, Victoria, a commercial lines underwriter for Hochheim Prairie Insurance of Yoakum, has been awarded the President's Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter Scholarship offered by The Institutes.

**Pilar Salinas Payne, B.A.**, Cypress, and husband Brian welcome daughter Julia, born Sept. 17, 2013.

## 2008

**Sarah L. Cooper, B.A.**, Houston, and Philip Truchard married on Aug. 10, 2013.

**Jose E. Galvan, B.A., J.D. '12**, San Antonio, is an associate attorney with Kennard, Blankenship & Robinson PC.

**Nidia N. Garcia, B.S.**, Irving, is a pharmacist with the Kroger Co.

**Brooks F. Landgraf, J.D.**, Odessa, and Shelby Levins married on Sept. 28, 2013.



Photo by Olivia Brent

# The Modern Marketer

by Katherine Benavides (B.A. '13)

Kate (Szecsy) Fannin (B.B.A. '95) sits in her Seattle office looking at beauty blogs, magazine clippings, fashion sketches and makeup samples. As marketing director and beauty trend editor for the retail giant Nordstrom, these are just some of her tools.

Fannin interprets and develops beauty trends each season and ensures they are being communicated clearly to customers. She sees her ideas come to life every day in the form of store displays, digital ads, Web pages and blog posts. She and her team travel to New York City frequently to meet with representatives from companies such as Christian Dior and Clinique, talk with magazine editors and bloggers, and even attend New York Fashion Week.

"We're backstage to see new beauty techniques and trends and to hear directly from the makeup artists about what's inspiring them," Fannin said. "Seeing the frenzy backstage and models up close is really exciting."

Her passion began at an early age, and during college, she immersed herself in the retail world.

"I liked fashion, but I was most interested in consumer behavior and marketing," Fannin said.

Her father, a former marketing professor at St. Mary's (Richard Szecsy, Ph.D., now retired), kindled her interest in the field from an academic

perspective while the supervisors in her retail jobs challenged her to take on more responsibility and complex assignments.

"The store managers tasked me with merchandising an entire store, and they let me take risks. It was daunting, but they fully supported me."

After years of experience on the sales floor, she earned her MBA from the University of Illinois with an eye on corporate marketing and strategy positions. And since Fannin now wears two hats, one in marketing and one in trend development, her role at Nordstrom is a perfect fit.

"Nordstrom's goal is to inspire confidence in women so they can express all the ways they are beautiful." ■





## Kotzur shines in NBA D-League

Former basketball great Kevin Kotzur (B.A. '12) has shined with the Santa Cruz Warriors in his first year in the NBA D-League, averaging nearly 10 points and seven rebounds per game. The team is an affiliate of the NBA's Golden State Warriors.

Kotzur, the Heartland Conference's all-time leading scorer and rebounder, wrapped up his St. Mary's career in 2013 by leading the Rattlers to their first-ever trip to the Sweet 16 since joining NCAA Division II.

### 2012

**Gilbert T. Bustamante, B.S.**, San Antonio, and Rochelle Noonan married on May 26, 2013.

**Pavan Kumar Chillakuru, M.S.**, Georgetown, Ky., is a middleware administrator for V-soft Consulting.

**Lauren Guzman, B.A.**, Laredo, was crowned Miss Texas USA 2014 and will compete in the 2014 Miss USA pageant.

**Dylan Heart, B.S.**, Helotes, is an industrial hygiene technician at Gobbell Hays Partners Inc.

**Shawn C. Laney, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an associate attorney with Demetrio Duarte Jr. and Associates PC.

**Alejandra Navarro, B.A.**, San Antonio, is an instructor with Good Samaritan Community Services, which provides services to individuals and families to overcome the impact of poverty.

**Amanda Riojas, B.A.**, Eagle Pass, is a first-year law student at St. Mary's University School of Law.

**Gavin K. Uttecht, J.D.**, Houston, is of counsel in Fulkerson Lotz LLP.

### 2013

**Leo Benavides III, B.A.**, San Antonio, is an enrollment service officer at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

**Sasha Boudreaux, B.A.**, San Antonio, is a corps member with City Year San Antonio.

**James G. Cramp, J.D.**, San Antonio, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, has opened a solo practice, the Cramp Law Firm PLLC.

**Fidel Esparza, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an assistant prosecutor with the 81st Judicial District Attorney's Office, which serves Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, LaSalle and Wilson counties.

**Yesenia Guzman, B.A.**, McAllen, is a math educator at Immaculate Conception School in Rio Grande City.

**Austin W. King, J.D.**, Houston, is regulatory counsel with Argo Group US Inc.

**Marcos Mendoza III, B.A., B.S.**, Merced, Calif., is a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of California, Merced.

**Kirby J. Portley, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an associate attorney with the Tuggey Group.

**Selena Rangel, B.A.**, Seguin, is pursuing a Master of Education at the University of Notre Dame as a participant in the Alliance for Catholic Education Service Through Teaching Program. She has been assigned to St. Luke Catholic School in Irving, where she teaches middle school English and religion.

**Dion R. Ruiz, B.A.**, San Antonio, is a therapy technician with TEAMability, which provides therapy services for severely disabled children.

**Frida A. Teran, B.S.**, San Antonio, is a research assistant at the University of the Incarnate Word.

**Nathan G. Roach, J.D.**, San Antonio, a partner in RAM Law Firm PLLC, was named a Rising Star in the 2013 San Antonio Business Journal Outstanding Lawyer Awards.

### 2009

**Lance Gossen, B.B.A.**, Austin, is a frozen food buyer for Whole Foods Market Inc.

**Gabriel Hernandez, B.S., M.P.A. '10**, Washington, D.C., is an executive assistant with the U.S. Department of Energy.

**Ashley N. Treviño, B.A.**, San Antonio, and Robert O'Beirne married on Aug. 31, 2013.

### 2010

**Christine J. Duchouquette, B.A.**, Washington, D.C., is tutoring component coordinator at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Jacob R. Munn, B.A., M.B.A. '11**, Houston, is vice president for energy lending for Citibank N.A.

**Willie Ng, M.P.A.**, San Antonio, is president and CEO of Blue Armor Security Services Inc., which was named 2013 Minority General Services Firm of the Year during the San Antonio Minority Enterprise Development Week, which is presented by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

**George Posada, B.B.A., J.D. '13**, San Antonio, is a clinical fellow at the St. Mary's University School of Law Center for Legal and Social Justice.

### 2011

**Nathan Churchwell, B.S.**, Durango, Colo., is a petroleum engineer for BP America Inc.

**Nicole M. Conger, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an attorney with the Law Office of Glenn D. Levy.

**Alexandria DeLeon, B.A.**, Austin, is an analytical test methods coordinator with Worldwide Clinical Trials.

**Christian Ekleberry, B.A., M.A. '12**, Taipei, Taiwan, is an English teacher and consultant with the Primerica Institute.

**Mario A. Garcia, B.S.**, San Antonio, is a technical support engineer for Aviat Networks.

**Kimberly E. Keating, B.A.**, El Paso, is an administrative assistant with Integrity Asset Management.

**Didya M. Magana, B.A.**, Houston, is a client associate with Merrill Lynch.

**Lyla Moon Ruesewald, B.B.A.**, and **Christopher Ruesewald, B.B.A.**, Richardson, welcome daughter Vivian, born Aug. 28, 2013. Lyla is a healthcare underwriter at Zurich Insurance, and Christopher is a claims examiner for GEICO.

**Matthew K. Schima, B.B.A.**, and **Sara J. Wilkinson, B.B.A. '12**, New Braunfels, married on July 27, 2013.

**Sarah I. Serrato, B.A.**, San Antonio, is a college access and success adviser for the San Antonio Educational Partnership.

# Erik M. Luis decided it was time.

St. Mary's University is more than just a collection of buildings for Erik Luis (B.B.A. '07) — it's a family of lifelong friends and the source of an invaluable education. But most of all, attending St. Mary's was an opportunity that was only possible because of the generous support of those who came before him.

## Now, it's your turn.

It's never too early or too late to give a gift, and every gift makes a difference in the lives of St. Mary's students, no matter the size.

**Give online today at**  
[www.stmarytx.edu/give](http://www.stmarytx.edu/give),  
or contact the Office of  
University Advancement  
at 210-436-3138.



Now that I am an alumnus, I realize that **it's my turn to give back** to the University so that we can continue to prepare new generations of leaders."



# In Memoriam

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## 1930s

**1937 Gabriel (Gabby) Galos, B.S.**, Las Cruces, N.M., died Nov. 5, 2013.

## 1940s

**1942 Brother Joseph Vincent Thompson, F.S.C., B.A.**, Santa Fe, N.M., died Sept. 20, 2013.

**1943 Retired Army Col. Bernard Wihlepp, CL**, San Antonio, died Oct. 11, 2013.

**1944 Dudley C. Hays, D.D.S., CL**, San Antonio, died Nov. 16, 2013.

**1947 Thomas M. Edwards, B.S.C.**, Fredericksburg, died Dec. 25, 2013.

**1948 H. Edward Foelker, CL**, Corpus Christi, died Nov. 26, 2013. **Jose San Martin Jr., D.O., CL**, San Antonio, died Oct. 14, 2013. **William A. Way, B.S.**, New Braunfels, died Dec. 6, 2013.

**1949 Anthony B. Meurer, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 31, 2013. **Raymond B. Wangler, B.S., B.A. '55**, San Antonio, died Sept. 6, 2013.

## 1950s

**1950 Calder W. Chapman, B.A.**, Seligman, Ariz., died June 5, 2013. **Leonard J. Kotzur, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 9, 2013.

**1951 Roberto R. Herrera Sr., B.A.**, San Antonio, died Oct. 15, 2013. **Max J. Jalufka, B.B.A.**, Shawnee, Okla., died Nov. 19, 2013.

**1952 Nelson C. Cardwell, CL**, San Antonio, died Dec. 3, 2013. **William P. Collins, CL**, San Antonio, died Oct. 22, 2013. **Jesus I. Garcia, CL**, San Antonio, died Nov. 17, 2013. **James O. McDowell, CL**, Shavano Park, died Oct. 16, 2013.

**1954 Raul M. Perez, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 6, 2013.

**1955 Horacio Paul Guerra III, B.B.A., LL.B. '56**, Rio Grande City, died Dec. 27, 2013.

**1956 Edward D. Gomes, B.S., B.A. '58, M.S. '68**, Austin, died Dec. 18, 2013. **James B. Nitschke, LL.B.**, Austin, died Oct. 8, 2013.

**1957 David G. Cadena Jr., B.S., M.S. '70**, Pipe Creek, died Oct. 27, 2013. **Brother Peter D. Loehr, S.M., B.A.**, San Antonio, died Oct. 14, 2013.

**1959 Lizandro (Chando) Guerra Jr., CL**, Laredo, died Dec. 13, 2013. **Retired U.S. Air Force Capt. Sam M. Guyton Jr., B.A.**, Petaluma, Calif., died Nov. 2, 2013. **Retired U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Commander Charles H. Ruble, LL.B.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 24, 2013.

## 1960s

**1960 John L. Sutton, B.A.**, Coatesville, Pa., died April 12, 2013.

**1961 Leonel J. Castillo, B.A.**, Houston, died Nov. 4, 2013. **Robert H. Flores, CL**, San Antonio, died Dec. 5, 2013. **Robert M. Lira Jr., M.D., CL**, San Antonio, died Oct. 7, 2013. **Marvin Miller, LL.B.**, San Antonio, died Sept. 2, 2013. **The Rev. Gerald F. Pleva, S.M., B.A., M.A. '70**, San Antonio, died Sept. 25, 2013. **Quintin G. Stansell, B.A./LL.B.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 30, 2013.

**1963 Sister Mary Winifred Connellan, S.H.Sp. (Claire Veronica Connellan), B.A.**, San Antonio, died Sept. 7, 2013. **Donald W. Hammer, CL**, San Antonio, died Dec. 19, 2013. **Antonio Z. Vasquez, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 28, 2013.

**1964 Leland C. Nichols, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Oct. 19, 2013.

**1965 Xavier (Jay) Carmona, CL**, San Antonio, died Dec. 13, 2013. **Ann C. Williams, LL.B.**, Johnston, Iowa, died Nov. 20, 2013.

**1966 James P. Duffy, M.A.**, Austin, died Dec. 5, 2013. **Roman F. Gonzalez Jr., B.A.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 28, 2013. **Jessiel Pacheco, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died Dec. 21, 2013.

**1967 Gary W. Fox, B.A.**, Fort Worth, died Dec. 1, 2013. **Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Heston Ray Gumm, B.A., M.A. '70**, San Antonio, died Dec. 14, 2013.

**1969 Michael J. Gleason, M.B.A.**, Independence, Mo., died Aug. 25, 2013. **George M. Roper III, B.A., M.A. '74**, McAllen, died Nov. 26, 2013.

## 1970s

**1970 John C. Flowers, B.B.A.**, Houston, died Nov. 9, 2013.

**1972 Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. John J. Benson, M.A.**, San Antonio, died Sept. 10, 2013. **Larry J. Benson Sr., J.D.**, San Antonio, died Oct. 28, 2013. **George A. Rodriguez, B.A.**, Leawood, Kan., died Sept. 5, 2013.

**1973 James A. Bayard Jr., J.D.**, Wilmington, Del., died Oct. 2, 2013. **Jesse Peña, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 21, 2013.

**1975 Zorah E. Krowl, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 14, 2013. **Jirion Rimmey, CL**, Newellton, La., died Dec. 30, 2013.

**1976 Retired U.S. Air Force Col. James M. Campbell, B.A., M.A. '77**, San Antonio, died Sept. 13, 2013. **J. Ken Nunley, J.D.**, Boerne, died Sept. 30, 2013. **Eric C. Sutton, J.D.**, La Coste, died Nov. 12, 2013.

**1977 Horace E. Watson III, J.D.**, New Braunfels, died Nov. 29, 2013.

**1978 William L. Willis, J.D.**, Cleburne, died Sept. 27, 2013.

## 1980s

**1980 The Hon. Richard R. Rodriguez, B.A.**, Harlingen, died Sept. 26, 2013.

**1981 George A. Craig, M.A.**, San Antonio, died Oct. 12, 2013. **Sister Teresa Perez, S.T.J., M.A.**, River Ridge, La., died Sept. 25, 2013.

**1983 Linda Perry Foote, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 30, 2013. **Curtis Thomas, CL**, Rockport, died Dec. 17, 2013.

**1984 Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Morris C. Lowe, M.S.**, Shalimar, Fla., died Aug. 22, 2013.

**1985 Cynthia (Cindy) Harris, B.A.**, Fort Worth, died Sept. 6, 2013.

**1988 Joseph John Franzello, M.A.**, Rock Hill, S.C., died Nov. 12, 2013.

## 1990s

**1990 Angela Peterson Ford, Ph.D., B.A.**, Allen, died Dec. 25, 2013. **Robin Svoboda-Giese, M.A.**, San Antonio, died Aug. 10, 2013.

**1995 J. Andrew W. Ivins, J.D.**, London, Texas, died Nov. 13, 2013.

# Fondest Farewell



## PROFESSOR FREDERICK ALVARES, PH.D.

Frederick L. Alvares, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, passed away on Nov. 20, 2013 at the age of 78.

Born in the Portuguese colony of Goa in India, his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1962. In 1988 Alvares joined the faculty of St. Mary's University as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. He received tenure in 1995 and was promoted to full Professor in 2002.

Alvares developed the undergraduate major in Biochemistry at St. Mary's and instituted the Advanced Biochemistry course series, developing and teaching courses for the past 25 years. He was also an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

When Alvares joined St. Mary's, he already had an accomplished career. After earning his doctorate at the University of North Dakota in 1966, he served as a research fellow at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the Institute of Enzyme Research. He later served on the faculty of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine as a research associate.



## Chapter Spotlight

# Houston

For 28 years, the Houston Alumni Chapter has hosted events and reconnects for Rattlers in the Bayou City.

In 2012-2013, Rattlers in Houston supported their alma mater with **gifts totaling \$44,922.**

**Today, there are 2,224 alumni in the area,** making it the third-largest St. Mary's chapter. And it's still growing: 106 current students call Houston home.



It is the generous support of alumni like you and me, **regardless of how small or large the gift is,** that sustains and creates even better opportunities for future generations of Rattlers!"

— Arthur Bryan II, Esq. (B.A. '06)  
Houston Alumni Chapter President

*A past recipient of the Presidential Scholarship and the Presidential Award*

### Want to get involved with other Houstonians?

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events:

#### Houston Area Alumni Reunion Reception

7 p.m., Saturday,  
March 8, 2014

#### Port Authority of Houston Ship Channel Tour

10 a.m., Saturday,  
April 5, 2014

Go to [www.stmarytx.edu/alumni](http://www.stmarytx.edu/alumni) to connect with a chapter today





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On Feb. 8, the baseball team swept a doubleheader against the University of Mary in its first games in the new Dickson Stadium. Dillon Dickson (pictured above), grandson of donor David Dickson (B.B.A. '68), threw the ceremonial first pitch at the grand opening.