



ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY

Digital Commons at St. Mary's University

Gold & Blue

Gold and Blue

Fall 2015

Gold & Blue, Fall 2015

St. Mary's University- San Antonio, Texas

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.stmarytx.edu/goldblue>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

St. Mary's University- San Antonio, Texas, "Gold & Blue, Fall 2015" (2015). *Gold & Blue*. 86.
<https://commons.stmarytx.edu/goldblue/86>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Gold and Blue at Digital Commons at St. Mary's University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gold & Blue by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at St. Mary's University. For more information, please contact sfowler@stmarytx.edu, egoode@stmarytx.edu.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
OYSTER BAKE 10

THE SCIENCE OF
RODENT BRAINS 12

A HEARTFELT
THANK YOU 28

GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Fall 2015

Justice Served

Law student Luis Medina is one of the St. Mary's students using summer to get ahead.

14





20

683

StMU 5K for the NEIGHBORHOOD

asics 1367

5K

5

Running with Purpose

St. Mary's University hosted the second annual StMU 5K for the Neighborhood in late October, with almost 700 registering despite cold and rainy weather.

The 5K raised more than \$10,000 for The Neighborhood Place, a nonprofit organization that provides educational, recreational and supportive services for families and residents in the community near St. Mary's. The event's title sponsors were Wells Fargo and Wal-Mart.

ntexas.net



CONTENTS



- 4 **CAMPUS NEWS**
- 5 **LET THERE BE LIGHT**
The annual St. Mary's art show, which is inspired by *The Saint John's Bible*, brings beautiful religious art to the community.
- 6 **FALLING INTO PLACE**
In a significant step toward establishing a Center for Catholic Studies, the first Catholic Philosophy Chair is announced.
- 8 **30 YEARS LATER**
The School of Law's Institute on World Legal Problems celebrates three decades.
- 10 **OYSTER BAKE HITS A MILESTONE**
It's been 100 years since the first Oyster Bake, and, wow, a lot has changed.
- 12 **TINY BRAINS, BIG SCIENCE**
Alum Denise Ramirez, Ph.D., is heading a high-tech facility that is unlocking the medical secrets hidden in very small places.
- 14 **SUMMER JOBS FOR, A NEW GENERATION**
Internships are no longer optional — employers expect them. See how six St. Mary's students took advantage of the summer months.
- 23 **CLASS NOTES**
- 25 **HIGH-FLYING MENTOR**
Former Southwest Airlines executive is a hands-on role model for a new generation of young women lawyers.
- 27 **THE BUSINESS OF LEADERSHIP**
A young business alum has rocketed to the top levels of CPS Energy.
- 28 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON GIVING**
- 32 **IN MEMORIAM**

St. Mary's University students Jennifer Moynahan and Patrick Rodriguez, both Criminal Justice majors, walk along the path in front of Chaminade Hall during a recent photo shoot.



Photo by Josh Huskin

Embracing the Teachable Moments

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

The St. Mary's community looked with great excitement to the opening of The Pub and the associated social spaces earlier this semester. But a few have questioned, "Why has a Catholic university established a gathering space that serves alcohol?"

One important answer is that the Contreras Family Terrace, including The Pub, will promote a core Catholic and Marianist belief: that we are relational beings. We follow God's special calling to each of us and become more fully human, not in isolation, but through our interactions with others.

But what does fun in The Pub have to do with following God's call? Here I enlist Pope Francis for his wise counsel. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (or Joy of the Gospel), Francis chides those "Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter," and the Pope reminds us, "an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral."

But why serve alcohol at The Pub? The short answer is that at St. Mary's University, we view every encounter as a teachable moment. We recognize and accept that young adults in the 21st century drink (just as young adults did in every other century).

We also understand that heavy drinking among young adults is serious and epidemic. A 2013 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism study indicated that almost 40 percent of college students

age 18 to 22 had engaged in "binge drinking" — five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion — within the prior month.

So what's the teachable moment at The Pub at St. Mary's? I think it's this: that young adults, over a beer or two, can have fun by spending a few hours with one another, their professors, our Marianist brothers and maybe even their president.

These teachable moments are important. Much of our students' development into mature adults — perhaps most — occurs outside a four-cornered classroom. That means classrooms are not just within the academic buildings of campus, but all around us.

Each summer, many of our students, both undergraduate and graduate, find their own unconventional classrooms through the invaluable experience of internships. In this issue, you will read about a few of those students who spent this past summer on a variety of career-defining internships, from watching whales in Alaska to giving the poorest among us a chance at equal justice (see story, Page 14).

All of these are the experiences that help our students determine their life paths and allow them to graduate St. Mary's prepared for their next challenges. If you have an opportunity through your organization or business that could provide an internship opportunity for our students, please let me know at tmengler@stmarytx.edu. ■



PRESIDENT
Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

CHIEF OF STAFF
AND COMMUNICATIONS
Dianne Pipes (M.P.A. '11)

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Gina Farrell (M.P.A. '11)

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Andrew Festa

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Candace Kuebker (B.A. '78)

ART DIRECTOR
Kristen Cadena

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Matthew Gilson
Terri Glanger
Matt Hage
Chris Hinkle
Brad Howell
Josh Huskin
Todd Johnson
Antonio Morano
Rebecca Stumpf

CONTRIBUTOR
Office of Advancement Services

(Denotes degree from
St. Mary's University)

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

CONTENTS © 2015 BY ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

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

More National Accolades for St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University has again received national attention for performing well in a study published by the Brookings Institution — this time from the New York Times.

New York Times columnist James B. Stewart asked the Brookings Institution to take another look at a study it conducted earlier this year. That study looked at which universities do the best job of preparing students for career success, and favored universities with strong STEM programs. In the first study, St. Mary's was 17th in the nation.

The columnist wanted to know how schools did regardless of majors, and St. Mary's stacked up even better — ninth in the nation. Stewart concluded that while highly selective, elite universities might be good for bragging rights, they don't "necessarily contribute to a good education or lifelong success."

He wrote that many of today's ubiquitous college rankings are flawed as they don't measure institutions' true effect on students' futures. So he shines light on the Brookings Institution's "value added" rankings, which measure how well colleges prepare students, considering their background entering college.

The Brookings Institution is among the nation's top think tanks. It is a nonprofit public policy organization for independent research.

Alumni Association Honors 2015 Distinguished Alumni

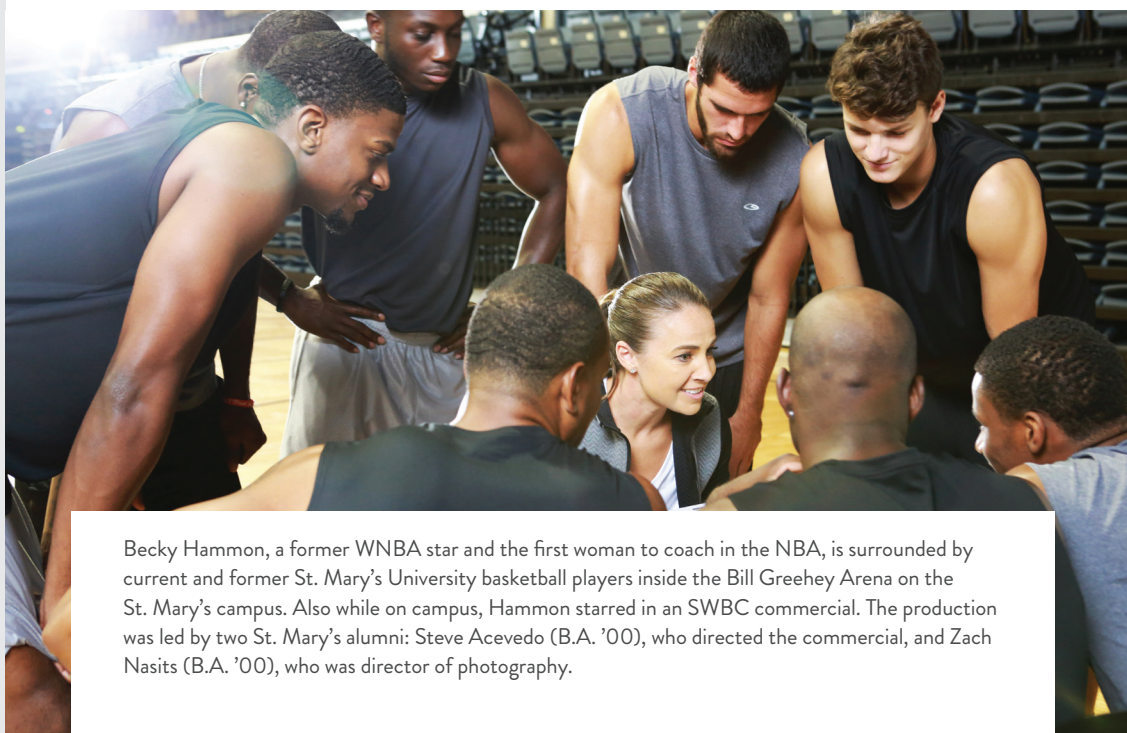
The St. Mary's University Alumni Association honored three graduates as the 2015 Distinguished Alumni: Edward R. Boyle (B.B.A. '71), Joseph D. Diaz, M.D. (B.A. '79) and Sylvia Fernandez-Villarreal, M.D. (B.A. '72).

Boyle is chief financial officer for Coates Energy in San Antonio. Diaz is the president of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Associates PA. Fernandez-Villarreal is a pediatrician and CEO of Taos Clinic for Children and Youth in Taos, New Mexico.

Thomas D. (B.B.A. '88) and Leticia (B.A. '89) Contreras received the President's Gateway Award for Excellence in Advancement, which recognizes those who have stepped up to lead an important fundraising initiative or have made a transformative gift to advance the University's mission and promote excellence.

The Contreras donated \$1.2 million, with \$900,000 of that for the new campus pub and gathering spaces, and the remainder for the University's golf program.

**For story and photos of The Pub
grand opening,** see Page 24.



Becky Hammon, a former WNBA star and the first woman to coach in the NBA, is surrounded by current and former St. Mary's University basketball players inside the Bill Greehey Arena on the St. Mary's campus. Also while on campus, Hammon starred in an SWBC commercial. The production was led by two St. Mary's alumni: Steve Acevedo (B.A. '00), who directed the commercial, and Zach Nasits (B.A. '00), who was director of photography.



1



2



3



4



5



6

Photos by Todd Johnson

1 *The Pietà's Face*, Sylvia Benitez 2 *La Virgen de Guadalupe as a Child*, Lionel Sosa 3 *Mary, Tower of Ivory*, Laura Mijangos 4 *Our Lady of the Garden*, Rebecca Coffey 5 *Holy Mary, Mother of God*, St. Mary's University Art Students 6 *The White Rose Blooms*, James Joffe 7 *Matrem Omnium*, Steven DaLuz



7

Gala Shines Light on Religious Art

President Tom Mengler and his wife, Mona, hosted the second annual “Let There Be Light” Soiree and Art Sale, an event that is at the core of St. Mary’s University’s faith mission.

Numerous local artists were asked to be inspired by the words “Behold Your Mother” from the Gospel of John, as well as illuminations of *The Saint John’s Bible*. The result was 28 pieces of original religious art — beautiful works intended to bring the viewer closer to God, Jesus and his mother, Mary.

Mengler noted that while it is easy to think of this as a chance to appreciate beautiful art — which it is — it is also an instance of spiritual engagement through the visual medium of art.

“It is our responsibility as a Catholic university to play a role in inspiring the larger community of faithful men and women in San Antonio and our Archdiocese,” he said.

Also in keeping with the University’s educational mission, proceeds from the purchased art support scholarships for Art Education students. ■

Humanities

Languages Professor Named Second Speed Fellow

Meghann Peace, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Languages, is the newest Edward and Linda Speed Peace and Justice Fellow.

She will conduct her project, “Mexican and Peninsular Spanish Dialects,” in both San Antonio and Spain during the course of the academic year. Peace says she plans to explore how the context of communication affects the way people speak.

The Peace and Justice Fellows Program, awarded by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is made possible by a gift from Ed Speed (B.B.A. '70, M.A. '86) and his wife, Linda. Speed is Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The fellowship program supports scholarship that advances Catholic social teaching, human rights, social justice and peace building.

Bertrand Honored for Young Adult Novel

St. Mary's University Writer-in-Residence Diane Gonzales Bertrand won the Middle Grade/Young Adult Discovery Prize in the 2014 Writers' League of Texas Books Awards for her book, *There's a Name for this Feeling / Hay un nombre para lo que siento*.

The book is a bilingual collection of short stories for teens age 12 to 15.

“Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, the 10 stories give teens plenty to read, write and talk about as they experience living in today's complicated world,” Bertrand said.

Bertrand has received numerous accolades for her work, including Best Latino Children's Book in 2014 by SpeakingLatino.com for *Cecilia and Miguel are Best Friends / Cecilia y Miguel son Mejores Amigos*, and she was a finalist for the 2013 Tejas Star Book Award for *Sofia and the Purple Dress*.

Magazine Names Professor Among Outstanding Texas Authors

Texas Monthly's October 2015 list of *10 Writers to Watch (and Read)* included St. Mary's alumnus Refugio “Ito” Romo, Ph.D. (B.A. '83, M.A. '93), who is an Associate Professor of English and Communications Studies at St. Mary's.

Romo, who was born in Laredo and often writes with the Texas-Mexico border as his backdrop, was included on the list for helping to create what the magazine called a “Texas literary boom.” These 10 newer writers are specifically writing about Texas in a diverse and eclectic way, the magazine noted.

Romo received widespread critical praise for his 2013 collection of short stories that take place along the borderlands titled *The Border is Burning*. Texas Monthly reported that his next work will be a “mestizo vampire novel.”

Hughes Selected as First Catholic Philosophy Chair



Philosophy Professor Glenn “Chip” Hughes, Ph.D., has been selected as the first holder of the St. Mary's Chair in Catholic Philosophy.

In May 2014, an anonymous philanthropist donated \$1.5 million to endow the chair as part of the University's push to establish a Center for Catholic Studies.

The donor requested the gift be used to retain a distinguished Catholic philosopher with a deep understanding of prominent Catholic thinkers, especially the Rev. Bernard Lonergan, S.J., C.C., who sought to integrate science, history and culture with our faith in God.

“Our search committee members looked far and wide for the perfect person for this key role,” said President Thomas Mengler. “But it turns out they didn't have to. Our very own Chip Hughes is precisely what our generous donor described.”

Hughes, whose doctoral studies were completed at Boston College, has been

teaching at St. Mary's for 25 years. He has degrees in Philosophy, History and Literature. His research interests are Lonergan, Eric Voegelin, modern poetry, and the topic of human worth and dignity.

As chair, he will be expected to spread this knowledge to the St. Mary's community through small group seminars with faculty campuswide.

“Being the first occupant of the St. Mary's Chair in Catholic Philosophy is a signal honor, and a terrific opportunity both to promote interdisciplinary understanding across the faculty and to deepen our faculty's appreciation of the richness and integrative power of the Catholic intellectual tradition,” Hughes said.

“The more we engage in productive dialogue among ourselves about these matters, the better we will be able to fulfill our responsibility to prepare students to make sense of, and beneficially contribute to, contemporary culture,” he added. ■

Science

Professors Awarded \$224,000 Grant

Susan Oxley, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor of Chemistry, and David Turner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, have received a \$224,409 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Their proposal to the NSF, "Developing, Implementing, and Studying an Urban Field-Based Course to Improve Learning Outcomes in Undergraduate STEM Disciplines," will help unite their respective programs at St. Mary's University.

"Chemistry and Environmental Science students will be involved in a yearlong, hands-on learning experience that will enable them to apply what they learn in the classroom in a real-world setting," Turner said.

Money from the grant will pay for student internships, curriculum development, a new ion chromatograph, basic field and lab equipment, and a two-year environmental chemistry curriculum built around Confluence Park in cooperation with the San Antonio River

Foundation and the San Antonio River Authority.

Additionally, the grant will provide travel support to students attending regional and national scientific meetings to present their work and interact with scientists at all professional levels.

Software Engineering Now Available Online

The graduate program in Software Engineering is now offering a completely online version of the program.

Spaces are still available for the spring 2016 semester. For information, contact Djaffer Ibaroudene, Ph.D., at 210-431-2050 or dibaroudene@stmarytx.edu.

Grant to Expand Biology Lab Curriculum

Biological Sciences Professor Colette Daubner, Ph.D., received a \$25,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to redesign her biochemistry lab curriculum.

Starting in spring 2016, "the new curriculum will entail actual research, with totally new knowledge gained," Daubner said. Students will have access to global databases, allowing them to discover new functions of unidentified proteins, which are essential to all living organisms.

Dean Recognized for Accrediting Work

Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology, was recently awarded one of the highest honors of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

At ABET's annual recognition event, Erevelles was honored with the ABET Fellow Award, for outstanding leadership during a period of significant growth of the organization's Engineering Accreditation Commission, which he chairs. Erevelles has been active with the commission since 1998.

Sports

Women's Soccer Earns Academic Award

For the second straight year, Women's Soccer has been awarded the Team Academic Award by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

The honor goes to college and high school programs that average a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 2014 St. Mary's team maintained a 3.52 GPA, second-best in the Heartland Conference.

Men's and Women's Tennis Make Nationals

Both Men's and Women's Tennis made it to nationals this semester, a first for the men's team.

Rattler doubles duo Jamie Lee Denton and Kaylin Kruseman won the USTA/ITA South Central Regional Championship, punching their ticket to the national championships tournament. Denton also won the singles title to qualify for nationals as an individual.

Denton and Kruseman placed fourth in doubles. Denton lost in an early singles round.

St. Mary's men's doubles partners Adam Dockery and Brien Galon also captured the regional championship, marking the school's first appearance at an NCAA national tournament in men's tennis.

Dockery and Galon outlasted a duo from Cameron University in a thrilling, come-from-behind three-set match at regionals. At nationals, they lost in the first round to the eventual tournament champions.

Richter Named Conference Woman of the Year

Former softball player and current women's basketball player Haley Richter (B.A. '15) has been named the Heartland Conference Woman of the Year.

The award honors a senior who completed her athletic eligibility while performing exceptionally well in her sport and excelling in academics, service and leadership.

Richter, now a graduate student, finished her undergraduate degree in 3.5 years, graduating summa cum laude with a 3.94 GPA to receive her bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a teaching certificate.

Haley Richter



Law

Law School Inks Agreement with Chinese University

The St. Mary's University School of Law welcomed its first student this fall as part of a new agreement with Shandong Normal University in Shandong, China.

The memorandum of understanding, completed in June, creates a legal exchange between the two universities.

The agreement includes several new joint-degree options for Shandong Normal University students, offers a path for faculty at either university to become visiting scholars on each other's campuses, and proposes online academic conferences and distance learning.

This agreement expands the School of Law's legal education connections in China, which began in 2010 with the launch of the School of Law's Institute on Chinese Law and Business, a summer program held at Beihang University in Beijing.

More than 100 law students have taken part in that summer program since its launch, said Professor of Law Robert H. Hu, Ph.D., who co-directs the program. Shandong Normal University will help arrange internship opportunities for St. Mary's Law students in China, according to the agreement.

Other joint programs will allow Shandong Normal University students to earn an undergraduate degree from their home university plus a master's degree from St. Mary's Law in four years.

Alumni Association Honors Distinguished Law Graduates

The Law Alumni Association honored the immense contributions of the School of Law's 2015 Distinguished Law Graduates during its annual awards ceremony.

During the Oct. 23 dinner, the Law Alumni Association applauded the achievements of this year's Distinguished Law Graduates, the Hon. Bert Richardson (J.D.'87) of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and Richard Loza (J.D.'87) of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Inc., as well as Distinguished Young Alumnus, Ty Hunter Sheehan (J.D.'06) of Hornberger Fuller & Garza Incorporated.

Innsbruck Celebrates 30 Years



Spot anyone familiar in this 1986 photo of the first Innsbruck class? Pictured from left in the front row: St. Mary's Professor Gerald S. Reamey; Professor Fritz Raber of the University of Innsbruck; Professor Covey Oliver, a renowned international law expert; then-Dean James N. Castleberry Jr. (now deceased); and (far right) St. Mary's Professor Vincent R. Johnson.

by Jennifer R. Lloyd

In 1985, Ronald Reagan was president, the duo Wham! was topping the music charts, the movie *The Breakfast Club* was in theaters and the St. Mary's University School of Law decided to do something that was still relatively unusual for law schools — launch its first international study program, in Innsbruck, Austria.

Thirty years later, the School of Law has introduced well over 1,000 students from more than 130 American law schools and several European law schools to international legal issues and alpine culture through the Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck.

St. Mary's Professor of Law Gerald S. Reamey, one of the program's co-founders, said that when the program came about, the law school did not regularly teach international courses on the home campus, much less offer students the opportunity to engage with such content in an international setting.

"I think that, more than anything, the Innsbruck program has led to the internationalization of the law school curriculum and the student body," Reamey said.

Reamey said the experience opens up for law students "the possibility of a practice that goes beyond the borders of the United States, whether that's representing businesses engaged in transnational or international business or ... working with either governmental or non-governmental organizations, doing human rights work or humanitarian relief work. All of these things become options for students when they've had a chance to actually live for a period of time and go to school in another country."

Students also learn from and socialize with the program's distinguished jurists, who have included eight current or former justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. ■

Business

Business School to Host International Competition

The St. Mary's University Greehey School of Business will step onto the international stage when it hosts the 21st annual Network of International Business Schools Worldwide Case Competition Feb. 28 to March 5, 2016.

The NIBS Worldwide Case Competition, one of the oldest undergraduate case competitions in the world, is an intense contest that brings undergraduate students from business schools worldwide to analyze business cases, prepare solutions to real problems, and present recommendations to panels of senior managers, policymakers and academics.

Professor Jeffrey E. Johnson, Ph.D., who is chair of the 2016 NIBS Organizing

Committee, describes the event as “an exceptional opportunity for teams to test their business strategy skills in a highly competitive and challenging environment.”

The competition starts with a qualifying round held in November. About 30 teams will participate, with the top 16 moving on to the competition at St. Mary's in February.

Business Week Features Outgoing CPS Leader

Doyle N. Beneby, former president and CEO of CPS Energy, was the La Quinta Speaker Series keynote speaker at the 2015 Business Week in early November.

Beneby, who had served as CEO since 2010, recently left San Antonio's public-owned utility

to lead New Generation Power International in Chicago.

Other speakers included Dave Viotti of SMALLIFY, who led students in a fast-paced workshop on rapid prototyping, and Hyun-jin Hahm, magician and chairman of Korea Association of Magic Education.

Business Week, hosted each fall by the Greehey School of Business, allows students to attend a guest lecture from a prominent leader, participate in networking opportunities and take part in an awards ceremony that recognizes students and faculty for excellence.

Forum Features Big Names for 2015-2016 Series

World-class business executives are headlining the 2015-2016 Forum on Entrepreneurship Breakfast Series as part of an effort to raise the profile of this long-standing series hosted by the Meadows Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Chris Edelen (B.B.A. '83), the new Director of the Meadows Center, and Tanuja Singh, D.B.A., Dean of the Greehey School of Business, are focused on bringing in business leaders who are excellent examples of the entrepreneurial spirit, some with national

reputations.

The first speaker of this year was Tom Kartsotis, founder of Fossil watches and Shinola handcrafted goods, in October.

Upcoming speakers are:

- Nov. 5, 2015, Paula Gold-Williams, interim CEO of CPS Energy and an alumna
- Feb. 11, 2016, Daymond John, founder of FUBU and star of ABC's *Shark Tank*
- April 7, 2016, Stuart Parker, CEO of USAA and an alumnus

“The Greehey School of Business is thrilled to present these distinctive leaders,” said Dean Singh. “They offer a wealth of knowledge and thought-leadership to share with St. Mary's University and San Antonio.”

The Meadows Center for Entrepreneurial Studies fosters innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity with the intent of empowering students to pave their road to success with an emphasis on the characteristics and values of a Marianist education.

“It's our duty to give students every opportunity to succeed. This speaker series benefits them with scholarship aid, and also gives them role models — real-life examples of the kinds of leaders they can become,” Edelen said. ■



Daymond John of ABC's *Shark Tank* will headline the Forum in February.

OYSTER BAKE

TURN'S

1916

First Oyster Bake held at all-male St. Mary's College along the San Antonio River where La Mansión Del Rio Hotel is now. About 50 men attended (no women allowed).



1929

Oyster Bake moves to the Alumni Gym on the current St. Mary's campus. The Bake is held on the gym's dirt floor; it's not yet finished because of funding problems created by the Great Depression.

1950

First recorded reference to Oyster Bake income: a net loss of \$72.10. The next year was the first profit, \$165.96.

1965

Richard F. Gunst, a Central Catholic High School graduate, becomes the Alumni Association's first scholarship recipient, receiving his first year's tuition: \$640.

1966

50th anniversary of the Oyster Bake. About 1,500 people attend.



1970

The public is first invited to the Bake.



1983

Oyster Bake splits into Homecoming Oyster Bake and Fiesta Oyster Bake.

1985

Attendance tops 30,000, and net profit exceeds \$150,000.

1989

The Shuckie mascot is introduced.



1996

First fireworks show debuts at Friday's Family Night event.



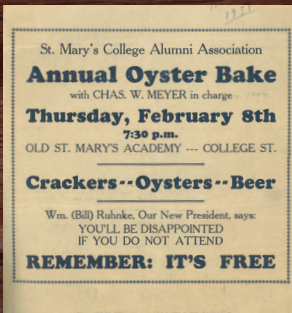
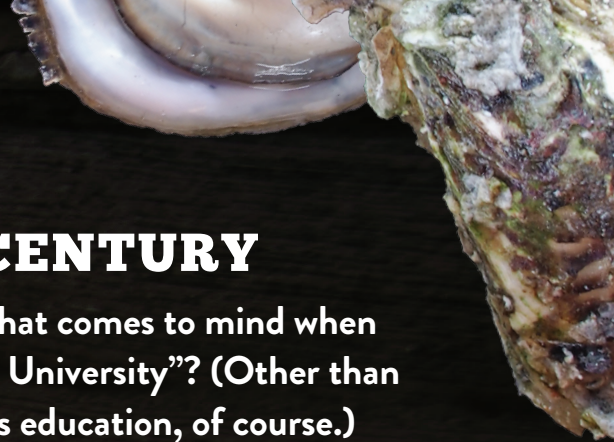
2006

Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund exceeds \$6 million. A new wine-tasting section is added to the Bake. Attendance hits 70,000.



PARTY OF THE CENTURY

Quick! What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words "St. Mary's University"? (Other than a first-class Catholic liberal arts education, of course.) Yes, that's right: Oyster Bake. It's a festival that, after 100 years, has become woven into the fabric of St. Mary's and San Antonio. Here's a look at how it's evolved over the years.



1937
The event moves outside to Pecan Grove.



1972
Attendance surpasses 5,000.



1976
The first four-year scholarship award from the endowment is made to Joachim J. Huerter.

1979
An entrance fee is charged for the first time — \$1, but St. Mary's students and children enter free. About 20,000 people attend.



1974
Oyster Bake becomes an official Fiesta San Antonio event.

1990
First year of oyster-shucking contest. "Heartbeat of Fiesta" slogan is first used.

1991
75th anniversary as more than 62,000 attend. CNN reports from Oyster Bake.



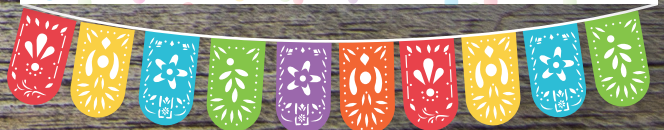
1993
Oyster Bake adds Friday evening to event schedule.

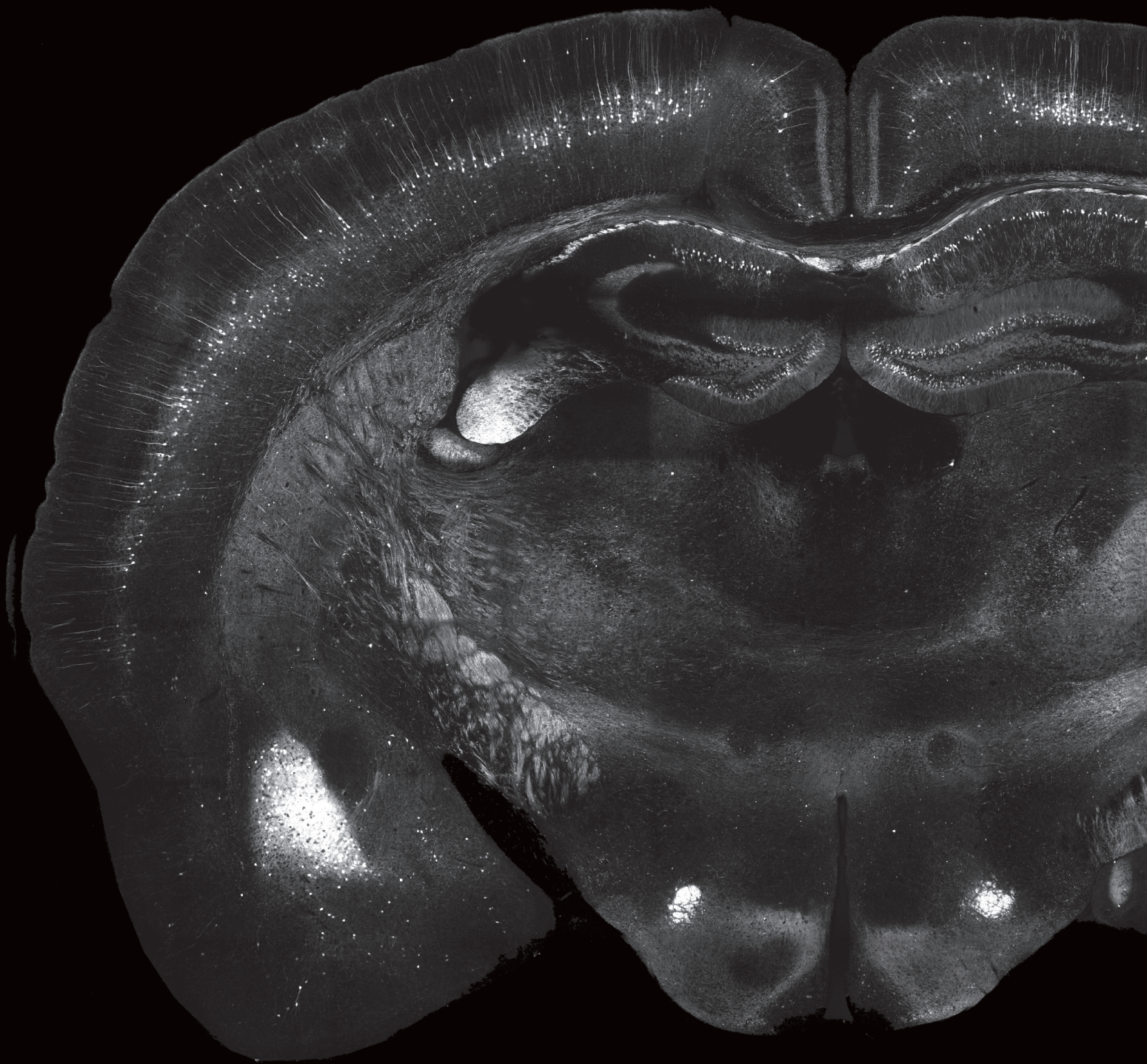
1995
Alumni Association commits to a lead gift of \$2.5 million for the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center using Oyster Bake revenue.

2014
The recent opening of The Park at St. Mary's the previous fall changes event layout and enhances the festivities. Main stage moves to Flex Field, next to Dickson Stadium.




100-year Totals
Estimated total attendance: **2 million**
Total Alumni Association gifts: **\$10.7 million**





Thousands of smaller images are stitched together to create a single, highly detailed slice of a mouse brain.



TINY BRAINS, BIG SCIENCE

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

In the world of neuroscientist Denise Ramirez, Ph.D. (B.S. '03), minds are a terrible thing to waste — literally.

In this case, the brains in question belong to mice and rats. Ramirez spends her days researching the brains of rodents, trying to better understand how they work. And while the brains she examines are very small, the equipment she uses at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's new Whole Brain Microscopy Facility is powerful enough to explore the inner-workings of tiny cranial matter.

Enter the TissueCyte 1000, a rare (read: expensive) type of microscope that produces automated high-resolution imaging and 3-D reconstruction of entire rodent brains in about 18 hours, "many times faster and more accurately than previous methods," Ramirez said.

The Whole Brain Microscopy Facility, where Ramirez is the core facility manager, recently acquired two of these unique and advanced microscopes, which are the only two in Texas and among few in existence worldwide.

From data the microscopes provide, scientists can "easily see neuronal connections that extend throughout the brain in three dimensions, and how they are altered by injury and disease," Ramirez said.

And although these are mouse brains, the research goal is to better understand how trauma affects the human brain. The Whole Brain Microscopy Facility is expected to be a major resource for scientists researching traumatic brain injury and neurodegenerative diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's.

"We aim to promote the discovery of efficacious treatments and preventive measures for brain injury by virtue of our unique ability to assess long-range neuronal connectivity changes," Ramirez said. In turn, her facility will share terabytes of data with other researchers and institutions, with the goal of making significant contributions to medical research.

Ramirez credited her St. Mary's mentors, including the late Jose Miguel Cimadevilla, Ph.D., who was her undergraduate adviser at St. Mary's, for helping her obtain quality summer research internships that led to her successful career in science.

"At the time, the research opportunities for students at St. Mary's were far more limited, so they were valuable to me," she said. "I especially value the relationships that I still have — 12 years after I graduated — with St. Mary's faculty." ■



SUMMER JOBS FOR A NEW GENERATION

Gone are the days when summer jobs were simply a way for college students to make extra money, perhaps bagging groceries or waiting tables. Today, employers expect that college graduates will have chalked up at least one internship — and more is better — in their chosen field.

Ensuring that St. Mary's University students have access to appropriate internship opportunities is a point of focus for St. Mary's President Tom Mengler. The University's strategic plan, *Gateway: A Vision for St. Mary's University*, notes that prospective students, current students and alumni will "judge the value of a St. Mary's education by its capacity to facilitate career achievement."

That has led to a renewed focus on ensuring that experiential learning is intentionally occurring both inside and outside of the classroom. These

experiences help effectively prepare graduates with the skills employers are looking for and requiring. In no small part, that equates to the availability of meaningful experiential experiences — or internships.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers reported in its 2015 Internship and Co-op Survey that almost 63 percent of the class of 2015 held at least one internship as an undergraduate, with more than half of those resulting in a job offer after graduation, meaning the right experience can directly lead to employment post-graduation. St. Mary's students are placed in internships at greater than the national rate.

On the following pages, read the stories of a few St. Mary's students who have taken advantage of their internship opportunities in unique and enriching ways.

KAYLA BERGER

SENIOR ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING MAJOR

She spent her summer looking to improve safety for firefighters battling wildfires, thanks to the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.

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

Out of control wildfires are devastating to people and property, and perhaps no danger is greater than that of the first responders who are fighting the fires.

Precious minutes are lost and more lives are put closer to danger as firefighters get as close to the fire as possible to determine its boundaries.

“Currently, firefighters triangulate a fire by driving three fire trucks as close to the location as possible,” said Kayla Berger. “From the fire truck, they must walk through terrain, often mountainous, rugged or tree-filled, following smoke to pinpoint the boundaries of a fire.”

When they reach the fire — often with great difficulty — each firefighter must radio in their location to their command center. “This wastes a lot of time, energy and effort just to obtain the boundaries of a fire,” Berger said.

Berger worked under the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder, Colorado, where she and a small team researched how wildland firefighters can use commercially available products to better communicate with one another while battling fires.

And the potentially life-saving answer the team came up with was simple, relatively affordable and easily accessible: A \$1,000 store-bought quadcopter that streams live video, sending back GPS coordinates of the fire.

“No firemen would be placed in danger trying to find it, and reconnaissance would take significantly less time,” she said.

The idea was partly inspired by firefighters and administrators in the field, whom Berger interviewed to understand what kind of technology they wanted improved or modified.

“The internship at NIST not only further developed and reinforced my technical engineering abilities, but gave me an opportunity to improve my collaboration and communication skills,” she said. ■



Photo by Rebecca Stumpf



LUIS MEDINA

THIRD-YEAR LAW STUDENT

He spent this summer in a prestigious legal clerkship with the the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, learning realities of the justice system for low-income people going through the courts.

by Jennifer R. Lloyd

If Luis Medina learned one lesson during his summer legal clerkship with the Public Defender Service (PDS) for the District of Columbia, it would be that justice is not meted out equally without a strong defense.

“A lot of times, people in the system are guilty of just unfortunate circumstances,” Medina said.

During his clerkship, he saw the inequalities in the system, such as the high rates of minority males in the juvenile justice system and the “mob mentality that society has when looking at people who are in the system — that they’re inherently bad, they’re guilty.”

“Our system is set up to have a presumption of innocence,” he said. “But that’s not the way it works in practice.”

Faye Bracey, the School of Law’s Assistant Dean of Career Services, said Medina shone as a top candidate for the prestigious position with the PDS because of his strong commitment to public service evidenced in his résumé.

“Those interested in pursuing employment in the public interest sector need to be able to demonstrate a passion and

understanding for public service, since in today’s market these positions are highly competitive,” Bracey said.

For two and a half months, Medina worked on cases from burglary to murder, visiting the jail, visiting the youth services center where juvenile respondents are housed, writing motions and memos, interviewing clients and conducting legal research.

“The great thing about PDS is they make you feel like part of the defense team,” he said. “We’re all working together defending our client.”

Being a part of the defense team included going into the field with investigators to scope out a crime scene in the case of an alleged unauthorized use of a vehicle. Police claims about the incident did not add up once the investigators visited the site to measure distances, take photos and perform reconnaissance.

“Working there definitely opened my eyes to the issues and the struggles people face when they are put into the system,” Medina said. “There are a lot of systemic injustices. I’m definitely keener on the idea of becoming a public defender. ■



R

Photo by Brad Howell



Photo by Chris Hinkle

ALEX SALINAS

JUNIOR ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE MAJOR

Her summer internship focused on studying plants and fungi within the world-renowned Biosphere 2. Her work was through the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program.

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

Summer internships are experiences designed to expand the world of undergraduates. But for one St. Mary's University junior, it was a summer living in a bubble.

Well, sort of.

Environmental Science major Alex Salinas (*no relation to the writer*) spent most of her internship at Tucson, Arizona's Biosphere 2, a 3.14-acre, glass-encased ecological facility sealed off from the world.

Inside the University of Arizona-owned structure, where the interaction of life, water and climate are studied daily, research projects relating to climate change have been underway for years. Salinas joined one such project focused on soil formation processes and how plants interact in harsh, rocky environments.

"My job was to try to figure out what role roots, mycorrhizae (a fungus that has a symbiotic relationship with plant roots) and microbial activity have on the biological and chemical weathering of rock during its initial stages of soil formation," she said.

In other words, "we were growing plants in pure, plain rock without fertilizer and extra nutrients," Salinas said.

Salinas' part involved analyzing root scans from plants including buffalo grass and ponderosa pine, and organizing the data she collected, such as root diameter, root length and the number of branches and forks.

"This root data was correlated with our chemical analysis of the rocks and plants to find any relationships between the root architecture and the biological weathering of the rocks," she said.

This information can later help scientists "manage soil and grow crops on poor soil or traditionally unarable land," Salinas said.

As for working inside the Biosphere 2, she described the experience as "incredible."

"I don't think there's anywhere else in the world where scientific research is so open to the public," she said. "I couldn't really walk anywhere in there without bumping into an experiment or tour group." ■

by Jasmine Garcia (B.A. '11)

By the time Sarah Cantu started looking for her senior year summer internship, she had already done work two summers before in software branding and social media — not surprising for a Marketing major. But Cantu knew that for her third summer, she wanted something different.

This time, her summer was spent at Chicago's Illinois Tool Works, one of the world's leading diversified manufacturers. She worked directly with Paslode, a division specializing in fasteners and nails for residential construction. There, she fueled her interest in B2B marketing (that's "business-to-business" for those not of the business world).

"I was interested in construction products because of how complex the residential housing marketing is," said Cantu, a Greehey Scholar. "In a lot of ways, you can think of the housing market as a good indicator of how the economy is doing because if people aren't doing well, they're probably not buying houses. If people aren't buying houses, they're not buying nails."

Cantu conducted interviews with homebuilders, attended product presentations and facility tours, and assisted with customizing a cost-benefit and opportunity cost analysis for the company.

"The key takeaways for me have been to take initiative and to continuously search for ways to add value to the organization," she said.

Cantu did, in fact, take initiative. She proposed that the company consider incorporating infographics and a design thinking session to better understand the organization's stakeholders — and then got them implemented.

"I made the suggestions and assumed they would be considered but probably implemented by someone else at a later time, if at all," said Cantu. "I didn't really expect to find activities or projects that I could take ownership of, so I'm really glad that I have been able to accomplish that." ■

SARAH CANTU

SENIOR
MARKETING MAJOR

Her summer internship focused on business-to-business marketing for a company that manufactures residential construction supplies.



SARA GUARINO

SENIOR
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

She spent her summer observing endangered beluga whales in the wild off the coast of Alaska to see how their natural behaviors compare to those of whales in captivity.

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)

Sara Guarino has been observing beluga whale behavior at SeaWorld San Antonio for a few semesters. But this summer, her research got real.

So real that she traveled 4,000 miles and then hopped on a boat in Alaska's Cook Inlet to see the natural behaviors of beluga whales in the wild. For Guarino, it's something she feels called to do: She's on a mission to protect aquatic mammals that are seeing their habitats disappear to global warming.

"The goal of this project was to examine behavioral patterns of wild belugas and compare them to those observed in the captive beluga population housed at SeaWorld in San Antonio," Guarino said, whose internship was funded by the American Psychological Society's Summer Research Grant and took place at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward.

She thinks her research in Seward will help wildlife researchers better understand the behavioral patterns of the endangered wild beluga. Her greatest hope is that her data will help provide insight into their recovery and provide an opportunity to validate behaviors observed in captive settings.

Although Guarino's primary research purpose at the Alaska SeaLife Center was to study beluga whales, she seized the opportunity to gather research on different animals to learn about their behaviors. She now has a collection of videos and photos of a variety of animals including humpback whales, orcas, sea lions, harbor seals, fin whales, Dall's porpoises, puffins and other wildlife found in Seward.

"I'm trying to take advantage of all these amazing opportunities that I've been given." ■

CHRIS CHAVEZ

SENIOR COMPUTER ENGINEERING MAJOR

He spent his summer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado, through the prestigious Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.

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

As the number of people worldwide using cellphones and wireless Internet increases every year, so does the need for the virtual space through which the signals travel. Without that, the world is heading for a major traffic jam on the information superhighway.

Chris Chavez spent his summer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado, looking to improve how radio and cellular signals are measured. His internship was part of a larger effort by the federal government to expand cellular and wireless capacities to meet growing demand.

First, Chavez wrote software that allowed data to be collected from instruments such as oscilloscopes. He then tested the instruments in a lab before going outside — to beautiful mountainside views — to conduct actual measurements.

Chavez said his background in Computer Engineering helped him find ways to adapt or improve existing software to better handle and process data.

“There can be very large sets of data, so being able to figure out even a small improvement can add up to many hours saved when these programs are used,” he said.

Along the way, Chavez picked up a couple of scientific programming languages and made connections that may impact his ambitions.

“The internship was a great way to see how researchers work and how they handle important challenges,” he said. “A career where I’m working alongside them would be exciting.” ■



Class Notes



Send us your photos

As the 100th birthday of Oyster Bake approaches, we would love to see your favorite memories from Oyster Bake, whether from last year or 50 years ago.

Either scan and email the picture to gfarrell@stmarytx.edu, or send it in the mail to the address below. Call us at 210-436-3327 to let us know it's on the way. We will make sure it is returned safely to you.

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

Pictured left: These cuties are decked out to celebrate Oyster Bake in 1984. Let us know if you can identify them.

1956

Allen Petrash, B.B.A., Ganado, a retired lieutenant colonel, is proud to announce his son, Michael A. Petrash, was among the graduating class of 2015 at West Point.

1963

Don E. Wittig, B.A., J.D. '65, Bayview, a senior justice, announces the publication of his novel *Katrina: The Jury Answers*, an environmental exposé of the hurricane disaster, set in a courtroom drama.

1965

Robert "Charlie" Cowan, B.B.A., J.D. '73, San Antonio, an attorney with The Law Offices of Robert Cowan Jr. Inc., and of counsel with Tyler and Peery Law Firm, has been selected into membership of the National Trial Lawyers Academy.

1974

Lambeth Townsend, J.D., Austin, was named in the Best Lawyer's 2016 listing of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

1976

Peter S. Vogel, J.D., Dallas, a partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, is listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

1978

Richard G. Garza, B.A., J.D. '83, San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. *Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Mark Miller, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker

L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. *Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

1979

Peter Hosey, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. *Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

1980

Dean Rucker, J.D., Midland, is recipient of the 2015 Judge Sam Emison Award given by the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists.

Raul Solis, B.A., San Antonio, retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves after more than 37 years of service.

1981

Sylvia Borunda Firth, B.B.A., El Paso, is the city attorney for the city of El Paso.

Patrick Tobin, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. *Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

1984

Hector Amaya, B.A., Pearland, has been appointed chairman of the board for Special Olympics Texas. He is responsible for leading a board of 24 executives, whose responsibility includes 54,000 athletes in Texas. It is the largest program in the United States.

C. Diane (Williams) Dockery, J.D., Wichita Falls, reports she is in her 24th year as an associate family law judge for Wichita County. She adds that she is proud of her son, Adam, who is attending St. Mary's University on a tennis scholarship.

Joe Guerra, B.A., San Antonio, and his wife **Karen (Elizondo) Guerra, B.A. '89**, both qualified for and ran in the Boston Marathon in April 2015.

1985

Kevin L. Kelley, J.D., Dallas, a partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, is listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

Raymond Thomas, B.A., McAllen, is celebrating his fifth anniversary of Ordination to Permanent Diaconate, Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of Brownsville. He's also been selected to *Texas Super Lawyers* for 10 consecutive years, a peer review rating limited to the top 5 percent of Texas lawyers.

1986

Patricia Constantin, B.A., M.A. '96, San Antonio, received the 2015 Red River Athletic Conference Sports Information Director of the Year Award.

Michael D. Harbart, B.A., J.D. '89, M.B.A. '06, Hattiesburg, Miss., accepted an appointment as a U.S. Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, and was sworn in during September 2015. Harbart is also in a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Kelley Webb-Lamour, B.B.A., Dallas, accepted a fellowship with the Younger Thinkers educational program, a non-profit program that encourages high school students from lower-income families to learn, apply and share technology skills.

1988

Billy Connolly, B.B.A., M.B.A. '97, San Antonio, leads a team of user-experience designers at USAA. He is proud to share he has two grandchildren.

Andrew D. Keese, B.A., Austin, graduated from Texas Tech University this past summer with a Ph.D. in English with a specialty in British Modernist and Postcolonial Studies.

1990

Joseph Cook, M.A., San Antonio, joined Consulting for Health, Air, Nature and a Greener Environment (CHANGE) as a senior environmental and sustainability scientist after retiring from 38 years of federal service that took him to assignments worldwide.

1991

Barry S. McKinney, Ed.D., B.A., San Antonio, has been promoted to Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities at UTSA.

Cynthia Brotman Nelson, J.D., Dallas, a partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, is listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

Jeanne (Champion) Ploch, B.B.A., M.B.A. '95, San Antonio, and Mike Ploch married Nov. 15, 2014.

1992

Julie (Rohmer) Collins, B.A., San Antonio, and **Martin**

Collins, B.B.A. '85, J.D. '88, welcome Sean Thomas Collins, born Oct. 24, 2014.

Cynthia (DeLeon) Treviño, B.S., Houston, and her husband, Hector Treviño, welcome Carolina Ariana Treviño, born Nov. 24, 2014.

1993

Enrique Alemán Jr., Ph.D., B.A., and **Sonya Alemán, Ph.D., B.A. '95**, San Antonio, joined the UTSA College of Education and Human Development faculty. Enrique is chair of the Department of Education Leadership and Policy Studies. Sonya is an Associate Professor in the Mexican American Studies Program in the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies.

The Hon. Patrick A. Hope, B.A., Arlington, Va., joined National Electrical Manufacturers Association as the executive director of its Medical Imaging and Technology Alliance.

1994

Gilbert Carrizales, B.S., San Antonio, is a medical writer for Kinetic Concepts Inc. (KCI), providing medical writing support to help key opinion leaders and early adopters report their experiences with KCI wound care and regeneration manuscripts, and other publications.

Julia Mann, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. *Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Gerardo Soto, B.A., San Antonio, is the new executive director of Maintenance, Operations, Safety and Transportation (MOST) in the Harlandale Independent School District.

1995

Kate (Szecsy) Fannin, B.B.A., Seattle, is executive director of marketing for Estée Lauder Cos. in Manhattan, with Nordstrom being her key account.

Valeria Garcia, B.B.A., Helotes, and Jason Ciccone married on Aug. 28, 2015.

Dennis Lewis, M.A., Colorado Springs, Colo., completed a Doctor of Management with a concentration in Global Leadership. Her dissertation title was *Mentoring Russian Orphans as Leaders in the Workplace*.

Christine Miller Way, B.B.A., Town and Country, Mo., is vice president of information technology for Express Scripts Holding Co.

1996

James S. Castro, M.A., Bergheim, CEO of St. Peter-St. Joseph Children's Home in San Antonio, is a member of the Texas Alliance of Child Family Services, San Antonio Nonprofit Council, South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, and Boys Scouts of America. He is also co-chair of the Bexar County Blue Ribbon Task Force.

Michael Dominguez, B.A., M.P.A. '98, Houston, and his wife Karla Dominguez, welcome Nicolas Michael "Nico" Dominguez, born April 3, 2015.



St. Mary's Pub Returns to Campus

The long-awaited St. Mary's University pub has returned, hearkening back to the campus watering hole of the 1970s and '80s.

A portion of the Blume Library's rear veranda was enclosed for the project, which created two new gathering spaces: The Pub at St. Mary's, featuring an exterior stage and patio, as well as a student lounge. The University community gathered to bless the new venue in September.

Alumni Tom Contreras (B.B.A. '88) and Leticia Contreras (B.A. '89) gave \$900,000 to build the new pub and social gathering spaces to promote engagement and unity on campus.

"One of the things Tom and I most enjoyed about our time at St. Mary's was the community aspect," said Leticia Contreras, a member of the St. Mary's Board of Trustees. "We felt called to do something to enhance

that experience for current and future students — so we wanted to build a social place where memories can be fostered by campus life."

The Pub features regular programming for students, alumni, faculty and staff, and the student lounge has already been a popular location for study breaks and viewing important events as a group, such as Pope Francis' address to the U.S. Congress. ■



Photo by Terri Glander

Law alum's high-flying career makes for model mentor

by Jennifer R. Lloyd

Debby Ackerman (J.D. '79) is a woman of many firsts.

She graduated first in her class from St. Mary's University School of Law. Her interest in corporate and securities law led her to the San Antonio law firm Oppenheimer, Rosenberg, Kelleher and Wheatley, at which she was the first woman to become a partner.

She followed others from the firm to Southwest Airlines, and rose to become the airline's first female general counsel in 2001 — just a few months before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. In that new role, she handled a round of resulting legal issues that permanently changed the airline industry.

"It turned out being the end of the world as we knew it in many significant ways for the airline," said Ackerman, who retired from Southwest Airlines in 2007 only to be lured back to part-time work in 2011 to a unique position for Strasburger & Price LLP in Dallas.

At Strasburger & Price, she draws on her own experiences to mentor young women lawyers in business development and workload management in hopes they'll stay with the firm. She has yet to come across a similar mentoring program elsewhere and said finding the right mentor might be part of the formula

for success.

"I had a big career, but I also raised two daughters and they're both very successful and happy and normal," Ackerman said. "I'm living, breathing proof that it's possible, that you can do this."

She said when she was a young lawyer, not only did she not have a female mentor but there was not even "somebody to look at and say, 'Well, they did it. I can do it.'"

In the 1970s, she was a legal secretary while her first husband attended law school in Dallas.

"It occurred to me, looking around at these lawyers I was working for and my husband who was going to school, that they weren't any smarter than I was but they were making a whole lot more money than I was."

When they moved to San Antonio, she began attending St. Mary's Law. When Ackerman gave birth to her older daughter while working at a firm, she said the firm struggled to pay her during maternity leave. She ended up going back to work when her daughter was 7 weeks old.

By the time she had her second daughter, she was working at Southwest Airlines and had planned to take three months off. When her daughter was 6 weeks old, the treasurer of the company suddenly left and Ackerman got

the call that the company needed her back on.

She said those experiences help demonstrate that "you can do more than you think you can probably do. You do what you have to do. And sometimes it's just hard. There's no other way to say it."

Ackerman described challenges that came after Sept. 11 — the airline was shut down for three days. They also had to address agreements with unions and manufacturers, plus deal with regulatory issues.

"I worked 12 hours a day for nine weeks. It was one of those things you just pour yourself into," she said.

Ackerman said "it's a blessing" to be able to provide help to a new crop of women lawyers.

Thus far, the retention rate for her mentees is positive with only one having left her position after having a third child. Two of her mentees have become equity partners, and several more have become income partners.

Occasionally, a man will ask her why the firm needs a women's initiative.

"When half the partners are women, half the policy committee is women, which is sort of an executive committee, and the retention rate for women and men is the same, then we'll talk," she tells them. "But until then, we have work to do." ■

Christopher Naughton, B.A.M., San Antonio, is general manager of Wabash National Trailer Centers in San Antonio.

1997

Michael Gershon, J.D., Austin, was named in Best Lawyer's 2016 listing of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Maria Cristina Rios, B.A., New York, is the national director of multicultural customer strategy at Macy's Marketing in New York City. Her department oversees all strategic planning for minority customer segments. In her free time, she works with El Museo del Barrio's Junior Council, which raises money for educational programs at the museum.

Rocio I. Zapiain, B.A., Round Rock, and her husband Bassam Hilal Al Metrani, welcome Marcos Fernando, born March 27, 2015.

1998

Andrew L. Baumgardner, B.B.A., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the *S.A. Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Lee Hernandez, B.B.A., San Antonio, is executive principal of South San Antonio High School in the South San Antonio Independent School District.

1999

Cyndi Munoz-Hernandez, B.A., Corpus Christi, and her husband Joseph Hernandez, welcome Imani Chalice Hernandez, born March 23, 2014.

Patty Reyes, B.A., Pearland, and her husband Mauricio Amaya, welcome Camila Alessandra Amaya, born Jan. 26, 2015.

2000

Ixchell Gonzalez, B.A., San Antonio, received the San Antonio Business Journal's Leadership Award.

2001

Alexis A. Murdock, J.D., Fort Smith, Ark., is an administrative law judge.

2002

Sonia Y. Cisneros, B.A., San Antonio, welcomes daughter Gabriela Yvette Reyes, born July 23, 2015.

Jessica (Consuegra) Hernandez, B.A., San Antonio, and her husband Miguel Hernandez, welcome their third child, Enzo Hernandez, born Nov. 22, 2014. Jessica is a real estate agent with Keller Williams City View.

Manuel Hinojosa, B.A., Little Elm, and his wife, Melanie Hinojosa, welcome Amelia Rose Hinojosa, born June 8, 2015.

Valerie McClelland, B.B.A., Nashville, Tenn., is assistant district director for the U.S. Department of Labor.

2003

Nancy (Calzada) Atilano, B.A., B.B.A., Pearland, and her husband Andres Atilano Jr., welcome Olivia Alissandra Atilano, born Feb. 17, 2015.

Laura Martinez Barbosa, J.D., Edinburg, and her husband Alberto Barbosa, welcome Gabriela Cristina Barbosa, born Sept. 27, 2013.

Lorena Faz-Deleon, B.A., Dallas, a program services coordinator at Mountain View College, enjoys working with college students and helping them have exposure to other universities outside of Dallas. She praised St. Mary's for housing a group of students at the University while they were visiting San Antonio schools.

Anna (Mares) Roden, B.A., San Antonio, and her husband, James Roden, welcome Patrick James Roden, born March 18, 2015.

2004

Laura (Calvey) Hoerner, B.A., Austin, and her husband **Thomas Hoerner, B.B.A., M.B.A. '07**, welcome their first children, a set of twins named Hudson Thomas Hoerner and Lucy Rose Hoerner, born May 29, 2015.

2005

Lauren Ciminello, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the *S.A. Scene* magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Gloria (Gallardo) Manzano, B.A., and her husband Miguel Manzano, welcome son Román Manzano, born June 12, 2015.

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

2006

Desiree (Deleon) Anzaldua, B.A., Richmond, and her husband Raymond Anzaldua III, welcome Raymond Anzaldua IV, born June 16, 2015.

Kiran Bains, B.A., San Antonio, is the first diversity officer to manage the city of San Antonio's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Ellysse Canales, B.A., San Antonio, welcomes Alondra Valeria Vazquez Canales, born April 21, 2015.

Isis Leal, B.S., M.S. '07, Austin, is working as an equipment engineer for Samsung Austin Semiconductor.

Frances V. (Rodriguez) Mercado, B.A., M.A. '10, Seaside, Calif., is a U.S. Air Force officer attending the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., to obtain a master's degree in Security Studies with a concentration in the Western Hemisphere.

2007

Melissa (Gunnels) Alban, B.A., J.D. '10, Rockwall, and **John G. Alban Jr., B.B.A. '06**, welcome Connor Joseph Alban, born July 29, 2014.

Claudia Castillo, B.S., San Antonio, welcomes Jace Cardona, born July 16, 2015.

Masashi Kaida, M.S., San Antonio, is a manufacturing operations analyst for The Boeing Co.

Bryce Karulak, B.S., San Antonio, finished his three-year Podiatric Medical and Surgical Residency with a rear foot credential at Houston's Medical Center and will be joining Alamo Family Foot and Ankle Care in Boerne.

Sandra Martinez, M.A., San Antonio, is owner and behavioral health clinician of All-Tex Family Solutions.

Mitch Miers, J.D., Grapevine, is attorney owner of Miers Law Firm.

Bruce A. Moseley, J.D., Amarillo, is executive director of Turn Center, a non-profit organization providing physical, occupational and speech therapy services to children with special needs and disabilities across the Texas Panhandle.

Denise Mota, B.S., San Antonio, is working with the non-profit organization Any Baby Can in the Prescription Assistance Program, which provides assistance to families without insurance or who have exhausted all other insurance resources to apply for free or low-cost prescription drugs.

William Schroeder, M.A., Austin, and Teri Geffner married May 10, 2014. The couple co-direct a boutique counseling practice called Just Mind, working with teens and adults to help them overcome challenges in relationships, personal growth and life.

2008

Forrest Commander, M.A., Waco, is owner of CDR Consulting Service, whose mission is to identify, assess, prevent and mitigate threats to the community and its infrastructure.

Hector R. Esquivel, M.A., San Antonio, has been named principal of Seguin High School in the Seguin Independent School District.

Nidia Garcia, B.S., Coppell, and Luke Brassard married Dec. 13, 2014.

Jose P. Heras, B.B.A., El Paso, vice president of El Taco Tote, looks forward to becoming more involved in the community by participating with the St. Mary's Southwest Alumni Chapter.

Vanessa (Alvarado) Janov, B.A., Austin, and her husband Justin Janov, welcome Carter Justin Janov, born May 4, 2015.

2009

James Carter Jr., B.B.A., M.B.A. '10, Toronto, and **Elizabeth Henderson, B.A.**, married Aug. 2, 2014.

Marie Hulsey, B.B.A., San Antonio, and Eric LaCroix married April 25, 2015.

Noelia (Montez) Sanchez, B.A., Harlingen, applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from the HOGG Foundation that will be used to educate students, parents and staff about how trauma at various levels can impact student learning and behavior.

S. Jordan Smith, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson

New adventure? New job? New baby?
St. Mary's wants to share your updates!
Go online to www.stmarytx.edu/classnotes
and tell us what's new.



Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. Scene magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Anna Villanueva, B.A., San Antonio, and her husband Adan Villanueva Jr., welcome Adan James Villanueva, born Nov. 3, 2014.

2010

David S. Head, M.A./J.D., Cottonwood Heights, Utah, was married in February 2015.

Monica Lackups, B.A., Ypsilanti, Mich., and Miguel-Eduardo Fuentes, married on June 27, 2015.

Frances (Rodriguez) Mercado, M.A., Seaside, Calif., and her husband Doug Mercado, welcome Xochitl Valentina Mercado, born Oct. 11, 2014. The U.S. Air Force is sending Frances to naval postgraduate school for a master's degree, after which she will teach at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Nicholas Saenz, B.A., San Antonio, is an assistant for player development with the NBA Dallas Mavericks.

2011

Desiree R. Flores, B.B.A., San Antonio, is the quality assurance manager for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

Sung Je Lee, J.D., M.B.A. '12, LL.M. '14, Austin, is the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year for 2015. Lee practices business and real estate law at The Fowler Law Firm.

Valerie Ramirez, B.B.A., a human resources partner at USAA, earned her Professional in Human Resources designation this past May.

2012

Shermeen Abdullah, M.A., Sugar Land, is working in business development and operations for Jack's Grocery Inc.

Shari Mao, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. Scene magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Francis Nathan, J.D., Hurst, is an adjunct professor teaching Legal Environment and Corporation Taxation at the University of Dallas in Irving.

Geoffrey Tahuahua, B.A., Austin, is the new vice president of policy for the Home Builders Association of Greater Austin.

Ana Zendejas, B.A., San Antonio, is working at The Children's Shelter as a permanency support specialist.

2013

Taelor Allen, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker L.L.P., has been named to the S.A. Scene magazine "Best S.A. Lawyers" list.

Mari Edwards, B.B.A., Fort Worth, is marketing support analyst for BNSF Railway.

Selena Rangel, B.A., Chicago, is teaching fourth grade at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School.

2014

Rebecca Pitts, J.D., Austin, is an associate attorney with Drake Law, PLLC, joining **Lindsey Drake, J.D. '10**, who opened the practice.



Young alum finds her niche in leadership

by *Jasmine Garcia (B.A. '11)*

Jenna Saucedo's rise in the ranks at CPS Energy — the largest publicly owned utility in the United States — is nothing short of meteoric.

Just six years after receiving her Bachelor's of Business Administration from St. Mary's University, Saucedo is now the youngest vice president in the history of CPS Energy. Her quick move up the ladder and her rock star business skills also have been noted by the San Antonio Business Journal, which named her one of the 2015 Women's Leadership Award winners.

Each year, the Business Journal recognizes 15 women who demonstrate positive change for their company or organization and who serve as an inspirational leader in their community.

"It's a little bit surreal for me. I do what I do because I love the job, and I enjoy the people I work with," said Saucedo (B.B.A. '09). "I'm flattered by the recognition, and even more flattered that I was nominated."

As someone who aspires to live the St. Mary's mission, Saucedo spends time mentoring corporate interns who are fellow Rattlers and part of the Greehey Scholars Program.

"We learned in the Greehey School of Business there are expectations of what it takes to be a leader," she said. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON GIVING

June 1, 2014-May 31, 2015

Each day, I see and hear the impact of a St. Mary's education on our current students and graduates. I hear how our faculty, staff and Marianists have made a difference in their lives, preparing them to go into the world with the values and teachings of a Catholic and Marianist education.

Gateway: A Vision for St. Mary's University calls on us to make St. Mary's one of the finest private universities in the region, a gateway for our graduates to professional lives as ethical leaders in Texas, the nation and the world. These are powerful words, intended to serve as a calling for the St. Mary's community to be a professional and spiritual gateway for our students and graduates.

To do these things, we need your support. When you make a gift you are investing in our future and helping to make a fine Catholic and Marianist institution even greater. Each gift — of any size — comes together to make a difference for our students. Every gift matters.

Together, we can achieve our vision. Thank you for your support.

Thomas M. Mengler
St. Mary's University President

• BIG • GIFTS

\$1 million

A gift from Bill Greehey (B.B.A. '60) for the Greehey Scholars Fund, which is a unique undergraduate scholarship program that focuses on servant leadership.

\$1 million

A gift from the estate of Donald K. Melaas to fund the School of Law's Deborah K. Melaas Scholarship Fund, assisting second-year female law students.

\$1 million

A gift from the estate of Archie E. Anderson Jr. (J.D. '64) benefitted the School of Law's Scholarship Fund.

\$1.7 million

A gift from the St. Mary's University Alumni Association to establish the Alumni Association Endowed Chair in Catholic Leadership and help establish a Center for Catholic Studies.

\$1.12 million

A gift from Thomas D. (B.B.A. '88) and Leticia (B.A. '89) Contreras for the campus' new Pub and community gathering areas, and to support the St. Mary's Golf team.



\$5.1 + \$10.8
MILLION
government
and public grants

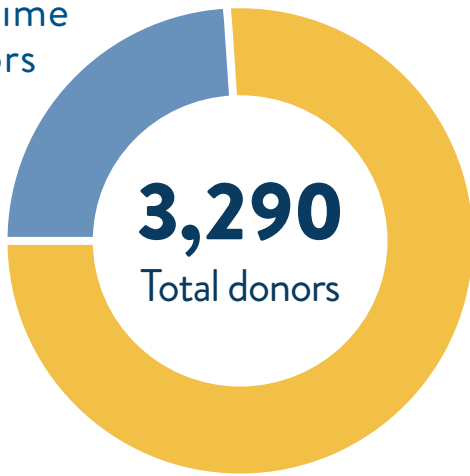
MILLION
private gifts

Thank You

90%
OF ALL GIFTS
are from individual donors



805
First-time
donors



49% OF ALL GIFTS WERE
LESS THAN \$100

AVERAGE GIFT:
\$307

{82%}

OF ALL UNIVERSITY
EMPLOYEES ARE DONORS



GIVING TO THE
SCHOOL
OF LAW



136%
INCREASE

\$1.5M

\$3.5M

2013-14 2014-15

“At St. Mary’s I had the opportunity to receive scholarships, particularly as a Risk Management major. Now I want to pay that forward so others have the same opportunity.”

Rogelio Hernandez (B.B.A. '15)
Claims Trainer, Argo Group

Hernandez began giving back to St. Mary’s University just weeks after his May 2015 graduation, and he encourages his fellow Finance and Risk Management classmates to do the same. To make giving simple, Hernandez set up recurring monthly payments that benefit the next group of Risk Management students.

Interested in learning how easy it is to set up a monthly gift?
Visit www.stmarytx.edu/give



In Memoriam

1940s

1942 Martin L. Duggan, B.A., Kirkwood, Mo., died May 27, 2015. Robert Hausser, B.S.C., LL.B. '48, San Antonio, died Aug. 7, 2015.

1943 Nolan Hirsch, CL, Midland, died July 24, 2015.

1944 The Rev. S. Merle Waters, B.A., San Antonio, died June 28, 2015.

1948 Jerome Leo "Jerry" Windlinger Sr., B.B.A., Houston, died Sept. 3, 2015.

1949 Col. Archie L. Henson, U.S. Air Force, Ret., LL.B., B.A. '63, M.A. '69, San Antonio, died June 1, 2015.

1950s

1950 Robert R. "Bob" Biechlin, B.B.A., San Antonio, died May 27, 2015. Charles A. "Buddy" Weeber, LL.B., San Antonio, died July 13, 2015. Gus M. Wueste, B.S., San Antonio, died Sept. 8, 2015.

1951 Henry J. Adams, CL, San Antonio, died May 14, 2015. Horacio C. Acevedo Sr., B.A., Laredo, died Aug. 22, 2015. John D. Brinkman, B.S., Hackettstown, N.J., died June 26, 2015. Jack Chin, B.S., San Antonio, died June 21, 2015.

1953 Thomas O. Nitsch, Ph.D., B.B.A., Omaha, Neb., died May 31, 2015.

1954 Eddie C. Fischnar Jr., CL, San Antonio, died July 16, 2015.

1955 John J. Ingram, CL, McAllen, died July 6, 2015. Carl H. Pfeiffer, LL.B., San Antonio, died July 29, 2015.

1956 James A. Delaney, B.A., San Antonio, died June 6, 2015. Moddie E. Smith, B.M.E., Canyon Lake, died Sept. 13, 2015.

1957 Lt. Col. Raymundo R. Luna, U.S. Army, Ret., B.A., Minooka, Minn., died June 2, 2015. Isaias Varela Jr., B.B.A., San Antonio, died June 23, 2015.

1958 Elpidio (Pio) Flores, B.A., Uvalde, died July 8, 2015. Cornelius R. "Corny" Mock, B.A., Galveston, died March 1, 2015.

1959 Jack P. Kelso, B.A., LL.B., Corpus Christi, died Aug. 24, 2015. Frank J. Mikula, B.A., Dallas, died May 27, 2015.

1960s

1961 Walter "Junie" Kahl Jr., B.B.A., Louisville, Ky., died Aug. 20, 2015. Alfred A. "Jud" Schroeder, LL.B., San Antonio, died June 8, 2015. George W. "Jeep" Wilson III, B.B.A., Denison, died July 27, 2015.

1962 David J. Doyle, B.M.E., San Antonio, died June 8, 2015. Jose Pepe Lucero, B.A., M.A. '75, died July 19, 2015.

1963 Cullis Lee Holub, B.B.A., Mobile, Ala., died Aug. 19, 2015. Eduardo Silva, B.M.E., San Antonio, died June 5, 2015. Laural Winston, B.B.A., Palm Desert, Calif., died Aug. 14, 2015.

1965 Col. Kenneth Davey, U.S. Air Force, Ret., M.A., Tampa, Fla., died Aug. 15, 2015.

1966 Gayle Gayoso Yates, B.A., Tallahassee, Fla., died June 22, 2015.

1967 Richard C. Idar, B.A., San Antonio, died Aug. 2, 2015. Reid J. Sellers, M.A., San Antonio, died June 9, 2015.

1968 James A. "Jim" Mulligan, B.A., Louisville, Ky., died July 17, 2015. Wayland A. Simmons, J.D., San Antonio, died June 30, 2015.

1969 Nancy J. Allin, M.A., San Antonio, died July 26, 2015.

1970s

1970 Lt. Col. Charles W. Hodgson, U.S. Air Force, Ret., B.A., M.A. '72, died July 30, 2015. John L. "Larry" Mogford Jr., J.D., Carrizo Springs, died May 7, 2015. Juan G. Sandoval, B.A., San Antonio, died June 19, 2014.

1971 Maj. Lucius M. Coley Jr., U.S. Air Force, Ret., B.B.A., Wimberley, died July 12, 2015.

1972 Lloyd Henry Barbee Jr., B.B.A., San Antonio, died June 14, 2015. Ruby "Chris" Stephens, M.A., San Antonio, died May 21, 2015.

1973 Billy "BJ" Gunter, J.D., Rockwall, died June 8, 2015.

1974 Thaddeus Lorentz, J.D., Rutland, Vt., died June 17, 2015. Richard A. Smith, J.D., Richardson, died July 22, 2015.

1975 Karolyn Keith, M.A., Canyon, died March 21, 2015.

1977 Robert L. Berlanga, B.B.A., San Antonio, died June 23, 2015. Chief Master Sgt. Albert F. Milne, U.S. Air Force, Ret., B.A., San Antonio, died June 13, 2015.

1979 Anna Guerra, M.A., San Antonio, died Aug. 29, 2015. William Emmett "Bill" Ivy, B.B.A., Blanco, died Aug. 18, 2015.

1980s

1980 Cynthia M. Scaglione, J.D., Tampa, Fla., died May 31, 2015.

1982 Mary Jane Milstead, M.A., San Antonio, died Aug. 2, 2015.

1983 Steven R. Sampson, J.D., Austin, died Aug. 15, 2015.

1986 Mack A. Guerra, B.A.S., San Antonio, died Aug. 5, 2015.

1987 Daniel R. Lopez, B.A., San Antonio, died May 27, 2015.

1989 Christine Ann (Smits) Nedwed, M.A., San Antonio, died June 30, 2015. Lt. Cmdr. John T. Welch, U.S. Public Health Service, B.A., Burke, Va., died May 21, 2015.

1990s

1990 The Rev. James H. Drury, M.A., Price, Utah, died April 7, 2015.

1992 Arthur G. Augustine, J.D., San Antonio, died June 1, 2015.

1994 Pamela J. Mullin, J.D., Locust Grove, Va., died June 12, 2015. Laura P. Purcell, J.D., Walkersville, Md., died June 24, 2015.

Fondest Farewell

BROTHER CHARLES CUMMISKEY, S.M., PH.D.

Brother Charles Cummiskey, S.M., Ph.D., died Sept. 9, 2015, at the age of 91. He was a Marianist for 74 years and a faculty member of St. Mary's for 56 years.

"Brother Cummiskey touched the lives, minds and hearts of thousands of students," said the Rev. Tim Eden, S.M., Ed.D., St. Mary's Vice President for Mission. "His love and passion for chemistry was evident in the way he interacted with each individual he taught."

Brother Cummiskey was born Feb. 12, 1924, in St. Louis to Charles and Sarah Cummiskey and was one of two boys. Inspired by his Marianist teachers at McBride High School, he entered

the Postulate in Kirkwood, Missouri, in 1939. He entered the Novitiate in 1940 in Galesville, Wisconsin, and made his first vows in 1941. He made his perpetual vows in 1945.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Dayton in 1943 and his master's in Science at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in 1952. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1956.

He pursued his passion for chemistry through teaching at various schools around the country. In 1955, he joined the St. Mary's University faculty. During his years at St. Mary's Brother Cummiskey held many important positions: Department Chair

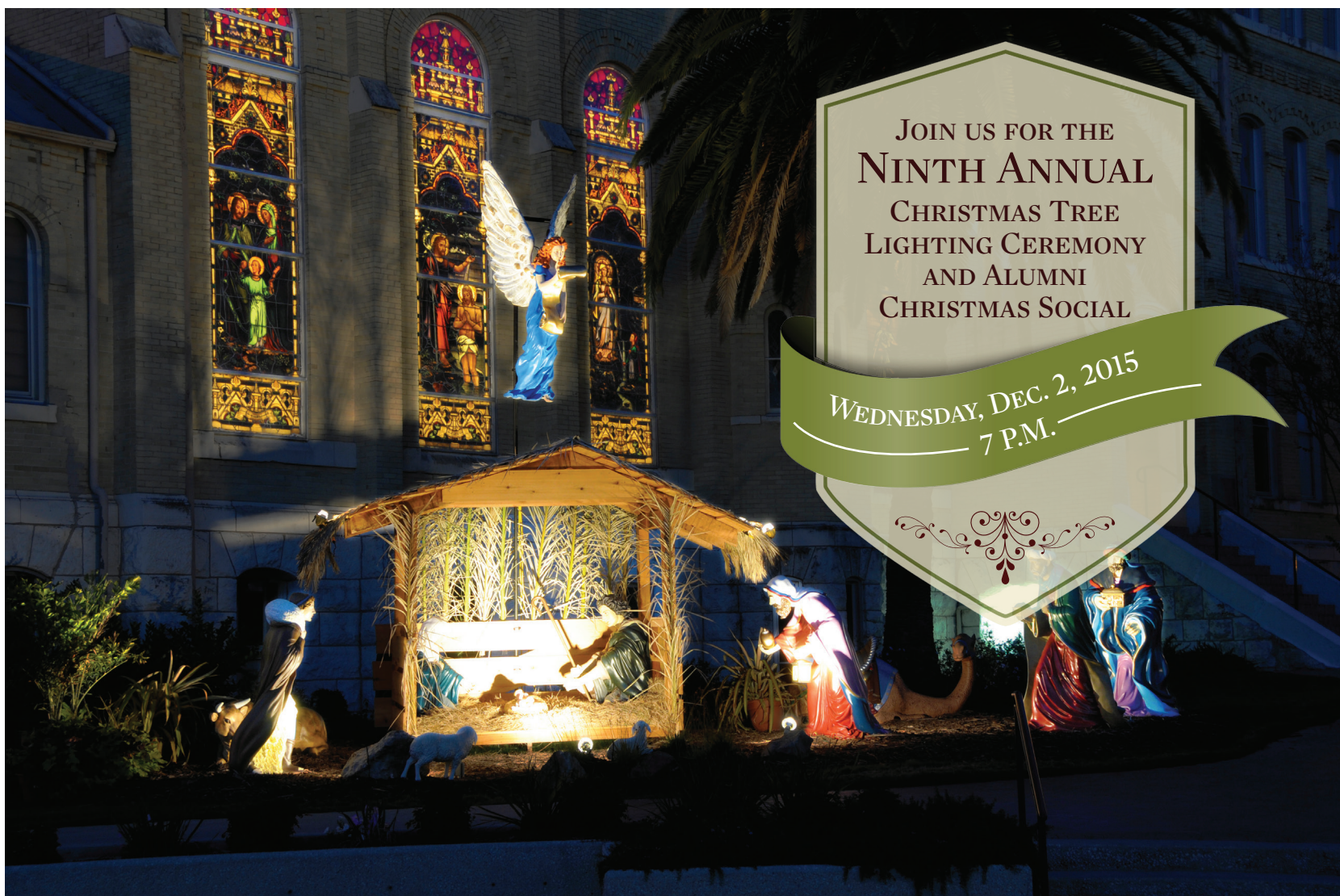
of Chemistry, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty as well as Interim President in 1975, all while continuing to teach.

In 2006, Brother Cummiskey retired from teaching, and in 2013, he was named Professor Emeritus of Chemistry.



JOIN US FOR THE
NINTH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING CEREMONY
AND ALUMNI
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2, 2015
7 P.M.





ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY

One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Texas 78228-8575

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Mary's University

WE BELIEVE IN HIRE POWER



Look for Us

This is one example from the new advertising campaign launched this fall that highlights key messages and accomplishments of St. Mary's University. You might see these ads on highway billboards in the San Antonio area, print advertising in publications such as USA Today, Texas Monthly and the San Antonio Express-News, and on radio and television spots.