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GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Summer 2015

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Everything is Right About Rong

Women's Tennis sensation Mariana Rong leaves an immeasurable footprint after wrapping up her St. Mary's career this spring. The best women's tennis player ever to step on this campus, Rong led St. Mary's to the NCAA national championship quarterfinals for the team's best-ever finish. Rong, who graduated with a 3.94 GPA as a Biology and Chemistry major, totaled 18 Heartland Conference Player of the Week awards in her career — the most by any student-athlete in the sport across all divisions nationally. She also joined doubles partner Cristina Lopez in earning Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American honors, adding to the singles All-America award she won in 2013.





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THE ST. MARY'S WAY: Career as Vocation

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

Not long ago I was reminded of *Hoosiers*, a favorite sports movie of mine. *Hoosiers* is the 1986 film about a high school basketball team from the small rural town of Hickory, competing with an urban giant for the Indiana state championship.

In a memorable scene, Gene Hackman, who plays the Hickory coach, calms the anxiety of his awestruck players, who have just stepped onto the court of an enormous basketball arena. Hackman measures the distance from the rim of the basket to the floor — 10 feet — and from the free-throw line to the basket — 15 feet. The coach points out to his players that these measurements are identical to those at their tiny gym in Hickory. Hickory improbably goes on to slay the urban giant and become state champs.

In April, the Brookings Institution, a renowned independent think tank, ranked St. Mary's University 17th among the nation's four-year universities for its contribution (or "value added") to the financial success of its mid-career graduates.

In so doing, Brookings placed St. Mary's in the same league as MIT, Stanford and Rice and slightly ahead of Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, Texas A&M and UT Austin. How did this happen? Why did tiny St. Mary's and its graduates compete so well compared to the behemoths listed above?

Permit me to offer two reasons. First, St. Mary's University, like so many other great universities, requires all its undergraduates to take a core curriculum, which helps students develop the so-called "hard" skills of effective writing and speaking, critical thinking and problem solving. All our students — whether they major in Computer Science, Accounting, Electrical Engineering or History — must successfully complete an array of common courses.

These core classes broaden their knowledge and transform students' understanding of their place in the world and their social responsibilities. These courses also happen to develop the crucial skills all employers are seeking in new professional employees. My point is a simple one: The recently much-maligned liberal arts curriculum, taken seriously, is a ticket not only to a first job after graduation, but to a leadership position in the most challenging professions.

Second, as a Catholic and Marianist university, St. Mary's fosters the formation of deep Christian faith in our students and educates ethical leaders for the common good. For more than 160 years, our Marianist brothers and lay faculty and staff have gently mentored young men and women to leave St. Mary's with generous spirits and humble hearts, and to view their professional careers as vocational journeys, not simply jobs.

These qualities too — the enduring values of integrity, respect for others, humility and a collaborative orientation — are uniformly prized by employers, patients, clients and customers. Little wonder then that our graduates overachieve in the workplace and are financially successful. A graduate moves forward and outward after St. Mary's, not with the narrow goal of personal gratification, but aspiration to a life purposefully lived.

There are many other universities and colleges besides St. Mary's in Texas and throughout our great country that ready students for professional careers by preparing them to make meaningful contributions in the workplace and community. The lessons of *Hoosiers* and of St. Mary's University are that once you step onto the court, it's the same game for everyone. Our workplaces value a selfless dedication to the team and a commitment to fundamentals, which at St. Mary's University began more than 160 years ago and continues today. ■



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Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

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Campus News

St. Mary's Ranked High for Preparing Graduates

St. Mary's University sits among the top colleges and universities in the country in a Brookings Institution study that shows how well colleges prepare students for careers.

With a score of 99 out of 100, St. Mary's has the 17th highest value-added score with respect to mid-career salary. This score is the highest in San Antonio and right behind Rice University for best in Texas.

The Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program report uses both government and private data, taking into consideration the economic success of the graduates — their incomes, occupations and loan repayment rates.

A typical St. Mary's graduate earns \$28,000 more than the predicted mid-career salary, according to the findings. The study identifies five key factors responsible for how well students perform economically in the years after college: curriculum value and academic preparation, alumni with marketable skills, graduates prepared to work in STEM occupations, graduation completion rates, and average institutional financial aid support offered by institutions.

St. Mary's University welcomed 461 new alumni during the 163rd Spring Commencement ceremony held at the Bill Greehey Arena in May.

Mengler Appointed to Second Term

The St. Mary's University Board of Trustees unanimously reappointed Tom Mengler to a second term as president, from June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2018.

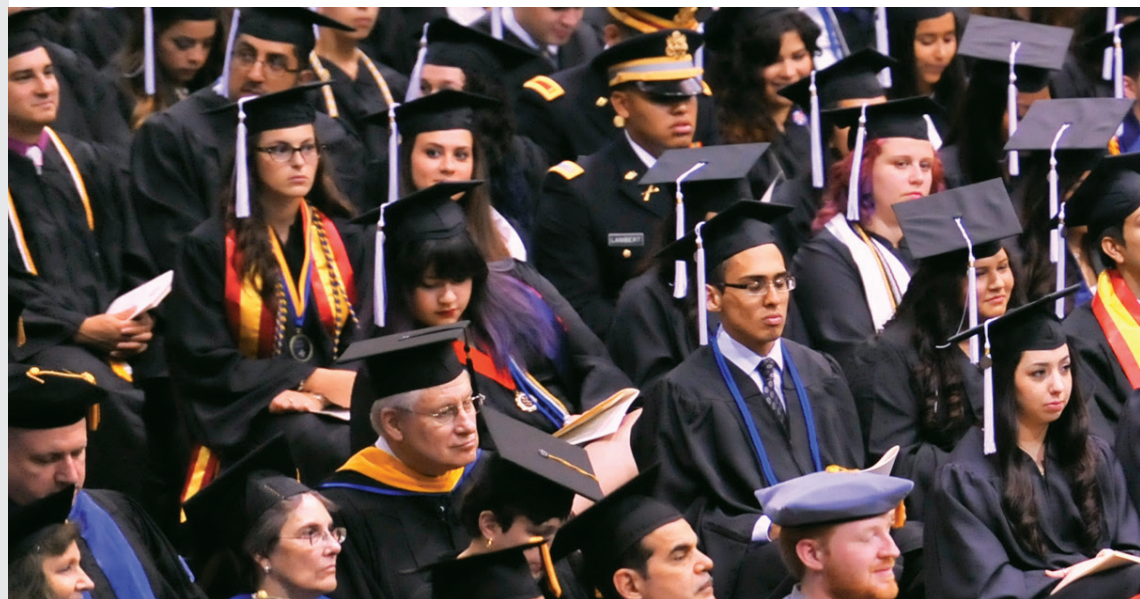
Board Chairman Ed Speed (B.B.A. '70, M.A. '86) said that the board is pleased with Mengler's leadership and his vision for St. Mary's to become one of the finest private universities in the region.

In his first term as president, Mengler developed a strategic plan for St. Mary's that both embraces and enhances the Marianist spirit and traditions while ensuring the University has the resources to provide an excellent education that prepares our students for successful professional lives grounded in the common good.

Alum Supports Scholarships for Webb County

A.R. "Tony" Sanchez (B.B.A. '65, J.D. '69) has pledged \$100,000 for scholarships that will assist first-generation students with the greatest need, so that they can stay in school and finish their degree within four years.

The scholarships, which will total \$25,000 a year for four years, will benefit freshmen from Webb County and the greater Rio Grande Valley area. The scholarships target students in the School of Science, Engineering and Technology and the Greehey School of Business.



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.

More Campus Transformation Underway

Making the St. Mary's campus a place for community and gathering has been a priority the past few years, and two new projects near the heart of campus will continue the trend.

The new St. Mary's pub, which will open this fall, overlooks the area that has come to be known as Alkek Plaza. Thanks in large part to a \$150,000 gift from the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation, the 14,000-square-foot courtyard will soon get a makeover transforming it into a hub of student activity.

The pub, which is under construction on the rear veranda of the library, will include inside and outside gathering spaces. This project is thanks to the generosity of Tom (B.B.A. '88) and Leti (B.A. '89) Contreras, who wanted to promote engagement and unity on campus.

St. Mary's Named First Fair Trade University in Texas

St. Mary's has become the first institution of higher education in Texas to achieve Fair Trade University status.

Fair trade is a social movement that helps producers in developing countries work in safe conditions, improve the lives of their families, and earn extra money to invest in their communities.

Producers — often children — of coffee,



St. Mary's has worked with its food service vendor to make fair-trade certified items available on campus, including Starbucks in the Cotrell Learning Commons.

tea, chocolate, handicrafts and other products in developing countries often work in poor conditions and are paid less than a living wage. By purchasing fair trade products, consumers increase global quality of life, protect the environment and ensure the production of high quality goods.

St. Mary's is the 28th institution of higher education in the nation to receive the designation by Fair Trade Colleges and Universities.

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,
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San Antonio, Texas 78228-8575





Actions Reflect Passion: Professor spearheads transformative initiatives

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)

Kathleen Gallagher, Ph.D., has lived a life filled with adventure — and a bit of danger.

She spent seven years trekking around Nepal, lived through a strong earthquake there and once witnessed her Nepalese classmates being arrested during a major political shakedown. Her time in Nepal wasn't easy, but it shaped her both personally and professionally.

"I have lingered there literally and metaphorically hoping to better understand the processes of exclusion and dispossession," said Gallagher, Assistant Professor of International Relations at St. Mary's University.

For the past five years, Gallagher has been teaching at St. Mary's, but her heart is tied to Nepal. Her coursework and many of the initiatives she's led on campus are reflective of her passion.

She spearheaded a new scholarship program designed to help outstanding Nepalese students study at St. Mary's. It focuses on those who seek to make a difference in less-developed regions in the world through research and practical initiatives aimed at sustainable and transformative development.

Gallagher has also formed workshops geared to help international students adjust to the rigorous graduate programs at St. Mary's by helping them understand cultural differences and academic expectations.

Sami Wagle (M.A. '14), who is Nepalese and a recent International Relations graduate, is one of many students who



In these photos from a 2012 research trip, Professor Kathleen Gallagher, Ph.D., interacts with people from recently liberated slave populations in Kohalpur, Nepal.

received opportunities, thanks to Gallagher. She recently served as Gallagher's research assistant for a grant from the University of Texas at Austin's South Asia Institute. Gallagher also helped Wagle obtain an internship at the Center for Refugee Services in San Antonio.

It's this kind of mentorship that builds a strong connection between Gallagher and her students.

"I want them to be thoughtful about how they can radiate these skill sets and this knowledge, their theory, their analytic skills and their critical reflection out into the world in a transformative way," Gallagher said.

To help in the aftermath of the recent massive earthquakes in Nepal, Gallagher and current and former students have created a student organization to promote relief initiatives.

In early May, Gallagher sat down with Wagle and Krita Bhattarai, another Nepalese International Relations student, and decided to focus on decreasing the dropout rate of Nepalese students affected by the earthquakes. Wagle and Bhattarai are both coping with being separated from their families who were displaced after the first big earthquake and left camping outside.

Despite their feelings of helplessness and heartache, Gallagher, Wagle and Bhattarai realized this atrocity was also an opportunity to help others.

"We wanted to channel our energy into something good," Bhattarai said. ■

Science

Engineering to Receive Top-Notch 3-D Printer

A \$200,000 grant from the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation will provide new state-of-the-art rapid prototyping equipment — in layman's terms, 3-D printing — for the Department of Engineering.

The department currently has a 3-D printer, but this model will be a more technologically advanced and flexible setup that will provide a broader range of uses for students and faculty. It will be able to produce at a resolution 10 times better than the current printer.

The system will be used in classes for all Engineering programs; however, it will primarily benefit the growing Mechanical Engineering program, which started in fall 2013 and has seen strong enrollment.

Rainwater Harvesting Unveiled

What started as an idea in a science class has turned into a project that will save an estimated 240,000 gallons of water each year: a rainwater harvesting system on the roof of Garni Hall.

The idea was born during a lab exercise for an Environmental Geochemistry class in spring 2013 and became a student group's EPA contest entry that fall. Eventually a proposal ended up on the desks of University administrators, who enthusiastically supported it.

The more than 5,000-gallon rainwater collection tank was revealed during a ceremony this spring. With a small pump, the captured rainwater will irrigate landscaping in that section of campus.

As the first of its kind on campus, the system will save water and become the centerpiece of St. Mary's sustainability efforts. There is talk of using similar systems in other parts of campus.

"We hope to raise campus awareness of the importance of being water-wise, so the system and the landscaping will become part of our curriculum and also support our educational outreach to elementary and high school students," said David Turner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, who helped the students bring the idea to life.

Graduate Software Engineering Now Online

Starting this fall, the Department of Engineering is offering its Master of Science in Software Engineering through an entirely online program.

This expansion is a part of a Title V grant recently awarded to St. Mary's, which calls on the University to expand and upgrade its distance learning infrastructure to support dynamic online learning. The grant, titled Promoting Excellence in Graduate Education, has numerous goals, including increasing graduate enrollment, increasing the number of Hispanic and low-income students enrolling in and completing graduate education, and increasing the overall graduate degree completion rates.

St. Mary's also offers the Master of International Relations and an academic certificate in Conflict Transformation using an online learning platform.

Humanities

The Rattler Scores Big at Competition

The Rattler newspaper won 18 awards at the 2015 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention. This was the second straight year The Rattler won first place for overall excellence in its division.

This is the one of many awards the school newspaper has received under the direction of staff adviser Brother Dennis R. Bautista, S.M., Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and Communications.

Counseling Center Joins Reintegration Project

The Family Life Center has joined the Resurgence Collaborative, a local effort to more effectively reintegrate community members who have been incarcerated and to identify causes of criminal activity.

The Family Life Center, which provides clinical experience for counseling students by serving community members, is one of

13 partners in the federally funded project. The primary area of focus is on San Antonio's East Side.

The collaborative is assisting about 500 residents on probation as well as others transitioning from the justice system back into the community.

Flores Publishes Book on Voting Rights

Henry Flores, Ph.D., Distinguished University Research Professor, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Master of Public Administration Program, served on a panel titled, "Latino America: Where it's Been, Where it's Going" at the third annual San Antonio Book Festival.

The panel was featured on C-SPAN2 BOOKTV, which highlighted Flores' recent publication, *Latinos and the Voting Rights Act: The Search for Racial Purpose*. The panel focused on the history and political influence of Latinos in America. The School of Law

and the Political Science Department at St. Mary's collaborated earlier this year, showcasing Flores' new book on campus.

Grant Showcases Faculty Expertise

Bill Israel, Ph.D., Director of the Graduate Communication Studies Program and Associate Professor of English and Communications Studies, recently presented three papers and moderated a panel at the Western Social Science Association in Portland, Oregon.

The papers advance Israel's study of journalism and political communication through the lenses of Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the 21st Century*, and Doris Kearns Goodwin's work on Theodore Roosevelt and antitrust. He was able to attend these events thanks to a grant from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean's Fund for Excellence.

Law

Alum Leaves \$1 Million Trust

The late Philip S. Day (LL.B. '59) has left a \$1 million charitable remainder trust to assist future generations of promising lawyers.

Day earned his undergraduate degree at Bowdoin College in Maine, but a sports injury stopped his plans to join the military. He found another form of service — the legal profession — and a college friend from San Antonio helped him to attend the St. Mary's University School of Law to study, his brother said.

"Without the opportunity to apply for a scholarship, he wouldn't have been able to have done what he did because we were extremely poor," said James Day of his brother, who went on to work for the international law firm Baker and McKenzie in Washington, D.C., and eventually to start his own practice.

Philip Day's charitable remainder trust will benefit the St. Mary's School of Law in honor of the help he received to finish his degree, his brother said.

"That little bit of assistance might change students' direction," James Day said. "Even though they may never know him, at least they know that someone named Philip Day might have changed their life."

Texas Lawmakers Honor Law Professor

Texas lawmakers recently recognized St. Mary's Law Professor Vincent R. Johnson at the state capitol for his work bringing attention to the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Johnson has spoken about and published numerous pieces during the past year highlighting the landmark anniversary. His writing on the topic has been featured in the Texas Bar Journal article, *The Great Charter*; the San Antonio Bar Journal article, *The Magna Carta and the Expectations It Set for Anglo-American Law*; and through two op-eds for the San Antonio Express-News, *The Magna Carta and Texas Ethics Reform* and *Rick Perry and the Lessons of the Magna Carta*.

Moot Team Adds Another National Title

The St. Mary's School of Law Moot Court Team traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring, returning home with a third national championship in the past four years at the Federal Bar Association's 18th annual Thurgood A. Marshall Moot Court Competition.

All three moot court teams from the St. Mary's University External Advocacy Program advanced to the quarterfinals, dominating much of the competition at one of the nation's premier moot court competitions. The event drew 38 teams from across the United States.

The championship round was held at the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and consisted of only St. Mary's teams. The team of third-year law students Stephen Bachran and Bianca Frisaura ultimately surpassed the team of second-year law students Dylan Percy and Olivero Flores.

Bachran was recognized as the third-best advocate out of 76 competitors in the preliminary rounds of the competition, Percy took home best advocate in the finals, and the team of second-year law students Stephanie De Sola and Leah Wise won second-best overall brief.

The prestigious competition addresses emerging issues of federal statutory and constitutional law. Judges included distinguished members of the federal bench and bar who were in Washington for the Federal Bar Association's midyear meeting.

Business

Greehey School Earns Bizzell Award

St. Mary's University's Greehey MBA has won the Bobby G. Bizzell Innovative Achievement Award, sponsored by Bloomberg Businessweek.

The Bizzell Awards recognize business programs based on curriculum design, teaching, program development, outreach or administration. Baylor University was runner-up.

The award, which includes \$1,500 prize, was presented in June at the 2015 Southwestern Business Dean's Association annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Team Wins Case Study Competition

A team of four freshmen business students took first in the National Collegiate Leadership Conference (NCLC) Case Study Competition in Tucson, Arizona.

Greehey Scholars Cassandra Cantu, Jose Reyes, Carlos Amaya and Guillermo Avelar represented the Greehey School of Business at competition, which was attended by 700 students from 25 states.

In the case study competition, nine teams were charged with developing a marketing plan for Beads of Courage, a Tucson-based nonprofit organization. St. Mary's faced

Northern Arizona University and UTSA in the finals.

"This win is an endorsement of caliber of students we attract and the quality of our programs offered," said Mathew Joseph, Ph.D., Emil C.E. Jurica Distinguished Professor of Marketing. "Hard work, dedication and sacrifice will always lead you to success."

The annual NCLC Case Study Competition gives students the opportunity to develop as leaders by improving presentation, critical thinking and teamwork skills.



Photo by Josh Huskin

Leopold estimates he has touched the lives of about 10,000 law students over the years.

Leopold makes — and breaks — the mold for law faculty

by Jennifer R. Lloyd

Professor of Law Aloysius A. Leopold (B.A. '70, J.D. '62) espouses the firm opinion that teaching is not learned. "It's a talent you are born with, but you can always refine it."

Since graduating from St. Mary's School of Law in 1962 and joining the faculty in 1967, Leopold has spent 48 years perfecting the craft of teaching law and shaping minds into tomorrow's legal leaders. Leopold, 81, was named Professor Emeritus and Senior Professor of Law this spring.

Peter Hosey (J.D. '79), president-elect of the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association, worked as a research assistant for Leopold in the late 1970s and recalled that all law students "tried to take every class that he offered."

"He was so much more than a professor," said Hosey of his mentor. "He's the most knowledgeable lawyer I've ever met and he spent a lifetime imparting that knowledge to thousands of practitioners in the state. ... He's a unique human being, the likes of

which everybody should meet at least once in a lifetime."

Though he was a natural at teaching, Leopold's path into the classroom was not traditional. Leopold grew up on a cotton farm in Nada, worked on a construction crew, was drafted into the Army for two years and briefly ran a lumberyard, all before entering law school.

When he began his legal studies, he had not yet earned a bachelor's degree; instead, Leopold used credits from Assumption Seminary and the assistance of Brother Tom Treadaway, S.M., who was the University's registrar, to get into law school. He had already been a law professor for several years before he earned his bachelor's degree in History.

Ernest Raba, Dean of the law school during Leopold's studies, tried to give him a job teaching property law after graduation. Leopold said he did not yet know the field well enough, and that he wanted to work

for five years first. Five years later, to the month, Raba visited Leopold at his office to ask again to join the faculty. That time, he accepted.

Leopold has proven his expertise over the years, writing 26 nationally published books on topics such as marital property and real estate transactions without ever foraying into fiction because, as he says, "Fact is strange enough."

He advises law faculty to excel by knowing their subject matter and finding a teaching method with which they're comfortable.

"It's the professor's job to mold that student into a good attorney, and some students come without the slightest idea of what law school might be," he said. "You have to get them into the frame of mind to understand what they need to do and what they can be. ... Train students to think and write and do whatever it takes to be a proficient and ethical attorney." ■



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Photos by Antonio Morano



THE RATTLER

by Chad Peters (B.A. '06)

What a year! St. Mary's Athletics has strung together many impressive seasons in many different sports during recent years, but 2014-2015 will go down as something special: three sports in tight national championship chases, buzzer-beating playoff wins, and a record number of academic award winners, just to name a few.

Add it all up, and St. Mary's took home seven regular-season and postseason Heartland Conference championships in men's basketball, baseball, softball and women's tennis; won a pair of regional titles in softball and women's tennis; and saw three teams — softball, women's tennis and baseball — stand among the final 16 teams in their respective NCAA national tournaments.

"We couldn't be prouder of the year we've had," Athletics Director Liz Dalton said. "It is further proof that we are champions in the classroom and on the fields and courts. We have genuine student-athletes."

Tennis sensation Mariana Rong and her doubles partner Cristina Lopez joined Softball's Haley Richter for CoSIDA Academic All-America honors. This was the most CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, which are voted on by the NCAA Division II sports information directors, for St. Mary's in a single year.

St. Mary's saw seven student-athletes earn All-America recognition this year — the most since 2004 — and a school-record 10 student-athletes receive academic all-district honors.

"Our success can be attributed to the fact that we have a tremendous group of coaches, recruiting people who are the right fit for St. Mary's," Dalton said. "They are engaged on our campus and live our mission daily. They compete and thrive in our academic environment, and then they are outstanding athletes. Simply put, we have a winning culture that has endured the test of time." ■

Here's a look back at some of the best that Rattler Athletics had to offer this season:

1 WOMEN'S TENNIS WAS RED HOT

For the second year in a row, Women's Tennis headed to the NCAA-DII National Tournament, where they advanced to their first-ever Elite Eight appearance. And while they lost in that round, the program has made a national name for itself. "Last year, we 'made it' to nationals. It felt as if only we knew we were there last year," head coach Lisa Dausin said. "This year, it was really great to hear we became a hot topic of conversation at the tournament."

2 MINOR'S MAJOR MIRACLE

Down 20 points midway through the second half of the Heartland Conference Men's basketball semifinals, St. Mary's season appeared to be slipping away. And then magic happened. Kriston Minor capped off an amazing rally against UA Fort Smith by sinking a 30-foot 3-pointer to force overtime in an eventual 90-88 victory. St. Mary's went on to win the Heartland Conference championship and earn its fourth-straight NCAA Tournament bid.

3 SOFTBALL BACK IN THE WORLD SERIES

Softball came close to adding a third national championship trophy to its mantel, advancing to the Women's College World Series for the fourth time under legendary coach Donna Fields. The Rattlers were led by a special senior class that included All-Americans Vianna Gutierrez Touchtone, a top-10 finalist for the National Player of the Year award, Nicole Sardelich and Taylor Vidrine. It marked the Rattlers' first World Series appearance in a decade.

4 BASEBALL ADVANCES TO REGIONAL FINAL

Rattler Baseball nearly joined the Softball team in the World Series, falling one victory short after dropping a 5-2 heartbreaker to Angelo State in the regional championship game. The Rattlers saw memorable performances turned in by numerous pitchers at the tournament, including a 186-pitch effort across two games from All-American Matt McClain.

Rattlers of Wall Street

by Jasmine Garcia (B.A. '11)

A Wall Street work week is not your typical work week. It means long hours — 70 to 90 per week — in a fast-paced and competitive atmosphere. But there are St. Mary's University graduates whose educational foundation and drive prepared them to thrive in this pressure-cooker environment, holding their own alongside graduates from top-tier schools.

Trendsetter

Albert Cruz (B.B.A. '06) first heard about Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Career in 2005 when researching summer internship opportunities. One of the nation's top summer internship programs, SEO provides talented minority students internships on Wall Street.

"At the time, there was no one at St. Mary's recruiting for SEO," Cruz said. "The program showed me that it took proper training, a set of close mentors and a broad network to be competitive."

After graduating with International Business and Corporate Finance degrees, he spent more than three years at UBS Investment Bank, but he wanted to do more. It was time for a career change.

Cruz joined SEO as a recruiting manager in 2011, recruiting students in Texas, California and North Carolina, but with a special focus on St. Mary's.

The San Antonio native's work has helped make St. Mary's known as a place to find and recruit savvy interns. Now the assistant director, he continues to focus on improving SEO's recruitment efforts and building relationships with firms on Wall Street.

"SEO provides you with the pathway and structure to meet successful people," he said. "It's a powerful network and connects you in all types of ways."

Brothers on Wall Street

Cruz isn't the only Rattler walking the eight blocks of Wall Street. Brothers Alfonso and Rick Diaz share an interest in the financial world.

For Alfonso (B.B.A. '07), the oldest, all it took was an on-campus SEO seminar to discover the opportunities available.

"I didn't think it was even possible working on Wall Street," said Alfonso, an analyst at Macquarie Capital, which is based in Australia. "I always knew I wanted to have a career in entrepreneurship, but then Wall Street was introduced to me."

Alfonso began SEO's Investment Banking Career Internship Program in summer 2006 and worked at Citigroup in New York as an intern analyst.

"I decided by the end of the summer that my skills, personality and passion for markets were best suited for a role in securities sales and trading," he said.

Alfonso returned to St. Mary's to finish his senior year and, just two weeks after graduation, moved to New York City to start at Goldman Sachs.

Alfonso also helped his brother Rick (B.B.A. '09) navigate a similar career path, which started in 2008 as an intern on the trading desk at Lehman Brothers.

"Like any intern, I started at the very bottom," Rick said. "With the ultimate goal of receiving a full-time offer, I had 10 weeks to learn a business, build relationships, impress managers and absorb as much as possible all while making sure not to mess up anyone's lunch order."

"Getting a foot in the door is half the battle in breaking into an investment bank," said Rick, who's now an associate on the credit-trading desk at AQR Capital Management.

A Change of Direction

Matt Sisneros (B.B.A. '12) has been going strong on Wall Street for four years. While his initial postgraduate plans included law school, it was an introduction to business taught by Visiting Assistant Marketing Professor Guillermo Martinez, J.D., that had Sisneros change paths.

Sisneros applied to SEO as a sophomore. After a year on the waiting list, he earned a 10-week internship with J.P. Morgan, which offered him a full-time job afterward.

He advises to students in similar situations to be proactive. "Nothing is going to come to you. If you want something, you have to go for it and follow up. You have to do the homework."

Alfonso Diaz echoed those statements.

"A student's hunger for more, ambition and initiative to study on their own free time — that symbolizes your day-to-day world on Wall Street. It's a constant challenge. That's the kind of student SEO recruits."

With a 75 percent full-time job offer rate and a strong support system from SEO alumni and St. Mary's faculty and staff, more than 20 St. Mary's students have been SEO Career interns since 2006.

"We went up there as a team," Cruz said. "We carry those Marianist values with us. We made a name, an impact, proved that St. Mary's wasn't just a one-off thing. We earned it." ■



Photo by Caroline Petters



From left, Rick Diaz (B.B.A. '09), Albert Cruz (B.B.A. '06),
Matt Sisneros (B.B.A. '12), and Alfonso Diaz (B.B.A. '07)

THE GOOD DOCTOR

Fifteen years after a planned retirement, alumna Sylvia Villarreal is helping patients as a pediatrician and owner of a small-town clinic in New Mexico.

by Alex Z. Salinas (B.A. '11)



Every year, thousands of children come from miles around rural Taos, New Mexico, to see Sylvia Villarreal, M.D., (B.A. '72). And each one of those young lives is special to the woman commonly known as Dr. V.

As a physician, Villarreal's greatest joy is providing care to chronically ill children and seeing their smiling faces, which is the case most days. But every so often, death claims a life that wasn't fully lived.

"I'm given the privilege of taking care of children, some who are near end of life and make it to only 7 or 8 years old," she said. On those days, the good doctor hurts.

Advising a child's family "when to keep pushing for treatment and when to let go," and finding the right words when, for example, a premature baby dies, never gets easier.

However, Villarreal, the CEO and owner of the Taos Clinic for Children and Youth — the only patient-centered medical home of its kind in north central New Mexico — doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. "Medicine is a service," she said. But medicine was also her calling.

Born as a 10th-generation San Antonian, Villarreal grew up in California, Hawaii and Canal Zone, Panama, as a military dependent. Her primary education was shaped by Samoans and Irish nuns.

"I knew I was going to be a doctor as a child," she said. "It was just a matter of how I would get there."

Her grandmother Simona, a folk healer who used herbal remedies, was one of her earliest influences. Her other grandma, who was blind, also affected her approach to medicine.

"She taught me to see with my hands," Villarreal said.

When she returned to San Antonio in 1968 for college, she chose to enroll at St. Mary's University because "that's where they trained men in pre-med who were being recruited by top medical schools in the country, and I wanted to be competitive with them."

Villarreal fit right in and flourished, even amid social unrest nationwide.

"It was a time of great chaos and upheaval across the United States, with anti-war sentiments and the Chicano Movement spreading in the city," she said.

Among few Latinas studying biology at St. Mary's, which formally became co-ed in 1963, she didn't face discrimination.

"I'm 4 feet 8 inches tall, and the oldest of eight siblings, so I kind of had to be a little tough," she said. "I've always believed in who I am."

After St. Mary's, she was accepted into medical school at Stanford University, and

later completed her internship, residency and chief residency at the University of Colorado in Denver.

The rest is history.

Now, at age 65 with nearly four decades of practicing pediatrics and teaching it at the university level under her belt, she stands up for child patients as their advocate on a local, state and national level.

At her clinic, Villarreal and her four-person team see about 20 children per day, ranging in age from birth to 18 years old. They serve 27,000 patients — more than five times the population of Taos.

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“I’ve always believed
in who I am.”

The children Villarreal treats for primary care have various chronic conditions: asthma, heart disease, blindness, mental health issues, and rare genetic and neurological disorders, to name a few.

“About 30 percent are special needs, and 80 percent are on Medicaid, meaning most of these kids come from poor families,” she said.

Daily duties include ordering medicine that local pharmacies don’t carry, or acquiring customized wheelchairs and orthotics, which can become routine challenges.

The region surrounding Taos is devoid of things found in big cities — like stores and people.

“It’s not easy living here,” Villarreal said. “It’s cold, windy and primitive.”

The summers and winters can be equally harsh. However, she appreciates the town where “nothing is convenient” and its hardworking, agriculturally-rooted residents.

She originally moved to Taos from San Francisco in 1999 to retire, but after settling in, bought her friend’s clinic a year later and has since been the sole owner.

In and around Taos everyone knows each

other, Villarreal said, so she really learns about her patients and their families.

For bioethical reasons, she also gets to know their religious and spiritual backgrounds.

“I didn’t choose this field, it chose me.”

About 55 percent of her patients are Hispanic and primarily Roman Catholic; an additional 15 percent are Native American and from the Kewa Pueblo, a group that maintains an indigenous religious belief system.

Each family’s needs in terms of treatment require sensitivity and compassion.

Villarreal credits St. Mary’s, especially her philosophy classes taught by Marianist brothers, for equipping her with the theological critical thinking she applies working with families experiencing medical emergencies.

“I wouldn’t have lasted this long without loving what I’m doing,” she said. “But a lot of people helped me get here.”

Working with children keeps her feeling young, Villarreal said, but there are days when she needs to escape and recharge. Typically, she heads outdoors to fly fish, hike nearby mountains, or tend to her garden. When she needs a big city fix, she’ll travel — then return to Taos.

Villarreal’s retirement was stymied long ago, but she’s OK with that.

The governor of New Mexico personally asked her to stay after she thought about closing shop in 2005. Bill Richardson had received too many letters asking for his help keeping her in Taos, and he wanted it to stop. She obliged.

“If I’m healthy and able, and feel I still have something to offer, why shouldn’t I work?” she said.

After all, medicine is her destiny.

“I didn’t choose this field, it chose me.” ■



all in the **FAMILY**

by *Christina Mendez*

When Vanessa Chan (M.A. '98) was a young mother and graduate student at St. Mary's University in the 1990s, she often had to bring along her fourth grader and preschooler to study groups in the Blume Library. It wasn't ideal, but as a military spouse working full time while trying to complete her counseling degree, Vanessa didn't always have a choice.

All of that library time must have rubbed off. Many years and countless military moves later, both of those young boys are now graduates of St. Mary's. And like their father, Julius Chan, who retired as a sergeant major after 22 years in the Army, they too felt called to military service.

Chan's oldest son Jules (B.B.A. '08) is an Army captain and has already served two tours in Afghanistan. He is currently a company commander at Fort Bliss in El Paso, but was able to leave post to attend his younger brother Jed's commencement and commissioning in May. And once Jed is done with officer training, he will join his brother at Fort Bliss.

Even the commissioning ceremony was a family affair for the Chan clan. As Jed was taking his oath as an officer, brother Jules performed the swearing in, and their father Julius rendered Jed's first salute.

It was a poignant moment for Vanessa.

"I feel a deep sense of pride that my husband and sons have chosen careers that keep our country safe and strong. The career they chose is a difficult but honorable one," she said. ■

Capt. Jules Chan (B.B.A. '08) from left, his mother Vanessa (M.A. '98), father Julius and younger brother Jed Chan (B.A. '15) gathered at the Barrett Memorial Bell Tower on the St. Mary's campus just before Jed's ROTC commissioning ceremony in May.



Photo by Josh Huskin



A SACRED DUTY

A group of History students solve the mystery of a downed American pilot from World War II

by Andrew Festa

He was their champion, yet they never saw him alive. They never saw his face. They knew only his name.

For 71 years, French citizens in the small village of Orsan have been celebrating the memory of an American fighter pilot who died in a crash there during World War II. They waited for a chance to give a section of his blood-stained, green silk parachute to his family.

Across an ocean, that family slowly learned details of that night in 1944, but they had no idea their beloved son, brother and uncle was a symbol of French liberation and patriotism.

It took a group of undergraduate History students in Texas to bring them together.

Teresa Van Hoy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at St. Mary's University, heard the story of the American pilot and the French villagers from French colleague Gérard Mignard, D. Lit., who lived in a town neighboring Orsan. A former professor and current councilman of his village, he knew Van Hoy's curiosity and historical expertise would be invaluable to Orsan historian Michel Benoit, who wanted to find the pilot's family and return the parachute fragment.

So Van Hoy and her nine Public History students took the case. In about three months, a decades-old mystery was solved.



Behind enemy lines

In early summer 1944, France was under German occupation as Allied air attacks prepared to liberate southern France. On June 15, 2nd Lt. Joseph Rosar and two fellow F-51 Mustang pilots were on a mission to destroy a supply train, but there had been no reconnaissance — they were flying blind in hostile territory.

As they flew low over the Rhone, Rosar's plane hit a high-tension cable, which sheared off a wing. He was ejected as his plane flipped, landing upside-down on a house. The stunned villagers found Rosar's body and wrapped it in his parachute before the Nazis took it for burial.

Despite the occupation, this was the wine-producing villagers' only violent taste of war, so it stuck with them. Today, there's a plaque on the house where Rosar crashed and a monument of an angel in the town square.

"The Americans had this outsized mystique, and the crash represented that the Americans were coming and France would be free," Van Hoy said. "This kid fell from the sky — it was a sign the war's end was near."

On the home front

Adolph and Honor Rosar and their two sons, Joseph and Edgar, lived in a working-class Irish community near Scranton, Pennsylvania. When America entered World War II, Joseph learned to fly planes.

After the crash, the Rosars thought Joseph was missing in action after being shot down. They held out hope until April 1947, when they received a telegram telling them to claim his remains from an American cemetery in Belgium. In 1949, Adolph brought his son home.

Honor became ill after learning her son was dead. She never fully recovered and died five years later.

The Rattlers

Van Hoy had never done genealogical research before, but one of her students, Celina Jacobson, had been researching her family history since 2009.

The junior History major from Burleson searched Ancestry.com with only scant details — Joseph's name, death date, father's name and military ID — from the French historian. The first hit was a military headstone application, which revealed his birth date, which helped unlock military records, census records and death certificates. Each new detail opened doors, and she was able to find names of Joseph's ancestors



The French village of Orsan has a monument in the town square honoring 2nd Lt. Joseph Rosar. The statue features an angel standing over the wreckage of Rosar's plane.

as well as his brother's daughters, who were still living.

"The day it changed for the students was when Celina pulled up the actual document, signed by Adolph Rosar himself, to request a headstone," Van Hoy said. "You realize Joseph was only 22 years old — about the same age as my students — and that his father must have been standing there in a post office signing this document and reckoning with the loss of his son. They were pretty moved."

Freshman History major Danielle Garza, a San Antonian whose father is third-generation Air Force, created a micro-documentary of the project. Mariana Sandoval, Tala Alsaati, Michelle Champion, Jessica Moore, Meagan Lozano, Tiara Bouldin and Jose Andrade also helped fill in the gaps for the French historian, who for years had been stymied by barriers of language and distance.

Cold call

Edgar Rosar had told his daughters — Honor, Kateri, Daria and Sharon — about "Uncle Joseph," but they didn't get an accurate picture of his final days until Honor, a Navy veteran, obtained his military files. One day in 2013, they found an Internet photo of Orsan's shrine, but didn't know what to do.

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Photo by Josh Huskin

The St. Mary's team that brought together Rosar's family with the people of Orsan, France, are (from left to right) Meagan Alsaati, Professor Teresa Van Hoy, Celina Jacobson, Tala Alsaati, Danielle Garza, Mariana Sandoval, Michelle Champion and Jessica Moore.

"We said, 'We need to make a trip over there, but where do we start? Where do we go?'" Honor said.

Then one day the phone rang. The class had tracked them down using a modern research method: social media. The students found the sisters on Facebook, and Van Hoy broke the ice with a call to Kateri, whose number she found on LinkedIn.

"You can imagine how weird that was: 'Well, I'm a history professor in Texas trying to help a French village find the descendants of your uncle, Joseph Rosar.' She let me go on, and by the end she was really moved: one, that the French village cared, and two, that the kids cared," Van Hoy said.

Three of the sisters — two live in Virginia and the other two in Florida — were able to "meet" Van Hoy and her class through Skype. They were astonished to learn the depth of Orsan's admiration for Joseph.

"We've been trying to wrap our brains around this since Teresa contacted Kateri a few weeks ago," Honor said. "We are so excited about this project. My father missed his brother until the day he died."

The sisters provided Army documents and family mementos to help complete the project. Perhaps the most important contribution was a simple photograph. The villagers didn't know what Joseph looked like, but Van Hoy planned to rectify that.

Visiting the villagers

During a scheduled trip to Spain in March, Van Hoy took a detour to Orsan, where Michel Benoit and the villagers were waiting eagerly. She brought Joseph's photo, the micro-documentary, St. Mary's souvenirs and a photo of the students with President Thomas Mengler and Dean Janet Dizinno, Ph.D.

About 40 people attended a town hall ceremony, including the mayor and several elderly villagers who had witnessed the crash. Even the woman whose house was hit by the plane was there. When the formal presentations had ended, the elderly began reminiscing about that fateful day — quietly at first, then confidently.

"They conjured up a world that none of us knew," Van Hoy said. "It became their world. Joseph belonged to them. You could feel them gaining a new strength — it was a powerful shift. Like an arthritic person playing piano — that kind of transformation."

This is not the end of the story, Mignard said. Orsan will have another ceremony this summer. The four sisters will visit next spring and finally receive the parachute. Joseph Rosar won't soon be forgotten.

"It will be a *devoir de mémoire* (sacred duty of memory) — important for the everlasting friendship between France and the U.S.A." ■

Class Notes

An American Dream

Alumna works to improve well-being of humanity

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)

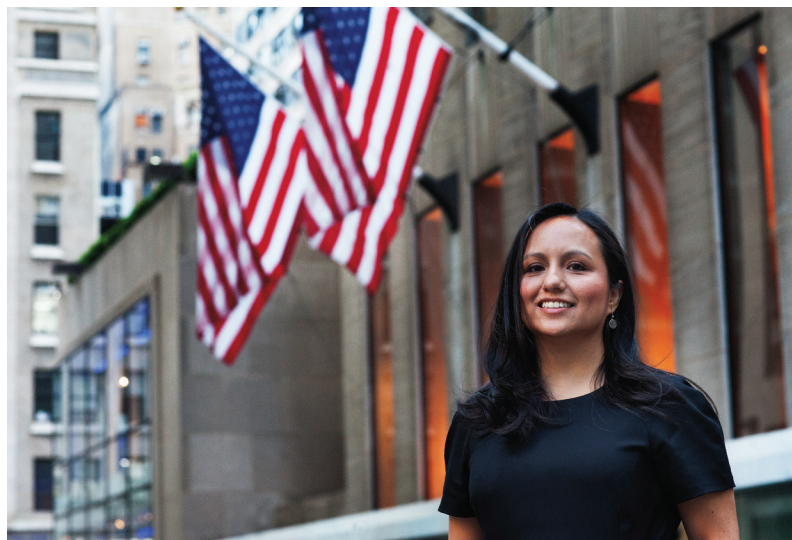
Judy Reyes (B.A. '01) was just 4 when her family moved to the Texas border town of Mission from Mexico. Her dad, a professor in Mexico, stayed behind and visited on weekends, while her mom worked in a convenience store. These were sacrifices fueled by her parents' desire to give their children a chance at the American dream.

Determined to make her parents proud, Reyes excelled in school and at St. Mary's University, where she was an Economics major. With the encouragement of her adviser Roy Robbins, Ph.D., she graduated from St. Mary's and went on to attend Harvard Law School.

"You don't know how far you can go until you challenge yourself," she said.

Today, Reyes is living her version of the American dream, just as her parents' hoped. She lives in New York City and serves as an associate general counsel for the Rockefeller Foundation. While the details of her job are often about evaluating loan and grant agreements with partner organizations for the Foundation, she feels her job is about much more than that.

"The work that I do has impact and has value beyond me performing a service and getting money in exchange for it. I work to help improve the well-being of humanity." ■



Judy Reyes outside the Rockefeller Center in New York City

1957

Jose Amaro Hernandez, Ph.D., B.A., San Fernando, Calif., has had a new book, *The Limits of Social Change: The Case of a Mexican American Community*, which contains true stories put together for readers to witness a people's movement of self-government, published by Kendall Hunt Publishing.

1963

David P. Boland, B.A., Punta Gorda, Fla., retired to Florida after working for the Kimberly Clark Corp. for 31 years.

1966

Charles F. McAleer III, B.A., M.A. '73, San Antonio, an adjunct professor in the St. Mary's University Greehey School of Business, has been inducted into the Order of St. Maurice, the patron saint of the infantry, at Fort Benning, Ga. The recognition is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the National Infantry Association.

Robert M. Murray, B.B.A., Lakeway, is retired from the Xerox Corp.

1971

Jim De Lane, B.A., Katy, has retired from Cullen Frost Bankers Inc., where he served as president of Frost Insurance.

1974

Stanley G. Schneider, J.D., Houston, a criminal defense attorney and partner at Schneider & McKinney PC, received the Richard "Racehorse" Haynes Lifetime Achievement Award from the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association for his outstanding criminal defense work for the past four decades.

1975

John M. Caraway, J.D., Carlsbad, N.M., of the Law Firm of Caraway, Tabor & Byers, has been reelected as Probate Judge of Eddy County, N.M.

1976

The Hon. Thomas C. Mummert III, J.D., St. Louis, is retiring from the position of chief magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court based in St. Louis.

1977

J. Alex Huddleston, J.D., San Antonio, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

The Hon. Ben Neece, B.A., J.D. '81, Brownsville, who is Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court of Brownsville, celebrated 30 years of service as a municipal judge.

1978

David E. Chamberlain, J.D., Austin, senior partner in the civil trial firm of Chamberlain McHaney, has been elected chairman of the State Bar of Texas.

John E. Farrow, J.D., Albuquerque, has joined the insurance defense law firm of Gallagher, Casados & Mann PC, after 35 years of commercial litigation with Farrow & Strotz PC.

1980

Bruce L. White, B.B.A., Warrington, Pa., is director of records and information management at Lincoln Financial Corp.

1982

Thomas E. Holubik, Ph.D., M.B.A., Stonewall, is an adjunct professor at Concordia University in Austin.

David B. Kauffman, B.B.A., San Antonio, was presented the Catholic Television of San Antonio's Leadership in Media Award for his and his partner's musical ministry team of David Kauffman and William Gokelman.

The Hon. Catherine M. Stone, J.D., San Antonio, is a 2015 recipient of the San Antonio Bar Association's Joe Frazier Brown Sr. Award for Excellence, which recognizes the highest level of professionalism, exceptional skills as counselor and advocate, and such personal attributes as honor, integrity, service and intelligence.

1983

John M. Medellin, Ph.D., B.B.A., M.B.A. '85, Lewisville, received a Ph.D. in Computer Science with emphasis in Software and Computer Engineering from Southern Methodist University in May.

1984

The Hon. Charles A. Stephens II, J.D., Fair Oaks Ranch, is a judge for the Comal County Court at Law #2.

1985

Harry N. Harris III, J.D., Fort Worth, a partner with The Law Offices of Harris & Harris, is board certified in Family Law.

1986

Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, Ph.D., B.A., M.A. '90, M.A. '91, San Antonio, an English professor at St. Mary's University, was named a distinguished alumna of Althoff Catholic High School of Belleville, Ill., in celebration of the high school's 50th anniversary.

1988

Christopher Burnett, M.A., J.D. '97, Austin, is the director of compliance and ethics at the Texas General Land Office under Commissioner George P. Bush.

The Hon. Janice L. Holmes, J.D., San Antonio, is an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration.

Ruth (Rodriguez) Reinhart, B.A., Austin, has begun doctoral studies in Community College Leadership at National American University.

Manuel A. Salazar, B.B.A., M.B.A. '90, San Jose, Costa Rica, is a professor at Universidad Catolica de Costa Rica.

Kevin Yeary, B.A., J.D. '91, San Antonio, has been elected to a six-year term as a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

1990

Anna Benavides Galo, B.A., Laredo, has been appointed to the Texas Historical Commission by Gov. Greg Abbott for a six-year term. Galo is active in her family's businesses, including several companies dealing with oil and gas holdings, commercial real estate and ranch industries.

Gloria (Gomez) Nieto, B.B.A., Cedar Park, owner of Gloria Nieto Photography, is teaching in the Media Arts Department of her high school alma mater in Dallas.

1991

Bridget Kelly Guzman, B.A., Helotes, has been promoted to assistant chief of regional services with Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation).

Cathy R. Turcotte, J.D., San Antonio, a retired trial lawyer, reports that her son, Chase, is a freshman in the Class of 2018 at Texas A&M University.

1992

The Hon. Britannia I. Hobbs, J.D., Salt Lake City, is a federal administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration.

1993

William J. "Chip" Simmonds, B.B.A., San Antonio, is chief financial officer for Professional Performance Development Group Inc.

1995

David Holden Jr., B.A., Columbia, Md., is owner of Ruel-Nicole Contracting.

Raymond V. Whelan, M.A., Burnet, wrote and directed his one-act play *Twice Today* for Frontera Fest 2015, the annual event sponsored by Hyde Park Theatre and ScriptWorks in Austin.

1996

Henry Avila III, B.A., M.A. '00, San Antonio, and wife Mayda Gamez Avila, welcome daughter Sophie-Peighton Gamez Avila.

Matthew H. Benavides, B.B.A., J.D. '00, Albuquerque, is an associate trial attorney with the New Mexico 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Benjamin F.S. Herd, J.D., Dallas, a partner at Thompson & Knight, has been named one of *D Magazine's* "Best Lawyers in Dallas" for 2015.

Jessica Benschoter Williams, B.A., San Antonio, an ESL teacher at Stinson Middle School in the Northside Independent School District, is a 2015 Northside Educator of the Year.

1997

Yolanda G. Baudier, B.A., M.S., San Antonio, is employed at Brown Mackie College.

Maria Nena E. Gutierrez, B.A., J.D. '01, San Antonio, opened a private practice.

1998

Blake E. Benschoter, B.A., San Antonio, has been named vice president of product management at SWBC.

Monique A. (Madero) Castillo, B.A., Phoenix, and husband Andrew Castillo welcome daughter Nadia Elizabeth Castillo, born Nov. 29, 2014.

Aurora M. Fuentes-Ortiz, B.B.A., San Antonio, is human resources assistant at NGL Energy Partners.

Ashley (Watkins) McDowell, J.D., Dallas, has joined the family law firm of VernerBrumleyMcCurley PC as a partner.

1999

Ravi Inder Chaudhary, M.S., Springfield, Va., a former U.S. Air Force pilot, is the new executive director for Regions and Center Operations at the Federal Aviation Administration. Last spring, President Barack Obama appointed him to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Olga Martinez Hickman, Ph.D., B.A., Fort Worth, a senior field trainer/analyst for The University of Texas, earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

2000

The Hon. Ina Minjarez, J.D., San Antonio, was elected to the Texas House District 124 seat.

2002

Danielle (DeLaCruz) Bombek, B.A., Castroville, and husband Mike Bombek welcome son Elias Michael Bombek, born Sept. 1, 2014.

Tracy E. Ross, J.D., New Braunfels, is an attorney with Jamie Graham & Associates PLLC.

Teresa Rodriguez Sosse, B.B.A., San Antonio, and husband Khalid Sosse welcome daughter Eliana Noelle Sosse, born Dec. 14, 2014.

Andrea A. (Cortez) Tena, B.A., M.A. '04, and **Librado R. Tena, M.S. '01, M.S. '03**, San Antonio, welcome son Andrew Frank Tena, born Dec. 24, 2014.

2003

Daniel E. Guzman, B.A., New York City, and Rajani Kumaraswamy married April 4, 2015.

Laura H. Hernandez, B.A., San Antonio, is a corporal investigator for the Trinity University Police Department.

Samuel V. "Sam" Houston, J.D., San Antonio, a name partner in Houston Dunn PLLC, is the Texas Young Lawyers Association president-elect for 2015-2016.

Jose I. Marquez, B.A., Dallas, is a special agent-criminal investigator for the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General.

Colin Murchison, J.D., Fort Worth, a partner in the Fort Worth offices of Jackson Walker LLP, made the Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers — Rising Stars list.

Richard A. Olague, B.A., Washington, D.C., is director of External Affairs Bureau of Health Workforce for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Priscilla M. (Gaytan) Sigala, B.A., and **Jose A. Sigala, B.S. '04**, San Antonio, welcome daughter Sophia Marie Sigala, born March 3, 2015.

Amanda L. (Jones) Stiffler, B.A., and husband **Jeremy L. Stiffler, B.S. '02**, Norfolk, Va., finalized the adoption of Devin and Maranda Stiffler in March.

2004

Joshua D. Ross, J.D., Fort Worth, is assigned to the Gang and Homicide Unit of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office.

2005

Irene Arellano, Ph.D., B.A.M., Fort Worth, graduated in May with a Ph.D. in Higher Education Research from Texas Tech University.

Mary Hazelwood Barkley, J.D., Fort Worth, a partner with Cantey Hanger LLP, has been appointed to the *Texas Bar Journal* Board of Editors Committee for a three-year term.

Monique L. Edwards, B.B.A., M.B.A. '09, San Antonio, and Ronald West Jr. married Feb. 22, 2015.

Anne M. Garcia, B.A., Washington, D.C., is a licensed independent clinical social worker.

James F. Gillen, J.D., San Antonio, managing partner of Bineham & Gillen PLLC, was elected to serve as vice president of the 2015-2016 St. Mary's University Hispanic Law Alumni Association.



Photo by Brad Howell

Erika Rendon, on the National Mall

Tweet, Post, Repeat.

by Jasmine Garcia (B.A. '11)

Just a few years after graduating from St. Mary's University, Erika Rendon (B.B.A. '12) is doing things she only dreamed of as a student.

Now assistant press secretary to Julián Castro, Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Rendon's job is to manage Castro's official social media presence, keeping thousands of Americans informed about the agency's work.

But before landing her dream job, Rendon knew she would need more than a bachelor's degree in business.

"While in school, networking and building relationships was something that was always encouraged," said Rendon, who was actively involved in many student organizations. She made her way to Washington, D.C., through the Public Policy Fellowship Program with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, where her networking skills continued to pay off.

"In D.C., networking is really the key to getting around. There's always an opportunity to meet people. It's a beautiful, diverse city with powerful things going on and a lot of opportunities for minorities."

After interning in the press shop for U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, Rendon gained an interest in government press. The Corpus Christi native now works alongside Secretary Castro and is responsible for managing the secretary's social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Periscope) and making sure his policies and efforts are amplified on all of his social media accounts.

"It's been an amazing experience. He focuses on the importance of the power that local communities have on making change for people if given the resources and opportunity they need to succeed," Rendon said. ■

Kathleen M. Kilanowski, J.D., Dallas, has earned selection to the *Texas Super Lawyers*' 2015 Texas Rising Stars listing of the state's top young lawyers.

Krystal Sheeran, B.B.A., Panama City, Fla., is account supervisor for McDonald's at Moroch Advertising.

Kristin R. Stephenson, J.D., Washington, D.C., is vice president of policy and advocacy for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Robin Wolf-Hernandez, B.A., San Antonio, and husband Thomas Hernandez welcome son Nathan Warren, born March 23, 2015.

2006

Tory A. Cronin, J.D., Dallas, a partner at Lackey Hershman LLP, was named to the *Texas Super Lawyers*' 2015 Texas Rising Stars list.

Nicole (Groves) Marold, B.A., M.A. '12, San Antonio, is sales manager at KLRN Public Television.

Sean P. Milligan, J.D., Houston, has been elected shareholder at the Houston offices of Winstead PC, where he focuses on commercial litigation.

Maridela Ortiz, B.A., Arlington, Va., joined the U.S. Foreign Service with the Department of State and will be a diplomat in India for the next two years.

James P. Sanderson, J.D., St. Louis, is a newly promoted partner in the St. Louis office of SmithAmundsen LLC, where he is a member of the commercial litigation, professional liability, and toxic and environmental tort groups at the firm.

Cristopher T. Strenth, B.A., San Antonio, is the primary human resources business partner leader for evening teams at Amazon.com in Schertz.

J.P. Vogel, J.D., Dallas, is director for Coates Rose Law Firm PC.

2007

Scott R. Davis, J.D., Houston, an associate in the Houston office of Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, has been recognized as a BTI Client Service All-Star 2015.

James B. Griffin, J.D., San Antonio, has become a partner in the firm of Brown & Ortiz P.C., Attorneys at Law.

Eugenio G. Gutierrez, B.A.T., San Antonio, is Windows system administrator at RackSpace.

David Moreno, B.B.A., Cedar Park, is customer service manager for Cody Pools Inc.

Bruce A. Moseley, J.D., Amarillo, an attorney with Blackburn & Moseley LLP, has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout Texas.

Kathryn E. Samler, J.D., Dallas, an attorney with GoransonBain, has earned selection to the *Texas Super Lawyers*' 2015 Texas Rising Stars listing of the state's top young lawyers.

2008

Paula S. deWitte, Ph.D., J.D., Houston, CEO and co-founder of Mud Labs LLC, is the 2015 Distinguished Alumna of Purdue University, School of Science, Mathematics Department.

Sarah E. (Moreno) Kennedy, B.A., Gonzales, a teacher and coach in the Gonzales Independent School District, and husband Bruce Kennedy welcome son Hayden George Kennedy, born Jan. 12, 2015.

Clarissa Ramon, B.A., San Antonio, is community impact manager for Google Fiber in South Texas.

2009

Kacy L. Dudley, J.D., Austin, established her own practice, the Law Office of Kacy L. Dudley.

Elisa C. Hernandez, M.A., Dallas, is public policy administrator for Parkland Health & Hospital System.

2010

James B. Eades III, B.B.A., Orlando, Fla., is director of operations and minority equity owner for a franchise location of Interstate All Battery Center, which will be opening seven locations in Central Florida.

Elizabeth A. Ibarra, B.S., San Antonio, earned an MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management from Our Lady of the Lake University.

Jacob R. Munn, B.A., M.B.A. '11, Spring, is senior portfolio manager for the Commercial Energy Division of Mutual of Omaha Bank.

2011

Amanda N. Hapney, B.A., Live Oak, is a police officer with the San Antonio Police Department.

Valerie L. Mancias, B.A., M.P.A. '14, San Antonio, a contract specialist with the U.S. Department of Defense, received the U.S. Air Force Civilian of the Quarter Award.

Beth (Neusch) Nickerson, B.A., Silverton, and husband Christian Nickerson welcome daughter Scarlett Victoria Nickerson, born Jan. 16, 2015.

Laura K. Parker, M.A., Ozona, is a professional counselor with the Crockett County School District.

Stefanie Ransom-Becker, B.B.A., El Paso, is a financial analyst with Allstate.

2012

Carla M. Chapa, B.S., Austin, is an instructor at It's Time Texas, a nonprofit organization working to unite and accelerate the health movement in Texas and beyond.

Philipp Geiger, B.B.A., Atlanta, is a CRM database analyst for Porsche Cars North America.

Ryan E. Peabody, J.D., Orange, has been appointed Emergency Management Coordinator for Orange County.

Emilio J. Salazar, B.B.A., San Antonio, is an investment associate with JPMorgan Chase Bank.

Xue Zhou, LL.M., Las Vegas, is an attorney for Law Huang International Ltd., an immigration law office focusing on federal crime, reproduction and surrogacy, and international trade.

2013

Nicholas R. Canedo, B.A., Syracuse, N.Y., has joined Syracuse Media Group as a web/mobile producer in the content digital operations department. Canedo completed a fellowship with the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University while obtaining his master's degree.

Joshua A. Dunn, B.A., Columbus, Ohio, received his Master of Arts in Communications from The Ohio State University in May.

George Posada, J.D., Woodland, Calif., is a tax associate at Posada and Associates P.C., providing tax preparation, planning, consultation and resolution to his clients.

Steven D. Sanchez, B.A., Fort Worth, is a medical student at the University of North Texas Health Science Center — Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Class of 2018.

John A. Tham, B.A., and **Vincent M. Vasquez, B.A.**, Arlington, recently graduated from the Arlington Police Academy as classmates of Recruit Class 47.

Elena T. Vasquez, B.B.A., and **Jose R. Treviño III, B.B.A. '04**, San Antonio, welcome Leonardo Balthazaar Treviño, born Dec. 21, 2014. Jose received the 2014 Association for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities Young Alumni Award at the organization's national conference in San Antonio.

2014

Ginnette M. Garcia, B.B.A., Omaha, Neb., is a corporate auditor for Union Pacific Railroad.

R. Carmel Tajonera, M.B.A., Sugar Land, is an associate with The Alexander Group in Houston.

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A Legacy Rings Out

A retired educator gives back to his alma mater

by Nicolette Good

Solomon Banda Jr.'s 40-year career as a high school band director is distinguished by turning struggling music programs across South Texas into UIL top-performing groups.

These kinds of transformations have followed him through many areas of his life, and the retired educator has done it again with a planned gift to his alma mater. His gift of \$24,000 through an existing life insurance policy will help endow a fund to help the St. Mary's University Music program purchase new equipment.

"I purchased the policy years ago," said Banda (B.M.E. '64). "My St. Mary's education helped me provide for my family and prepare my children to be successful. My family no longer needed the policy, so I gave it to the place that gave me so much."

A San Antonio native, Banda came to St. Mary's on a music scholarship. All along, though, his heart was set on the conductor's lectern. His career started at Falfurrias Junior High School, and in his inaugural year, the school received its first-ever, first-division UIL music contest ranking.

He went on to the Falfurrias High School band, and the school earned a first-division ranking in the UIL concert band contest, and soon after they won their first UIL sweepstakes with top scores in all contest categories.

But he is most proud of the transformation he saw in his students. Many of the families in Falfurrias lived humbly. It was common that his students had no family members who had earned a degree beyond a high school diploma, and yet many of them went on to college. It's the same kind of support he received from St. Mary's.

"If it were not for St. Mary's, my children and I would not be where we are today," he said. "St. Mary's never gave up on me." ■

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.

For more information about planned giving, contact Rick Kimbrough at **210-436-3138**. Give online today at www.stmarytx.edu/give

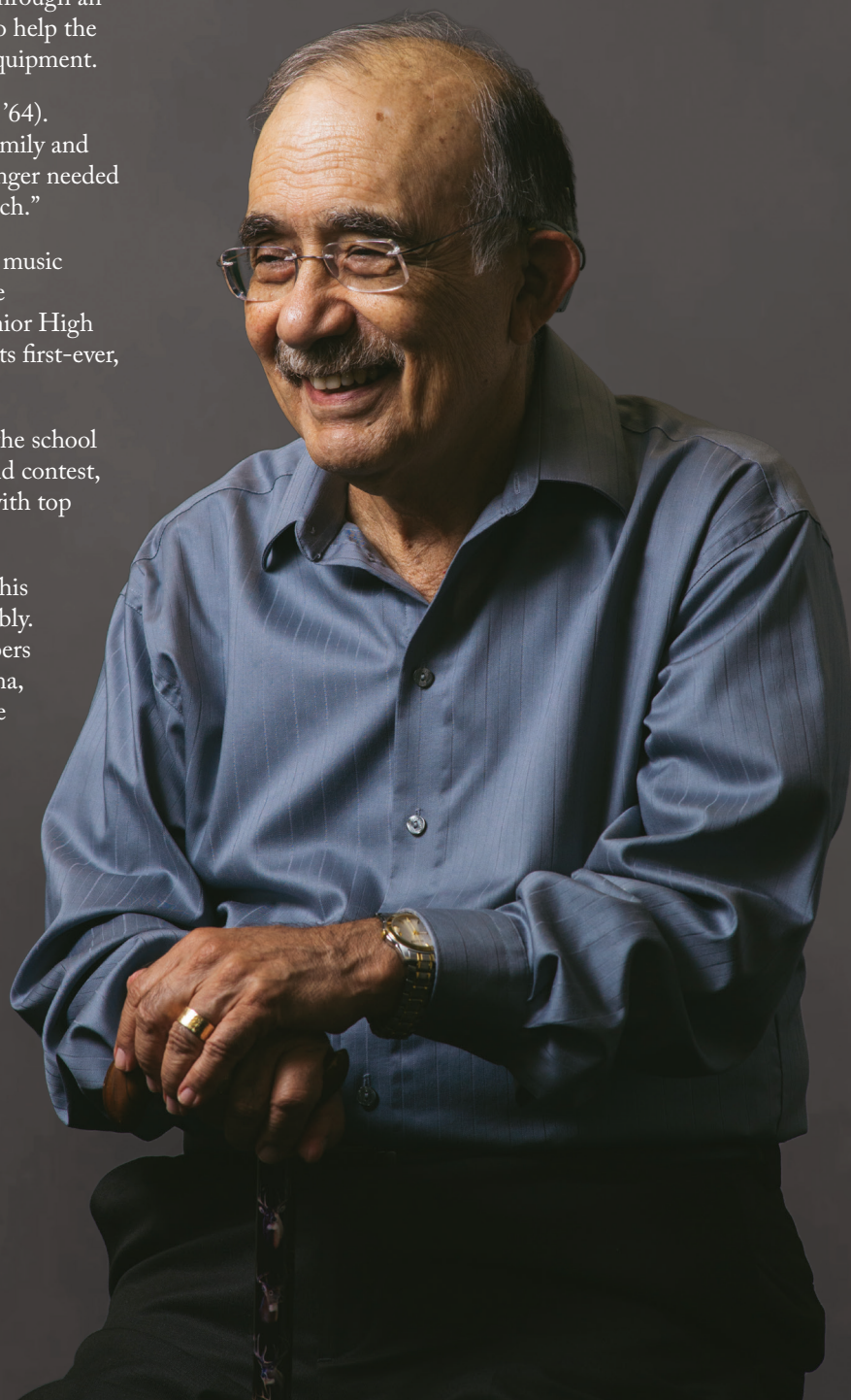


Photo by Sarah Brooke Lyons

In Memoriam

1930s

1936 Simon P. Vistuba, CL, San Antonio, died March 10, 2015.

1939 Jesse D. Ibarra Jr., M.D., CL, Temple, died April 7, 2015.

1940s

1940 James Muir, B.S.C., M.A. '50, San Antonio, died March 6, 2015.

1942 Jack Thomas, B.S.C., Baton Rouge, La., died Dec. 5, 2014.

1948 Horacio Mendiola, M.D., B.S., Brownsville, died April 1, 2015.

1950s

1950 Lawrence J. Del Papa, B.B.A., Galveston, died March 17, 2015. Lloyd V. Keller, B.B.A., La Coste, died May 4, 2015. Herbert P. Lomax, B.B.A., Tyler, died April 3, 2015. Floyd McGown Jr., CL, San Antonio, died May 5, 2015.

1951 Alfred Q. Valenzuela, CL, San Antonio, died April 4, 2015.

1952 Alexander E. Haas, CL, Floresville, died Feb. 14, 2015. Jack C. Oeffinger, LL.B., Houston, died May 14, 2015. Kemper S. Williams Jr., B.B.A., LL.B., '58, Victoria, died April 30, 2015. Warren Williams, LL.B., Splendora, died Feb. 3, 2015.

1953 Alonzo J. Lopez, B.B.A., Portland, Ore., died Feb. 15, 2015.

1956 James R. "Rusty" Davis Jr., CL, died Feb. 4, 2015. Sterling O. Frymire, B.A., Georgetown, died Feb. 19, 2015.

1957 Melvin P. Marino, CL, San Antonio, died April 29, 2015. Malcom E. Stratemann, B.B.A., San Antonio, died May 9, 2015.

1958 Frank R. Felder, B.B.A., New Braunfels, died March 16, 2015. Dominto Ruiz Setien, B.A., San Antonio, died April 24, 2015.

1959 Peter S. Gross Jr., LL.B., Kerrville, died April 23, 2015. James R. "Jim" Lehman, B.B.A., Bulverde, died Feb. 28, 2015. Robert E. "Bob" Sefcik, B.B.A., San Antonio, died March 11, 2015. Edward Wilk, B.B.A., San Antonio, died Jan. 29, 2015.

1960s

1960 Luis Dávila B.S., Bloomington, Ind., died March 8, 2015. Richard E. May, B.B.A., San Antonio, died April 9, 2015. Anthony T. "Tony" Ramirez, B.B.A., San Antonio, died April 13, 2015.

1961 Pedro A. "Pete" Gonzalez, B.A., San Antonio, died April 16, 2015. Henry S. "Smitty" Smith Jr., CL, San Antonio, died May 12, 2015. Gayle C. "Bubba" Vollmer, B.A., San Antonio, died Feb. 17, 2015.

1963 Charles R. "Chuck" Benke Sr., B.A., Allentown, Pa., died March 5, 2015. Robert L. Joseph, LL.B., Sinton, died May 9, 2015. Victor M. Moreno, B.A., Manor, died March 25, 2015. James C. "Jim" Stewart, B.A., San Antonio, died Jan. 25, 2015.

1964 Richard A. "Dick" Gueringer, B.B.A., San Antonio, died March 23, 2015. James A. "Jim" Pollard III, CL, San Antonio, died May 4, 2015.

1968 Glenn L. Solt, B.B.A., San Antonio, died Feb. 11, 2015.

1969 Thomas R. Basinski, B.A., Chula Vista, Calif., died March 25, 2015. A.J. Moore Jr., B.A., Dallas, died Feb. 4, 2015. Loel Oldham, B.A., San Antonio, died March 5, 2015. Octaviano R. "Tano" Treviño, B.A., San Antonio, died Jan. 16, 2015.

1970s

1970 Terry Allen Diveley, J.D., Dallas, died April 5, 2015. Sidney K. Gibson, J.D., El Paso, died April 1, 2015. Cynthia Vick Howard, B.A., Greensboro, N.C., died March 15, 2015.

1971 Gregory Davenport, B.A., M.A. '76, San Antonio, died March 25, 2015. James F. Legendre, B.A., M.A. '74, Bulverde, died April 4, 2015.

1972 Sister Mary Kay Bailey, M.A., Houston, died May 17, 2015. Charles Sliva, B.A., Hollywood, Fla., died Feb. 19, 2015. The Rev. Lt. Col. (Ret.) John M. Wagener, Ph.D., M.A., San Antonio, died Feb. 25, 2015.

1973 Kenneth L. Williams, M.A., Whigham, Ga., died March 20, 2015.

1975 Michael C. Barr, D.D.S., B.A., New Braunfels, died April 25, 2015. Eileen Collier Bouniol, Ph.D., J.D., Seattle, died May 5, 2015. Ivy J. Hegarty, B.A., San Antonio, died April 28, 2015.

1976 William "Bill" White, J.D., Austin, died May 4, 2015.

1977 Freddie Mays, B.A., M.A. '81, Houston, died May 4, 2015.

1980s

1980 Stephen F. White, J.D., San Antonio, died Feb. 25, 2015.

1985 John M. Curney Jr., J.D., Boerne, died May 1, 2015.

1990s

1990 Henry L. Malone Sr., SP, San Antonio, died April 2, 2015. Janet M. (Mijares) Thompson, B.A., M.A. '93, San Antonio, died Jan. 20, 2015.

1993 Jodi Jaworski Allen, B.A., Chesterfield, Mo., died June 2, 2014.

1994 Pamela V. Leitzinger, B.A., Butler, Ohio, died March 4, 2015.

1995 Kenneth R. Glass, M.A., San Antonio, died Feb. 12, 2015.

1998 Heidi C. Webb, M.S., Topeka, Kan., died April 20, 2015.

Fondest Farewell

PRESTON KNODELL JR. (B.S. '60)

It was March 1960 when Preston Knodell Jr. and three friends from St. Mary's, Orion Knox Jr., Al Brandt and Joe Cantu, decided to make a fourth search of a sinkhole off Bat Cave Loop not far from New Braunfels.

Many others said the area had been thoroughly searched in the past, but the resolute foursome spent eight hours squeezing and inching through impossibly packed rocks for two miles before surfacing exhausted but euphoric about the magnificent cave they had just navigated.

Today, the "magnificent cave" is known as Natural Bridge Caverns, the largest commercial caverns in Texas. Knodell earned bachelor's degrees in Physics and Philosophy in 1960 from St. Mary's, where he returned to teach for 20 years after earning master's and doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of America.

Knodell died Dec. 25, 2014, at age 79.



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Carlos Alvarez, chairman, founder and CEO of the Gambrinus Company, encouraged the 461 spring graduates to take the tools they learned at St. Mary's University and find their own "new and exciting" path forward.

"St. Mary's is a place where they don't practice just transferring knowledge, but encourage you to think and to be curious," Alvarez said at the spring commencement. "That will serve you for a long time in the world out there."

He also received an honorary doctoral degree from St. Mary's for his accomplishments in business and contributions to higher education. Alvarez is passionate about education. He is a longtime supporter of scholarships for international students at St. Mary's, and recently announced an additional \$250,000 gift for that purpose.

