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8 SPURS-TRAINED
SPORTS MARKETERS

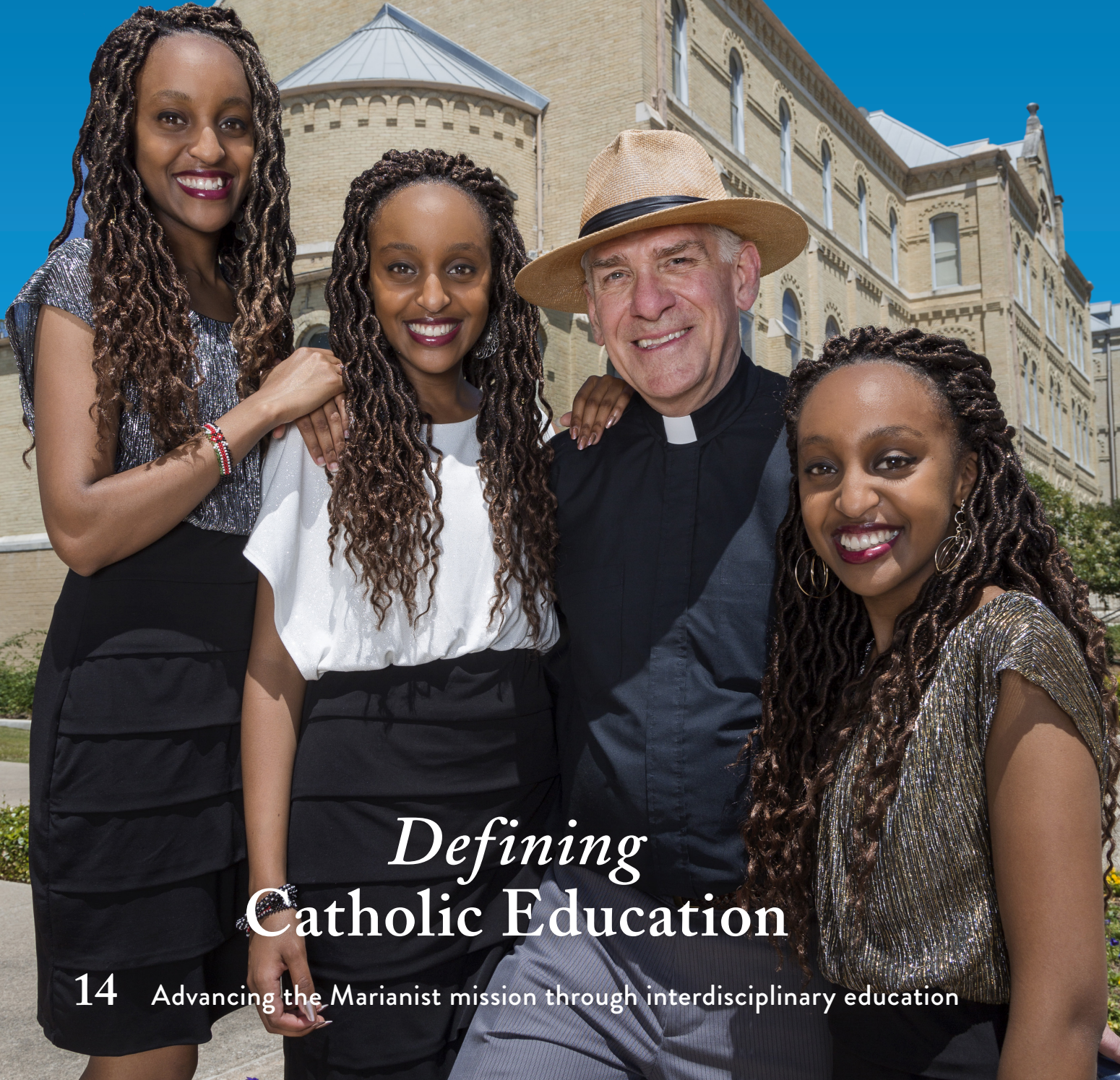
20 ROLLER DERBY
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LAWYER

GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Summer 2018



Defining Catholic Education

14 Advancing the Marianist mission through interdisciplinary education



Love to Serve

Brother Al Kuntemeier, S.M., 87, has long been a tennis aficionado. But Kuntemeier, the chaplain for the St. Mary's Women's and Men's Tennis teams, does much more than just observe the sport. The March 2018 issue of *Inside Tennis* magazine ranked Kuntemeier No. 3 in Texas in the Men's 85 Singles category, and No. 7 in the state in the Men's 80 Singles bracket.



Photo by Darren Abate

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

www.stmarytx.edu/magazine

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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.

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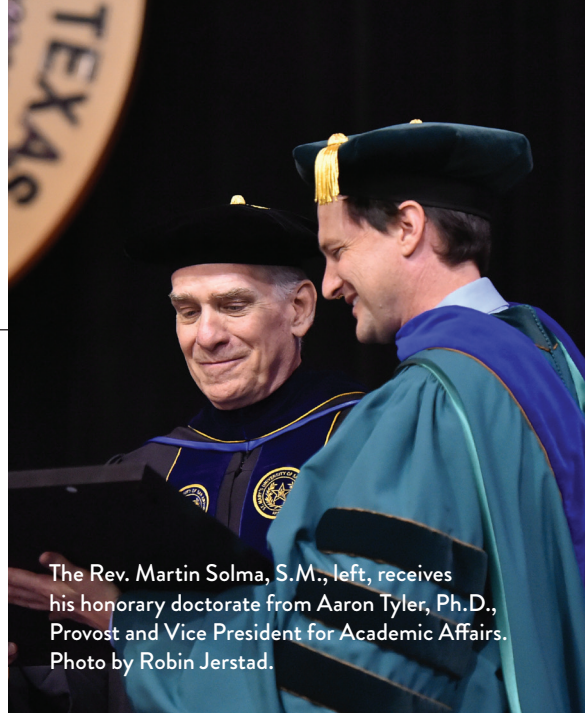
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Law alum takes lessons from carnival life into legal practice.



On the cover: Marta Moipei (from left); Magdalene Moipei; the Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., St. Mary's Chancellor; and Mary Moipei gather in advance of Spring 2018 Commencement at which the Moipei triplets received bachelor's degrees in Music and Solma received an honorary doctorate. Photo by Bill Sallans.

This page: St. Mary's University hosted the State Farm College Slam Dunk and 3-Point Championships inside Bill Greehey Arena in March. The event, featuring the top women's and men's talent from across college basketball, aired live on ESPN2. Photo by Antonio Morano.

CAMPUSNEWS



The Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., left, receives his honorary doctorate from Aaron Tyler, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Photo by Robin Jerstad.

\$1 million gift establishes Accounting professorship

Ray and Dorothy Berend have given \$1 million to endow the Ray and Dorothy Berend Endowed Professorship in Accounting — the latest big moment in the history of the Greehey School of Business.

“Dorothy and I wanted to help recruit a faculty member committed to the St. Mary’s mission and to help guide Accounting students to graduate and pursue meaningful careers, prepared to be exceptional leaders,” said Ray E. Berend (B.B.A. ’67), retired managing partner of Padgett Stratemann & Co. L.L.P.

With this professorship, St. Mary’s is poised to accelerate its tradition of preparing students to sit for the Certified Public Accountant exam or enter leading industries as accountants.

“Accounting and big data are vital fields in today’s world,” said St. Mary’s President Thomas Mengler, J.D. “Thanks to the Berends, our students will continue to receive comprehensive training from experienced professors and will be able to join the workforce upon graduation.”

St. Mary’s awarded \$2.3 million in MARC grant renewal

St. Mary’s University has been awarded \$2.3 million for a five-year renewal of its federal Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) grant, which is sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

The renewal grant will provide \$463,566 annually for five years for underrepresented students majoring in Biology, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Mathematics, and Engineering to complete research training and work alongside faculty mentors.

Highly qualified students participating in the MARC Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (MARC U*STAR) program are provided with academic and research support to prepare them to pursue biomedical and biobehavioral research-related careers by obtaining their Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degrees.

“As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, St. Mary’s has a long history of enrolling and graduating first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students in higher education,” said Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Science, Engineering

and Technology. “The MARC U*STAR Program exemplifies this commitment by providing students with the skills and experiences they need to succeed at St. Mary’s and go on to pursue doctoral-level education.”

The acceptance rate for MARC trainees into graduate programs over the past 10 years is 100 percent. The renewal includes the creation of a MARC Associates program to extend MARC activities to qualified students with an interest in graduate school.

St. Mary’s wins top communications awards

Three communications and marketing organizations recently recognized St. Mary’s University work by the Office of University Communications for web design, advertising, magazine publication and events.

The regional competition organized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) — the recognized organization for communications, fundraising and alumni relations in higher education — honored St. Mary’s with the top award in its web specialty category for The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign landing page (www.stmarytx.edu/definingmoment). St. Mary’s also took third place in the category for alumni special events for the School of Law’s Gran Final of the Henry B. Gonzalez Centennial celebrating the late congressman’s legacy.

The Collegiate Advertising Awards program dished out three awards to St. Mary’s for advertising associated with The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign, for the inaugural issue of the *Gold & Blue Law Edition* magazine, and for the production of a 14-video series promoting School of Law degrees and study abroad programs.

The American Marketing Association’s San Antonio Chapter also honored The Defining Moment and the School of Law J.D. advertising campaigns with second and third place, respectively, in the 2018 Marketing Excellence Awards education category.

University to host San Antonio tricentennial higher education event

St. Mary’s University has joined several San Antonio institutions of higher education in celebrating the City’s tricentennial by

Outgoing Chancellor receives honorary doctorate, helps St. Mary’s garner \$1.5 million gift for Catholic education

The Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., Provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States and St. Mary’s University Chancellor, received a Doctor of Philosophy, honoris causa, for his strong faith and ethical leadership to the University and the Society of Mary at the University’s 166th annual Spring Commencement in May.

Solma’s support of The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign recently resulted in the creation of the Marianist Chair in Catholic Education Leadership, with a \$1.5 million gift from the Society of Mary.

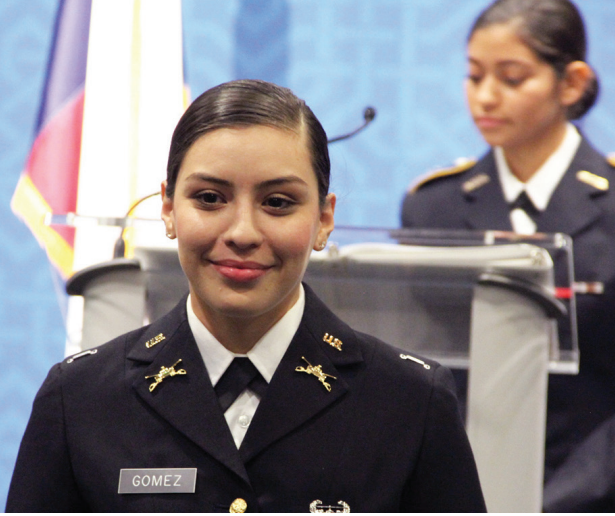
St. Mary’s will provide a match of at least \$1 million through The Defining Moment campaign. The resulting \$2.5 million endowment will recruit and retain an experienced Catholic education academic. The Chair holder’s responsibilities will include development and supervision of a master’s degree in Catholic Education Leadership, intended to create future leaders in Catholic grade school and high school education in San Antonio and the Southwest.

Solma, who served as the keynote commencement speaker as St. Mary’s celebrated the accomplishments of 406 graduates in May, was born in Cleveland. He professed first vows in 1967 at Marcy, New York, and perpetual vows in 1973 at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1978 in Dayton.

Solma previously served more than 25 years of ministry in Eastern Africa, which included an appointment as director of the Marianist scholasticate in Nairobi; as district superior of Eastern Africa; and as manager of Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School, a school for 1,900 children from Nairobi’s slums.

See related story on Page 14.

Continued on next page



St. Mary's University commissions its first female officer in the United States Army Armor branch

St. Mary's celebrated its 86th year of commissioning officers into the United States Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard at its May ROTC Commissioning Ceremony. Eighteen cadets were commissioned at the ceremony, including Exercise and Sport Science major Second Lt. Jalen Gomez (B.A. '18), who made history by being the first female officer from St. Mary's University to be commissioned in the U.S. Army Armor branch as a tank driver.

Continued from Page 3

hosting an on-campus event.

The St. Mary's event, Private Higher Education in San Antonio: Past and Present, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 18, from 1 to 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will begin with keynote lectures on San Antonio's private universities and the importance of liberal arts, faith-inspired values and diversity in higher education. It will conclude with a cultural event, music performance and reception.

A collection of 19th-century paintings by artist Jean Louis Théodore Gentilz (1819–1906), owned by the University and previously loaned to the San Antonio Museum of Art, will also be on display.

Industrial/Organizational Psychology program among top in nation

The Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) has ranked St. Mary's University's Master of Industrial/Organizational Psychology program 11th out of 129 of the top master's programs in the nation affiliated with SIOP.

The Industrial/Organizational Psychology program teaches students how to develop and use tests for employee selection, conduct a job analysis and evaluations, identify organizational training needs, facilitate organizational change, and maximize effectiveness and quality of work life in organizational settings.

The program, which provides students with a challenging curriculum and pairs students with alumni mentors to enhance their professional development, earned fifth in Applied Experiences for Students and 15th in Curriculum — two out of five dimensions evaluated by SIOP.

Greehey School of Business accreditation reaffirmed

The Greehey School of Business was recently granted continued accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

"There are approximately 15,000 business schools in the world, and only about 800 of

them are accredited by the AACSB," said Tanuja Singh, D.B.A., Dean of the Greehey School of Business.

Since 1916, AACSB accreditation has been synonymous with the highest standards of excellence in business education.

To be accredited or reaccredited by the AACSB, business schools must meet a number of standards that include superior faculty, positive student outcomes, innovative programs, availability of financial and educational resources, engagement with the practice of business and a demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement.

AACSB-accredited business schools are reevaluated every five years but, Singh said, "the journey to reaccreditation is ongoing in the spirit of continuous improvement."

In the accreditation team's exit interview with St. Mary's President Thomas Mengler, J.D., the peer group of evaluators praised the School's quality faculty and distinctive programs. The group added that they planned to share with their schools the innovations and tradition of excellence exhibited by the Greehey School of Business.

The Rattler garners the most awards in its 99-year history

The staff of *The Rattler*, St. Mary's University's student-run news publication, won two national awards in the 2018 American Scholastic Press Association's annual review and contest, and 42 state awards at the 2018 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention this spring — the largest award haul in its 99-year history.

Business majors find success with fridge idea at NIBS competition

Four students in the Greehey School of Business took their business idea to the Network of International Business Schools Worldwide Business Plan Competition in May, earning third place and a cash prize.

Among the 12 teams from around the world competing, International Business majors Irving Tóchez (B.B.A. '18), Ivis Palacios (B.B.A. '18), Lorena Palacios (B.B.A. '18)

and Jennifer Guerra made it to the championship round and presented their business plan for Eco-Fridge Lockers to a panel of judges in Romania over Skype.

"Not only did they conceptualize a great product and develop an outstanding business plan, but they presented and defended their business proposal with great professionalism and confidence," said Jeffrey Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of International Business, Director of the Center for Global Business Studies and the team's coach.

The team's business idea of Eco-Fridge Lockers — intended primarily for mid-size industrial clients — consists of stackable storage boxes that refrigerate individuals' food and medication, using little energy and generating zero emissions.

Interdisciplinary team wins award for car seat design

Recent St. Mary's graduates, Software Engineering major Hudson McAshan and Engineering Science major Kiernan Akers, want to prevent injury to babies from being accidentally left in hot vehicles. Their concept for a car seat design, which included sensors monitoring temperature and distance from users, earned them the Marjorie and James Sly Award for Innovation — and \$2,500 — at Texas Christian University's 2018 Richards Barrentine Values and Ventures Competition in April.

Along with help from Finance and Risk Management graduate Andres Valle and Marketing major Kimberly Rodriguez, the team showcased McAshan and Akers' St. Mary's senior design project.

"Our idea for the project was to make the safety of the baby the primary focus while also making it as simple as possible for users," McAshan said.

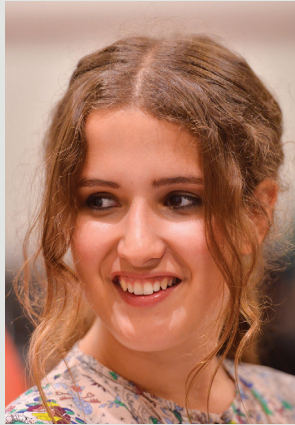
Conceptually, users would link their phones to the car seat sensors. If they move too far away from the seat, or if the temperature in their vehicles rises too high, they would receive an alert.

Read more about Akers on Page 14.

Photos by Robin Jerstad



Cayetana Roca de Togores (from left), granddaughter to the Duque de Bejar; Duque de Bejar Pedro Roca de Togores; Duquesa Marta Garcia Perez



A history lesson fit for royalty

Spanish nobles with ties to St. Mary's visit campus

by Matthew Barsalou

St. Mary's University celebrated the 300th anniversary of San Antonio's founding in royal style.

The St. Mary's community welcomed Spanish nobility — the Duque de Béjar, Pedro Roca de Togores; Duquesa Marta Garcia Perez; their daughter, Maria Sandra Roca de Togores; and their granddaughter, Cayetana Roca de Togores — to campus in May to illuminate their ancestors' role in the city's founding.

In her lecture in the University Center, the duque's granddaughter Cayetana discussed the family's role in financing the expedition that would lead to the founding of the Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1718 and the subsequent founding of the first civilian municipality in Texas — San Antonio de Béjar, named for her family.

After the settlement's founding, though, the connection to Béjar, Spain, and the royal family, "sadly faded away," she said. It wasn't until 1974 that the connection was firmly reestablished when a ragtag band of Texans arrived at the current duque's family home in Seville, Spain.

"Then all the Texan people came to meet my great-grandfather, who was ill at the time, and they named him honorary mayor. Then, a couple of years later, they named my grandfather the honorary mayor," Cayetana said.

When the current duque's son, Pedro A. Roca de Togores, looked to attend university in the United States, the family set their eyes on San Antonio and selected St. Mary's University. The current duque made his first trip to San Antonio when his son graduated in 1992.

"We have nothing but gratefulness," Cayetana said. "This community has been very welcoming."

San Antonio is very much "like my second home," added Duque Pedro Roca de Togores. ■

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, 2018

No Ordinary Moment

OYSTERS
& PEARLS

Scholarship Gala

Coming together as a community can elevate a special moment into a life-changing event. Join fellow alumni and friends of St. Mary's University for an evening of food, fun and entertainment while also raising money for student scholarships.

For tickets, visit bit.ly/OPGala2018.



ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Summer study abroad programs to include sister Marianist law school

The St. Mary's School of Law has joined forces with the University of Dayton School of Law to offer Dayton Law students study abroad experiences on two continents.

Through St. Mary's Law's summer programs, Dayton Law students can pursue a greater understanding of legal issues important in other parts of the world.

"I am very excited that the two Marianist law schools are now collaborating to provide outstanding foreign legal experiences to our students," said Stephen M. Sheppard, J.S.D., Dean of St. Mary's Law.

At the Institute on Chinese Law and Business Summer Program in Beijing, students learn about the practical realities of doing business in China, as well as the dispute-resolution mechanisms that play a large role in enforcing private agreements between enterprises in China and the United States.

At the Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria, students participate in one of the longest continuously operated summer law study programs offered by an American law school.

National champ advocacy program welcomes new faculty

Hardy Director of Advocacy A.J. Bellido de Luna, J.D., took the helm of the St. Mary's Law National Team — formerly known as the External Advocacy Program — in January. By the end of Spring 2018, Bellido de Luna had expanded the negotiations team to include alternative dispute resolution and mediation, and joined St. Mary's competitors in celebrating the National Moot Court Team's regional and national championship.

In March, for the fifth time in eight years, the National Moot Court Team was crowned the national champion by the Federal Bar Association (FBA). This year's winning team included Sophia George (J.D. '18) and Gary Hillier (J.D. '18), coached by Ricky J. Poole (J.D. '90).

With this championship, St. Mary's Law has now won the FBA's annual Thurgood Marshall Memorial National Moot Court Competition more times than any other moot court program in the country.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution team won its first regional competition and finished as the 2018 American Bar Association Mediation National runner-up champions.

Golf's history in the making

St. Mary's Men's Golf enjoyed a season full of firsts this spring, winning its first-ever regional title at the NCAA Division II West/South Central Regional.

The Rattlers, who won the tournament by four strokes, were led by All-American sophomore Emilio Gonzalez. Gonzalez, a semifinalist for the Division II Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award, tied for first individually at the tournament. It marked one of four first-place finishes for Gonzalez this season — marking a school record.

St. Mary's advanced to the NCAA national championship tournament, where the Rattlers tied for 11th place.

Softball, Baseball win Heartland crowns

Softball captured the program's 17th Heartland Conference title in the last 18 years, going 33-21 on the season. It marked the 21st-straight year that the Rattlers have amassed at least 30 victories.

Along the way, legendary coach Donna Fields became just the 19th head coach in Division II history to surpass 900 career victories.

Meanwhile, Baseball climbed back to the top of the Heartland Conference, claiming a share of the regular-season championship for the first time since 2015. The Rattlers were led by Heartland Conference Player of the Year Donnie Perez and a trio of All-Region honorees in Fernando Fernandez-Beltran, Zach De La Garza and Jacob Aguilar.

Women's Tennis back at nationals

Women's Tennis advanced to nationals for the fifth-straight year after claiming the Heartland Conference title for the sixth year in a row. Senior sensation Kaylin Kruseman earned ITA Senior Player of the Year and Heartland Conference Player of the Year honors, while she and teammate Ally Maciel also were named to the Google Cloud Academic All-District team.

Off the tennis court, Hannah Petersen was featured in the Spring 2018 issue of *NCAA Champion* magazine for her work volunteering in rural Vietnam through a service-learning program called Coach for College, which pairs American student-athletes with Vietnamese college students to teach academics, sports and life skills to disadvantaged children.



Kaylin Kruseman



Donnie Perez

Photos by Antonio Morano

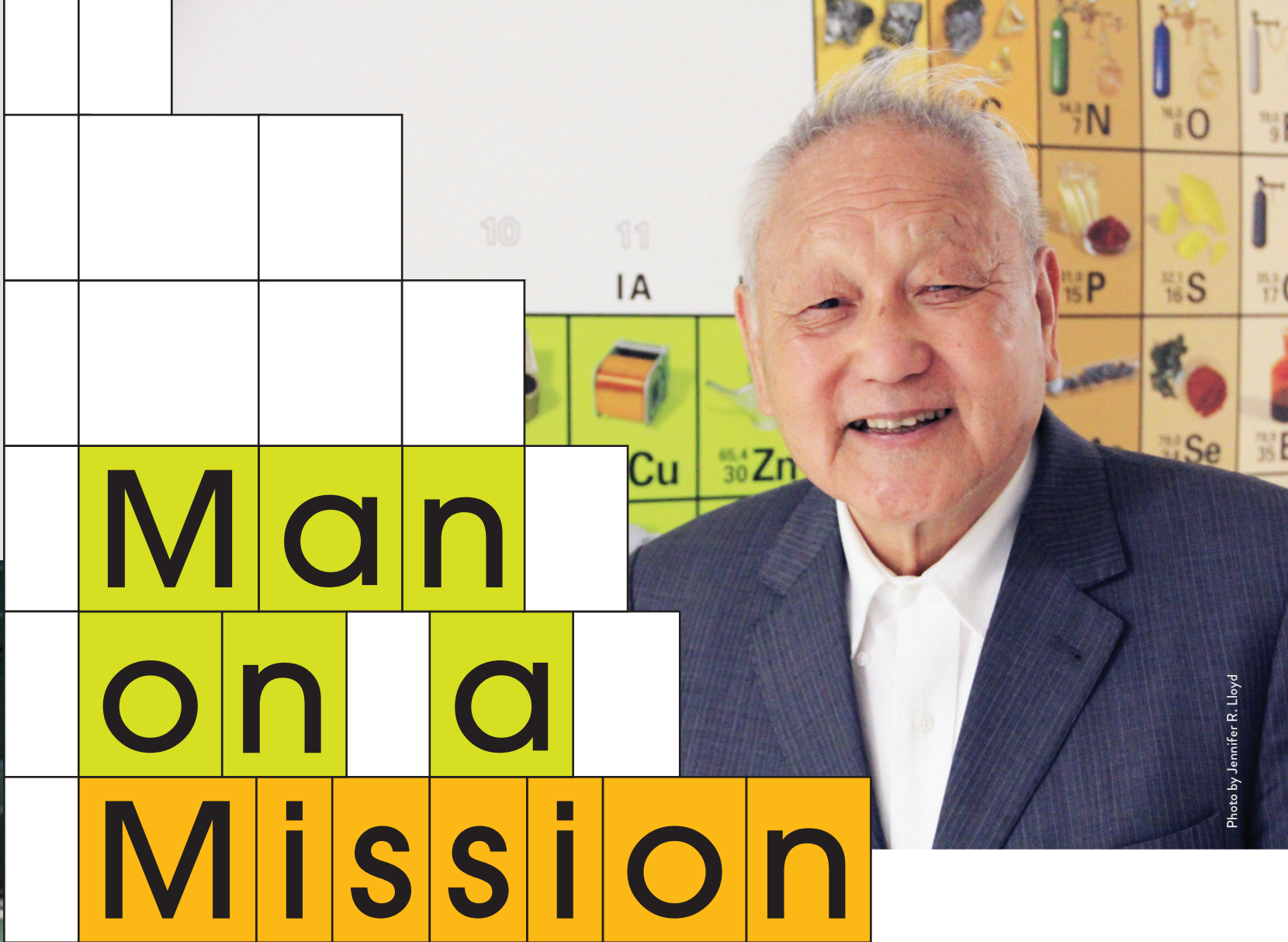


Photo by Jennifer R. Lloyd

Nuclear physicist finds divine chemistry as Brazilian missionary

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

First trained as a nuclear physicist by the United States military, Hideo Kunihiro has found his life's work — literally — as a Christian missionary in Brazil.

For six decades, the now 86-year-old Kunihiro has served as a life mentor to the men, women and children of Japanese ancestry in Brazil, many of whom face drug addiction, mental disorders and familial problems.

Japanese immigrants first arrived in Brazil in 1908 upon the end of feudalism in Japan, which left many in poverty. Since then, Brazil has been home to the largest population of Japanese outside Japan, estimated at about 1.5 million people.

Kunihiro, a San Antonio native and South San Antonio High School graduate, earned degrees in Chemistry and Zoology at St. Mary's University in 1954.

"It was a small university, and I enjoyed being able to know everyone in college," Kunihiro said.

Among his classmates was Giovanni Fazio, Ph.D. (B.A./B.S. '54), a world-renowned astrophysicist.

A year before graduating from St. Mary's, Kunihiro said he received a calling from God that planted the seeds of his later missionary work.

The Marianist brothers, including Brother William J. Hamm, S.M.,

and the Rev. Louis J. Blume, S.M., "treated me like family," he said. His spiritual bond with them was so strong that some of the brothers summoned Kunihiro in the days before their death.

They wanted to pray with him, which Kunihiro described as "truly a great privilege."

After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant. The Army sent him to Oklahoma for basic training and selected him to specialize in nuclear physics research. He said he then spent a couple of years in White Sands, New Mexico, home of the first atomic bomb test.

In the 1950s, Kunihiro said that military personnel were under suspicion of leaking atomic knowledge to the Russians, so much of his time in the Army was strained.

When he was honorably discharged, Kunihiro took up God's calling by traveling to Tokyo to learn the Japanese language. He said he taught at the University of Tokyo for a year before arriving in Brazil in 1958. He briefly returned to the U.S. in 1959 to marry, then went back to Brazil with his wife, where they settled.

Kunihiro now lives with his daughter, Ruth Hirata, who is also a missionary.

"We have to have a divine intervention in our lives," said Kunihiro, who continues his spiritual journey offering aid to Brazilians. ■

TRAINED BY CHAMPS

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

One by one, students introduce themselves to a room full of senior executives from Spurs Sports & Entertainment (SS&E).

This is how St. Mary's University students begin their journey in the Sports Marketing course offered by the Greehey School of Business. In Spring 2017, Kelly Contreras (B.B.A. '18), then a senior Finance and Risk Management major, was one of those students.

She never imagined that soon she'd be interning at the AT&T Center — home to the NBA's Spurs, AHL's Rampage and the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. SS&E also runs the NBA G League's Austin Spurs and the United Soccer League's San Antonio FC.

"When I found out that I was invited to interview, it gave me a lot of confidence because I knew I had made a good impression on them in the course," said Contreras, who worked with the Premium Services Department, interacting with premium ticketholders on game nights. "It has been such a great experience, and I am so grateful for the opportunity. Everyone has been so willing to teach me everything I need to know to be successful."

For the past five years, Mathew Joseph, Ph.D., Emil C.E. Jurica Distinguished Professor of Marketing, has taught the course. Students who have a passion for the sports industry are assigned projects within the SS&E organization and matched up with executives for mentoring.

"The relationship with SS&E allows students to learn about the practical side of sports marketing from a world-class organization," Joseph said. "This learning experience provides networking opportunities, mentoring and the ability to work on real-world projects."

SS&E gives back to the community by meeting with local universities to share their experiences and help students build their skillsets. The partnership with St. Mary's has thrived thanks to former students like McKayla Schmidt (B.B.A. '13), who now serves as the liaison between SS&E and St. Mary's.

"I truly enjoy helping students have an impactful educational experience through the research projects provided by SS&E," said Schmidt, a premium retention account executive. "The course helps bridge the gap between the University and the working world. When I first graduated, I felt that it was hard to break into a career. Most companies would use the line of 'not having enough experience.'"

Leave it to the Spurs to turn promising rookies into seasoned professionals. ■





Recent graduate Kelly Contreras (from left), McKayla Schmidt (B.B.A. '13) and Professor of Marketing Mathew Joseph, Ph.D., inside the AT&T Center arena.

DEEP IMPACT

ST. MARY'S STUDENT PRODUCES
HOT RESEARCH ON SUPERVOLCANO

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

A SMALL TEAM OF SCIENTISTS,

including St. Mary's University student Rebeca Gurrola, embarked on a journey at Yellowstone National Park in Summer 2017. The sights at the nation's first national park were wondrous to be sure: colorful hot springs, majestic mountains, huge geysers, lush forests. But danger was also afoot: heat waves, giant mosquitoes, torrential storms and bears (oh my!).

Their mission was to set up equipment at 45 locations in Yellowstone to collect magnetotellurics data — measurements of subsurface electrical and hydrothermal activity — to learn more about the park's underground supervolcano. With this information, scientists can better discover how solar storms affect certain landscapes, which can then improve how and where structures on land are built.

The Yellowstone Supervolcano rests under a region of the park that stretches 34 by 35 miles. Thousands of times more powerful than a regular volcano, the Yellowstone Supervolcano last erupted about 664,000 years ago. It's one of 20 supervolcanoes in the world.

"We had to hike to many of the research locations, some as far as 12 miles off the track," said Gurrola, a senior Mathematics and Physics major. "Carrying around a 40-pound pack, I was really overwhelmed that first week. I had never been camping before."

Gurrola, with "strong encouragement" from professors at St. Mary's University, applied and was accepted into a Research Experiences

for Undergraduates (REU) program through the National Science Foundation.

Gurrola said that while the method of magnetotellurics has been around for years, technology has only recently caught up, so the practice has gained popularity. Despite this, it took years for the Yellowstone project to be approved because of governmental red tape.

RAISING EXPECTATIONS

Gurrola comes from a tight-knit family from Tolleson, Arizona, and is the second-oldest of five siblings. Even as the valedictorian prepared to graduate from La Joya Community High School in Avondale, Arizona, her goals were only to attend community college and get a job.

"Being a first-generation college student, I didn't have high expectations for myself," she said.

But while participating in a college preparation program called AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute during high school, Gurrola met a staff member with a connection to David Krause, Director of Financial Assistance at St. Mary's. That was how Gurrola first heard about St. Mary's.

"To be honest, I was determined not to go to St. Mary's," she said. "I wanted to stay close to my family. I applied to schools in New Mexico and Arizona."

But as time passed, Gurrola eventually believed that St. Mary's was right for her, so she took the plunge.

After her first year, she switched majors to Mathematics and Physics, realizing her

favorite classes were in those subjects. Still, Gurrola didn't think she was "smart enough."

Though still dealing with self-confidence issues, Gurrola can now appreciate how she's stepped up to the plate at the end of long weeks of studying — or, for example, after a hard day's work collecting data on a supervolcano at a national park.

"My driver is my family," she said. "I want to be a good example for my siblings. The sacrifices our parents (originally from Mexico) made for us — helping pay for our education, buying a house, providing food and clothing — were huge, and I want to help provide for them."

PUSHING FOR MORE

Gurrola said she saw the different pathways geophysics could take her while presenting her summer research at an American Geophysical Union conference in New Orleans, with 20,000 people in attendance, and traveling with professors from the Department of Physics to Los Angeles to present at an American Physics Society conference.

Gurrola was subsequently accepted into another REU program, through which she planned to spend this summer at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, on a nanomaterials and energy project.

Gurrola credits the family atmosphere at St. Mary's, and the open-door policy of professors, as reasons for her success.

"The faculty here push you to do more," she said. "They push you to do your best, and I don't think that happens everywhere." ■



▲ Rebeca Gurrola (second from right) stands with the team of researchers she joined at Yellowstone National Park.
◀ Tourists approach Grand Prismatic Spring at Yellowstone.



Learning new tricks

Management senior Kaitlyn Bloch opened two businesses before the age of 21 and hopes to reshape the pet industry with her newest venture



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

Most children like to play with toys; others like to dress up. But when Kaitlyn Bloch was a kid, she imagined being a business owner.

"I would act as if I owned a shop and that my parents were my customers," Bloch said. "I've always been entrepreneurial in that way. It's part of who I am."

Since age 11, the San Antonio native has known the exact industry in which she wanted to work, although unfortunate events pushed her in that direction.

At the time, Bloch had pet guinea pigs, which her family bought from a local pet store. Bloch soon discovered that certain products from the store were harmful to her guinea pigs. One product gave them skin rashes.

"I realized that there were problems in the pet industry and that bad information was going out, so I wanted to help fix that," Bloch said.

Fast forward to November 2017 when Bloch, a Management senior in the new Entrepreneurship and Innovation track at St. Mary's University, launched her online pet supply store, Cloud 9 Lives.

Now, the young entrepreneur is a step — and a paw print — closer to making her dreams come true.

"My goal is to reshape the pet industry through education and innovative design," said Bloch, whose startup was selected by the innovation nonprofit Velocity TX to join its tech incubator.

According to the Cloud 9 Lives website, which Bloch designed herself, people can buy "high-quality handmade pet supplies and gifts for pet lovers."

For now, Cloud 9 Lives is a one-woman shop, with Bloch working like a dog to manufacture her merchandise, manage content on the website, and process and deliver orders.

Bloch is also the lone wolf of her marketing team. She's handed out business cards and has been invited to the Pearl Weekend Market to spread brand awareness. She's also participated in business pitch competitions, including the San Antonio Entrepreneurship Week Pitch Tab Competition, during which she delivered a 90-second elevator pitch about Cloud 9 Lives to a panel of judges.

Bloch placed first out of 10 participants in the competition, earning \$150. Like a dedicated entrepreneur, she invested the prize money into her business.

"I look back and see how my time as a business school student at St. Mary's has shaped everything I'm doing," Bloch said.

These are sweet words from someone who started her first business — a cupcake delivery shop — when she was a junior at Business Careers High School in San Antonio. She ran the food business, called Kate's Cakes, entirely from her parents' kitchen. Bloch managed all operations for one year before the business closed.

So how did St. Mary's fit into her entrepreneurial vision?

"The principal of my high school was an alum, and he encouraged me to tour the Greehey School of Business," Bloch said. "After I did that, I knew right away that I wanted to be part of that school."

Bloch has excelled at St. Mary's, discovering a home away from home.

"There's a family-type community at St. Mary's," she said. "Everybody holds the doors open for everybody else. Everyone here is part of a very caring environment."

Sergio Palacios, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies, taught Bloch in a course called The Entrepreneurial Mindset and has used her experiences to help teach important business lessons.

"In my classes, we've talked about her success and how the use of stories, paired with her passion, made a real impact on her performance,"

Palacios said. "We talked about how several entrepreneurs risk a lot of resources in developing plans and executing such plans, in contrast to how Kaitlyn is taking an iterative approach, minimizing risk by working with the skills and resources she already possesses, and is validating her ideas with real customer feedback."

Palacios also incorporates experiential activities, like developing creative elevator pitches, into his curriculum, which he said has helped his students "not to fall in love with their ideas, but to fall in love with solving a problem they are passionate about solving."

Bloch credits her Management courses for helping her to think like an entrepreneur, and her St. Mary's Core classes for widening her business scope — and her personal mission.

"I have a totally different worldview now than when I first started college," she said. "Growing my business is important, of course, and will continue to be my focus, but my main goal is to solve a problem. To reshape the pet industry and make my community better." ■

“ My goal is to reshape the pet industry through education and innovative design. ”

MORE INFORMATION

The pups pictured left were loaned by the Paul Jolly Center for Pet Adoptions, a facility managed by the Animal Defense League of Texas.

If you want to help support this organization or find your own furry friend, check them out at adltexas.org.

MEET THE PUPS

Chelsea: 2-month-old Labrador retriever mix

Allen: 5-year-old terrier mix

Primrose: 2-year-old Labrador retriever mix and best friend to Allen

Sinclair and Alice: 3-year-old rat terrier mixes who are a bonded pair



Photo by Bill Sallans



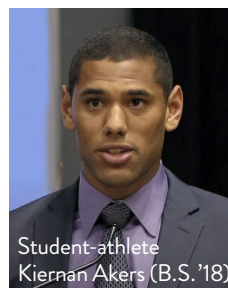
Mary Moipei (from left); the Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., St. Mary's Chancellor; Marta Moipei and Magdalene Moipei reunited before Spring 2018 Commencement, at which the Moipei triplets received bachelor's in Music and Solma received an honorary doctorate. Solma served more than 25 years of ministry in Eastern Africa and helped bring the triplets to St. Mary's. For more on Solma, see the news brief on Page 3.

Defining Catholic Education

St. Mary's advances the Marianist mission through interdisciplinary approaches

by President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

While attending our annual banquet for student-athletes recently, I experienced first-hand why maintaining St. Mary's University's Catholic identity and Marianist charism is so important. Soccer player Kiernan Akers, one of two recent graduates invited to address their fellow athletes, spoke about how St. Mary's had changed his life.



Student-athlete
Kiernan Akers (B.S. '18)

"In the past four years, I've met some amazing people, had some unforgettable times and learned valuable lessons that go far beyond the classroom. I've learned to be a leader, how to be a follower, how to be a volunteer and how to be a friend. And yeah, I took a bunch of Chemistry classes and learned how to code, but, at the end of the day, what does any of that really mean if I don't know how to be a good person?"

"It took me a while, but now, in this moment, I can truly say that I have found myself and that my faith in God is stronger than ever. From all the prayers at Mass, the ones before soccer games and especially the ones before tests, I've done a lot of talking with God. Throughout all of our conversations, He has reassured me time and time again that I'm on a good path, and everything will work out."

Not all college students are as focused and grounded as Kiernan, who earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering Science in May. In greater numbers than ever before, this country's young adults are increasingly joining the "nones" club — men and women who profess to have no religion whatsoever. I view this trend as troubling and, quite frankly, a growing challenge for our country.

I am happy to report, by contrast, that at St. Mary's more than 55 percent of our freshmen

Continued on next page



Photo by Bill Sallans

Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., joined St. Mary's as the inaugural Beirne Director of the Center for Catholic Studies in June. Tait, who earned a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Juilliard School in New York, previously worked at Benedictine University in Illinois to develop its Center for Mission and Identity.

In addition to drawing such talented students to St. Mary's, Solma has provided extraordinary support for the University during his eight-year term as Chancellor and Provincial of the Marianists. He supported the development of a new Center for Catholic Studies, helped permanently bring to campus the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States, and made possible a partnership with the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Marianists to revitalize our next-door neighbor, Holy Rosary Catholic Parish.

Developing faith-filled graduates

To continue the momentum that Solma has helped create, St. Mary's must be vigilant, determined and intentional in deepening its mission of transforming lives — by, in the words of our mission statement, fostering “the formation of people in faith” and educating “leaders for the common good through community, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.”

The embracing nature of our community in the family spirit, our collective commitment to the dignity of each human and the common good, and the many ways in which we foster the development of our students into authentic, faith-filled adults — these features find their theoretical foundations in Holy Scriptures, Catholic social teaching and the Society of Mary's special charism.

These features — what makes St. Mary's the great University it is — are what alumni, young and old, want to talk about when I meet with them. These features are readily apparent to parents and prospective students when they visit our campus. And

these features, as noted above, are significant reasons why applicants choose to enroll at St. Mary's.

As most of you know, during my six years as President, I have sought to promote and expand St. Mary's religious dimension. Indeed, the second goal of our Gateway Strategic Plan charges our community of faculty and staff to “foster formation of faith at St. Mary's and throughout the Southwest.” This goal calls us to be intentional and deliberate in promoting our Catholic and Marianist identity — and with a sense of urgency.

There is urgency because there are only a few hundred Marianist brothers in the United States, many of whom are retired, and vocations to the Society of Mary are meager. With dwindling numbers, U.S. Marianists today are drawn in many directions. The Society of Mary in the U.S. sponsors three universities, 19 middle and high schools, and four retreat centers.

Hence, the responsibility to nurture our Catholic Marianist identity rests squarely on the shoulders of lay faculty and staff and the Board of Trustees. Whereas

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in recent years list the University's religious nature or affiliation as important or very important in their decisions to enroll. Some might view that figure as too low. But in a culture with so many unhealthy distractions, I regard it as remarkable that at the front end of their university time, more than half of our undergraduate students — mostly 18-year-olds — choose St. Mary's because of its Catholic and Marianist identity. As Kiernan's remarks make clear, even more of our students leave St. Mary's as faith-filled servant leaders than when they arrive.

Other such examples are the Moipei triplets — Magdalene (Maggy), Marta and Mary — who graduated with bachelor's degrees in Music in May after being drawn from Kenya to St. Mary's by the Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., St. Mary's Chancellor.

Thanking Solma for the opportunity to further their education, the sisters said they believe that by sharing their voices with others, they are also sharing their faith and love of God.

50 years ago, there was little or no talk about St. Mary's mission (there was no such thing as a mission statement then) — because the place was crawling with Marianists — “mission talk” today pervades the daily discussions of faculty, staff and students.

Living the Marianist mission

In several ways, our faculty and staff are integrating our Catholic and Marianist mission inside and outside the classroom. Each of our four schools has its own chaplain, who engages our students in daily discussion. More than 25 lay faculty and staff are Marianist Educational Associates, men and women who meet together regularly and who are invested in growing in their understanding of the Marianist charism and in embodying it in their work lives on campus.

The St. Mary's Office of Civic Engagement promotes the spirit of serving others, especially those who are most in need of our care, including through a signature project, 40 Days of Service and Lent. Our career services office, called the STRIVE Career Center, encourages students to view their future careers as vocations, as a calling by God to use their gifts and talents to make a difference. The “V” in STRIVE stands for vocation. And, of course, the Office of University Ministry fosters the prayer, reflection and worship life of our community.

Students too play an enormous role in advancing our mission. As those who have teenagers or adult children know, young adults are often most influenced, for good or ill, by their peers. Three programs at St. Mary's respond to this reality. The first is Rattler Awakening, a weekend retreat program led by students for students. This year, Rattler Awakening invited 350 students “to explore their faith lives, the love of God, the interplay of faith in daily life and the importance of community.”

A second program is our Peer Ministry Program in which undergraduate students who live in the residence halls are charged with building community and fostering the faith lives of their fellow residents.

A third program, supported financially by the Marianists, is the Marianist Leadership Program (MLP). MLP is designed to provide students with education and experiential opportunities focused on faith and servant leadership, grounded in the Marianist charism. Sixty strong in 2012, now more than 75 students live on campus in the Marianist Leadership Community, a cohort that influences other students by the example of their lives. As Blessed William Joseph Chaminade stated 200 years ago, faith is instilled in a variety of ways, sometimes more “deeply in the spirits and hearts of the students through the atmosphere that permeates the school rather than through teaching.”

That said, St. Mary's University, as Catholic and Marianist, posits that humans, made in the image of a loving, rational God, have the intellectual capacity to discern truth, beauty and good — and thereby come closer to God — by using their reasoning faculties, along with the grace and blessings of faith. Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Catholic social teaching and Marianist spirituality offer powerful lenses through which we can understand all aspects of the world, God's presence and our roles.

Hence, St. Mary's core curriculum educates our students to look at God, self, our neighbors and nature through the perspective of Christ's message, among the many perspectives our faculty bring to the classroom, to develop students' critical thinking capacities. Invitation, not indoctrination, is the Marianist strategy, because, ultimately, each person must choose his or her own path.

At the heart of the University's past, present and its bright future is a Marianist spirituality that emphasizes a teacher who is truly present to students, not only by teaching, but also by loving and respecting them.

Focusing on Catholic studies

A major priority of St. Mary's \$130 million Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign is to raise the resources necessary to establish a Center for Catholic Studies. While our fundraising is still ongoing, we have already raised millions of dollars. These gifts are helping establish a Chair in Catholic Philosophy held by Professor Glenn Hughes, Ph.D., (whose principal role is to host seminars and retreats for lay faculty), a Chair in Catholic Leadership (funded by the Alumni Association) and a Marianist Chair in Catholic Educational Leadership through a \$1.5 million gift from the Marianists created with Solma's assistance.

Through these gifts and from benefactors Martin Beirne (J.D. '69) and Kathleen Beirne, Ruben Escobedo (B.B.A. '60) and Veronica Salazar Escobedo, and Glenn MacTaggart (J.D. '79, M.A. '89) and Karla MacTaggart, we are now in position to launch the Center beginning this academic year. Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., joined St. Mary's University this summer and began leading the Center as the Beirne Director and Professor of Catholic Studies.

Interdisciplinary in scope, the Center will engage students and faculty in every field of study — business and law, science and engineering, and humanities, social sciences and the arts.

The Center for Catholic Studies will enable faculty and students to explore, from Catholic and Marianist viewpoints, the most pressing regional, national and international social policy issues. These questions involve poverty, economic justice, religious freedom, aging and disability, the dignity of human life, immigration, sustainability, technology and its roles, the protection of nature, as well as the central question of the role of faith in society and culture, and in individual formation.

The Center should also specifically examine the Catholic Church in society and culture, including

Continued on next page

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issues particular to the Catholic Church's presence in the Southwest and the growing nationwide Hispanic presence in the Church and other Christian denominations.

Those alumni who are not Catholic might wonder whether achieving our goal of fostering our Catholic and Marianist identity — including by establishing a Center for Catholic Studies — will exclude, isolate or make uncomfortable those members of the St. Mary's community who are neither Catholic nor Christian.

I urge you not to worry. At the heart of the University's past, present and its bright future is a Marianist spirituality that emphasizes a teacher who is truly present to students, not only by teaching, but also by loving and respecting them.

St. Mary's University — animated by Christ's message of charity, compassion and respect, and the Marianists' humility and commitment to community — invites and welcomes men and women of all faiths, and even of no faith, to walk and talk and search for truth together. ■

Our DEFINING MOMENT

Marta (from left), Magdalene and Mary Moipei sing at the University's 16th annual Spring Commencement in May.



Photo by Robin Jerstad

Gift of song

Triplet music grads give back through music

by Nikki Harris

Four years ago and nearly 9,000 miles from San Antonio, the Moipei triplets — Marta, Magdalene (Maggy) and Mary — made the decision to attend St. Mary's University.

"By coming here, I feel like we changed the course of our future," Maggy said.

The Moipei sisters have been called "Kenya's greatest musical export" and "Kenya's favorite daughters." The triplets, along with their younger sister, Seraphine, who remained in Kenya, have performed together since they were children, singing for audiences around the world.

At a young age, Marta, Maggy and Mary dreamed of breaking into the American music industry.

"Coming to St. Mary's was a stepping stone toward that goal," said Mary, who, along with Marta and Maggy, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music in May.

The triplets first learned of St. Mary's through the Rev. Martin Solma, S.M., St. Mary's Chancellor, who had lived in Kenya for 25 years and was a close family friend of the Moipeis.

Solma shared the sisters' CD with St. Mary's President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D., hoping to convince him that the triplets should attend St. Mary's.

"I called him up the next day and said, 'I'm in,'" Mengler said.

Offered full scholarships to make their education possible, Maggy said, "St. Mary's chose us. They gave us the chance to be together, even so far from home."

"What I really like about St. Mary's is that it's not always about yourself. It's about living to serve others," said Mary of how the triplets have embraced Marianist values by choosing to give back through song.

While at St. Mary's, the Moipeis have shared their gift with the San Antonio community and beyond, with an appearance at Alamo City Opera's *Broadway vs. Opera* at the Pearl Stable, multiple performances at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts and an international concert stop in Toronto.

In 2015, they sang the national anthem before a San Antonio Spurs playoff game — a performance that was on their pre-graduation bucket list and a defining moment for each sister.

No matter how small or grand their performance, the Moipei triplets said they always try to carry their values in their voices.

"Our goal is to bring joy to people," Marta said, "to add life to their days, not just days to their lives." ■

The

Linguist

Languages grad
makes cultural and
career connections

by Anndria Flores (B.A. '12, M.A. '16)

Michelle Michimani Leyva remembers asking her high school Spanish teacher if she could use glue and recalls how her teacher admonished her for using slang, rather than more formal language.

“After that, I felt my Spanish wasn’t up to par,” she said.

Although born in Puebla, Mexico, Michimani Leyva grew up in Phoenix and realized her knowledge of her native tongue could be better.

At St. Mary’s University, Michimani Leyva (B.A. '18) was an English-Communication Arts major, served as editor of the award-winning student newspaper, *The Rattler*, and completed several prestigious advertising internships. Never forgetting her high school Spanish teacher’s admonishment, she decided to earn a language certificate in Spanish too.

One of her St. Mary’s Spanish professors took an interest in her future, encouraging Michimani Leyva to consider following her natural interest in linguistics. With the support of her professor, Meghann Peace, Ph.D., Michimani Leyva registered for every linguistics course she could and declared Spanish as a minor, before realizing she was close to double majoring.

In Spring 2015, Michimani Leyva completed a research project, *Lexical Variation in Spanish Speakers*, inspired by her high school experience. Although the project was excellent for an undergraduate course, it wasn’t quite ready for an international conference — so Peace encouraged Michimani Leyva to continue developing her research.

“I wanted to show through my research that there are different variations for the words that we use and to not see them as an educational deficiency, but instead have people embrace them because they are a form of your ethnic identity,” Michimani Leyva said.

Michimani Leyva’s work was accepted as a presentation to the Third International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages at the University of California at Los Angeles this spring, and it earned first place in the field of Humanities at the St. Mary’s University 19th annual Research Symposium and Creative Activities Exhibition.

The Linguist List, an online hub for academic linguists worldwide, has named Michimani Leyva as its inaugural Rising Star — undergraduate students nominated by their mentors.

Last summer, Michimani Leyva also obtained a competitive fellowship with the Multicultural Advertising Intern Program (MAIP), a 22-week program that allowed her to work in New York with Wavemaker, the second-largest media agency network in the world, where she worked with the company’s accounts for IKEA, Tiffany & Co. and Paramount Pictures. She planned to follow her May graduation with a MAIP fellowship with Starcom Worldwide Inc., one of the largest media networks in the world.

“The support system at St. Mary’s really pushed me to do what I’ve done in my college career,” she said, adding that the faculty “helped me create a connection between my two majors.” ■



Photo by Natalia Zuniga

Roller derby members bring track lessons to St. Mary's conversations and classrooms



ROLL

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



“Roller derby’s given me the ability not to put limits on myself.”

“Just put a Band-Aid on it.”

This was Melanie Call’s nonchalant response after receiving a busted lip playing for the Alamo City Roller Girls (ACRG), San Antonio’s women’s roller derby team.

The hard-hitting sentiment from Call, St. Mary’s University Associate Executive Director of Development, is shared by St. Mary’s Assistant Professor of Physics and Environmental Science Samantha Franklin, Ph.D. (B.S. ’10), who is Call’s teammate on ACRG, a nationally recognized league for the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association.

Call and Franklin skated together under their derby names Violet Protest and Doc Slaughter, respectively, before realizing they both worked at St. Mary’s.

“It’s almost on the verge of having a split personality,” said Franklin of her skating persona. “But it’s kind of accepted. I’m Samantha all the time. But when I’m on the track, I’m Doc Slaughter and it’s OK to skate around and hit people.”

“It’s a part of me that no one really knows unless they go watch me play,” she said.

The sport is played in roller skates on an oval track with a squad of five players from each

team — a jammer and four blockers — playing in two-minute segments. In two 30-minute halves, jammers compete to score by passing opposing blockers, through onslaughts of body checks and elbows.

“For roller derby, you have to be aggressive,” said Call, who’s in her fourth season. “You have to be willing to use your body to stop someone else.”

Call, a jammer, who has been adorned with finger splints and bruises at times, said it’s a great icebreaker in talking with potential and current donors and vendors for the University, while Franklin, a blocker, uses roller derby as an example to talk about “impulse, momentum and collision” with her Physics majors.

The volunteer-run ACRG also provides a sense of community that brings together women from diverse backgrounds. Call, the league’s president, leads the recruitment, training, marketing, sponsorships and community outreach.

Eight years of experience on skates as a Sonic Drive-In server eventually led Call to derby. She tried out for ACRG in those same light-up Sonic skates.

Now, she is Violet Protest, a twist on her favorite color, purple, and her political activism. Her number, 718, is her late mother’s birthday and has carried her through weekly practices and monthly bouts.

“Roller derby’s given me the ability not to put limits on myself,” Call said. “And to encourage other people not to put limits on themselves.”

Franklin’s journey to ACRG started with a love of ice-skating that transformed to roller skating after moving to Texas from Nebraska. On a Texas ice rink in her early 20s, she was discovered and recruited by a small, local derby team, which started her competitive hobby.

She tried out for and joined ACRG last year, and is now known as Doc Slaughter, a pun based on her doctorate and her love for horror films. Her number, 1428, is derived from *A Nightmare on Elm Street* house address.

“Derby is just like life. You get out of it what you put into it,” Call said. “Even though you think you can’t, you can.” ■

◀ Samantha Franklin (from left), Ph.D. (B.S. ’10), Assistant Professor of Physics and Environmental Science, and Melanie Call, St. Mary’s Associate Executive Director of Development, play for the Alamo City Roller Girls (ACRG), San Antonio’s women’s roller derby team, in a March bout against the Yellow Rose Derby Girls from Fulshear.



CLASSNOTES *alumni news*

1967

Leland Blank, Ph.D., B.S., Austin, received the Frank and Lillian Gilbreth Industrial Engineering Award, the highest honor of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers. After graduating in the first class of engineers offered by St. Mary's, he earned his doctorate at Oklahoma State, then served in the industry at Southwestern Bell and the Public Service Board in San Antonio, plus Verizon in Florida. He served on the faculty and in senior administrative positions at Texas A&M University and the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, where he was the Dean of Engineering. Now residing in Austin with wife Sallie Sheppard, he continues to write engineering textbooks in the area of engineering economy and enjoy his lifelong hobby of landscaping.

1969

Gilberto Quezada, B.A., M.A. '72, San Antonio, reports he and **Félix D. Almaráz Jr., Ph.D., B.A. '59, M.A. '62**, San Antonio, recently celebrated 50 years of friendship, which began in a summer school class at St. Mary's that he was taking and Almaráz was teaching. Quezada says 50 years is a very long time, and he and Almaráz have maintained their connections through the many stages of their lives, growing old together as fellow historians and award-winning authors through the shared faith and core values they learned at St. Mary's.

1970

Ricardo D. Palacios, J.D., Encinal, published his first novel, *Chon: Story of a WWII Japanese Spy who became a South Texas Vaquero* (mcmbooks.com, 2018). He has published a biography of his uncle, Juan Light Salinas, a rodeo cowboy in the 1930s and 1940s (Texas A&M University Press, 2007), and his memoirs, *Green Street Kid* (Archway Publishing, 2013). He says his first published work was a case note on evidentiary presumptions in the *St. Mary's Law Journal* while a student.

1973

Charles E. "Chip" Vogan Jr., J.D., Norfolk, Virginia, is celebrating 30 years of private practice in Norfolk this summer. He continues to serve as private legal counsel for clients in the areas of family law, wills and estates, real estate, criminal defense and small business practice. Vogan is a 40-year member and past president of the Norfolk Rotary Club. A lifelong musician, he has been featured with opera companies in Charlotte and Norfolk, Virginia, and San Antonio. This summer, he and his wife, Barbara, celebrated 34 years of marriage.

1974

John Quiñones, B.A., New York, a multiple Emmy Award-winning television anchor and host of ABC's *What Would You Do?*, gave the commencement address to Niagara University's colleges of Business Administration, Education and Hospitality

Management at its 2018 commencement. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the university.

Stacie Stanley, Ph.D., B.B.A., M.B.A. '77, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is the Eden Prairie School District Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Innovation.

1976

Howard "Jay" Huntzinger, M.D., B.A., Dallas, was named Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice last fall and is a member of the Dallas Specialty Center, Texas Health Physicians Group.

The Hon. Polly Jackson Spencer, J.D., San Antonio, is an appointee from the San Antonio Bar Association to the Judicial Commission on Mental Health, newly established by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The commission will examine best practices in the administration of civil and criminal justice for persons with mental illness.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, J.D., San Antonio, gave the commencement address at Stephen F. Austin University's spring ceremony.

1978

Elvira Puig Barrera, M.A., SP '89, San Antonio, has been named a Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achiever for accomplishments and successes she achieved in the field of education. She was also recognized with the Key Woman Educator for Community Service Award given by the San Antonio Coordinating Council of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society that promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

1979

The Hon. Barbara Hervey, J.D., San Antonio, is an appointee from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to the Judicial Commission on Mental Health, newly established by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The commission will examine best practices in the administration of civil and criminal justice for persons with mental illness. Hervey will co-chair the commission.

Joyce (Greenburg) Mazero, J.D., Dallas, was named co-chair of a global franchise and supply network practice out of the Dallas office of Polsinelli PC. She will focus on representing domestic and multinational companies in the food, beverage, manufacturing and retail industries.

Mary Jo McCurley, J.D., Dallas, of counsel at Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP, has been recognized as a Professional of the Year for two consecutive years by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide for her outstanding contributions and achievements during more than 35 years in the field of law.

1980

The Hon. Sandee Bryan Marion, J.D., San Antonio, the chief justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals, was selected by the Texas Council of Chief Justices to serve as chair of the council for 2018-2019.

The Hon. Sid Harle, J.D., San Antonio, is an appointee from the San Antonio Bar Association to the Judicial Commission on Mental Health, newly established by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The commission will examine best practices in the administration of civil and criminal justice for persons with mental illness.

1981

John F. Bracken, M.A., Conroe, is the Texas state director of Save the Children, a humanitarian organization that operates in 16 states and 120 countries to meet the needs of children during and after disaster. As state director — a new position — he will lead Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts by restoring and improving childcare centers and after-school programs as well as social and emotional health programming.

The Hon. Mark Dowd, J.D., Manassas, Virginia, is a federal administrative law judge, a position to which he was appointed by the Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, in Alexandria, Virginia.

1982

Joan Pedrotti, B.A., M.A. '84, Windcrest, was elected to the Windcrest City Council, Place 5, for a two-year term and will serve as the 2018 Christmas Light Up chairwoman. The Light Up is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Pedrotti invites everyone to Windcrest during the Christmas season to see the lights.

1983

Diana M. Geis, J.D., San Antonio, a partner at Curl Stahl Geis, PC, was honored at the 17th annual Honoring Mothers Luncheon, which benefits the Battered Women and Children's Shelter.

The Hon. Barbara Nellermoe, J.D., San Antonio, retired from the 45th Civil District Court. Nellermoe had her portrait unveiled at the Bexar County Courthouse's Historic Courtroom in March at a ceremony hosted by the San Antonio Bar Association and **the Hon. Stephani Walsh, J.D. '85**, San Antonio, judge of the 45th Civil District Court.

1984

Richard Sparr, J.D., San Antonio, more recently known as the Texas Cavaliers' King Antonio XCVI, spent the 2018 Fiesta celebration representing the Cavaliers at dozens of Fiesta events and working diligently on the organization's Fiesta River Parade, which, along with other programs, raised \$1.1 million that benefited more than 60 children's charities.

1985

Kevin L. Kelley, J.D., Dallas, is a new real estate partner at Jackson Walker LLP's Dallas office.

1986

James Blummer, J.D., San Antonio, has joined Bracewell LLC's public finance team in San Antonio.



1984

Paula Gold-Williams, B.B.A., San Antonio, president and CEO of CPS Energy, is an appointee of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas to the Bank's San Antonio Branch board of directors for a three-year term. In her role, she will provide input into regional economic conditions as part of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy functions.

The Hon. Walter David Counts III, J.D., Midland, a federal magistrate presiding in the Midland-Odessa District of Texas, has been picked to fill a vacant district court bench in the same district.

1988

Laurie L. Charles, Ph.D., B.A., is a 2017-2018 Fulbright Global Scholar Program Fellow, a program of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This Fulbright grant is a transregional, multi-country grant with funding to work for six months. Based in Pristina, Kosovo, and Colombo, Sri Lanka, the objective is to "analyze the challenges to delivering family-focused mental health and psychosocial project delivery in these two post-conflict countries."

1989

Sister Norma Pimentel, M.J., M.A., Brownsville, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and longtime advocate for immigrants and refugees, received the University of Notre Dame's 2018 Laetare Medal — the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics — at Notre Dame's 173rd Commencement in May.

1990

Shelli (Smith) Keller, B.A., Helotes, is the early childhood education coordinator for the School of Science and Technology of Texas in San Antonio.

Dolores F. Overton, B.B.A., Santa Fe, New Mexico, has joined First National 1870 as market president. She will be responsible for management and growth of the banks in Santa Fe and Los Alamos with a focus on building and strengthening relationships with customers and communities.

1991

Cynthia "Cindy" Brotman Nelson, J.D., Dallas, is a new real estate partner at Jackson Walker LLP's Dallas office.

Tabetha (Thorpe) Plummer, B.A., J.D. '94, Porter Ranch, California, has become certified as an agent to represent NBA players and players from other professional basketball organizations.

1993

Ron Salazar, J.D., San Antonio, and law school classmate **Alex Katzman, J.D.**, San Antonio, were two of three attorneys to secure an \$8 million settlement in a case of a deceased woman who went missing from a funeral home in San Antonio in 2016, after compelling the funeral home to reveal where the body was located.

The Hon. Renee Yanta, J.D., San Antonio, has been appointed program co-chair for the San Antonio Bar Association's award-winning pro bono project, the Community Justice Program (CJP). Yanta, a judge in the 150th Civil District Court, is a judicial representative charged with oversight of CJP's expansive pro bono initiatives.

1995

Michael Alexander Ang, B.A., Muntinlupa City, Philippines, plans to bring added prestige and worthwhile responsibilities to his office as the elected dean of the Consular Corps of the Philippines — the organization of consulates, consulate generals and honorary consulates of various countries in the Philippines who work toward the advancement of cultural and economic relations.

Teresa Perez, B.A., San Antonio, after serving nearly 20 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, resigned to take the position as the political-military adviser at 25th Air Force, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. She advises the base commander on foreign policy matters related to the 25th Air Force's mission and global activities.

1996

Melinda Vidaurri, B.A., J.D. '06, Laredo, was appointed to the Probation Advisory Committee as a representative for Region 4 in Texas, which encompasses 22 counties. The committee seeks to improve probation departments in the state and works with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on legislative appropriations requests, standards for departments and budget issues.

1997

Neomi De Anda, Ph.D., B.A., M.A. '99, Dayton, Ohio, received tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Dayton's Department of Religious Studies. She was elected vice president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States and will be the organization's president in 2019-2020.

1998

Eli Bello, B.B.A., Austin, is the new South Central region district manager for Hyundai Construction Equipment Americas, Inc.

Hector Flores, M.D., B.S., El Paso, a cardiovascular surgeon with El Paso Southwestern Cardiovascular Associates, has joined the board of directors of Western Heritage Bank, bringing a unique perspective to the board and helping to further the board's understanding of the financial needs of health care professionals.


StMU 5K for the NEIGHBORHOOD

For registration information,
visit www.stmarytx.edu/5k.

Save the Date

Saturday, Oct. 20
St. Mary's University
7:30 a.m., Mass
7:30 a.m., Registration and check-in
9 a.m., Timed 5K run/walk
10 a.m., Awards ceremony
10:30 a.m., Family fun

Proceeds benefit Holy Rosary Catholic Church. The \$20 registration fee (\$10 for St. Mary's University students) includes a 5K T-shirt.

 **Dogs welcome!** Bring your spayed or neutered dog on a leash and get a free doggy bandana.

Mike Rodriguez, B.S., San Antonio, and wife **Sandra (Leija) Rodriguez, B.B.A. '89**, report they are looking forward to the birth of their first grandchild this fall.

1999

Ravi Chaudhary, Ph.D., M.S., Springfield, Virginia, is director for Advanced Programs and Innovation for the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation. In that role, he will help oversee and develop a regulatory framework that enables and accelerates the safe growth and continued innovation of United States commercial space.

Roger Gomez, B.A., Mission, spent 17 years in education, including as the La Joya Independent School District middle school science coordinator, before founding Foundations in Teaching, an education consulting company.

2000

Charla D. Davies, J.D., San Antonio, an attorney with Langley & Banack, Inc., recently received certification in family law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Davies practices with a group of 10 family law attorneys at the San Antonio-based firm. She also practices collaborative law and is a member of both the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas and the Collaborative Professionals Association of San Antonio.

2001

Christopher Boone, B.B.A., M.B.A. '03, San Antonio, and wife **Melissa (Sanchez) Boone, B.S.**, along with big sister Mila, welcome son Luca, born Feb. 24, 2018.

Maribel Cordova Wasmiller, J.D., San Antonio, was elected as the 2018 San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association president and serves on its board. She was also selected for membership in the Texas Bar Foundation Fellows.

2002

Zarah Ektefaei-Wattier, B.A., M.A. '04, Galveston, and husband Jason Wattier, welcome twin boys, David and Joseph, born Nov. 29, 2017.

Michelle Flores, B.A., Baltimore, Associate Director of College Advising at Baltimore City College, is one of eight recipients of the 2018 Counselors That Change Lives Awards, given by a nonprofit organization of the same name dedicated to the ideal of a student-centered college search. She has worked in education in many capacities, but found her calling guiding students and families in the college admission process. As a first-generation college student, Flores finds that "her own personal history motivates her to inspire historically underrepresented students to imagine college as part of their future."

Erica Giese, J.D., San Antonio, assistant U.S. attorney, is chief of the Financial Litigation Unit in the Civil Division's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Section for the United States Justice Department's Western District.

Silvia Segovia, B.B.A., Seguin, and **Ismael Segovia, B.A. '01, M.A. '04, M.P.A. '06**, welcome son Diego, born March 22, 2018.

2003

Eva (Rodriguez) Mendoza, B.B.A., San Antonio, is employed by the San Antonio Independent School District and recently received a promotion to technology director of bond, e-rate and project management.

2004

Enjonli (Carrillo) Hutchison, B.S., San Antonio, is the safety director of the Center for Health Care Services in San Antonio. Prior to her current job, she spent five years with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as an industrial hygienist. In her final year with the organization,

she was awarded the Region VI OSHA Champion of the Year Award and was a member of the Region VI Emergency Response Team that responded to Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts along the Texas coast.

2005

Lauren (Sracic) Ciminello, J.D., San Antonio, with Jackson Walker LLP, has been elected to membership in the fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. Fellows are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout Texas.

Summer (Hernandez) Salazar, B.B.A., New Braunfels, and husband **Jason Salazar, B.B.A. '06**, welcome Justin, born Jan. 16, 2018.

Monique (Edwards) West, B.B.A., M.B.A. '09, San Antonio, is a financial counselor with the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program at Kleber Kaserne Army Base in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

2006

Kiran Kaur Baines, B.A., San Antonio, is the new director of community impact for SA2020, for which she will support community stakeholders in aligning toward the SA2020 vision and help ensure that the team is collectively making the greatest possible impact.

Steve Lopez, B.A., J.D. '09, Corpus Christi, and his father-in-law **Arnold Gonzalez, J.D. '80**, Corpus Christi, opened their own law firm, Gonzalez & Lopez, LLP, which has been serving the Coastal Bend community for two years, focusing on personal injury, family law and commercial litigation. In addition, Lopez and his wife, **Emily (Gonzalez) Lopez, B.A. '09**, are the proud parents of two future Rattlers, sons Stevie and Arnold.

2007

Jason G. Breisch, J.D., Aledo, is with the Fort Worth law firm Harris, Finley & Bogle, PC, in its oil and gas practice.

R. Porter Corrigan II, J.D., San Antonio, an associate attorney with Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson, LLP, has earned certification in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Corrigan has been included on Reuters' listing of Texas Rising Stars six times.

Adrienne Archer Graves, J.D., Houston, with more than 10 years of experience representing clients in complex probate, trust and fiduciary litigation matters, announced the formation of the law firm of Young, Graves & Burt.

Thomas Osborn, B.A., Dallas, started a new job with health care company Baxter International in its biosurgery division.

Kathryn F. Samler, J.D., Dallas, family law attorney with GoransonBain, has been included in the Super Lawyers 2018 Rising Stars listing. She is recognized also in Up-and-Coming 100 among 2018 Texas Rising Stars and Up-and-Coming 50 among 2018 Women Texas Rising Stars. Samler has been selected as a Texas Rising Star for five years.

Bruce Toppin III, J.D., San Antonio, joined Langley & Banack, Inc., focusing on representing banks, savings and loan associations and other financial institutions in corporate and regulatory matters.



The San Antonio Bar Foundation names fellows

A dozen St. Mary's University School of Law graduates are among the 24 newly elected members of the San Antonio Bar Foundation Fellows Program. Fellows are selected for their professional achievements and their commitment to the legal community. They are patrons of the charitable heart of the legal community, making a difference in expanding civic education, filling the gap for access to justice and supporting future leaders in the San Antonio legal family.

- **Larry Bruner (J.D. '88)**, owner of Larry Bruner, P.C.
- **Brian Steward (J.D. '90)**, an attorney with Ketterman Rowland & Westlund
- **Alex Katzman (J.D. '93)**, partner at Katzman & Katzman, PLLC
- **Lisa Rocheleau (J.D. '94)**, a partner with Boone, Rocheleau & Rodriguez
- **Isabel de la Riva (J.D. '99)**, owner of de la Riva & Associates
- **Sonia Rodriguez (J.D. '99)**, a partner with Branton Hall Rodriguez Cruz, PC
- **Jessica Lambert (B.B.A. '00, J.D./M.B.A. '03)**, owner of the Lambert Law Firm
- **David Navarro (J.D. '00)**, an attorney with Hornberger Fuller & Garza, Inc.
- **Jason Bashara (J.D. '02)**, owner of the Law Offices of Jason S. Bashara
- **Ben Holliday (J.D./M.A. '06)**, partner at Mazurek & Holliday PC
- **Rashin Mazaheri (J.D. '06)**, partner at Dreyer & Mazaheri PC
- **Chance Mazurek (J.D. '06)**, partner at Mazurek & Holliday PC



Archive photo

Lawn talkers

A cluster of students and faculty from 1968 includes Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., (right of the #3 soap box) now President Emeritus and Professor of Political Science. The Class of 1968 is invited to celebrate its 50th-Year Reunion Weekend at St. Mary's from Saturday, Sept. 29, to Monday, Oct. 1. More details at www.stmarytx.edu/1968.

Have a cool photo from your days at St. Mary's? We'd love to consider publishing it in a future issue of *Gold & Blue*. Send digitally to ucomm@stmarytx.edu or mail to University Communications, St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas, 78228. Mailed images will be returned.

Henry Van de Putte, B.A., Houston, has been named the regional chief executive for the American Red Cross, Texas Gulf Coast. In his new role, Van de Putte will leverage his diverse experience working for nonprofits and corporate organizations to lead a team of more than 5,000 volunteers and staff, oversee four chapters supporting nine million residents across 51 counties, and be accountable for service delivery and fundraising throughout the region.

2008

Jesus A. Garza, B.A., M.P.A. '10, Kingsville, city manager of Kingsville, is a member of the Texas City Management Association, Local Government Hispanic Network and the International City Management Association. He is a board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kingsville and a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Ezra Johnson, J.D., San Antonio, a law partner at Uhl, Fitzsimons, Jewett & Burton PLLC, and an adjunct professor at the St. Mary's University School of Law, has been appointed by the San Antonio City Council to the board of trustees of VIA Metropolitan Transit.

Michael G. LaFave, M.B.A., Riverside, Connecticut, will lead Adams Keegan, a national managed human resources, payroll and benefits provider, as northeast region business development director.

The organization is extending its footprint throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

Jason Whitney Jr., J.D., San Antonio, a member of the Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Group in the San Antonio office of Haynes and Boone, LLP, has been elevated to counsel.

2009

Marie (Hulsey) LaCroix, B.B.A., Horizon City, reports she, husband Eric LaCroix, and 1-year-old daughter, Parker, have moved back to the El Paso area where she works for her family's business, Sound & Signal Systems of Texas.

Matt Manning, J.D., Houston, an associate attorney with McGlinchey Stafford PLLC focusing in the areas of commercial and consumer financial litigation and creditor's rights in bankruptcy, has been named to the Texas Super Lawyers 2018 Rising Stars listing.

2010

Melanie Castillo, J.D., San Antonio, an attorney practicing business litigation at Castillo Snyder PC, co-founded Fiesta Wishes, Inc., a nonprofit organization with a mission of celebrating birthday fiestas with homeless and foster children to bring smiles, inspire hope and create memories. In its

first year, the organization celebrated 27 children's birthdays by providing monthly parties at the Children's Shelter of San Antonio.

Robert Galarza, J.D., Seattle, is the chief executive officer and a director of Scorpion, a motorcycle and biking apparel company.

Erica (Leal) Garcia, B.A., College Station, and husband Ricky Garcia, D.O., welcome their first child, daughter Lyla. Erica is in her seventh year teaching audio/visual production and photography at Navasota High School. Ricky is a sports medicine physician and team doctor for Texas A&M University.

William "Jim" Holik, M.A., San Antonio, has been promoted to the new position of creative marketing manager for the Aftermarket Auto Parts Alliance to lead the creative design and content development efforts for Alliance's websites, social media properties and communication materials for Auto Value.

Robert House, J.D., Austin, received board certification in personal injury trial law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Irma I. Sarmiento, B.A., Tucson, Arizona, graduated from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley with a master's degree in Kinesiology and Biomechanics. Her husband, **David G. Horvath, B.S.**, earned a Ph.D. in Geophysics from the Colorado School of Mines and

joined the Lunar Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, as a post-doctoral student. They married in summer 2016.

Kristie Wainwright, B.A., Garland, finished her fifth year teaching biology at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas. This summer, she began pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership through the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame.

Christopher West, J.D., San Antonio, was made partner with the law firm of Santoyo Moore Wehmeyer, PC.

2011

Thomas P. Caldwell, J.D., La Vernia, was presented resolutions from the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors and its president, Tom Vick, for outstanding service to the legal profession and the greater San Antonio community in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and the tragic loss of life at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs.

Stephen Brint Carlton, J.D./M.B.A., Orange, accepted an appointment as executive director of the Texas Medical Board in Austin. The board is responsible for protecting public health, safety and welfare through licensure and regulation of Texas physicians, physician assistants, acupuncturists, medical radiologic technologists and respiratory care professionals. Carlton reports several recent family celebrations, including son Ridge turning 1 year old, daughter Mayve turning 4, and celebrating his sixth wedding anniversary with his wife, Claire.

Trey Porter, J.D., San Antonio, announces the launching of Trey Porter Law, PLLC, a solo criminal defense firm handling criminal charges in Bexar and surrounding counties.

Esperanza "Hope" (Arevalo) Meza, B.A., Holland, Ohio, and husband Rodolfo Meza welcome their first child, Finn, born March 24, 2018.

Kimberly (Salazar) Olivarez, B.A., San Antonio, and husband **Aaron Olivarez, B.S. '12**, welcome their first child, son Theodore, born Aug. 13, 2017.

Tomas Rey, B.B.A., San Antonio, is the local community and marketing director for Yelp, and he now oversees and assists national and local projects.

2012

Gilbert Bustamante, B.S., San Antonio, graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio in May with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering. He and Rochelle Bustamante welcome son Alexander, born Oct. 10, 2017.

Amanda M. Martinez, B.B.A., San Antonio, got a big surprise on April 20 at the St. Mary's University Alumni Association's Fiesta Oyster Bake, when her boyfriend Dillon Kirk proposed to her on Stage 5 in the shadow of the Barrett Memorial Bell Tower. She said "yes."

Noel Shaheen, M.D., B.S., El Paso, graduated from the Texas Tech University Health Science Center El Paso's Paul L. Foster School of Medicine in May with a medical degree and will start an anesthesiology residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in July.

2013

Kristen E. Huerta, B.B.A., San Antonio, and Ricardo Cuellar married on Jan. 27, 2018.

Melissa (Vasquez) Montoya, B.S., El Paso, and husband **Guillermo Montoya IV, B.A.**, celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary on June 28, 2018.

Angela Van Dyke, B.A., Houston, will graduate with a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is the St. Mary's University Houston Alumni Chapter's fundraising chair.

2014

Janet (Frias) Garcia, B.A., Converse, reports that since graduating, she has married Francisco Garcia, "the love of her life," and found the perfect job in the San Antonio Independent School District's Communications Department. They have a baby girl, Camila Emily, who they say will be a future Rattler. Janet wrote, "many thanks to my professors and peers at St. Mary's University for being such a great part of what got me to where I am today."

Steven Garcia-Levis, B.A., San Antonio, was promoted to front office manager at Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk.

Susana Lara, B.S., Helotes, writes that she first met fiancé **Amador Cruz Jr., B.S.**, in freshman Biology class when he sat next to her. They began dating, attended UT Health San Antonio together, and they are working as a medical laboratory scientist and a physician assistant, respectively. As she said, "all because two Rattlers fell in love!" They plan to marry next year in Assumption Chapel at St. Mary's.

Claudia Rodriguez Kypuros, Ph.D., San Antonio, the newest counselor in Trinity University's Counseling Services Office, received her doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision.

2015

Daniel Garza, J.D., Houston, has had his LL.M. thesis, *Software Patents and Pretrial Dismissal Based on Ineligibility*, published in the *Richmond Journal of Law and Technology*. He is studying at the University of Houston Law Center.

Hannah Hembree, J.D., San Antonio, has joined Cubeta & Clarke as a partner.

Katherine O'Neill, J.D., San Antonio, joined Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones as an associate in the firm's transaction practice group. Her practice areas include commercial real estate and financing transactions. She is a member of the San Antonio Bar Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association and Bexar County Women's Bar Association.

Submit your class notes

If you enjoy reading what your classmates are up to, then share what you are doing as well.

Submit your information at alumni.stmarytx.edu/class-notes.

Class Notes submission deadlines

Fall issue: Sept. 15

Spring issue: Jan. 15



FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

1940s

1942 Ruben Revilla Nuñez, CL, San Antonio, died March 31, 2018.

1944 George Casseb, CL, San Antonio, died April 25, 2018.

1945 Walter Glenn Lagerquist Jr., CL, San Antonio, died March 11, 2018. **Marcel Wiedermann, B.S.**, San Antonio, died April 27, 2018.

1947 Jack C. Pool, B.S., San Antonio, died March 19, 2018.

1950s

1950 Gene Leroy Cross, B.B.A., Louisville, Kentucky, died April 9, 2018. **Thomas E. "Tom" Hennessey, LL.B.**, San Antonio, died March 18, 2018. **William Daniel "Bill" Meskill, B.A., B.S.**, San Antonio, died April 6, 2018.

1954 Paul Everett McSween Jr., CL, San Antonio, died March 29, 2018.

1955 Harry Nelson, B.B.A., Georgetown, died Feb. 25, 2018.

1956 The Hon. Marcel C. Notzon, B.A., J.D. '67, Laredo, died April 4, 2018.

1957 Heinz "Hank" Buschfort, CL, San Antonio, died April 7, 2018. **Byron P. Steele Jr., Ph.D., B.A.**, Seguin, died Jan. 29, 2018. **Max Albert Winkler, B.S.**, Los Alamos, New Mexico, died April 4, 2018.

1958 Rufino Cabello, LL.B., Carrizo Springs, died Feb. 24, 2018. **Jude Thomas "Tom" May, Ph.D., B.A., B.S.**, Oklahoma City, died Feb. 14, 2018. **Patricia Luke "Pat" Pelton, LL.B.**, San Antonio, died May 10, 2018.

1959 John Milton Ivy, CL, San Antonio, died April 22, 2018. **Jay Norton, B.A./LL.B.**, San Antonio, died Jan. 29, 2018. **Rodney Anton Novosad, B.A.**, Baytown, died Jan. 2, 2018.

1960s

1960 Alfred Joseph "Al" Coco, LL.B., Denver, died Dec. 14, 2017. **Kevin Melvin Lyssy, B.A.**, Atascosa, died Jan. 22, 2018. **Michael Angel Proscelle Jr., CL**, San Antonio, died March 11, 2018. **Charles Scholz, B.B.A.**, Houston, died May 5, 2018. **Eva E. Wardlow, B.B.A.**, Conroe, died Jan. 15, 2018.

1961 Daniel A. Dupré, B.A., San Antonio, died Nov. 18, 2017.

1962 Gerald Cletus Batto, B.B.A., San Antonio, died Jan. 22, 2018. **Gale O. Castillo, B.A., J.D. '66**, Floresville, died May 6, 2018.

1963 Donald Cross, B.A., Medford, New Jersey, died Jan. 12, 2018. **Patrick Joseph Dossey, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died Feb. 27, 2018. **James Joseph "Jim" Gansle, M.A.**, Canyon Lake, died April 15, 2018. **James Felix Pape, B.A.**, Fredericksburg, died March 24, 2018.

1964 Oliver Holden Jr., LL.B., San Antonio, died April 20, 2018. **Francis Edward O'Neill Jr., B.A.**, San Antonio, died April 3, 2018.

1965 Robert William Gillelan, B.A., Victoria, died Feb. 27, 2018. **Karl Kinaud Kettler Jr., CL**, New Braunfels, died April 4, 2018. **Robert O. Sosa, B.A., M.A. '78**, San Antonio, died Jan. 26, 2018.

1966 Norman Lee Bielss Jr., B.M.E., Universal City, died Jan. 29, 2018. **James Madison Black III, B.A.**, San Antonio, died April 14, 2018. **Bertha M. Garza, B.A.**, San Antonio, died May 7, 2018. **Antonio I. Ramirez, B.A.**, San Antonio, died April 29, 2018.

1967 The Hon. Alfredo Campos Jr., B.A., J.D. '70, St. Petersburg, Florida, died March 16, 2018. **Lawrence Jack Fleischer, J.D.**, Tampa, Florida, died Feb. 13, 2018. **Albert George Kirchner, B.B.A.**, Georgetown, died Jan. 17, 2018.

1969 Robert William Campbell, M.D., B.A., Conroe, died April 15, 2018. **John Michael "Mike" Doyle, B.A./J.D.**, San Antonio, died Feb. 5, 2018. **Jesus C. Saucedo, B.A.**, Arlington, died July 14, 2017.

1970s

1970 Anthony J. "Tony" Boron, B.B.A., Edwardsville, Illinois, died March 24, 2018. **Efrain Garza, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Feb. 14, 2018. **Larry E. Grothues, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died April 12, 2018.

1971 Walter M. Holcombe, J.D., Pecos, died March 26, 2018. **Robert Alan Karam, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died Feb. 21, 2018. **Mary Josephine "Josie" (nee Healey) (Conneely) Seeley, B.A.**, Clearwater, Florida, died Jan. 19, 2018. **Jeanette Karam Van Delden, B.A., M.A. '98**, San Antonio, died April 27, 2018.

1972 James Kenneth "Ken" Young, B.B.A., Converse, died Feb. 6, 2018.

1973 Karl John Russell, J.D., Houston, died Jan. 20, 2018. **Joe Randal Smith, J.D.**, Colmesneil, died May 1, 2018. **Jonathan D. "Goober" White, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Nov. 11, 2017.

1974 Edward Zadik, B.B.A., Natalia, died Feb. 16, 2018.

1975 Izak D. "Uncle" Gregory, J.D., Southlake, died Jan. 24, 2018. **James N. Higdon, J.D.**, San Antonio, died March 4, 2018.

1976 Dan Brower "D.B." Phillips Jr., M.A., Temple, died Jan. 20, 2018. **Oliver C. Sutton Jr., J.D.**, San Antonio, died April 24, 2018.

1977 Sister Justina Baker, M.H.S., M.A., Lafayette, Louisiana, died Jan. 23, 2018.

1978 Donald Earl Barnhill, J.D., San Antonio, died April 14, 2018.

1980s

1980 **Kenneth Cyr, Ph.D., M.A.**, San Antonio, died May 7, 2018.

1981 **Eddie Verneal “Chip” Bonner Jr., J.D.**, Corpus Christi, died Jan. 25, 2018. **Timothy Dooley, J.D.**, Anchorage, Alaska, died Dec. 12, 2017. **Albert Kilian, B.B.A.**, San Antonio, died March 4, 2018.

1985 **Sister Rose Maria Birkenfeld, O.S.B., M.A.**, Fort Smith, Arkansas, died Jan. 30, 2018. **Margaret Cynthia Monsibais, B.A.**, San Antonio, died March 20, 2018.

1986 **Bennee Beth Jones, J.D.**, Dallas, died Feb. 3, 2018.

1989 **Peter Evans “Pito” Pratt Jr., J.D.**, Houston, died Feb. 2, 2018.

1990s

1991 **Judith Maria (Schultz) Fisher, M.A.**, San Antonio, died March 12, 2018. **Margaret Geneva Hewlitt, B.B.A.**, Allen, died Dec. 12, 2017.

1992 **Carlos Antonio Garcia, B.A.**, San Antonio, died Jan. 3, 2018. **Maj. Jesse Richard Greer, U.S. Air Force, Ret., M.A.**, Austin, died April 8, 2018.

1993 **Michael Sean Barrett, B.A.**, Schertz, died May 16, 2017.

1994 **Ivan Acevedo, B.A., M.A. '02**, San Antonio, died March 27, 2018.

2000s

2002 **Aida Treviño, J.D.**, Robstown, died March 25, 2018.

FONDESTFAREWELLS

BROTHER JAMES EDWIN DROSTE, S.M.

Brother James Edwin Droste, S.M. (B.S. '58), San Antonio, died April 14, 2018, at age 83.

Droste served in Marianist high schools as a science and math teacher. He also served in parish ministry at Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio and Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in St. Louis. His last ministry was at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center in Eureka, Missouri. He was proud to be known as a “Brother of Mary.”

ROY ROBBINS, PH.D.

Roy Robbins (M.A. '76), Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, died on April 7, 2018, at age 78.

Robbins earned a Theology master's at Southern Methodist University in 1963, served as a Methodist pastor in South Texas, and then worked as a city planner in San Antonio and Alexandria, Virginia. He earned a master's in Economics from St. Mary's in 1976 and worked as a financial aid officer. He then taught at American University and the University of Texas at San Antonio before bringing his passion for mentoring students to the St. Mary's faculty in 1983.

Because of his lasting influence, economists Gastón Sosa de la Torre (B.A. '92) and Marisol Arteaga Gonzalez (B.A./B.A. '91) donated \$1 million to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences to endow the Roy Robbins Professorship in Economics.

LEE H. LYTTON III

Lee H. Lytton III (J.D. '68), Castleberry Professor of Law at the St. Mary's University School of Law, died March 31, 2018, at age 74.

Lytton was born on Sept. 10, 1943, in San Antonio. Lytton graduated from St. Edward's University and the St. Mary's University School of Law. After service as a special agent in the FBI, Lytton served as a general counsel to an oil and gas company, and to the State Bar of Texas. He brought his expertise back to St. Mary's Law in 1987, teaching law courses in property, oil and gas, and land titles to generations of law students.

BRIG. GEN. BELISARIO J. FLORES, U.S. AIR FORCE, RET.

Brig. Gen. Belisario J. Flores, U.S. Air Force, Ret. (B.B.A. '50), San Antonio, died Feb. 19, 2018, at age 91.

Flores entered military service in 1945 and served for 41 years. His service included two years in the U.S. Army during World War II; three years in the Army during the Korean War, including 10 months in combat; and 36 years with the Texas Air National Guard, which included the Vietnam War. Flores and his wife, Adelina, funded the St. Mary's Veterans Center that opened in Fall 2017.

High-flying lawyer

Runaway carnival worker becomes attorney of international reputation

by Frank Garza

Dallas-based attorney John Barr keeps a few things on his desk: his mother's cards, photos of his daughter, a photo of St. Louis Hall and a card from the late Rev. Louis Reile, S.M. (B.A. '49), a former Associate Professor of English at St. Mary's University.

Reile would become a lifelong colleague and friend — and one of the men who gave him a chance to attend St. Mary's. Barr (B.B.A. '77, J.D. '80) was not the typical college applicant.

When he was 12, Barr ran away from home to work for the Dell & Travers Shows — deemed by some to be the carnival equivalent of the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The experience lasted only a summer, but Barr's time in traveling shows continued. Among other jobs, Barr worked for Terry Bassett, one of the owners of Concerts West, and saw many rock 'n' roll bands play, including the Eagles.

Barr recalled Bassett telling him, "John, you're on a highway that has a dead end. You need to make something of yourself."

"All I had ever known was producing these shows, and every one of these shows was put together by lawyers — like my father," Barr said. "I thought (law school) would give me the ability to do what I wanted to do and help who I wanted to help."

At St. Mary's, he met Reile and the Rev. Paul Ryan, S.M., who was Registrar at the time and took a chance on Barr despite his low test scores.

Barr earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance and Risk Management and tried to enter law school at St. Mary's, but was rejected because his grades weren't high enough. But Barr had an idea: Wash the grimy blue Mercedes-Benz that belonged to late Dean Emeritus James Castleberry and leave an anonymous note saying, "Your car was cleaned. Have a blessed day."

When he was caught by the police chief, Barr confessed to Castleberry that he was the mystery washer. After Reile argued on his behalf, Castleberry took a chance and admitted Barr to St. Mary's Law.

He not only made it through law school, but also scored high on the bar exam.

Barr's career soon rose from humble to high-profile when he headed the investigation of the Aeroperú Flight 603 disaster. That investigation led to the recovery of dozens of bodies when the plane crashed off the coast of Peru in 1996.

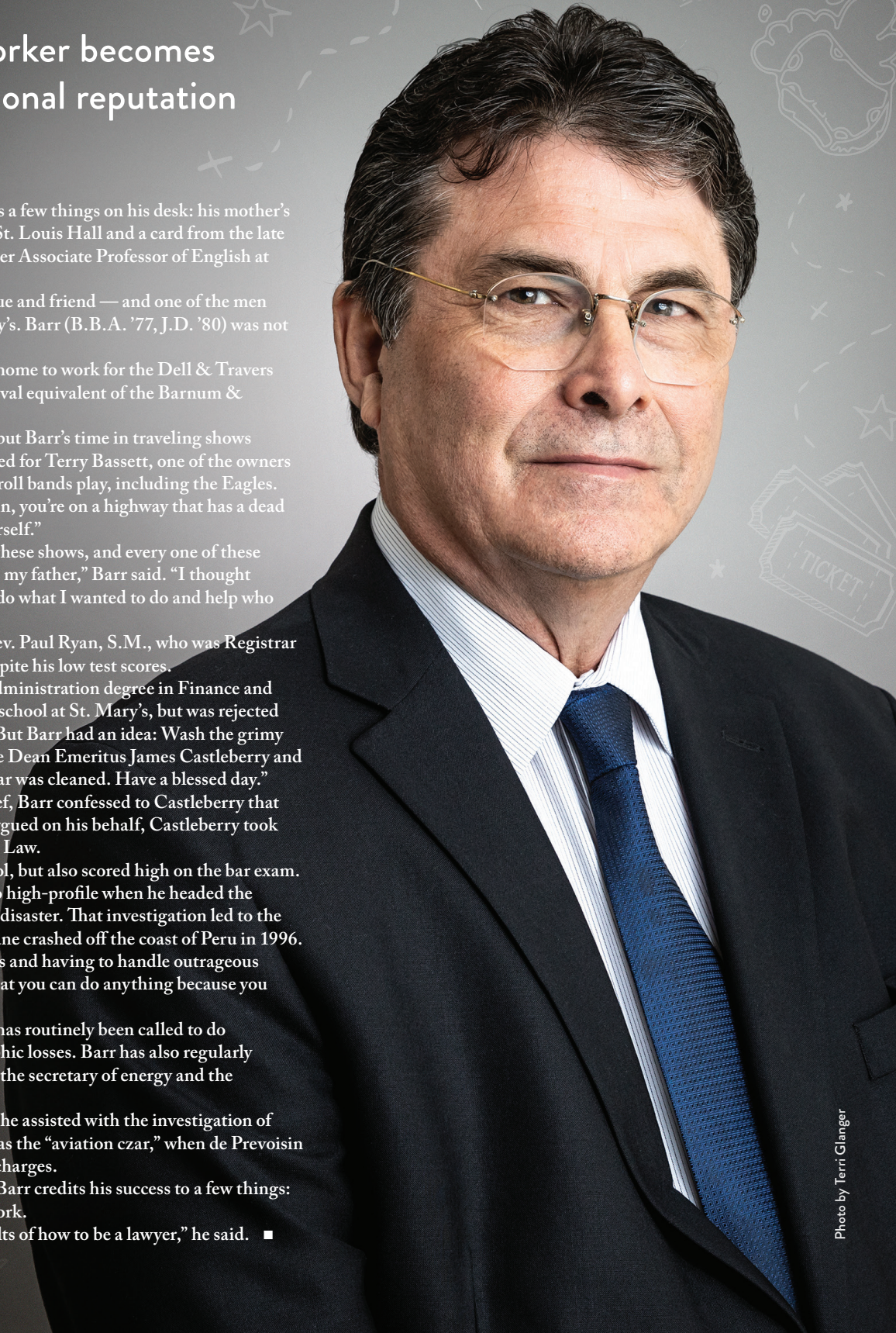
"The years of working in show business and having to handle outrageous requests made me develop the mindset that you can do anything because you don't know you can't," Barr said.

As a result of that investigation, Barr has routinely been called to do pre-litigation investigations for catastrophic losses. Barr has also regularly worked with Mexican entities, including the secretary of energy and the attorney general of Mexico.

His business with Mexico began after he assisted with the investigation of Gerardo de Prevoisin, known in Mexico as the "aviation czar," when de Prevoisin fled the country to evade arrest on fraud charges.

With 37 years of trial law experience, Barr credits his success to a few things: St. Mary's, his Catholic faith and hard work.

"St. Mary's taught me the nuts and bolts of how to be a lawyer," he said. ■





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St. Mary's sisterhood

Sophomore Biology major Delicia Riojas (from left), Karen E. Riojas (B.S. '18), Larissa N. Riojas, D.O. (B.S. '08), Iraceli P. Riojas (B.S. '15), Adriana L. Soto (B.S. '14) and Laura I. Anguiano (B.S. '13) have embraced the St. Mary's sense of family literally. The six sisters from Weslaco have all studied at St. Mary's University's School of Science, Engineering and Technology. Delicia Riojas, the youngest, is set to graduate in Spring 2021.

