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SINGING, DANCING  
AND DOCTORING 12

STRESS BUSTING,  
SUMO STYLE 20

SPRING BREAK  
WITH HEART 22

# GOLD & BLUE

## ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Summer 2016

### A window into another world

Business students  
teach — and learn  
— during India  
immersion trip.

14







Photo by Josh Huskin





# BREWS AND BROS

*by Melanie Skaggs (M.A. '01)*

The small-batch craft beer movement is big business, and four St. Mary's University alums are in the thick of it.

What started as a friendship among St. Mary's classmates — and a shared love of brewing beer — has turned into Busted Sandal Brewing Company, which opened in San Antonio in 2013.

“We got in at the right time,” said Roland Tamez (B.B.A. '99), Busted Sandal's marketing director.

The partners are Tamez, Joseph Alvarado (B.B.A. '01), Chris Rodriguez (B.S. '01) and Jason Dennis (CL '01), plus two additional partners, Michael DiCicco and Robert Garza. Each plays a part in the operation, sales, marketing or making of the beer.

In the beginning, the friends used small-scale home brewing kits before moving out of the garage and into the local community, including The Pub at St. Mary's, which often serves Busted Sandal.

While they still have their day jobs, the brewery keeps them busy. After fewer than three years, they are tripling the size of their current tap room and have draft taps at more than 100 local establishments. ■



# 14 ENTREPRENEURS *abroad*

St. Mary's business students travel to India to experience Marianist service programs firsthand, help others and learn more about themselves in the process.

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**Cover:** During an Alternative Spring Break trip to Bangalore, India, St. Mary's University undergraduate Gisell Orozco stops on the streets of the slums to read a book with a group of children.

**This page:** A statue of Mary and the baby Jesus watches over a worship space at the Marianist community of Deepahalli, near Bangalore, India, which the group visited during the spring break trip.



# At St. Mary's University, community matters. And here's why.



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

Our mission is excellence — in academics, in service, in faith. And the newest 402 alumni who graduated in May are the embodiment of that mission — we are here to offer our students an excellent education as we help them discover, affirm and cultivate their own unique talents and gifts. We promise to prepare them to enter the world with the skills and motivation to make a difference in the world and to succeed in their chosen vocation.

While I'm sure that each of those graduates would tell a somewhat different story of what was special about their personal St. Mary's University experiences, I would guess there are common themes. One word you might hear often is “community.”

At St. Mary's, community matters.

The St. Mary's community is one that encourages fellowship and formation through faith and friendships, but also through a strong academic community that supports and challenges our students.

We care about community, not just on our campus, but beyond the boundaries of St. Mary's.

These are lessons and practices that our students learn in many different ways, but perhaps no experience is as transformative as those that immerse our students in the Marianist mission. In this issue, you will read about two different groups who traveled far away from campus to see how the Marianist mission applies in the real world. These stories are told from the perspectives of two authors who know their subject matter — one a St. Mary's MBA student, the other a double graduate, and both are St. Mary's employees.

You can follow the story of a group of students who drove to New Mexico to help a small organization offering low-cost temporary housing for those in medical crisis (see story, Page 22). You will also travel with a group of business students as they cross the ocean to experience firsthand the Marianist mission in India, and share their own insight into helping young adults prepare for career success (see story, Page 14).

These are just a few examples of the way our faculty and staff ensure that St. Mary's students are living our mission each day. They leave prepared to become outstanding professionals and ethical leaders for the common good who view their careers as journeys, not simply jobs. ■





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# CAMPUSNEWS

## \$750,000 gift will boost Accounting

St. Mary's University has received a \$750,000 gift from the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation to endow the Ed Boyle Accounting Professorship.

The funds will help the University recruit or retain a full-time, tenure-track faculty member who will promote the study of accounting principles, business knowledge and more, at a time when accounting professors are in high demand. The professorship will ensure the Accounting program — the largest major in the Greehey School of Business — remains at the forefront of industry standards.

The professorship is named after alumnus Ed Boyle (B.B.A. '71), the chief financial officer of Coates Energy. He has served on the St. Mary's Alumni Association Board of Directors and on the University's Board of Trustees.

## University marketing efforts recognized

*Gold & Blue* magazine and the St. Mary's University public website ([www.stmarytx.edu](http://www.stmarytx.edu)) were each recognized with Gold Awards from the Collegiate Advertising Awards. The University's social media marketing efforts were honored with a Silver Award.

The Greehey School of Business marketing campaign and collateral won a Gold Award from the American Marketing Federation.

The School of Law Constitution Day program and video for Texas high schools was honored with a Gold Award recognizing an

Institutional Identity Program from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District IV Accolades Competition.

## The Rattler cleans up at contest

The staff of the University's student newspaper *The Rattler* won 25 awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's 2016 convention. For the third consecutive year, the newspaper won first place for overall excellence in its division.

*The Rattler* also earned the highest rating in its division and took home the Sweepstakes Award, in addition to numerous individual honors in design, photography, writing and more.

## Briseño recognized for lifelong service

Alex Briseño, Professor of Public Service in Residence, was recognized for his lifelong commitment to public service when he was awarded the noble title of "hidalgo" by the Bexar County Commissioners Court.

The Hidalgo Proclamation is one of the San Antonio area's highest honors, dating to Spanish colonial days. Briseño has worked in a variety of high-profile public positions including with the city of San Antonio, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Water System, San Antonio Technology Accelerator Initiative Network and Brooks Development Authority.

Briseño teaches in the Public Administration graduate program at St. Mary's.

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.





## St. Mary's students participate in Himalayan conference at UT-Austin

A group of 10 St. Mary's University students participated in the fourth Himalayan Studies Conference, the largest international conference of its kind.

The conference, held at the University of Texas at Austin, is led by the Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies, which is the oldest academic organization devoted to the study of the Himalayas in the United States.

Accompanied by Kathleen Gallagher, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of International Relations, seven graduate International Relations students participated in the only all-student panel at the conference, where they discussed theoretical and practical approaches to the study of Nepal after the devastating earthquake last year.

Kathe Lehman-Meyer, Academic Media Center Director, also brought three students to the conference to interview a variety of experts, including anthropologists and activists, for use in future podcasts and documentary work.

## Gaming program awarded international ranking

The Computer Science Department's Educational Computer Gaming Graduate Certificate program was recently ranked in the Princeton Review's 2016 list of Top 25 Graduate Schools to Study Game Design.

The Princeton Review's list is based on its 2015 survey of 150 institutions in the U.S., Canada and abroad that offer game design



## Annual 5K set for October

Mark your calendar now for the 2016 StMU 5K for the Neighborhood on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016. This is the third year for the annual run/walk, which starts in the Pecan Grove and winds through the St. Mary's University campus.

Each year the event benefits an organization that serves the area near the University campus, and this year the 5K will benefit the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

The day begins with Mass in Guadalupe Chapel at 7:30 a.m. Day-of registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with the race at 9 a.m. Online registration opens July 15.

Visit [www.stmarytx.edu/5K](http://www.stmarytx.edu/5K) for more information or to register.

degree programs or courses. The survey gathered information on criteria such as schools' game design academic offerings, lab facilities, and graduates' starting salaries and achievements.

Carol Luckhardt Redfield, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Science, said one of the reasons the program has been recognized is it is one of only a few that focus on the educational application of computer games.

## Engineering and math students excel

Wenbin Luo, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Engineering, took several students to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Region 5 Annual Meeting

and Student Conference, where they excelled in the robotics competition.

Students David Culbreth and Eduardo Davalos finished in third place. Another team composed of students Christopher Chavez, Joshua Villanueva, Ian Dominguez and Adam Lopez took eighth place.

Mathematics and Physics major Iliana De La Cruz and Mathematics major Brian Diaz presented at the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) annual meeting at Stephen F. Austin State University, where each took home "Best Talk" awards for their respective research. The MAA is the leading professional association in collegiate mathematics.

## New class ring program to be unveiled this fall

St. Mary's University has joined with Balfour on a new class ring program, which will begin fall 2016. Newly designed with a fresh look to reflect the St. Mary's experience, the ring signifies the bond between St. Mary's and our graduates.

The design will include many familiar images, including St. Louis Hall and its iconic statue of Mary, the Barrett Memorial Bell Tower, pecan leaves signifying the Pecan Grove and even a small oyster and pearl for Fiesta Oyster Bake (Can you find it?).

The ring will be available to undergraduate students once they have completed 75 credit hours or will complete those hours in the semester they order their ring. Graduate and Ph.D. students may order after completing 18 credit hours. Orders will be accepted beginning Sept. 20, 2016, and alumni can order at that time. Alumni who already own St. Mary's class rings of the past may exchange their ring at no charge for the new ring during the first year of the program. For more information, contact Balfour at 1-866-225-3687.



### Student and business partner win entrepreneurial competition

St. Mary's sophomore Erick Roman and his business partner, Katalina Inzunza, won the fifth annual Canyon Challenge entrepreneurial competition at Grand Canyon University.

The duo won \$7,000 and the opportunity to meet with potential investors. They pitched Raffle Boss, a streamlined way for groups or individuals to hold online raffles.

Winners of the Canyon Challenge were selected based on the quality and professionalism of written and oral presentations, as well as the viability of the business. A panel of five independent judges heard the final presentations.

### Business Hall of Fame honors three

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation has awarded annual scholarships to three students in the Greehey School of Business.

The scholarship winners — all MBA students — are Ryan M. Wempe, who will be awarded the Carlos and Malu Alvarez Scholarship; Chase C. Anderson IV, who will be awarded the William E. "Bill" Greehey Scholarship; and Sean M. Strater, who will be awarded the Harvey E. Najim Scholarship.

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation recognizes exceptional graduate and undergraduate business students across Texas who exhibit entrepreneurial drive and leadership spirit. Award recipients each receive an unrestricted \$15,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation.

### Law team crowned national champs

School of Law students swept the championship in the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition, which was held recently in Chicago.

Considered by many to be the most prestigious moot court competition in the country, the event measured the oral advocacy skills of law student teams from across the nation by simulating an appeal experience before the United States Supreme Court. Students write a brief and then argue their case before a mock court of eight judges in the Everett M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse.

The St. Mary's Law External Advocacy Program (EAP) moot court team of third-year law students Stephanie De Sola and Leah Wise, and second-year law student William "Billy" Calve, were among nearly 200 teams to begin competing on the regional level hoping for a shot at the national finals, said the team's coach, attorney Ricky J. Poole (J.D. '90)

The team defeated Loyola Law School,

Los Angeles, in the final round.

"This is a tremendous achievement for these gifted advocates and a huge feather in St. Mary's advocacy cap," Poole said. "It simply confirms what I have long known, that through their innate advocacy skills and diligent preparation, St. Mary's advocates can not only compete against the best programs in the country, but can be the best."

The judges also recognized De Sola as the third-best brief writer in the nation.

### Master of Jurisprudence program celebrates first graduates

The first four Master of Jurisprudence candidates crossed the stage at the School of Law Commencement in May.

"The program has been three years in the making from conception to implementation. Finally, we've got our first group of grads," said Professor Colin P. Marks, who directs the program. "I have an immense sense of pride of

them as well as in the program."

The 30-credit-hour Master of Jurisprudence, or M.Jur., program is the only degree program of its kind at a Texas law school that aims to prepare professionals in a variety of fields with a broader understanding of the U.S. legal system. The program began with seven concentrations — ranging from health law to military and national security law — and has added concentrations in commercial, tax and compliance law.

In May, John Chilton Calhoun earned an M.Jur. with a Concentration in Taxation and Graham B. Scott earned an M.Jur. with a Concentration in International and Comparative Law. Two students who will complete their M.Jur. course work during the summer semester also walked at graduation: Hail Atallah M. Al Anazi and Sultan Dakeelaliah A. Aljuahani. Both followed the Concentration in International and Comparative Law.



Master of Jurisprudence candidate Sultan Dakeelaliah A. Aljuahani is hooded during Law Commencement in May.

Photo by Melanie Rush Davis





## Greehey School of Business welcomes new MBA director

by Jasmine DeLeon (B.A. '11, M.A. '15)

The Greehey School of Business welcomed Jeremy Grace, former faculty member at Rice University, in May as Director of the MBA program.

For the past four years, Grace served as director of the Full-time MBA at Rice's Jones Graduate School of Business. Before that, he was deputy director of the Learning and Teaching Unit at the University of New South Wales' Australian School of Business.

As the MBA director at St. Mary's, Grace plans to contribute to the growth of the Greehey School through recruitment efforts and leadership development within the MBA program.

"The Greehey School of Business is a great product with tremendous potential for growth," he said.

Grace has been meeting with alumni to gather feedback about their experience and to encourage them to remain engaged with the school.

"The culture that Dean Tanuja Singh and the faculty and staff have built at the Greehey School of Business is a warm one," Grace said. "It is clear that the quality of education is valued."

Grace, who has taught communications and leadership courses for more than a decade, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Arizona University and is currently finishing his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of New South Wales. ■

For more information on the Greehey MBA programs, contact Jeremy Grace at 210-431-2027 or [jmgrace@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jmgrace@stmarytx.edu).

# PLEASE JOIN US

Mark your calendars for these upcoming fall events happening on and around campus.

SEPT. 28

### Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series

*Muslims and Catholics: Building Faith Neighbors*

St. Mary's University, University Center

OCT. 6

### 13th Annual Alumni Association

#### Golf Tournament

Quarry Golf Club

OCT. 11

### Escobedo Saint John's Bible Lecture Series

St. Mary's University, University Center

OCT. 21

### 2016 Distinguished Law Graduate Dinner

Grand Hyatt San Antonio

OCT. 28

### 2016 Distinguished Alumni Dinner

Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade

For more information on these events, visit the University Calendar at [www.stmarytx.edu/calendar](http://www.stmarytx.edu/calendar).

## 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. Published letters may be edited for space, style and clarity. We print only those letters referring to the most recent issue of the magazine, but not those responding to letters or commenting on topics not addressed in the most recent issue. Letters can be emailed to the editor at [gfarrell@stmarytx.edu](mailto:gfarrell@stmarytx.edu) or mailed to:

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



### Rattlers continue upward climb

For the third time in four years, St. Mary's University Athletics has climbed up the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup Division II Final Standings.

The Rattlers posted their highest-ever ranking by checking in at 71 in this year's standings, up from 79 last season. In all, 263 NCAA Division II programs were ranked. The Learfield Cup is a national program that recognizes institutions for broad-based success across all women's and men's sports.

### Excellence continues for Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team continues to raise the bar. Shortly before advancing to the NCAA national championship quarterfinals for the second consecutive year, the Rattlers were presented the team academic award at the NCAA championship tournament in Denver. The award represented the Rattlers earning the best cumulative team GPA (3.83) of any of the 16 teams at the tournament.

St. Mary's also received several individual regional honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Head Coach Lisa Dausin was named the South Central Region's Wilson Coach of the Year, senior Jamie Lee Denton was named the region's Most Improved Player, and senior Cristina Lopez was given the region's Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award.



### Women's Golf wins Heartland for first time since 2004

Led by All-American Kelly Contreras and All-Conference honorees Maria Regina Gonzalez and Allison Howarth, St. Mary's captured its first Heartland Conference championship since 2004.

The victory helped them advance to the regional tournament — qualifying for the first time since 2004 — at which they narrowly missed out on a national berth with a fourth-place finish.

Coach Chris Massoletti, who was named the conference's Coach of the Year, will return all but one golfer, senior Haley Keller, next season.

### Men's Tennis captures Heartland crown

The men's tennis team finished a historic season by winning its first Heartland Conference championship and advancing to the NCAA regionals for the first time in 14 years.

The Rattlers, who rose as high as No. 24 in the national rankings, dropped a 5-1 match to Cameron in the regional tournament.

Jose Antelo helped lead the way as the Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, and joined partner Michael Maciel on the All-Conference Doubles First Team. Antelo, Felix Hallway and Richard Foley all earned First-Team All-Conference recognition in singles.

### Softball returns to Super Regional

The Rattlers featured just three returning regular starters from last year's World Series team, yet they once again found themselves in national championship contention this spring.

St. Mary's made its third consecutive trip to the NCAA Super Regional, where the Rattlers fell to No. 1-ranked West Texas A&M University.

Slugger Sydney Wellmann earned All-America honors and was named the Heartland's Player of the Year after belting 16 home runs, while pitcher Jordan Russell received the conference's Freshman of the Year honors. Head Coach Donna Fields, who won her 800th game this season, was also named Heartland Coach of the Year.



**Women's Golf:** All-American Kelly Contreras

**Softball:** Sophomore Hannah Michel

**Men's Tennis:** Junior Adam Dockery





# THE CARETAKER

## Triple major looks to create a future that helps others through medicine

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

When St. Mary's senior and triple major Enrique Torres Hernandez was a young boy, his father told him something he never forgot.

"You're the man of the house while I'm at work," his father said as he left for work that day. "You take care of your mother and brother."

It was a lighthearted comment, but one that the small boy took seriously, developing in him an obligation to provide for his family. That formative experience created a strong drive in Hernandez, who is a senior Economics, Political Science, and Mathematics major, plus studying Pre-medicine.

His parents, both from Mexico, migrated to San Diego, where Hernandez was born, and then to Arizona. His parents worked hard, but times were tough.

"We lived in poverty in a mobile home without air conditioning, which in Arizona was pretty brutal," he said. "We weren't dirt poor but close to it."

Hernandez knew he would need financial assistance for college, and St. Mary's offered a full scholarship. Hernandez packed his bags and flew to Texas — his first time on an airplane.

"I had only the vaguest image of Texas, nothing but deserts and cowboys," Hernandez said.

His intention was to go to law school, so he started out as a Political Science major, later adding Economics and Mathematics. But after a few science classes, Hernandez began to realize his true calling: medicine.

In summer 2015, Hernandez was accepted into a biomedical research internship at hospitals with the University of Pennsylvania. The internship is typically only for Biology majors, but Hernandez won over the internship director after reaching out to her and telling his story.

"I was trained intensively (before the internship started) since I had no biology background or schooling," he said. "I had to get caught up on medical terminology to keep up with physicians."

Then the real work began.

Hernandez shadowed intensive care units to observe patient handoffs with the goal of understanding of why some patients experience "sentinel events" — simply put, an unexpected death or serious physical or psychological injury sometimes caused by clinical miscommunication.

Hernandez evaluated clinicians' body language and recorded their conversations during patient handoffs, which were hectic, lasted just a few minutes and often omitted important information. From these observations, he helped develop guidelines to improve communication processes. He plans to publish his research later this year, which he hopes will reduce clinical errors and potentially save patients' lives.

Hernandez is slated to graduate in 2018. In the meantime, he's trying to make the most of his educational opportunity as he prepares for medical school.

"God wants me to do something great," Hernandez said. "I feel I've been given great responsibility, and that's a blessing." ■









# THE STARS ALIGNED

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)

As a public affairs officer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Katie Hambleton (B.A. '04) gives the public the inside scoop on the latest space initiatives, like a new capsule that's going to take people deeper into space than ever before. She also writes about space phenomena and can tell you all about cell growth, radiation and dark matter like a seasoned expert.

Hambleton has even mastered NASA's plethora of fun acronyms, such as ELVIS (Expendable Launch Vehicle Integration Services) and SSIKLOPS (Space Station Integrated Kinetic Launcher of Payload Services).

"I get really excited about learning new things — the science, learning about the rockets," Hambleton said. "I also like the fact that I get to tell people we're going to send people to Mars."

She never imagined she'd work for NASA. A Psychology major at St. Mary's, she developed a passion for marketing, registering for every marketing course she could.

"I was always interested in the way people think and the way people make decisions," she said. "I was interested in the intersection between psychology and marketing."

## PSYCHOLOGY GRAD FINDS HER PLACE AMONG NASA'S SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

One day while Hambleton was preparing for graduation, her Honors Program director asked about her plans after college. She explained that she was interested in psychology and marketing. He asked, "How do you feel about marketing something like soda to children when it gives them cavities?"

"I had never thought about it like that," Hambleton said.

The conversation made Hambleton think about her career as a vocation and the importance of working for a company that has a mission aligned with her values. In a circuitous way, that one conversation led her to public service.

After graduate school at the University of Maryland, where she focused on social influence and attitude change in their Department of Communications, she landed a job at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., where she worked for several departments before joining NASA.

When asked what advice she'd give her younger self to prepare for what she does today, Hambleton lightheartedly replied: "I probably would've told my younger self to major in Engineering. I really love working with all the engineers here at NASA."

Hambleton is proud of her work at NASA, but believes her greatest success has been never compromising her values.

"I love the fact that I work for an organization with a strong mission. By respecting myself and my integrity, I am respected in my field and organization," she said.

"By those measures, I am successful." ■



# MODERN-DAY RENAISSA

This recent Biology graduate didn't waste any of his time at St. Mary's — singing, dancing, teaching, researching and, well, generally excelling

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

Anthony Quesada (B.S. '16) is something of a renaissance man. In his four years at St. Mary's University, he was a tutor, dancer, singer and, according to the numbers, an outstanding medical scholar.

Quesada scored in the 100th percentile on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), which means he can attend just about any medical school in the country. He will start at Baylor School of Medicine in the fall. Tim Raabe, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, said Quesada's MCAT score is the highest he had seen since he started teaching at St. Mary's in 1997.

Quesada's performance also turned heads at Kaplan, a corporation that makes its business helping students perform well on standardized tests, such as the MCAT and GRE. Kaplan was so impressed that they offered Quesada a part-time job as a test instructor.

"I love learning," Quesada said. "All the information we get from class is transferrable to medical school, so it was important to find a way to help other students become as familiar with the material as possible. Critical reasoning is the key to academic success."

In addition, Quesada tutored through the Learning Assistance

Center at St. Mary's. He devised his own study techniques to help others absorb information and improve their test scores inside and outside the classroom. As St. Mary's very own MCAT test prepper, he even wrote a paper about his methods.

Quesada came to St. Mary's as a San Antonio Livestock Exposition scholar, a Facilitated Access to Scientific Training scholar and an Honors Program member. He worked with St. Mary's professors researching parasites on fruit flies and mosquitoes to better understand disease control.

All this was plenty to keep the recent graduate busy for four years at St. Mary's. But wait, there's more.

When he wasn't in the lab, Quesada could be seen — or heard — singing. He joined the St. Mary's chapel choir his freshman year and concert choir the next. As a sophomore, Quesada founded the StMU Opera Guild, an a capella student organization. He also competed with a ballroom dancing group.

"Being at St. Mary's, somewhere that's very community-driven, has helped me find my purpose," he said. "I'm not afraid to be involved." ■



A young man with dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved button-down shirt and black trousers, stands in a chemistry laboratory. He is holding a glass beaker in his right hand and pouring a reddish-brown liquid into a graduated cylinder held in his left hand. He is looking back over his shoulder towards the camera with a slight smile. The background features a green chalkboard with some faint writing, wooden lab benches with various glassware and equipment, and shelves filled with bottles and containers.

# NCE MAN

Photo by Josh Huskin





1. Multicolored complexes dotting the urban landscape of Bangalore, India, are visible from the rooftop of the Marianist community of Infant Nilaya, where students stayed for most of the trip. 2. Student Priya Bhakta, right, visits with children attending one of the Marianists play schools that offer early childhood education in Bangalore's slums. 3. Student José Parrilla captures life on the streets of Bangalore. 4. After a classroom visit, a teacher and child at a Marianist play school in Bangalore wave goodbye to the St. Mary's students. 5. By creating a web of yarn, St. Mary's students explain the importance of networking for career growth to students studying vocational skills through the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation in Bangalore.





# ENTREPRENEURS *abroad*

*St. Mary's students travel to India to teach  
business development in Bangalore's slums*

*Story and photos by Jennifer R. Lloyd*

As the cluster of St. Mary's University students disembarked the plane in southern India, they were struck first by the differences: the bare feet of the Marianist brother who greeted them at the airport in the middle of the night, the wild traffic maneuvers already underway long before dawn, the heady scent of jasmine, spices, distant smoke and the sour tinge of refuse.

But, in the days to come, the students discovered it wasn't the contrasts that would affect their lives most. It was the striking similarities that span humanity — a welcoming smile, an offer of food, a shared focus on education, a desire to succeed in career and life.

These potent parallels forged a bond between 10 St. Mary's students — led by Greehey School of Business faculty and the school's chaplain, the Rev. Jim Tobin, S.M. — and the underprivileged youths to whom they mentored and taught business skills in the frenetic metropolis of Bengaluru, commonly called Bangalore.

With the assistance of the Marianist brothers in India and the efforts of other organizations there, the St. Mary's students provided business workshops to about 70 high school dropouts between the ages of 18 and 30. The group also visited play schools, essentially a preschool for children living in the dilapidated, multicolored buildings of the city's slums.

The St. Mary's students, each members of the entrepreneurship-focused student organization Enactus, had big plans to make a difference but discovered they really “went in blind” to what they would find, said Celeste Padron (B.B.A. '16), who graduated in May.

Padron and fellow student José Parrilla said they gained a newfound appreciation not only for their lives back home, but also for their educational advantages as part of a Marianist university.

“I've always thought of myself as appreciative of what I have, but in reality ... it showed room for improvement,” said Padron, who recalled being offered food by a woman cooking in a pot outdoors. “What really struck me was the hospitality offered, no matter how little money somebody has.”

Marketing major Guillermo Avelar, originally from El Salvador, said the trip “helped reinforce that we're also committed to the bigger community — outside St. Mary's, even outside the United States — and we're also connecting with the Marianist values.”

Propelling this growth in the students' frame of mind was the intended objective for trip organizers Tobin and Finance Professor Prasad Padmanabhan, Ph.D.

“No matter what you have or what you don't have, where you live or what's going on, we're all in this family of human beings together,” said Tobin, who had traveled to India several times and planted the idea for the immersion experience with Tanuja Singh, D.B.A., Dean of the Greehey School of Business. “My hope is that this experience will, in some way and somehow, impact their lives and their careers ... and give a sense of what's really important.”

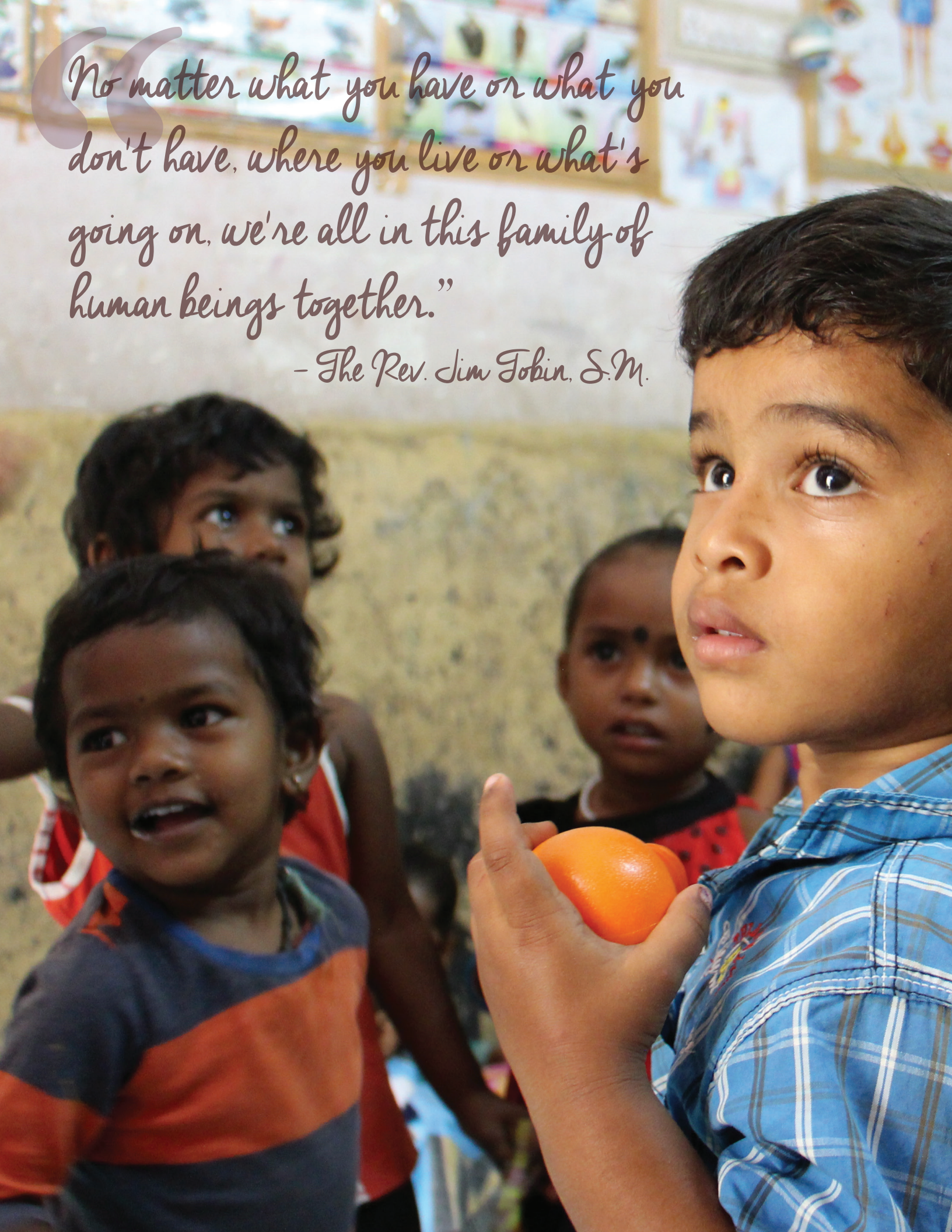
Singh said not only did students use “their knowledge and skills to teach, train and mentor underprivileged youth in Bangalore,” but they also “learned a lot from these young people — about their resilience, adaptability and a desire

*continued on page 18*



*No matter what you have or what you don't have, where you live or what's going on, we're all in this family of human beings together."*

*- The Rev. Jim Tobin, S.M.*







A young boy from the slums greets the St. Mary's students as they visit one of the Marianist play schools in Bangalore.



to succeed even under the most challenging circumstances.”

“I am a true believer that experiences such as these help our students better understand not merely the problems facing the world, but also be active participants in developing solutions that work,” she said.

Traipsing along dusty back streets and sidestepping piles of putrid street garbage in slums, St. Mary’s students visited people receiving assistance from the Marianists through their Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme, or REDS, named for the youths who pluck cloth and plastic from garbage mounds to sell as recyclables.

REDS outreach in Bangalore includes more than a dozen play schools providing

*“I’ve always thought of myself as appreciating what I have, but in reality, it showed room for improvement.”*

*– Celeste Padron, student*

early childhood education to about 500 children, along with tailoring classes for women and other programs.

The St. Mary’s students also visited the nearby community of Deepahalli, where Marianists operate a residential center and encourage about 35 energetic boys from impoverished and neglectful upbringings with limited education to either attend a formal school or learn carpentry, welding, tailoring, plumbing or electrical work.

Though the REDS program was initiated in the late 1970s, a more recent affiliation has made additional skills-training assistance possible in Bangalore’s slums for young adults who have dropped out of high school.

Six years ago, the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation began renting space on the Marianist campus in Bangalore and offering free training in tailoring, air conditioning and refrigeration, electrical work, computer and software skills, along with subsequent job placement. The foundation is the corporate responsibility wing of the multinational infrastructure company GMR Group, and the rent it pays to be on the Marianist campus helps fund the REDS programs, said Brother A. Arokiadoss, S.M., REDS executive director.

“It really fits our sense of service,” Arokiadoss said of the GMR training. “We want to reach out and see the poor children and the youths coming up in their lives ... and the same with GMR, giving service to

the poor people with human dignity, respecting them and making sure they have a place in society.”

GMR also partners with other well-regarded corporations, such as Schneider Electric for the electrical training program and Voltas for air conditioning training, to develop curriculum and create job opportunities for graduates, said Jayapaul (his complete name), program officer for the foundation.

The nascent mentorship program with St. Mary’s, through which students exchanged a few emails before meeting in person, helped raise the confidence level of the GMR students, Jayapaul said. These benefits may be worth expanding the collaboration to other centers in New Delhi or Hyderabad, he said.

Faiz Ali, one of the students in GMR’s air conditioning and refrigeration course, said he found value in the students’ visit — especially in the emotional intelligence workshop, which discussed how to channel their emotions and treat others.

The sense of global community connected by the Marianist spirit persisted as the students returned to San Antonio and left

behind their experiences of washing clothes by hand on a stone, bathing with a bucket, and dealing with intermittent power outages in the stifling heat.

The service completed and the connections built with the GMR students and the Marianist brothers in Bangalore elevated each St. Mary’s student “from being just an observer, to actually being a member of that community,” said Stephanie Ward, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Resources and one of the faculty leaders on the trip.

Parrilla, an Information Systems Management major, built upon that sentiment.

“To understand that I’m actually part of that community made me feel proud,” he said. “It made me feel more connected to the Marianist charism, coming to understand family spirit, service, justice and peace.”

Undertaking an immersion experience of this depth and magnitude with college students who may be on their first trip abroad was logistically challenging and only possible with the financial support of the business school, said faculty and student leaders.



1. A ragpicker digs among trash piles in the slums, plucking clothing and plastic to sell for recycling. These youths gave rise to the name of the Marianist program to help those in the slums, called the Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme, or REDS. 2. St. Mary’s student Melissa Gamez leads a workshop on emotional intelligence for high-school dropouts learning a trade through the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation.





But Padmanabhan said, “Once you make an investment, you open up the floodgates and it becomes easier.”

Though the saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” Padmanabhan said he believes “a trip is worth a thousand pictures.”

“You’ll be rewarded when you look into the students’ eyes, and you’ll be rewarded by their confidence,” said Padmanabhan, reflecting on the newfound assurance he has already seen the Enactus students exhibit.

“That’s worth the price of admission.” ■



1. Student Celeste Padron walks GMR students through the process of business development during a workshop. 2. Student Guillermo Avelar teaches GMR students how to grow their personal network to further their careers. 3. The Rev. Jim Tobin, S.M., presents a symbolic paper crane to a boy learning a trade at a Marianist residential program in Deepahalli, near Bangalore. 4. A couple sitting outside their home watches as St. Mary’s students pass by on their way to visit the slums. Residents in this area face frequent power outages and often do not have running water in their homes.







YOU DO IT YOURSELF

SUMMER





Photos by Josh Huskin

Under the watchful eye of Coach Tom Zabel, Jessica Brower and an opponent prepare to spar at the Korea-America Taekwondo Academy, where the Lone Star Sumo Association practices each week.

by Andrew Festa

Jessica Brower has, perhaps, the best icebreaker in the history of conversation. The diminutive St. Mary's University senior tells people, quite matter-of-factly, that she's a sumo wrestler. Naturally, they think she's joking. She's not. "Everyone's says, 'Oh so you wear the big, inflatable fat suit?'" And I say, "No, no, no — a real sumo wrestler," said Brower, who has received more than one surprised look in response. "They're like, 'But you're so little.'"

This is no hobby; she's serious about it. The San Antonio native has been sumo wrestling for four years and was on the U.S. team in the 2015 Sumo World Championships in Japan. Teams of four men and four women from about 70 countries competed. She wrestled in the open weight division and finished in eighth place.

"A lot of people have the misconception that sumo wrestlers are just big, fat people who charge at each other," Brower said, "but in order to be a serious contender it's a lot of hard work and working out."

Her parents were concerned when she and her younger sister, Kassandra, told them they'd taken up sumo. After mom and dad's initial injury fears were put to rest, they quickly became supportive and now travel with their daughters to tournaments.

Brower said she's lost count of the number of medals she's won, and she moved from blue belt to brown this spring. In December, she will test to become the first female black belt sumo wrestler in the country.

She hasn't decided where her Forensic Science degree will take her after graduation, but she does plan to continue sumo wrestling.

"It's really fun. It's a good workout, and it's a great way to keep in shape," said Brower, adding her fellow competitors are a genial group. "I don't know that you'd expect a sumo wrestler, or someone who identifies as one, to be friendly. But everyone is usually very welcoming, at least after the tournament."

"During the tournaments, everyone is just staring each other down," she said with a smile. ■



# BREAKING FOR SERVICE



## Alternative Spring Break programs give students options besides the beach

*Story and photos by Robin J. Johnson (B.A. '11, M.A. '13)*

Spring break is not often synonymous with volunteerism and sacrifice, but since 1999 groups of St. Mary's University students have spent the week giving to others, through a transformational experience called Alternative Spring Break.

Brian Buchmeyer (B.S. '13), coordinator of Marianist Student Initiatives at St. Mary's, said the experience immerses students in service, culture, faith and relationships.

"Students are challenged to think deeply about social justice issues that affect the people they are serving and how those issues connect to their own communities,"

Buchmeyer said.

St. Mary's students Samantha Ramos, Paige Gandara-Valderas, Jasmin Rivera and Christina Carrion took advantage of this unique opportunity in March.

While other students were carpooling to the coast, this group traveled by van to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to care for people with serious medical conditions at the Casa Esperanza residence.

Established in 1992, Casa Esperanza (Spanish for "House of Hope") fills a need for rural New Mexican families, many from Native American reservations, who must travel long distances for medical care.

Many cannot afford extended hotel stays, and, if not for Casa Esperanza, these families might sleep in their cars.

The facility primarily serves cancer patients and their families, but also any patient dealing with a serious medical condition. It offers long- and short-term stays and includes a community kitchen, washers and dryers, and a playground area for children. Because it provides these services at a low cost, Casa Esperanza relies heavily on volunteers.

"We are here to alleviate problems so that patients can focus on healing," said Taura Livingston, the facility's operations director. "We hope that volunteers are inspired with a greater sense of how little it takes to impact someone's life."

The 28-room facility was at full capacity during the students' stay. Their days were spent helping Casa Esperanza's lone maintenance man with landscaping. They spent evenings interacting with the residents.

"There was a little boy named Elijah," said Rivera of a SpongeBob SquarePants-loving, 4-year-old patient. "Knowing that he



“ You can always go to the beach, you can always go on vacation, but taking the time to actually impact someone’s life is a lot more rewarding.”



**Left:** Alternative Spring Break participants overlook Albuquerque, New Mexico, from the peak of Boca Negra Canyon at the Petroglyph National Monument.

**Middle:** Young residents multitask by playing with their toys while also playing bingo at one of the activity nights hosted by the St. Mary’s students.

**Right:** Four-year-old Casa Esperanza resident Elijah plays peek-a-boo with St. Mary’s student Jasmin Rivera.

had been going through so much and seeing how he smiled at the smallest thing — even though he had been (at Casa Esperanza) for about two years — made me realize I should be grateful for what I have, and that I shouldn’t take life for granted.”

The students bonded with a woman undergoing breast cancer treatment. She and her sister taught them words from their native Navajo language.

They made a connection with a young couple whose child was born five months premature. The family’s home was four hours away.

They also met a mother whose middle-aged daughter suffered severe brain damage as a result of domestic violence, and a 15-year-old cancer survivor in town with his mother for a checkup.

And there were many others.

“Just to learn that these people don’t have easy access to medical treatment but were still able to have a positive outlook, it was very inspiring to see,” said Ramos, a junior Finance and Risk Management major.

Casa Esperanza also offers counseling for the stress of dealing with illness, education

on how to manage medical paperwork, and complimentary dinner every night provided by local groups and organizations.

The St. Mary’s students took over the dinner duty their second night, making fajitas for the 60-plus residents, and hosted two activity nights featuring bingo, and arts and crafts.

Carrion, a senior Exercise and Sport Science major, found out just before the trip that her grandmother was being tested for cancer, which helped her relate to the residents.

“These people are going through so much but they could still smile. I was happy to give my time to provide some of that happiness,” she said.

After returning home, Carrion learned that her grandmother was cancer-free, but the lesson on positivity stuck with her.

While in Albuquerque, the group also attended Mass at historic San Felipe de Neri Church; visited El Santuario de Chimayo, a National Historic Landmark; took a ghost tour of Old Town Albuquerque; and toured Native American museums and sites. Three of the students saw snow for the first time at

the Sandia Peak Tramway.

The Albuquerque trip was one of three Alternative Spring Break destinations for St. Mary’s students. Others traveled to New Orleans and some stayed in San Antonio to work at local nonprofits. In all, 30 St. Mary’s students committed their 2016 spring break to service.

“There’s always going to be spring break,” said Rivera, a senior History major. “You can always go to the beach, you can always go on vacation, but taking the time to actually impact someone’s life is a lot more rewarding. I’m pretty sure if you do it once, you’ll do it more than once.”

Rivera and Ramos are Alternative Spring Break veterans, with Albuquerque being their second such trip.

“Spring break is usually a time for me to unwind and relax,” Carrion said. “But Alternative Spring Break gave me the chance to do something better. That’s a part of our Marianist charism at St. Mary’s — to go out and serve the community — and by partaking in Alternative Spring Break, I was able to do that.” ■



good fortune



Photo by Joe H. Johnson





# me and karma

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12)

Kristal Cuevas quit her corporate job and found her calling in a yoga studio.

Eager for a change of pace away from the fluorescent lights and 9-to-5 office setting, she started a retail job. Cuevas enjoyed the position, but it wasn't until she attended a yoga class that she discovered her calling.

"I felt I could really connect with my body and my breath," said Cuevas (B.A. '04). "I said, 'This is the answer. This is what I could potentially do.' I realized I wanted to teach yoga."

Cuevas took classes to become a yoga instructor and taught corporate and studio classes. But what she really wanted was her own studio. While her first venture was short-lived — she and her investing partner didn't see eye-to-eye — she knew what she wanted.

Cuevas hit the streets in search of a new studio with the unwavering support of her husband and a small loan from her in-laws.

"I found this passion and knew I wanted to own my own business," she said.

The first day looking, she found what would become Southtown Yoga Loft.

"Everything that has happened since we opened has been an act of good fortune and karma," Cuevas said.

She has since added a second location in Helotes and offers services that are fueled by her passion for healthy living. She said her studios are the only ones in San Antonio with prenatal and postnatal yoga.

"For me, it was important after I had my little one to promote women's health and wellness pre- and post-baby," Cuevas said. "I love that I can passionately talk about the benefits and importance of taking care of your life in terms of diet, yoga and moving your body."

To help pour good karma into the community, Southtown Yoga Loft offers a weekly Karma Yoga class. There is no fee for the class, but a minimum donation of \$5 is suggested and 100 percent of donations go to a charity, nonprofit or community cause.

"I really enjoy teaching in the community. That's the only way we'll grow, and we do it wholeheartedly."

In 2014, Southtown Yoga Loft received a Best of the City Award from *San Antonio Magazine*, was named a Best of San Antonio 2016 winner in the Around Town category by the *San Antonio Current*, and Cuevas was recently featured in *Texas MD Monthly's* first Health and Wellness issue.

Cuevas encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to write out specific goals and talk about them with their support system.

"When you put it in the universe, you're forced to make it happen. It was influential in opening my business." ■





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Lisa Gallardo (B.A. '16) waves to the crowd after receiving her bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science at Spring Commencement in May. Gallardo was among 402 spring graduates.

She was commissioned the day before as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. She was one of 12 St. Mary's University ROTC students commissioned this year. After her Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Lee, Virginia, Gallardo will be stationed in Hawaii where she will be an ordnance officer within the Army's Logistics Corps.

While at St. Mary's, Gallardo was a member of the Army 10-miler Team and captain of the St. Mary's ROTC team that completed the 26-mile Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands, New Mexico, this spring.

