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GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Spring 2015



THE *NEXT*
GENERATION
OF MARIANISTS 14



Three of a Kind

Marta, Magdalene and Mary (pictured from left to right) Moipei have been singing for more than a decade. As three-quarters of the acclaimed Kenyan group called The Moipei Quartet (the fourth is their younger sister Seraphine, who is still at home in Kenya), they have performed at music festivals, toured the U.S. and sung for heads of state. But for now, there is a better chance of running into the triplets on the River Walk or at a St. Mary's campus event than anywhere in Africa.

The sisters are now freshmen at St. Mary's majoring in Music. During their first U.S. concert tour, the talented sisters visited St. Mary's and fell in love.

"We had looked at other universities but when it was time to make a decision, it was no question St. Mary's would be our home," said Mary.

The Moipei sisters are on full scholarships thanks to generous support of alumni and friends of the University and are singularly focused on their studies. "We live in faith. Our main priority is finishing school and after that, we will see," said Mary.





Photo by Sarah Brooke Lyons

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Following Chaminade's Vision

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

As I complete my third year as president of St. Mary's University, I have learned a lot about the inspiring, courageous life of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. One thing I have witnessed: Chaminade's spirit prevails.

I encounter it every day among our students, faculty and staff — and especially through the prayerful lives and loving care of our professed Marianist men and women. My wife, Mona, and I are grateful to all of you who nurture Chaminade's spirit.

Through your daily efforts and the efforts of hundreds of Marianists over the years, a St. Mary's education is not simply a degree that provides the knowledge and skills useful in the professional workplace — although it certainly does that, too.

A St. Mary's education prepares our students to lead purposeful lives and to view their professional lives as the Marianists do — as a calling by God, as a vocation.

In this issue, you will read about students who are living lives rooted in Mary, professors who use their talents to enrich our students and improve the world, and alumni who excel as professionals in their vocations.

Let me call special attention to the story of two recent St. Mary's graduates (page 14), who take to heart so completely the call of Mary that they are on a special journey to become professed Marianists. These two men truly are living the Marianist charism.

We all know the challenges that come with completing a college education today. As members of the St. Mary's community, we are called to make our students' educational journey valuable, meaningful and, most importantly, successful — with a degree and professional employment.

For our faculty and staff, that means mentoring and connecting with our students and preparing them to lead ethical professional and personal lives. For our alumni, it can mean lending your time and talents to assist our students and fellow graduates in finding their places in the world; but it also means giving back to St. Mary's in a more literal sense.

Our Catholic faith and Marianist values require this of us, and our strategic plan, *Gateway: A Vision for St. Mary's*, lays out the path to achieve it. We need your help. Every gift matters, no matter the amount, and is an investment in the successful future of St. Mary's and our students.

Each gift is a reminder of your own commitment to excellence and the vision of Blessed Chaminade. ■



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Gold & Blue is produced for alumni
and friends three times a year by the
Office of University Communications.

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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.

Campus News

Alumni Association Gives \$1.5 Million Boost to Center for Catholic Studies

The St. Mary's University Alumni Association has given \$1.5 million toward the establishment of the Center for Catholic Studies on the University campus.

Two-thirds of the gift will endow the St. Mary's Alumni Association Chair in Catholic Leadership and \$500,000 will support the renovation of historic Reinbolt Hall. The establishment of the Chair in Catholic Leadership will play a critical role in establishing and sustaining the Center.

The Association requested that its gift be used to challenge the St. Mary's community to contribute smaller gifts. The Association will match gifts dollar for dollar to establish the chair.

"The Alumni Association has stepped up again as it has so many times — every time — to take a leadership role," said St. Mary's President Tom Mengler. "This gift is creative, practical and thoughtful all at the same time. It will be a cornerstone in establishing a Center for Catholic Studies and preserve the University's deep tradition of excellence."

The proposed home of the Center for Catholic Studies is the spiritual center of campus, Reinbolt Hall, which is the location of Assumption Chapel and the Theology Department. The Association's \$500,000 pledge will help fund stabilization and infrastructure improvements and name an area of significance upon completion of the \$7.5 million upgrade, similar to the St. Louis Hall project completed in 2012.

Marianist Heritage Winners Celebrated

Three members of the St. Mary's University community were honored this year with the Marianist Heritage Award. This year's recipients are Patricia Garcia, Executive Assistant, Student Development; Lucien Manchester, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences; and Thomas Mengler, J.D., President. Marianist Heritage Student

Leadership recipients Lindsey Johnson, Ryan Muñoz and Karl Wacker also were honored.

The Marianist Heritage Award recognizes members of the University community who, by their professional lives and personal interactions on campus, devote themselves to the Catholic and Marianist mission.

Congratulations to Faculty Honorees

The St. Mary's Alumni Association honored the 2015 Distinguished Faculty Award winners for their excellence in teaching and mentoring.

- William Buhrman, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Theology
- James Greenaway, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- Christine Gray, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
- K. Matthew Gilley, Ph.D.,
Professor of Management
- Colin Marks, J.D.,
Professor of Law
- Larry Hufford, Ph.D.,
Professor of Political Science
- Melissa Karlin, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences*
- S. Colette Daubner, Ph.D.,
Professor of Biological Sciences

In addition, and for the first-time, faculty who have been awarded \$1 million or more in private or government grants to advance academic excellence at St. Mary's were honored at the dinner. The inaugural members of the Gateway Million+ Club are:

- Richard Cardenas, Ph.D.,
Professor of Physics
- Jacqueline Dansby, Ph.D.,
Executive Director, Upward Bound
- Ana Novoa, J.D.,
Professor of Law
- Gary Ogden, Ph.D.,
Professor of Biological Sciences
- Tim Raabe, Ph.D.,
Professor of Biological Sciences
- Jennifer Zwahr-Castro, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Psychology



Photos by Robin Jerstad

Archbishop Visits St. Mary's

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio (top right) greets one of the more than 300 attendees at his lecture on campus in February. The Archbishop presented "Jesus the Galilean and Pope Francis' Contribution to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition," which explored the Galilean context of Jesus' life and ministry and its relevance for Pope Francis' ministry of evangelization.

He told the audience that it is not enough merely to marvel at and talk about Pope Francis' creative and ecumenical leadership. With the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, every Christian is challenged to share responsibility for continuing Jesus' mission and ministry today, the Archbishop said.

The Archbishop's presentation was part of the 12th Annual Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series.



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



Business

Greehey Gives \$1 Million to Scholars Program

St. Mary's University has received a \$1 million gift from alumnus and philanthropist Bill Greehey (B.B.A. '60) for the Greehey Scholars Program, a unique undergraduate scholarship program that focuses on servant leadership.

"I am pleased with the progress of the Greehey Scholars Program and the extraordinary, service-oriented learning experiences it offers students," said Greehey, the Chairman of NuStar Energy.

This is yet another major gift from Greehey to St. Mary's. In 2005, his \$25 million gift to the University's business school funded innovative academic and scholarship programs to attract world-class faculty and students, and it was renamed the Greehey School of Business. He also gave \$1 million to help revamp the MBA program in 2012.

The most recent gift will allow the Greehey School of Business to expand the program and increase the number of scholars.

Two Students Selected to Attend National Conference

Alexander Casanova, senior Finance and Risk Management major, and Leanne Fuentes, junior Finance and Risk Management, and Marketing double major, have been selected as Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program Scholars to participate in the Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS) 2015 Annual Conference in New Orleans in April.

Casanova and Fuentes are two of just 30 students nationwide selected to attend the conference. They will work with mentors, participate in conference sessions and network with risk management and insurance professionals. The program honors the late Anita Benedetti, former deputy executive director of RIMS and president of the Spencer Educational Foundation Inc.

Second Student Wins Prestigious Scholarship

Leanne Fuentes, junior Finance and Risk Management, and Marketing double major, became the second St. Mary's student to win the annual Ed Whitacre Scholarship — a \$10,000 prize awarded to one junior at a local university who demonstrates exceptional leadership on campus or in the community.

Fuentes performs community service for the San Antonio Humane Society and has given time to the San Antonio Zoo and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at St. Mary's in the past.

Tanairi Ochoa was the other St. Mary's student and inaugural winner of the Ed Whitacre Scholarship in 2011. The scholarship is named after the former chairman and CEO of General Motors and AT&T.



Top right, Tom Contreras addresses the crowd gathered for the groundbreaking event. At left, the ceremonial shovels are ready to turn the dirt.

A Pub for a New Generation

The St. Mary's community celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for the new pub in January, thanks to the generosity of Tom Contreras (B.B.A. '88) and Leti Contreras (B.A. '89). The couple gave \$900,000 with the request to build a pub and social gathering space on campus to promote engagement and unity among the University community.

Part of the Louis J. Blume Library's rear veranda will be enclosed for this project, which is underway and expected to be finished in August.

The pub project will create two new common spaces. One will provide an area for student relaxation and recreation, which will include couches, chairs and a big-screen television. The other space will be the pub itself, featuring a large, exterior patio with space for music performances.

Science

Innovative Cybersecurity Program Announced

St. Mary's will offer a Master of Science in Cybersecurity this fall to fill the growing need for computer science professionals prepared to combat hackers and their increasingly complex attacks.

This is the only dedicated Cybersecurity program offered among San Antonio colleges and universities. Although other local graduate programs offer cybersecurity-related concentrations, the St. Mary's program provides comprehensive coverage of the field, with courses in risk management, wireless security, software security, cloud computing security, computer forensics, mathematics for cryptography, and cyber law. Students will gain an edge in the competitive marketplace for rewarding, high-profile jobs.

The program will prepare students to monitor, secure and safeguard cyber assets. It focuses on giving students the fundamental

principles and hands-on experience of how to protect networks, computers, programs and institutional data from attack, damage and unauthorized access.

Professor to Study Wildlife Population and Diversity

Melissa Karlin, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Physics who teaches in the Environmental Science program, has received a grant from the Texas EcoLab Program, a partnership between landowners and universities that enables faculty to conduct ecological research on private lands.

During the two-year study, Karlin will use camera traps to measure wildlife diversity and distribution at 11 properties spanning three counties. Additionally, she will use high-resolution satellite imagery to identify where habitat connectivity exists within the landscape and to map potential corridors between the properties.

An interdisciplinary team of five undergraduate student researchers, including four from Environmental Science and one from Biology, will do the work.

Student and Alum Honored by Texas Organization

St. Mary's students earned two of the three statewide awards at the 2015 Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions meeting.

Mauro Rodriguez (B.S. '14) was honored with the KAPLAN Graduate Achievement Award. He attends the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Ricardo "Ricky" Lozano, a junior Biology major, received the KAPLAN Undergraduate Achievement Award. He serves as a correspondent for Student Health 101, an online health and wellness magazine for college students.

Humanities

Bertrand Recognized for Bilingual Children's Book

Diane Bertrand, writer-in-residence at St. Mary's, has once again been recognized for her unique children's and young adult books, which are often written in both English and Spanish and depict situations and issues familiar to Latino families.

Her most recent book, *Cecilia and Miguel Are Best Friends/Cecilia y Miguel son mejores amigos*, made SpeakingLatino.com's Best 20 Latino Children's Books From 2014 List.

When she's not writing and teaching, Bertrand makes time to read to children at local elementary schools and advocates for two things: reading and education.

In addition to promoting literacy, she is also passionate about helping young girls realize their potential and options.

"I try to encourage them to go to school and come to St. Mary's University," said Bertrand.

Fiesta Jazz Fest Set for April

Make plans now to attend the 53rd annual Fiesta Jazz Festival on Friday, April 24, in the Pecan Grove. One of the oldest jazz festivals in the nation, this event will start in the afternoon with outstanding university and junior college jazz bands, followed that evening by the Fiesta World Class Jazz Concert.

While the headliner for the Friday concert has not yet been announced, the festival generally attracts top national talent. All events are free and open to the public.

On Saturday, the educational portion of the festival begins with San Antonio's oldest

educational jazz festival, which attracts more than 30 junior and senior high school jazz ensembles from Texas and other states.

Professor Leads Philosophy Discussion Abroad

Glenn Hughes, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, recently traveled to Florence, Italy, to deliver a paper on timelessness in the words of T.S. Eliot and Marcel Proust.

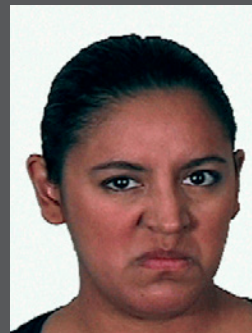
Hughes' presentation was to the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco's International Symposium on T.S. Eliot and his contemporaries.

His travel was funded through the Edward and Linda Speed Endowment for Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Development and Research.



Photo by Josh Huskin

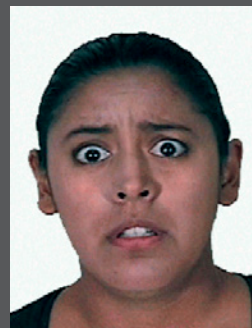
These photos aren't silly selfies. Facial Action Coding tells us which facial muscles signal each emotion, so method actors needed a week of training for the photo shoot. They were filmed 15 seconds for each emotion, and the perfect stills were selected from 10,000 frames of video.



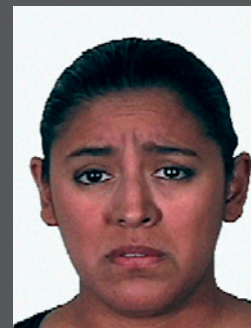
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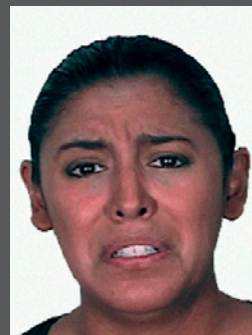
Anger



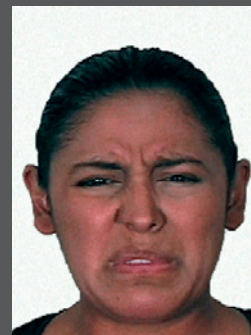
Fear



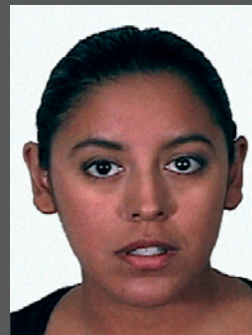
Anxiety



Distress



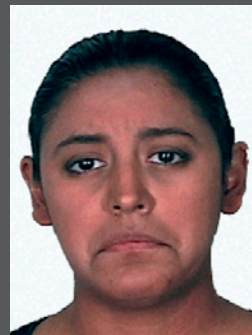
Disgust



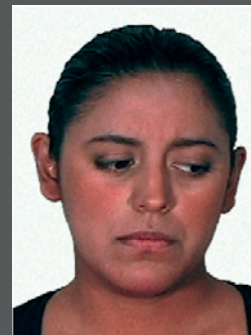
Interest



Happiness



Sadness



Shame

The Business of Emotions

by Andrew Festa

When you're shopping for a new car, you ignore impulses and make a sensible choice based on objective analysis, right?

Wrong, said Richard Priesmeyer, Ph.D.

Research shows that our decisions are two-thirds emotional and one-third cognitive, Priesmeyer said, and that's true for cars, banks, phones, clothes, restaurants — you name it.

"Universities teach everybody how to think, but then, in the real world, our emotions determine what we do," the St. Mary's Professor of Management said with a chuckle.

Priesmeyer would know; he's been in the emotions business for more than 20 years. His software application, Emogram, measures 11 basic human emotions — happiness, interest, surprise, contempt, disgust, shame, fear, anger, distress, sadness and anxiety — in about five minutes.

Priesmeyer's primary area of research is nonlinear systems theory, or chaos theory. From that sprang Emogram, which uses facial images to assess changes in attitude, happiness and receptiveness.

Emogram shows the array of facial expressions to the client and, for each, asks the question: "To what extent do you feel the way the person in the photograph feels?" The client picks one of six answers ranging from "very similar" to "very different." Because it uses pictures and not words, "people are able to answer without thinking. It's a gut response," Priesmeyer said.

Emogram was developed in 1994 for use in clinical counseling settings, but he's found that its uses are unlimited. It has gauged emotions about wine, beer, sausage, airline food, advertising, retail grocery shopping, police PTSD screening, poetry, school/work stress and even the vehicles of a major European auto manufacturer.

That last one is a bit hush-hush, but the company wants Priesmeyer back this summer for another round of Emogram. ■

St. Mary's Law Launches Texas' Only Master of Jurisprudence Program

The St. Mary's University School of Law has announced a new Master of Jurisprudence program — the only degree of its kind offered at a law school in Texas.

The graduate degree will equip non-lawyers with the tools to understand current and future laws and enable them to gain the professional edge needed to further careers in fields that frequently intersect with the law, such as health care, business and education.

"This significant expansion of our degree options fills a void in the educational and workforce landscape," said Dean Stephen M. Sheppard, J.S.D.

The addition of a new type of degree program is the first for the St. Mary's School of Law since 1996, when it added the Master of Laws (LL.M.) program, which typically draws students who have already earned a Juris Doctor or the foreign equivalent.

Though the Master of Jurisprudence program is unique among the state's law schools, the new offering follows a trend of developing similar degrees at law schools across the nation. Market research shows that graduates of similar programs have said the credential enabled them to advance their careers and earn larger salaries.

The program encourages students to explore the connections between the law and their respective disciplines and to study the American legal system more comprehensively than through on-the-job training.

Master of Jurisprudence students will gain a general knowledge of the law and graduate with the ability to better understand legal issues, such as statutes, regulations, contracts and employment matters.

Former British Government Minister Kicks Off Law Lecture Series

The Right Honourable Henry McLeish, former First Minister of Scotland, served in the government of former United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair, dined with Queen Elizabeth II, met with former President George W. Bush in the Oval Office, and had a private audience with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

McLeish brought his expertise in European Union politics to the launching of the Law Lecture on Global Affairs series

at the School of Law. McLeish spoke about a variety of topics affecting European Union member countries with ties to the United States — the evolving conflict in Ukraine, the Greek debt crisis and the Scottish independence movement.

McLeish has joined the School of Law as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of European Law and taught a course on European Union Law.

Magazine Names St. Mary's Law Among 'Most Diverse'

The St. Mary's School of Law has been named among the nation's "Most Diverse Law Schools" by *PreLaw Magazine* in its winter 2015 edition.

Seventy institutions made the 2015 diversity rankings, which sought to "identify the schools that do the best job of enrolling students of all races, thereby increasing the likelihood of different voices in the classroom," according to the magazine.

The magazine evaluated schools based on six categories: the percentages of minority faculty, black students, Asian and Hawaiian students, Hispanic students, American Indian students and Caucasian students. Each school's score in those categories were compared with the national average.

With 33.5 percent Hispanic students, St. Mary's had the fourth-largest percentage of Hispanic students among the "Most Diverse" law schools, according to the magazine.

In June 2014, the School of Law was also honored as a "Best Value Private Law School" by *PreLaw Magazine's* parent publication, *The National Jurist*.

Advocacy Teams Rack Up Wins

The St. Mary's University Black Law Students Association moot court team captured the Rocky Mountain Region title of the National Black Law Students Association Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition in January.

The win qualified the team of third-year law student Marisa Aragon and second-year law student Alicia Grant to compete in the national finals of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition in Portland, Ore.

Additionally, External Advocacy Program (EAP) Moot Court Team of law students Stephen Bachran, Bianca Frisaura and

Stephanie De Sola earned a finalist spot at the National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition held at the Pepperdine University School of Law in November.

The St. Mary's team, coached by Ricky Poole, defeated competitors from John Marshall Law School, Marquette University Law School, Fordham Law School, Texas Tech University School of Law, Baylor Law School, South Texas College of Law and others. The team lost a close finals round to California Western School of Law.

This is the latest in a series of successful performances at competitive events for St. Mary's EAP students, including earning the championship in the 2014 Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Competition in Austin in October; netting top rankings at the American Bar Association's Regional Negotiation Competition at the University of Oklahoma in the fall; and finishing as finalists in the Texas Young Lawyers Association 2015 National Trial Regional Competition in New Orleans in January.

St. Mary's Leads Way in Law Student Pro Bono College

The St. Mary's University School of Law has more founding members of the State Bar of Texas' Law Student Pro Bono College than any other Texas law school.

With 30 members in the inaugural class of the Law Student Pro Bono College, nearly half of the 67 founding members are St. Mary's Law students or recent graduates.

The Law Student Pro Bono College was founded in 2013 to extend the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas to include students enrolled in Texas law schools. The Pro Bono College recognizes the Texas legal community's contributions in providing legal services to all Texans. Law students must complete a minimum of 50 hours of eligible pro bono services within a 12-month period to be considered for membership.

St. Mary's students and graduates performed many of their hours of service as a part of the School of Law's Pro Bono Program. Under staff and student leadership, the program improves access to justice in South Texas and beyond, resulting in tangible benefits to the community and meaningful professional experience for the law students.



Photo by Josh Huskin

Alumna Helps Patients “Live Happy”

by Alex Salinas (B.A. '11)

Inspiration can come from unexpected places.

For Malak Abouhenidi (M.S. '14), it was from reading a novel titled *Before I Go to Sleep*, a psychological thriller about a woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease. While she doesn't know anyone suffering from the disease, Abouhenidi was moved.

“My curiosity was piqued, so I researched the disease and the needs of people who have it,” she said. “A question popped into my mind: How could everyday technology better serve them?”

Alzheimer's is an incurable neurodegenerative disorder that affects memory and eventually leads to death. To help patients, Abouhenidi chose cell phones — almost everyone has one — as her platform and began creating a mobile application as a project for her Master of Computer Science degree, which she completed in December 2014. Her goal: build an app that would help people living with early stages of Alzheimer's perform daily tasks and routines.

The “Live Happy” app lets users or their caregivers create a profile and navigate a menu that can include scheduling medications, appointments, meals, exercise and even quiet time. For that category, users can include a list of their favorite books and songs. Users are reminded by on-screen prompts to perform the scheduled activity.

They can also access Google Maps and a phone contacts list, where they match a name and photo of the person they wish to call to help them recognize people they know.

For professional feedback, Abouhenidi contacted the San Antonio Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and provided them her prototype of Live Happy.

“They asked if I worked with people with Alzheimer's or if I have a family member who has it. The answer for all of that was, ‘I just read a book that inspired me,’” she said.

Abouhenidi's free app will be available for Android devices on Google Play this year after final testing is complete. She is also working to make it available in Apple's App Store in the near future. ■

Sports

Pullins Sensational in Final Season

Women's basketball senior Morgan Pullins quickly became one to watch in her final season and one of the program's most prolific athletes. In February, she became the top rebounder in school history.

Throughout her final season, Pullins has earned numerous recognitions, including national player of the week honors and several Heartland Conference Player of the Week awards.

The 6-foot forward is among the nation's top scorers and rebounders and is ending her career among the program's elite in career points, rebounds and blocks.

Wolf, Kasperitis and Williams Earn Academic Honors

Men's soccer player Jack Wolf, and women's soccer players Kaitie Kasperitis and Kristal Williams each earned a CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-District selection.

The award is given to student athletes with exceptional academic achievement, requiring a GPA of 3.3 or higher. Recipients must also be a main contributor to their respective teams and at least a sophomore academically and athletically.

Wolf became the second player in men's soccer program history to be named Academic All-District, while Kasperitis and



Kaitie Kasperitis, No. 20, celebrates after making the record-breaking goal.

Williams became the fourth and fifth players in women's soccer history to earn the honor.

Kasperitis Breaks Career Goals Record

St. Mary's women's soccer star senior Kaitie Kasperitis went into her final season nearing the program's all-time career goals record. After scoring 12 goals during the season, Kasperitis set the new record at 36 career goals, breaking the St. Mary's career record.

Kasperitis' 12-goal season included two hat tricks to bring her career total to four, marking the most career hat tricks ever recorded by a Rattler. She broke the all-time record on Senior Night against Oklahoma Christian in October after netting a successful penalty kick that marked her fourth career hat trick and set a new record at 35. Kasperitis then went on to score one more goal against Dallas Baptist to total 36 career goals.



Henderson on the court in France

Former Rattler Great Still Going Strong

by Chad Peters (B.A. '06)

Every year while lacing up his sneakers at the onset of training camp, globe-trotting professional basketball player Elliott Henderson (B.A. '93) utters the same refrain.

"It's my last year."

Now 19 years into his pro career, the 44-year-old Henderson has yet to follow through on that. He's now in his sixth season playing for the French team Saint-Nazaire, where he was leading the league in scoring at 28.6 points per game earlier this season.

"I'm 44, playing with guys who could be my sons," said Henderson, a Milwaukee native who predictably says this will be his final season on the court.

Name a country on the map and there's a good chance he's played there, having laced up in Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Chile, the Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico and Switzerland.

In 2008, Henderson's focus shifted to a platform bigger than basketball. He launched a charitable association called E For Three, a program designed to give at-risk children access to activities such as basketball, music, dance and art. He recently brought a group of nine kids to San Antonio to enjoy eight days in the Alamo City, where they toured the sights and, of course, St. Mary's.

"St. Mary's taught me how to have a passion," said Henderson, who in 2004 was inducted into the St. Mary's Athletics Hall of Fame after finishing his Rattler career with 1,386 points and 950 rebounds. "These kids just need (an opportunity). If you keep giving, it'll turn around for you. Giving is like food for the soul." ■



More Than Rain

Law professor
advocates for access
to water as a
basic human right

by Jennifer R. Lloyd

Assistant Professor of Law Amy Hardberger does not remember a time when she wasn't obsessed with water.

While other little girls would have been throwing tea parties for their dolls, a young Hardberger and her dad, former San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger, would run outside in the rain and dance in what she described as impromptu "thunder parties."

"Water, in my family, was never something you stayed inside for," she said. "You sat on a porch, or you ran out in it and jumped around in puddles. There was a merging of the two worlds — I didn't come from an indoor or outdoor world."

While most city dwellers have grown so used to turning on the tap that they rarely give it a second thought, Amy Hardberger's love of water first led her to become a hydrogeologist and then an assistant professor at the St. Mary's University School of Law specializing in water law and policy.

In addition to her teaching duties, she relentlessly advocates for creating a dialogue around water issues that affect us all, such as calling for answers to tough questions on affordability and water demand surrounding the San Antonio Water System's \$3.4 billion Vista Ridge pipeline project. Last fall, San Antonio's city council members voted in favor of the project, which aims to deliver water from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bureson County to a burgeoning San Antonio populace.

"Water is so multidisciplinary, which is both its blessing and its curse," she said. "So few people understand that there is nothing that you do — whether it's eat a burger or put on blue jeans — that does not have a direct water impact."

Because all humans require water, some countries have begun to think of the right to water as a human rights issue, Hardberger said.

"There is a growing thought, whether it's explicit or implicit, that you simply cannot deny someone water," Hardberger said. "There's a long history of that conversation and it started with the understanding that there's a human right to life. You can't murder people. That's not just against the law; it's against the laws of nature, which is one of the sources of human rights. So water seems to be a natural corollary to that."

Some countries, such as India and South Africa, have gone so far as to add the right to water to their constitutions, though the results have been mixed, she said.

Amy Hardberger, Assistant Professor of Law, poses near the dam of Medina Lake. The lake is far below its expected level, thanks to prolonged drought.

“So few people understand that there is nothing that you do — whether it's eat a burger or put on blue jeans — that does not have a direct water impact.”

"It's an ongoing struggle because we have always tied water to revenue," she said. "Revenue pays for infrastructure; it's not just someone lining their pockets. In most places, a utility is technically a nonprofit but that doesn't mean they don't need the money to run."

In the United States, the conversation about water as a human right has evolved more subtly. Hardberger sees it in low income relief programs that help those who can't afford to pay their bills and in the efforts by utility systems and others to ensure drinkable water reaches colonias along the border.

Though she reminisces about spending childhood summers on family farms in West Texas — staring at the barometer and savoring the scent of the air after a rain — Hardberger said being involved in water law and policy in San Antonio is like being "at the heart of the beast."

"San Antonio has been, in many ways, the laboratory for Texas water, particularly groundwater," said Hardberger, who highlights the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program, whose stakeholders engaged in conversation to create a workable conservation plan.

She said the rule of the majority does not work when faced with complex water issues.

"You have to understand other people's interactions with water," she said. "We all have a right to it, so we all have to be at the table. But that rarely happens."

Viewing the shrunken volume of Medina Lake, it's evident why the discussion of water must continue in the classroom and beyond.

"We don't want the rest of the state to go the way Medina Lake did," Hardberger said. "Medina Lake is in a really bad place geologically. But also we just use a lot of water. It may never fill up again."

When she's teaching law students about water issues she starts by asking them, "Why do we have water laws?"

Asking students what communities hope to achieve with water laws sets the stage for evaluating whether the statutes really work to reach those goals.

"I have access to a lot of good minds every year," Hardberger said. "Giving students the skills to question not just their outside environment, but also how we do things, so that they're not just turning on their [water] taps mindlessly, is a great privilege." ■



Photos by Josh Huskin



THE *NEW* GUARD

As the population of professed
Marianists in the United States continues
to decline, two recent St. Mary's University
graduates are among the few, but proud,
who are stepping up

by Alex Salinas (B.A. '11)

The numbers are stark: The 313 Marianist brothers and priests in the United States have an average age of 74, and only about 25 of them are under age 50. About 20 die each year, and in the last decade, only five have taken final vows to become brothers.

Looking at the numbers, one might think the Society of Mary is fighting for its life.

So when two recent St. Mary's University graduates, Justin Quiroz (B.A. '13) and

Trinidad Agosto (B.A. '14), decided to undertake the lengthy process of becoming Marianists, one might also think the odds are stacked against them.

In truth, Quiroz and Agosto aren't worried about the statistics. They are more concerned about taking things one day at a time.

The Presence of God

Agosto, who lives in the Casa Maria community on the St. Mary's campus, is

a Marianist aspirant, which is the first stage to brotherhood in the Society of Mary. He is the only one in the nation.

All aspirants, once accepted into the Society of Mary's formation program, live at Casa Maria for a year to see if they fit in. In this trial stage, aspirants attend Mass, prayer and outings with brothers, interacting with them and discovering if the Marianist lifestyle is a fit.

For Agosto, the journey to Casa Maria — let alone St. Mary's — was improbable.

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“Going to college wasn’t on my mind for most of high school,” the El Paso native said. “My parents didn’t go to college, but my dad was in the military, so that’s what I wanted to pursue.”

However, at 18 years old, Agosto started singing for fun with his then-girlfriend. After realizing he possessed a booming voice, his girlfriend encouraged him to seriously consider studying music.

“I Googled Texas colleges on a whim and wrote some down on a small list,” he said. “I narrowed the list to here and the University of Texas at Austin. I went to both of their sleeping bag weekends, but there was something about St. Mary’s where I felt an immediate connection.”

Majoring in vocal performance, Agosto took his mom’s advice of “putting your entire being into whatever you do” and ran with it, graduating on time.

Regretfully, Agosto also took that advice for his social life.

“Just like many college kids, I liked to party and have fun,” he said. “Alcohol became my vice that got me in trouble a few times, enough to where I lost some opportunities that came my way.”

It was the summer before his senior year, when he was in Ohio working an acting gig, that emotional turmoil got to him.

“I couldn’t sleep one night because so many thoughts were racing through my head and stressing me out that I started crying,” he said. “I was never too religious before, but I prayed and prayed. Suddenly, I felt a cooling sensation from the top of my head to my toes pass through my body.”

“I was overcome with happiness; all my fears and doubts were put aside at the command of this inner voice that wasn’t mine,” he said. “In simplest terms, I felt the presence of God.”

Agosto said his brush with divinity — the most powerful sensation he ever experienced — affirmed his belief in God. When he got back to St. Mary’s, he was inspired to take action to re-create that feeling.

Before his last spring break as an undergraduate, which Agosto called the busiest week of his life, he participated in an event where he lived at Casa Maria to get a feel for Marianist way of life. He also learned



On the previous page, Trinidad Agosto (pictured top), sings along with Brother Dennis Bautista, S.M., Ph.D. Above, a snapshot of past and present at the Marianist Cemetery on the St. Mary’s campus: Agosto accepts the challenges he may face in becoming a religious brother. “This is a serious life journey that requires me to be level-headed, mature and willing to make sacrifices.”

about their history and asked questions about his faith.

“As busy and tired as I was, I had never been happier every day in a row,” he said.

Just months before graduation, Agosto didn’t know what a religious order was, but after that week, he was ready to enter one.

One Step Closer

Quiroz, a Marianist novice living at the University of Dayton in Ohio, is one of four men in the two-year novitiate stage — the second step to becoming a professed brother.

In this phase, novices receive intensive instruction about their institution and the process of becoming a Marianist.

In many ways, Quiroz, a Houston native, was prepped for his religious journey before setting foot on the St. Mary’s campus.

“My older brother, first sister and I attended the same Catholic schools growing up, so Catholic education has been a large

part of my life since early on,” he said. “When it came time to look at colleges, I was mainly focused on Catholic universities.”

While his older brother attended St. Edward’s University in Austin, Quiroz, like Agosto, went to the Internet for help.

“St. Mary’s came up, and I looked at it for a while and eventually applied,” he said. “Everyone I talked to at my high school, including teachers, hadn’t heard of the school before, so when I received an acceptance letter, I had to check it out.”

Sleeping Bag Weekend on campus was all Quiroz needed to fall in love.

“Throughout my sophomore year I was discerning another religious order, but it was during that year of being in the Marianist Leadership Program that Brother Mark Motz, who was an aspirant at the time, really introduced me to the Marianists,” Quiroz said.

Following a Society of Mary summer camp that connected Quiroz with brothers

Marianist Formation Steps

Contact Varies

The first formal step begins with a conversation with a Marianist brother, priest or sister, and then a lengthy application to the national vocation office.

Aspirant 10 months

Once approved, aspirants spend 10 months living with a Marianist community doing part-time ministry in a school, parish or other program.

Novice 20 months

Novices take classes in the history and theology of religious life, and life as a Marianist in particular, and then spend the first four months of the second year in active ministry.



Photo by Peter Coe

For some like Quiroz, exploring religious life was a childhood dream. While much of his time is spent in a classroom as a Marianist novice, Quiroz enjoys praying and reflecting outdoors at the grotto on Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio. “I believe God has always been calling me to follow him more closely as a religious brother or priest.”

and priests across the country, his mind was made up. His close friends were supportive, but it was time to tell his family.

“When I told my family, the reaction was a little mixed because there was no one in our family of a religious profession, so there was this process of explaining to them the difference between a seminarian and someone in a religious order,” he said. “In the end, they were extremely considerate and understanding of my decision to enter.”

While Agosto’s spiritual calling came in college, Quiroz was exploring religious life before high school.

“I believe God has always been calling me to follow him more closely as a religious brother or priest,” he said. “It seemed odd to me not to explore this call. I did not want to let age disparity stop me from pursuing religious life, which I feel is often a discouraging issue for some.”

Generation Now

Brother Dennis Bautista, S.M., Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and Communications Studies at St. Mary’s, knows well the challenges that secular life presents to young people considering walking away from it.

“Becoming a priest or anything similar today is generally not regarded as a promising, prestigious or normal thing to do,” he said. “It’s not a widely discussed option in our families and in our classrooms.”

Bautista had already earned a doctorate; worked his dream job teaching communications at his undergraduate alma mater, Chaminade University; and had a girlfriend before he professed perpetual vows, the last step to becoming a Marianist, in 2009.

“I wanted faith to be the most important part of my life, more than just one Sunday a week, but it wasn’t until I earned my Ph.D. that I began to put more time into it,” the

native Hawaiian said. “I told my girlfriend I was thinking about becoming a Marianist and — after some silence — she responded, ‘I can see you doing that.’ That gave me the green light to go and do it.”

Bautista said that living and working away from home as well as having a long-distance relationship gave him time to reflect on his faith and learn more about himself.

Arriving at Casa Maria as a 30-year-old aspirant in 2003, he became a Marianist brother six years later. At the ripe age of 41, Bautista is still a young gun among his peers and considers himself the “Generation Now” of Marianists.

In addition to teaching and advising the student newspaper, he is responsible for every aspirant in the U.S. as the Society of Mary Aspirancy Program director, an elected position he’s held for three years.

“What I do now prepares the future of the Marianists,” he said. “It’s my job to provide a healthy living environment and good

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Temporary Professed

Three to six years

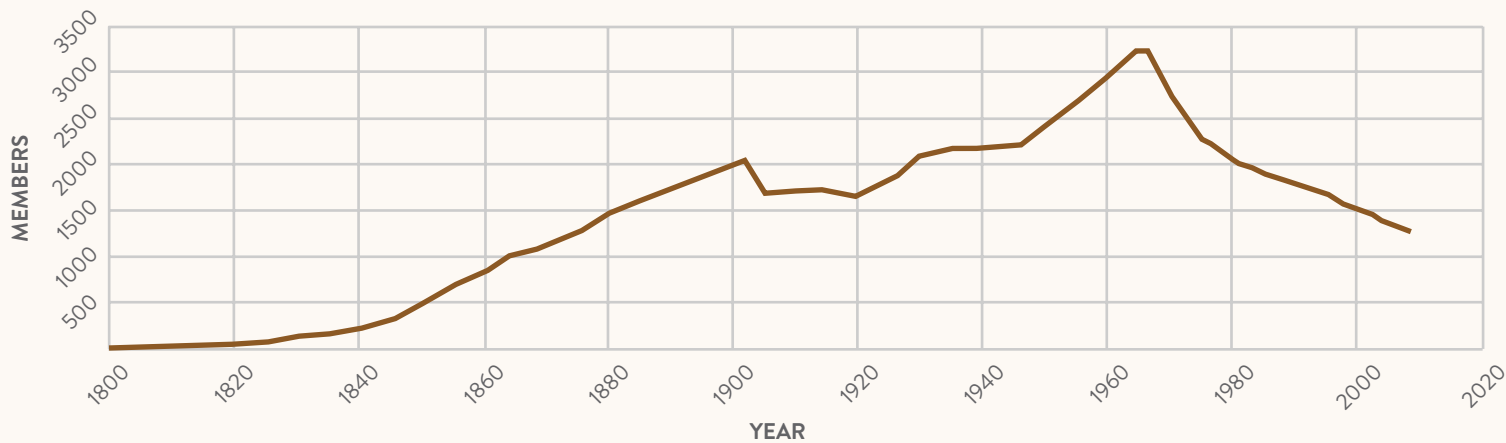
Temporary professed take first vows, changing communities every two years to gain a broader experience of the Province. They come to understand more fully what it means to live and serve as a Marianist brother.

Perpetual Professed

Formation is a lifelong process of spiritual renewal, personal growth and committed service.

Source: Society of Mary

Society of Mary World Membership



Source: Society of Mary

foundation to being a good Catholic for those who step through our doors.”

Bautista said it takes at least six years to “build” a brother — from aspirancy to novitiate to temporary vows to perpetual vows. Even then, daily issues don’t go away for full brothers.

“Just like marrying another person, we marry God, so we must rededicate ourselves every day to the mission, which is to bring the story of Jesus Christ to the world through Mary, his mother.”

Using Mary as a model of faith, Marianist brothers profess four vows: poverty, chastity, obedience and stability.

Bautista understands the conflicts that not only affect young men, but older ones too.

“What happens if a brother becomes depressed, abusive, alcoholic or falls in love with someone?” he said. “There are so many situations that we have to be ready to handle, and it all starts with creating a loving and supportive foundation.”

Quality, Not Quantity

When it comes to the numbers game, Father Martin Solma, S.M., Society of Mary Provincial for the U.S. and St. Mary’s University Chancellor, isn’t alarmed. Instead, he’s realistic.

“Our membership has declined the last two decades, but we’ve always been relatively small,” he said. “The natural temptation is to lower our standards during the application process, but then there will be problems later on. If anything, we’ve raised our standards.

“We look for good, quality men.”

Solma said World War II and the rise of the Baby Boomers directly impacted the current makeup of U.S. Marianists.

“The resurgence of members in the 1950s was an anomaly,” he said. “The overall population increased, as did we.”

While Marianists are spread across four continents and 40 countries, especially in Africa and India where communities are “growing leaps and bounds, with the average age of an Indian brother at 38 years old,” the priority has always been to educate and develop spiritual leaders, Solma said.

“Most people understand priesthood, but not brotherhood,” he said. “Brothers aren’t half-priests or people who’ve gone 50 percent of the way; they’ve taken vows and given their lives to Christ. The beauty is they can be teachers, ministers or plumbers if they want.”

Solma, an ordained Marianist who leads the U.S. province, said both brothers and priests can lead provinces, according to how the Society of Mary founder, The Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, structured it.

“Father Chaminade came out of the French Revolution where ideas of freedom and liberty were born,” he added. “The unique thing about him was he formed lay communities first, then the Daughters of Mary Immaculate together with the Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon in 1816, and finally the Society of Mary in 1817.”

While Marianists are flourishing internationally, Solma isn’t panicked about their dwindling numbers in the U.S.

“We’re likely to be smaller in the future, of course,” he said. “This way of life is not for everybody. Choosing to live a celibate life to promote the word of God is a huge deal.”

Solma acknowledged societal norms have changed.

“When I was a novice in the 1970s, there were 40 guys in formation with me,” he said. “I believe young people today are faced with commitment issues more than past generations, but at the same time, those who joined the Marianists back then were typically fresh out of high school.

“Aspirants now are typically a bit older and college educated.”

There aren’t as many young men joining the order as when he did, but those now are more intentional about their decision because they are equipped with more life experience, Solma said.

Reason and Hope

Agosto and Quiroz still think about what a different path would have led to.

“Living in a religious community with people of different ages and backgrounds is a radical transition from what I was used to,” Quiroz said. “There are thoughts that cross my mind about experiences or things I haven’t done. That’s a challenge of being young.”

One of those experiences is the biological kind: being a father.

“I would love to be one of those cheesy dads, but I remind myself I’m where I’m at because of God,” Agosto said. “This is a serious life journey that requires me to be level-headed, mature and willing to make sacrifices.”

Despite their doubts, both men have a path set and plans for their future.

Quiroz wants to teach at a Marianist high school, and Agosto, who is currently an assistant choir director at Central Catholic High School, would like to use his vocal cords as a professional performer.

As for the future of the organization they signed up for?

“Given the average age of Marianists in the U.S., I don’t know how many of them we can expect on the grounds of our 18 high schools, three universities, seven parishes and four retreat centers in 10 years,” Bautista said, “but if we made joining a religious order a valid option for young people in our classrooms and in the community — young people who probably have big questions about their faith — we can inspire hope and change our outlook for the better.

“After all, we’re still here, so God has already given us reason and hope.” ■



No Excuses

by *Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)*

Willie Ng (M.P.A. '10) recently became chief criminal investigator for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office after more than 20 years in law enforcement. He's also the CEO of Blue Armor Security, a successful and growing security services company he founded in 2003. These are jobs not for the faint of heart, but Ng also has a softer side.

He is active in charities and organizations that help children and families during the holiday season. He is passionate about education and juvenile outreach, even volunteering as interim CEO of the Juvenile Outreach and Vocational/Educational Network (JOVEN) in 2012.

Meanwhile, his security company, which now employs about 300 people, allowed Ng to pay out of pocket while pursuing a Master of Public Administration at St. Mary's. But that was a privilege he was not born with, and it made him realize the need for graduate-level scholarships.

"In the summer, we had windows open and floor fans to keep cool," Ng said of growing up on San Antonio's Southeast side. "I didn't allow my situation to be an excuse. I turned my situation into a story.

"Anything you want you can accomplish. It's a matter of how much you're willing to sacrifice."

Since 2010, Ng has established three scholarships: the Willie Ng Master in Public Administration Scholarship, the Dr. Henry Flores Scholarship and the Dr. Charles Cotrell Scholarship. Each is intended to help students pay for an education that Ng considers an investment.

"You can't put a monetary value on the education you will receive at St. Mary's." ■



LIVING THE AGENCY LIFE

by Nicolette Good

On any given day, Anamaria Suescun-Fast (B.A. '91) could be talking about water quality, groceries or diaper rash cream. But that's life in a marketing agency.

"We are chameleons, and we have to work on all cylinders," she said.

Suescun-Fast is a public relations guru and vice president at The DeBerry Group in San Antonio — a communication and marketing agency that focuses on public relations, government affairs and advocacy.

In short, the Group's job is to make their clients look good, which takes a lot of hard work behind the scenes.

That was certainly the case when she and her team served as public relations liaisons for the Smoke-Free San Antonio campaign in 2010-2011, with the goal of making San Antonio a non-smoking city.

"It was a very emotional fight, but it was a good cause," she recalled. "When the final votes came down and the ordinance passed, it was a proud moment."

The DeBerry Group's clients have included H-E-B, Spurs Sports and Entertainment, Baptist Health System and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Serving such diverse organizations means keeping an eye on the competition and other leading agencies.

"What does PR really mean today?" she said. "You're doing so many different things, like marketing, paid media, social media and digital communications. You have to be on top of trends and new ideas."

Suescun-Fast has a relentless eye for quality and a commitment to serving the client, but in the end success depends on strong partnerships.

Now well into her career, Suescun-Fast recalls cutting her teeth at Fiesta Texas, where she began as a secretary in its PR department. Her path led to other firms like the Atkins Agency and GDC, and at each turn there were mentors who helped lift her to where she stands today.

It's hard for Suescun-Fast to say what her proudest moment is, because every achievement is meaningful.

"We revel in every milestone." ■



“We are chameleons ...”

Class Notes



Passion with a purpose

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)

Thelma Duffy (M.A./Ph.D. '93) is not just a licensed counselor and therapist; she is the owner of a multidisciplinary private practice, in addition to being a professor and department chair at the University of Texas at San Antonio's Department of Counseling. She recently became president of the American Counseling Association (ACA), a 55,000-member organization that is the largest of its kind.

Long before she thought about becoming a professional counselor, Duffy was a middle school teacher in San Antonio's Edgewood School District, which shaped her career trajectory.

"The parts of the work that ignited the greatest passion in me were the parts that involved supporting students emotionally, socially, and within their families. That part of the work made me genuinely happy and fulfilled," she said.

Duffy has the best of both worlds in teaching and counseling. She is inspired by many aspects of her career and new leadership role, such as expanding mental health opportunities to people throughout the world.

One of her goals as ACA president is to organize efforts around advocacy for the profession of counseling. She also has her sights set on spearheading social action to prevent bullying: a pressing social issue that affects people of all ages and settings.

"It happens far too often. And it hurts. And we could do something to help." ■



A St. Mary's Proposal

Jasmine Garcia (B.A. '11), who is a communications coordinator at St. Mary's, and her now-fiancé Joseph DeLeon (B.B.A. '11), an associate risk solutions representative at H-E-B, met as students. So it was only fitting that DeLeon would want to propose to Garcia on the campus that means so much to both of them.

"Our experiences and education at St. Mary's have left a lasting impression on our lives. I thought this would be the perfect place to propose," DeLeon said, who decorated the gazebo at the front of campus for the big surprise.

Garcia, of course, said, "Yes."

Do you have a photo to share?

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

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



“

One of the things Tom and I most enjoyed about our time at St. Mary's was the feeling of community. We felt called to do something to enhance that experience for current and future students.”

— Leti Contreras

Plenty of St. Mary's alumni likely remember the days when the campus pub was the social hub of campus. Tom (B.B.A. '88) and Leti (B.A. '89) Contreras certainly do.

Thanks to a generous gift from Tom and Leti, a new generation of students soon will have that same opportunity for fellowship and community.

Remember that every gift — no matter the size — makes a difference in the lives of current and future St. Mary's University students.

**Make a gift and
make a difference.**

Give online today at www.stmarytx.edu/give or contact the Office of University Advancement at **210-436-3138**.

Catching up with a man of action

Carlo Niño is an expert in crisis management ... Ebola crisis management

by Andrew Festa

For three months last fall, Carlo Niño (B.A. '96, M.A. '02) was in Liberia directing logistics for a United States government foreign assistance program called ALERT (Assisting Liberians through Education to Reduce Transmission). The Central Catholic grad, who studied International Relations at St. Mary's, ran the supply chains and vehicle fleets that sent emergency support from a central warehouse in Monrovia to remote, rural areas.

Niño is no stranger to hardship and turmoil, having served in places like Afghanistan and Djibouti as a U.S. Marine for 12 years. In 2005, he was in Liberia as a United Nations peacekeeper; this time it was for the United States Agency for International Development, known as USAID.

Time and again, Niño has made career choices that put him in less-than-ideal situations. So why does he do it?

"It was the right thing to do," he said. "I think it would have been wrong for me not to. Sins of omission are just as bad as the ones of commission."

He helped bring about real change — in terms of decreases in infection and burial rates, and also in ways that can't be measured.

"A strong indicator is the gratitude seen on people's faces," Niño said. "You can't put that in a report."

These days he's in Port au Prince, Haiti, working for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. You could say he's putting his Marianist education to good use.

"That degree wasn't for me; it was for someone else," he said. "I can see that clearly now." ■





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Laura Burney, Faculty in Residence for the School of Law, was named to The San Antonio Business Journal's 2014 Who's Who in Energy list. The list included "key players in the energy industry" who, according to the publication, "support the industry by providing services in a number of different areas including law, finance, education and oil and gas, to name a few." Burney is an expert in oil and gas law and teaches courses on subject. Here, she leads a class of second- and third-year students.

