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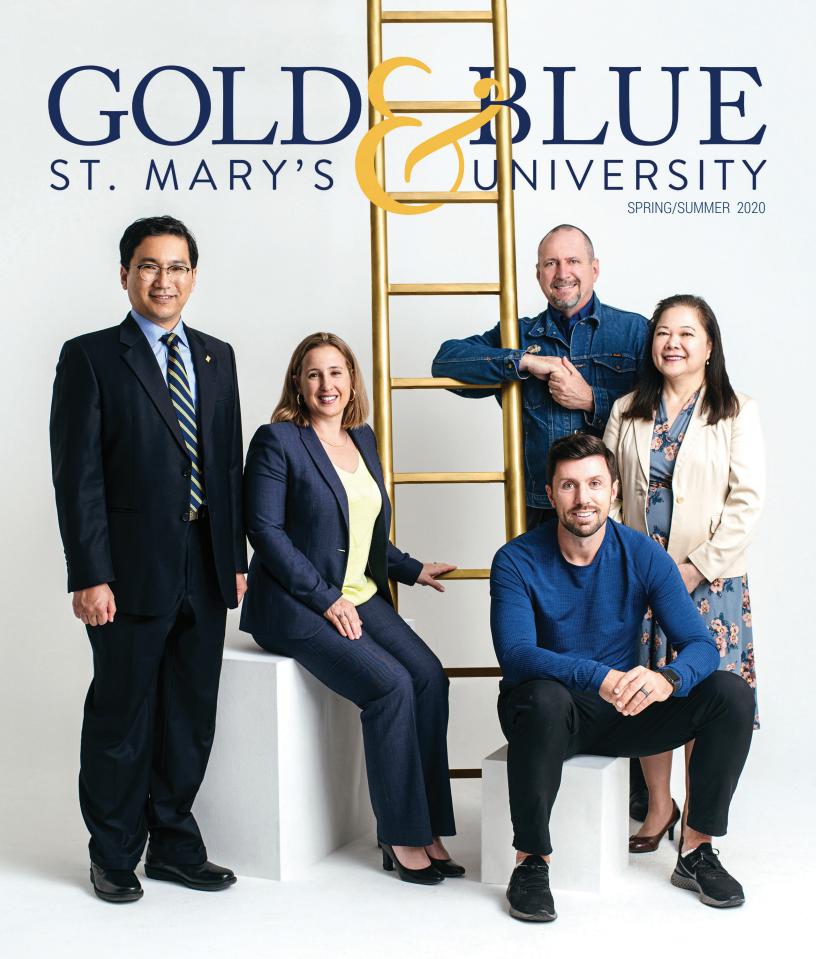


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### THE BIG SOLVE

St. Mary's faculty and staff apply expertise to modern challenges





### GOLD BLUE ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

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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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On the cover: St. Mary's University faculty and staff tackle some of humanity's  $\ \, \text{biggest problems} - \text{from housing shortages to mental health needs} - \text{through}$ the lens of their expertise. From left, Seongbae Lim, Ph.D., Professor of Information Systems; Genevieve Hébert Fajardo, J.D., Clinical Professor of Law; Paul X. Uhlig, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Mathematics; Johnny Clifford, Head Men's Soccer Coach; Angeli Willson, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Education. Read more on Page 14. Photo by Josh Huskin.

# Ihank

to all alumni, employees and friends who donated to Rattlers Helping Rattlers.

Your gifts helped us raise more than \$61,000 for the Student Emergency Fund.

Our students are still facing financial hardships related to COVID-19. Please consider giving today at stmarytx.edu/giving.



### PRESIDENT'SMESSAGE

### Following the path set by our founder

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

Enormous change has occurred since my previous Gold & Blue message and the pandemic spread across our nation, affecting lives and communities. But turbulent disruption is not foreign to the Marianists. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, who lived during and drew lifelong lessons from the French Revolution, reminds us about the importance of adaptation and change during difficult times. I am proud to tell you that the St. Mary's community — our students, faculty, staff and alumni — has been following the Marianists' founder's sage counsel.

Thanks to the unprecedented efforts of St. Mary's faculty and staff, within one week in March our faculty had converted from on-campus, in-person teaching to fully online instruction and have maintained the St. Mary's distinctive touch — personal connection with and attention to the individual needs of their students. That same week, more than 1,000 students relocated from campus and began their online courses in a seamless transition. In early March, 1,130 students lived in St. Mary's residence halls. Today, there are fewer than 20 still living on campus.

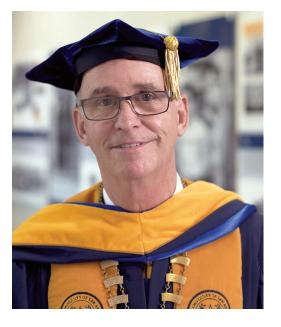
Our Alumni Association, as it has so often in the past, stepped forward to assist with a generous donation of \$620,000 to support the financial needs of current and incoming students. Our students' financial needs have greatly increased because of the devastating financial impact of the coronavirus on families. Through alumni and friends' online giving, we have received thousands of dollars to support our students, so that they can weather these weeks and return to campus this coming fall.

Who we are and what we **stand for** are even **more vital** today than ever before.

St. Mary's intends to resume classes and residential life on campus this fall. Like other Texas universities, we are planning to safely resume in-person teaching, learning and residential life for the fall semester. The safety of the St. Mary's community will be our first priority. We are making plans with the understanding that resuming on-campus activities in the fall will depend on the continued decline of COVID-19 cases in Texas and San Antonio. We are and will continue to be guided by government and public health officials.

St. Mary's has weathered many ups and downs in its 168 years. We continue to be financially sound, and we remain steadfast in our dedication to St. Mary's University's mission as a Catholic and Marianist university. The University is moving to position itself, not out of concern for survival, but in a sincere effort to move beyond the pandemic, prepared to continue to deliver a quality education grounded in our mission of sending purposeful young men and women into our communities to serve and lead. Who we are and what we stand for are even more vital today than ever before.

I thank you for your continued generosity to St. Mary's. I pray for you and your families. I ask you to pray for St. Mary's and our students.



### **CAMPUSNEWS**

### Leticia Contreras to lead St. Mary's University Trustees

St. Mary's University welcomed Leticia "Leti" Contreras (B.A. '89) as the new chair of its Board of Trustees

on June 1.



Contreras, who is executive vice president of Texas Security General Insurance Agency LLC, is the first woman to serve as chair in the history

of the University's governing boards.

In 2017, Leti Contreras and her husband, Tom Contreras (B.B.A. '88), established the Contreras Family Executive in Residence and the Risk Management Student Success Fund in the Greehey School of Business. The couple also funded construction of The Pub at St. Mary's and the Contreras Family Terrace. Their company provided a startup fund for Rattler Enterprises, a student-led business also based in the Business School.

In addition to five new trustees joining the board, John Vaught (J.D. '78), retired senior counsel, Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell, LLP, joined Christopher "Chris" Martinez (B.B.A. '00), president, Central Electric Enterprises & Co., as a Vice Chair of the Board.

New additions to the board include:

- Leland T. Blank, P.E. (B.S. '67), Dean Emeritus, American University of Sharjah, UAE; Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University
- Sara E. Dysart (B.A. '74, J.D. '81), attorney
- Steven Peña Sr. (J.D. '94), attorney and shareholder, Davidson Troilo Ream & Garza, P.C.
- Katherine Resteiner (M.S. '94), chief of staff, Intel Capital, Intel Corporation
- Corinne Vela-Zapata (B.B.A. '82), Alumni Association Representative, product management director, USAA

### St. Mary's prepares to welcome students back to campus for the fall semester.

St. Mary's University has announced plans to resume classes on campus for the fall semester. The University is also preparing for students to move into the residence halls in the fall.

"We share the hopes and optimism of other colleges and universities in Texas. We are planning to safely resume in-person teaching, learning and residential life for the fall semester," said President Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

The St. Mary's planning team has begun its preparations with the understanding that resuming on-campus activities will depend on the continued decline of COVID-19 cases in Texas and in San Antonio. University decisions will continue to be guided by government and public health officials. The University's timeline for making these decisions on how it will safely manage teaching, living and other activities on campus is the end of June.

### St. Mary's discounts tuition for recent alumni and for new undergraduates' summer classes

St. Mary's University will encourage students to continue on their path toward academic achievement by discounting tuition for recent alumni enrolling in graduate programs and for summer classes for new undergraduate students.

For both recent undergraduate alumni returning for a graduate program and incoming undergraduate students who want to start with a Summer 2020 course, St. Mary's University will temporarily discount tuition rates by 50%.

"For generations, St. Mary's students have enriched their knowledge and career development through our unique Catholic and Marianist liberal arts education," said Rosalind Alderman, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Enrollment Management. "To support this attainment during what will be challenging financial times and an uncertain job market for many in our community, St. Mary's will offer a tuition discount to recent alumni who meet the admission requirements and remain at St. Mary's as a new degree-seeking graduate student."

### University announces Vice President for Administration and Finance

In April, the Board of Trustees unanimously confirmed President Thomas M. Mengler's appointment of Aaron Hanna (B.A. '10, M.P.A. '11, M.B.A. '13) as the permanent Vice President for Administration and Finance.

In February 2019, Hanna was named the Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance. With previous experience in managing some of the largest function areas in Administration and Finance, Hanna has continued to demonstrate that same excellent leadership in his management of the entire division.

In his year as interim, Hanna responded to the Finance Committee of the Board's request for providing even greater transparency of the University's complex finances, and his proposal for refinancing bond debt will result in new savings for the University. Hanna has led the Critical Incidents Response Team that, since the beginning of March, has been working to guide the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### St. Mary's announces transition in University Advancement leadership

In March, St. Mary's University announced that Rick Kimbrough, Vice President for University Advancement, will leave at the end of June to take a similar position at Pacific University in Oregon.

Kimbrough joined St. Mary's in June 2013 and built a collaborative Advancement team. Kimbrough has led the \$150 million Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign — with \$145 million raised.

The University named Joel Lauer as the Interim Vice President for University Advancement, beginning July 1. He came to St. Mary's in 2014 from the Washburn University Foundation, where he worked for more than 12 years. Lauer was the Executive Director of Advancement for the School of Law before becoming the Assistant Vice President for Development in 2018

### St. Mary's waives standardized testing requirements for many programs

In light of the complications for standardized testing as a result of the coronavirus, St. Mary's University has temporarily made the GRE and GMAT graduate school entry exams optional tests for most graduate programs.

The waiver applies to most Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 graduate program applicants.

To support freshman prospective students affected by the cancellation of ACT and SAT testing, St. Mary's is also offering an alternate, test-optional pathway to complete applications through Spring 2022.

### University names School of Law dean

St. Mary's University named Patricia Roberts, J.D., Dean of the St. Mary's School of Law beginning June 1. Roberts comes to St. Mary's from William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she earned her Juris Doctor and served as Vice Dean.

"I was drawn to St. Mary's because of its Catholic and Marianist mission, and I look forward to enhancing the efforts of the St. Mary's faculty and staff in their commitment to faith and social justice," said Roberts, who was also named the Charles Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law.

Roberts practiced law for eight years as a solo practitioner and, later, as a managing partner of a civil practice law firm after earning her law degree from William & Mary.

### University names Greehey School of Business interim dean

Stephanie Ward, Ph.D., Professor of Management, became Interim Dean of the Greehey School of Business on June 1.

Ward, who has taught at St. Mary's since 2004, succeeded Tanuja Singh, D.B.A., who had led the Greehey School of Business as Dean since 2009. Ward is past chair of the business school's Department of Management and Marketing and served on

various University committees, including a past Core Curriculum Committee and as a faculty senator.

Singh accepted the position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Loyola University New Orleans beginning in July.

### Trustee becomes San Antonio's first plasma donor for COVID-19 relief

David Herrmann (B.B.A. '88, J.D. '90), CEO of Columbia Realty Limited and a St. Mary's Trustee, became San Antonio's first plasma donor in efforts to potentially ward off the physiological effects of the COVID-19 virus.

As reported by the San Antonio Express-News, Herrmann in March visited his doctor in San Antonio after returning home from a Colorado skiing trip with a fever. After testing positive for the virus, Herrmann, though his fever never broke 100 degrees, took measures to isolate himself and rest.

Once he recovered from the virus, "that same day I saw a report on the news about the plasma program and the local project with South Texas Blood and Tissue," Herrmann said.

"I reached out and they contacted me the next day," he said. "They screened me and, once I was approved" - after testing negative twice for the virus — "I did my first donation a few days later."

According to the Express-News, Herrmann's recent plasma donation "kickstarted local efforts to treat the sickest COVID-19 patients with a therapy that has long been used for other diseases without treatment or cure."

### Moore family donates \$1.7 million for scholarships

St. Mary's University announced a new scholarship after receiving gifts totaling \$1.7 million from the estate of Robert and Hildegard Moore.

Honoring the Moores' support of Catholic education, the new Robert and Hildegard Moore Endowed General Scholarship will assist students in good academic standing with demonstrated financial need.

### Bill Greehey donates \$1 million to **Business School**

St. Mary's University has received a \$1 million gift from alumnus Bill Greehey (B.B.A. '60), a long-time philanthropist and the largest donor to St. Mary's University in the institution's history.

The gift will support the Greehey MBA for Values-Driven Leaders, the MBA for Professionals, scholarships and program development. Greehey has long been a significant benefactor of St. Mary's.

### Rattler Hometown Advantage to aid incoming Bexar County students

During these uncertain times, moving closer to home or staying closer for college may be more important than ever.

The Rattler Hometown Advantage gives eligible students an additional \$1,000 per semester (\$2,000 per year) for a total of eight semesters of undergraduate study at St. Mary's. This \$8,000 of support is in addition to any scholarships and financial aid that students may qualify to receive.

Eligible students must be incoming new freshmen and transfer students for Fall 2020 who live in Bexar County and whose family adjusted gross income is less than \$100,000.

"The Rattler Hometown Advantage is made possible by a generous gift from our St. Mary's University Alumni Association as we work together to help our students reach their educational goals," said Rosalind Alderman, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Enrollment Management.

The gift from the Alumni Association will also help retain current students into the Fall 2020 semester.



### St. Mary's University launches first-of-its-kind varsity esports program in San Antonio

Get your gaming fingers ready, Rattlers. Esports is headed to St. Mary's University.

St. Mary's Athletics will launch an esports program this fall, offering students the exciting opportunity to compete in one of the world's fastest-growing industries — competitive computer gaming, Director of Athletics Robert Coleman announced this spring semester.

The St. Mary's announcment marked the first university in San Antonio to sponsor a varsity esports program.



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### Alum's roles with the City of San Antonio and the Texas Research and Technology Foundation help boost SA's economy

by Jennifer R. Lloyd (M.B.A. '16)

Flourishing through innovation underpins not only Rene Dominguez's life, but also his career in economic development in the Alamo City.

San Antonio first lured Dominguez from his hometown of El Paso with its status as a major metropolitan area and a hotbed for Hispanic marketing. That interest led him to earn his bachelor's from St. Mary's University in English Communications Arts in 1992 and his Communication Studies master's in 2000.

"In '88, I completely fell in love with the school and jumped feet first — not only into the academic side of the school, but also the social side," said Dominguez, who participated in student government, was a President's Ambassador and a steadfast Rattler Basketball fan.

After working in restaurants and retail with a stint in Austin after graduation, Dominguez returned to St. Mary's to work in the Alumni Relations Office helping to organize Fiesta Oyster Bake. Over the next decade, he worked his way up to become the Executive Director of Development.

Dominguez recently leapt from a position with the City of San Antonio into the roles of president and chief operating officer for the Texas Research and Technology Foundation and its nonprofit innovation arm, VelocityTX.

His latest career turn fits what President Emeritus Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., described as his "modest and adaptive" demeanor.

"His administrative and professional abilities embody and personify what I would consider to be the Marianist charism in terms of working in community and trying to achieve excellence," Cotrell said.

Dominguez's interactions with leading St. Mary's alumni, such as Bill Greehey (B.B.A. '60), led him to mentoring relationships for his next phase. He became president of the Community

Rene Dominguez stands by the former Merchants Ice Building on Houston Street — part of the Texas Research and Technology Foundation's redevelopment plans.

Development Loan Fund, which issued loans to small businesses. The City of San Antonio recruited him to run its Economic Development Department in 2009, though the "intense and awesome opportunity" came as the U.S. economy struggled from the Great Recession.

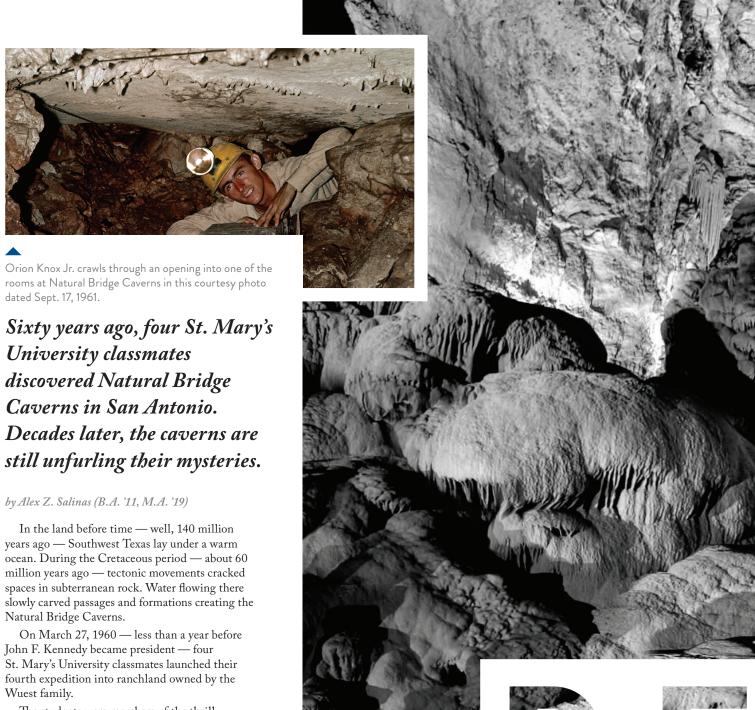
"San Antonio weathered the recession better than most U.S. cities," Dominguez said. "The recession allowed us to take a look at how we did economic development and the roles education and workforce development played."

With the city, Dominguez defined and established a more comprehensive economic development strategic plan that focused on local business expansion, workforce development and entrepreneurial development.

He worked on the expansion of everything from Fortune 500 companies, à la Microsoft and Google, to one-person biotech startups. His office also established economic partnership agreements with cities in China, Mexico, Israel and Germany. The efforts paid off — resulting in the creation of 20,000-plus jobs and more than \$3 billion in local investment.

His new role with the Texas Research and Technology Foundation and VelocityTX inspired him because of the elements it drew together redeveloping a five-plus acre city block in the underserved near-East Side into an innovation hub; economic development, including the creation of jobs and investment; and company formation and expansion. He will also work on entrepreneurial development, such as helping startups — especially those in the biosciences — commercialize their ideas.

"We are going to be a catalyst for growth and economic opportunity for the residents in the area," he said.



The students were members of the thrillseeking, cave-exploring St. Mary's University Speleological Society.

Orion Knox Jr., Preston Knodell (B.A./B.S. '60), Al Brandt (B.S. '59) and Joe Cantu had permission from Clara Wuest Heidemann to search the cave near her family's cattle ranch.

"We'd always known there were passages beneath the area around the sinkhole and bridge, but no one had wanted to explore them before," Heidemann told *Texas Highways* magazine in 1988.

When the St. Mary's spelunkers trekked across a previously spotted narrow passageway "plugged with debris" nearly a hundred feet underground, they tapped on Knox, the smallest in the group, to crawl through it.

On the other side, when 19-year-old Knox laid eyes on an expanse of darkness — becoming the first human, perhaps, to peer into the largest known caverns in Texas, which now see thousands



of visitors every year — he said to the group, "Hey, we may have something here."

In a story by the Austin Chronicle, Knox said that finding the first room, later dubbed St. Mary's Hall, "was the biggest adrenaline rush of my life."

Knodell (now deceased) told the Austin Chronicle that discovering the caverns "was the second-biggest moment of my life," next to getting married.

"It was a really tight fit the entire way," Cantu said in the Chronicle story. "From the very beginning, Orion said he was going to help open the cave to the world. And he did."

Knox put his college education on hold for two years to help excavate and develop the caverns, which opened to the public in 1964 and became a registered U.S. natural landmark in 1971.

Upon opening in 1964, then-Governor John Connally called the Natural Bridge Caverns "a jewel in the crown of Texas' attractions."

Knox, who eventually graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in architecture, recalled the minimalistic methods deployed to survey the caverns.

"At the time, we basically just used compass and steel tape," he said. "Measuring was a complicated, meticulous process."

Natural Bridge Caverns geologist Brian Vauter said the caverns were "initially discovered with 2.5 miles of passage."

In May 2019, cavers found a 600-foot long passageway beyond where the 1960 exploration stopped. It opened into a space containing mineral-rich water pools and ice-like crystal mounds.

Stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws and flowstones are just some of the types of rock that compose the caverns. Even the jawbones of a grizzly bear that became extinct more than 8,000 years ago have been unearthed inside, pointing to signs of ancient activity.

For Evelynn Mitchell, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Science, the caverns' greatest significance lies in its relationship to the Edwards Aquifer.

"The caverns are the best place for the public to experience, to physically witness, the effects of water and rainfall in this region," she said.

Mitchell, who has published research on the impact of bats in San Antonio's Bracken Cave, said a clearer understanding of the caverns — and the source of the underground water supply — teaches us not to develop housing in the recharge zone.

After learning geology from the Marianists, Knox, now 79, enjoyed a career of cave planning and development. After Natural Bridge Caverns, some of his stops included Kartchner Caverns State Park in Arizona, Harrison's Cave in Barbados and Grutas de Bustamante in Mexico.

"Between discovery and later development, Natural Bridge Caverns has impacted almost every aspect of my life, all for the better," Knox said.



Every semester, Margaret Cantú-Sanchez, Ph.D. (B.A. '06, M.A. '07), hears students say, "I've never read anything by a Mexican American author." While this shocks her, it is an all too common experience among educators, even in a city as diverse as San Antonio, which is 64% Latino.

Cantú-Sanchez (B.A. '06, M.A. '07), an Instructor of English at St. Mary's University and a San Antonio native, is working hard to expand the canon of literature and open a dialogue about representation. She believes the canon continues to fall short, and that her students deserve to relate to what they read.

Be it the challenging novels of Nobel Prize-winning African American author Toni Morrison, or the cultural theories of Chicana scholar Gloria Anzaldúa, Cantú-Sanchez infuses her lectures with thinkers of color.

"Mexican American literature, and multicultural literature for that matter, speaks to my students because they're able to see themselves, their families and their culture," Cantú-Sanchez said. "Everyone needs to be exposed to this literature, whether they identify as Latino or not."

One way in which Cantú-Sanchez bolstered her mission was by creating and organizing the Mexican American Summer Studies Symposium — the inaugural event of which was held at St. Mary's in July 2019. The daylong symposium prepared local high school teachers for a new course, Ethnic Studies: An Overview of Americans of Mexican Descent, approved by the Texas State Board of Education in 2018.

"Margaret's Mexican American Studies Symposium last summer sparked a necessary conversation," said Refugio "Ito" Romo, Ph.D. (B.A. '83, M.A. '93), Professor of English Literature and Language. Cantú-Sanchez hopes the new high school course will encourage young Mexican American students to explore their identity and relationship with the country's culture — just as her St. Mary's courses explore these themes in relationship with literature.

"We owe it to the younger generations, and to the generations of the future and the past, to know where we are from," said Luisa Ortiz, a senior Theology major who attended the symposium. "When I learn about Mexican American heritage, it makes me feel important, like I'm part of the conversation. I matter."

For students of Cantú-Sanchez who aren't Hispanic, the takeaways from her classes remain impactful.

"Margaret has a passion, not only for the content that she's teaching, but for the people in her department and her community," said Forest Lebaron, who earned her master's of English Literature and Language in May. "She wants us to relate to the materials, understand and, most of all, succeed."

"I use literature to help my students contemplate their own ideas of identity and how society can be a big influence on how we understand our identities," Cantú-Sanchez said. "Sometimes this can be positive. A lot of times, though, it can be negative because of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination that have long existed."

Teaching for adaptation and change, then, is a foundation of Marianist education. It's why Cantú-Sanchez perceives events, such as last year's symposium, as necessary conversation-starters for the community.

"I feel a responsibility to my community to bring about social justice," she said. "One way I can do that is through teaching. In turn, I hope my students will go out and spread the word and make a tangible change in their community."

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# Viral Education

### Biology professor takes lessons in virology and life into the virtual classroom

by Alex Z. Salinas (B.A. '11, M.A. '19)

In nearly three decades teaching at St. Mary's University, Gary Ogden, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, remembered a touching moment from early in his professorship at St. Mary's that brought him to tears.

"A student slid a letter under my door addressing his upcoming graduation and how he would've never graduated if I hadn't allowed him to redeem a bad grade he'd received in my class," Ogden said.

"It reminds you how fragile some students are — their situations — and how we, as professors, must always be mindful to work with them during a very important time in their lives," said Ogden who has brought that understanding into his now-virtual classroom.

Ogden, who also serves as Associate Dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology, received his Ph.D. in Microbiology/Molecular Virology from the University of Kansas in 1983.

Amid the global pandemic triggered by the COVID-19 virus, the virology expert adjusted not only to the online format, but also to more deeply cover coronaviruses. This spring, Ogden conducted class on Zoom, a cloud-based videoconferencing platform, and said being able to still see his students "nod in agreement or laugh occasionally at a lame joke is rejuvenating."

Before coming to St. Mary's, Ogden — the longest-tenured professor in the Department of Biological Sciences — made stops as a research scientist at Yale School of Medicine, Harvard School of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

While at the NIH from 1987 to 1989, Ogden's lab was "down the hall" from Dr. Anthony Fauci's — a top infectious diseases expert who became a household name while delivering coronavirus updates to millions of Americans alongside the president.

"Dr. Fauci was very friendly, very respected by my colleagues," Ogden said. "I sang Christmas carols with him once in Connecticut."

About the COVID-19 virus, Ogden said that it is an envelope virus meaning it is surrounded by a membrane that renders it unable to spread when people use hand soap or hand sanitizer.

Ogden said the main key to avoiding the spread of viruses is cutting off their food source — i.e., people.

"Infections can increase exponentially, but only if the virus has sufficient food available. We are that food," he said. "We have to limit the virus' ability to find us."

Hector Garcia, senior Biology major, said Ogden is passionate about teaching microbiology.

"He's taught me that when facing a scientific problem, look at the big picture," Garcia said. "That's how you can create multiple solutions to one problem."

"We are fortunate to have Gary Ogden at St. Mary's University," Ted Macrini, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Biological Sciences, said. "He has received grants from the NIH and the National Science Foundation to support his research with our students."

A native of Massachusetts, Ogden said that St. Mary's has been the perfect place for him since Day One.

"It's not hard to like our students here," he said. "They have the values that we do, not least of which are working hard and treating people with respect."



# MIND, BODY AN

### University counselors, staff adapt to meet students' holistic health needs

by Nikki Harris

Universities across the country, including St. Mary's University, have been grappling with increasing mental health concerns among their student bodies. Compounding those existing challenges are the spread of the coronavirus across the United States and the significant shifts in the way we work, learn, teach and live.

For some, these situations and transitions can strain mental health and hamper achieving daily balance. St. Mary's is elevating the importance of mental health and wellness on campus through the Student Counseling Center and beyond.

### Creating a wellness culture

Diane Coalson, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Student Counseling Center and Student Accessibility Services, sparked a mental health initiative on campus before the 2019-2020 academic year.

"What we're trying to do is create a culture of health and wellness on campus. And that's mind, body and spirit," Coalson said.

With the help of Staff Psychologist Teresa Caston and Deidra Coleman, Associate Director of the Student Counseling Center, Coalson started working with campus departments and community members to craft a culture of holistic wellness.

Beyond continuing existing services like free, individual counseling (mind) for undergraduate, graduate and law students, the Center partnered with University Ministry (spirit), as well as a nutritionist (body).

In the fall, the Center introduced a new Wellness Lab, which offers a quiet space with a rocking chair, yoga mat and computer program with breathing and relaxation exercises for students to practice meditation.

When the University transitioned to online classes in March during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Counseling Center adapted too, offering telehealth counseling and psychiatric services through telephone sessions and an encrypted-level of Zoom, a cloud-based videoconferencing platform, as well as offering tips to practice self-care at home.

Coalson's ultimate goal includes collaborating with more departments and organizations on campus, which may already be hosting mental health events like yoga classes and therapy animal visits.

"If we pool all those resources, we could take a big step forward in creating a culture of wellness on campus," she said.

### Out in the open

The initiative has already garnered support from Student Development, the School of Law and Rattler Athletics.

"We all need to be knowledgeable of what mental health is. It was my goal to bring that to everyone's attention on campus," said Audrey Wandji, vice president of the University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Wandji, a senior Combined Science major and Women's Basketball player, noticed a need for increased awareness after seeing her teammates and fellow student-athletes

struggle with discussing their well-being.

"Being a student-athlete, sometimes mental health is put on the back burner," she said. "You're expected to be an athlete and a student. It's a lot of pressure."

She and the committee approached Athletics Director Robert Coleman about creating a support system that gives students the space to feel comfortable talking to coaches and teammates — and gives coaches the words and resources to help them.

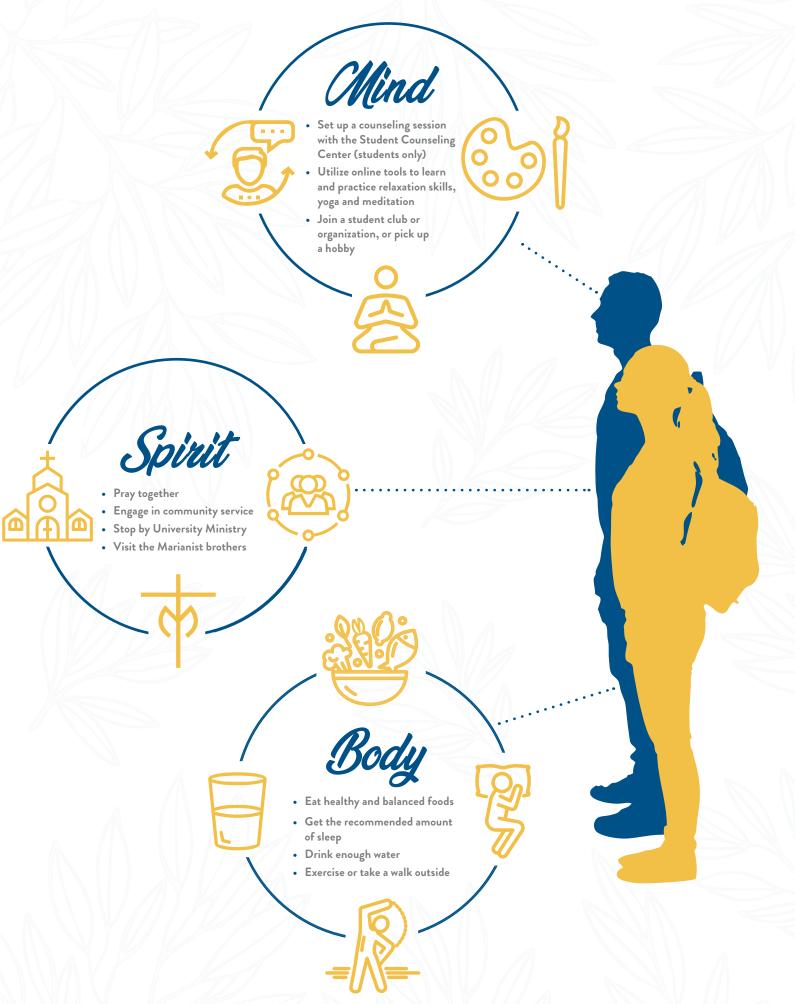
"We've got to be ... really open in our communication," Coleman said. "If something's not good, you've got to come out with it. You've got to talk about it. It's not a sign of weakness."

### The significance of self-care

The School of Law has also adopted wellness and mental health practices, such as free yoga sessions, meditation classes and the annual Law Wellness Week. Law staff stress the importance of making time for self-care, even if students only have an hour at lunch to spare.

The Counseling Center recommends keeping daily needs in balance with other areas of life: eating well, getting enough sleep, drinking plenty of water, exercising and meditating at home to help students focus better in class and at work — especially during stressful situations.

"I like to empower students to know that they have the resources and the coping skills to manage difficult situations," Caston said. "Once they learn that, they can do it."





# BIG SOLVE

# ST. MARY'S FACULTY AND STAFF TACKLE SOCIETY'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

At St. Mary's University, our campus community talks a lot about educating leaders for the common good — a noble yet, on first glance, abstract notion. What does it look like when our faculty and staff apply their expertise to solving some of humanity's biggest problems?

On these pages, you'll hear from professors in Mathematics, Education, Information Systems and Law, as well as our Men's Soccer Head Coach, who each use the holistic St. Mary's style of education to offer solutions to some of our greatest challenges.

# Housing as a human right

Bexar County court system, you could find a long line of unrepresented tenants and homeowners about to lose their homes. The outcome was almost certain. Tenants would be evicted. Homeowners would be foreclosed.

During the pandemic, foreclosures were barred, the eviction courts were closed and vulnerable people had a brief reprieve from eviction. Now that we are slowly emerging from the crisis, the economic wheels are beginning to churn again. That means foreclosures will be filed and tenants will be evicted. Without major financial assistance, many individuals and families are now even more vulnerable than before.

Law professors often declare that law school teaches you to "think like a lawyer." Yes, law graduates should understand the law, advocate for clients and work competently on individual cases. But thinking like a lawyer means questioning, criticizing, evaluating and reflecting upon the wider legal system.

Our traditional civil legal system works relatively quickly to remove people who have fallen behind on payments, and each case is handled on a one-by-one basis. This individualized system reinforces an isolationist and reality-blind approach to one of our most pressing social problems: housing loss.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to rethink housing policy, putting the focus on income vulnerability, not individual fault.

We should modernize law and housing regulation at local, state and federal levels. We should adjust and restructure the property tax and appraisal system that is becoming unaffordable for seniors on a fixed income. We should study the history of predatory lending and discriminatory redlining (refusing loans to entire neighborhoods on the assumption that minority communities are a credit risk), and understand how they impact housing sustainability in the long term. Most of all, we should provide meaningful financial assistance to people who cannot afford to pay their rent or mortgage.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recognizes affordable housing as a human right, stating "communities and the government have an obligation to ensure the housing needs of all are met, especially poor and vulnerable people and their families."

As a Catholic and Marianist law school, St. Mary's Law teaches students to impact the common good by advocating for clients within our individualized legal system of private property rights — whether those clients are tenants, homeowners, banks or landlords.

But it also means we teach students to recognize the limitations of the civil legal system and study bigger questions about income distribution, local and national government policy, and fundamental rights.

BY GENEVIEVE HÉBERT FAJARDO, J.D. Clinical Professor of Law



# Bridging economic divides



# Educating beyond the test

his year, a former student, now a middle school teacher, approached me about a pupil who had confided in him about having thoughts of self-harm. This was not the first time I heard the issue of mental stress in teenagers.

A Pew Research Center survey revealed that 70% of teens see anxiety and depression as the top problem among their peers. Another study showed that the number of college students who sought help from campus counseling centers increased by an average of 30% to 40%, even though enrollment grew by only 5% during the time frame studied.

Some students develop testing anxiety because of the high-stakes, state-mandated standardized tests. They feel compelled to "fit in" due to the popularity and pervasiveness of social media, which follows them outside the classroom. This may be aggravated further by the pressures of society's response to the COVID-19 virus.

With the unprecedented phenomena of schools closing and parents assuming responsibility for teaching their kids, what society must do for the common good has broadened. Based on my experience as a school teacher and administrator, we should look beyond over-emphasizing testing to advocate for the development of the whole person — cognitively, socially and emotionally — in our K-12 public schools.

Texas needs to create and fund a curriculum that focuses on developing socio-emotional intelligence, in addition to its existent academic standards. This program should start with awareness — self and social. It should include teaching students to recognize their strengths and weaknesses, gaining confidence from their abilities and demonstrating resiliency in the face of failure. This program should have mental health supports, such as counselors, psychologists and social workers trained in implementing a program through which students can develop empathy for others, and build and maintain healthy relationships.

Now, more than ever, school districts need to actively involve parents in the education of their children by having programs to empower families and help all students. At the elementary school where I was a principal, we had monthly family reading nights and family math nights, in addition to a parent-teacher association. After much student and parent interest, we also added a robotics night.

Research also needs to be done on online learning's effectiveness. We must determine its barriers to success, effects on children's academic and socio-emotional well-being, and how to help students readjust post-pandemic.

If public schools take care of their students early on, then they prepare them — mentally and spiritually — for success and the rigors of adult life. ■

BY ANGELI WILLSON, PH.D.

Chair of the Department of Education,
Associate Professor of Education



# Mathematics for the common good

ast spring, I toured the Southwest Research Institute

with a group of students to learn about summer

internships. In a whirlwind overview, our host told

BY PAUL X. UHLIG, PH.D. (B.S. '90) Chair and Professor of Mathematics



# Winning through failure

he loss of the opening game of the Fall 2019 Men's Soccer season felt like a make-or-break moment. But it wasn't just the loss that stung — it was the way we lost.

That night, I found that team players had left our bus full of trash. I was angry and disappointed because this wasn't the result of a winning mentality. Our culture needed to change in a big way.

The next morning, on a hot September day, instead of the team taking the day off, we met at the stadium for an extra practice. Every single one of us — staff included — covered a lot of grass that morning in a rigorous session. I definitely struggled the most, but it was a sacrifice for the common good.

For our culture to change, we all needed to practice

what we preached, from coaching staff to players. We needed to be reminded of the work we had put in, and the opportunity we had in the season ahead.

After that day, we went on a ninegame winning streak and won 12 games altogether. We qualified, as Lone Star Conference champions, for the national tournament for the first time in program history. We won our first national tournament game, beating top-25 ranked Western Washington University by a score of 5-0.

The season eventually came to an end against California State University, Los Angeles, but our program made history. We broke into the top 10 in the national rankings.

We learned what we were capable of. That season, we learned how to win — and lose — with grace.

Setbacks are inherently part of life. Those same lessons that we used to help refine the team's skills and mindset after their early loss, we can take into our own daily challenges to recalibrate

and find success.





# THE LAST MILE

### Colorado lawyer fights to bring high-speed internet to rural America

by Frank Garza

In some parts of rural Colorado, access to high-speed internet could look like a trip to the local Walmart parking lot or the public library, a barrier which can affect access to justice.

For example, Delta County in Western Colorado — about the size of Rhode Island — only has about 20 practicing lawyers. The youngest is 55.

"Young people will not go practice law in Delta County because they've got no broadband support. Everything is the equivalent of dial-up," said John M. Vaught (J.D. '78), the Denver-based past president of the Colorado Bar Association, who spent 42 years in private practice focused on commercial litigation. "Nobody wants to practice law without high-speed internet."

Without broadband support, uploading a brief to the Colorado Supreme Court can require a 40- to 70-mile trip just to find a strong enough signal, Vaught said.

Vaught made expanding broadband connectivity to rural Colorado a priority during his tenure as CBA president.

"If there are no lawyers practicing in Delta County because of these conditions, where do you go to get a lawyer?" he said. "It completely denies access to justice."

Much of the existing fiber optic cables in Colorado run through interstates and along

railroad lines, otherwise called the "middle mile." The problem, Vaught said, is that most rural areas are still missing the connection between the middle mile and individual residences and businesses.

That elusive end-user connection is the "last mile." If there aren't enough subscribers to justify broadband infrastructure, the private companies won't build it, he said.

Another obstacle is Colorado's Senate Bill 152, passed in 2005. The law prohibits the use of city and county funds for improving broadband infrastructure. While counties can opt out, it can be a cumbersome and expensive process; the county must call an election and the residents must support the resolution before using taxpayer money for the infrastructure.

By October 2018, 116 Colorado municipalities and counties held elections to override SB 152. But those areas needed millions more to build adequate infrastructure, Vaught said.

So Vaught made his case to the American Bar Association: petition Congress for \$42 billion, which could be used to fully fund broadband infrastructure in rural America.

"Much to my surprise, all 600 (ABA) delegates voted yes. And I thought, 'How do you get 600 lawyers to agree on anything?'"

The issue has become more significant in

light of the coronavirus, he added.

"The coronavirus has really underscored how important high-speed internet is," he said. In many Texas towns, he added, "we're trying to teach high school kids, and we don't have the adequate infrastructure to do it."

Before his tenure as CBA president, Vaught was president of the Denver Bar Association, chair of the Denver Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and served on the Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors.

The St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association recognized Vaught as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2018. In June, he also became the Vice Chair of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees.

As Vaught's mentor, Dean Emeritus Charles E. Cantú remembered him as a diligent student.

"He was always well-prepared, and somehow, I knew he would become very successful," said Cantú, adding that Vaught stands out among graduates, as only a few have led state bar associations.

"If I can do some good to help St. Mary's, I'm glad to. St. Mary's Law made a huge difference in my life," Vaught said. "I did exactly what I was meant to do, and that was being a lawyer. St. Mary's gave me that opportunity."



# INSPIRING HOPE

### School of Law project aids the wrongfully convicted

by Frank Garza

It took 15 years in prison to understand who she was, but Gricelda Moreno knows — she is strong, she has found her faith and she understands what domestic abuse is.

She was convicted in 1988 for failing to protect her daughter from being murdered by her abusive ex-husband and she received a 99-year sentence. For the next nine years, Moreno was repeatedly denied parole. That's when Clinical Professor of Law Stephanie Stevens (J.D. '91) and the St. Mary's University School of Law's Wrongful Convictions Project entered the picture.

"She tried many times to do the right thing, and it just felt like it was time for someone to step up for her and try," Stevens said.

This involved many appearances before the parole board to convince them that Moreno deserved a second chance, Stevens said.

"They want to see rehabilitation," Stevens said. "We were able to show that in all the time she had been in prison, she was a model inmate."

The parole board did eventually see it that way — Moreno didn't cause issues in prison, she earned several work training certificates and she attended therapy to work through her issues. She even had a job lined up for her if she was granted parole, Stevens said.

"I was very happy that somebody actually believed in me, that I had not killed my little girl," Moreno said. "It gave me hope."

Including Moreno's case, St. Mary's Law has worked on more than 50 post-conviction cases since the clinics began, Stevens said.

Ashley De La Garza (J.D. '20) started working with the Wrongful Convictions Project in her second year of law school because of her interest in reintegrating those released from prison.

"I've seen the difficulties of coming from that background and not being able to move past it," De La Garza said.

For the project, De La Garza would review letters from prospective clients, but she would also conduct background research. She looked for whether the individual already filed a writ of habeas corpus, which requires the court to determine if a person's imprisonment or detention is lawful. If they had, "you can't go back and file another," De La Garza said.

"What was difficult was seeing that half of them had already filed pro se (without representation)," she said. "They didn't realize how much they were damaging their case by doing that."

Continued on Page 24.

Several students, including Francisco Martinez Martinez (J.D. '20), left, have represented clients like Gricelda Moreno, center, who was paroled with help from the Wrongful Convictions Project. After hearing Moreno's story, Clinical Professor of Law Stephanie Stevens, right, decided to take on her case and is still working toward gaining clemency for her.





Arguing a wrongful conviction is an uphill battle. Often, the case is old and it can be difficult to gather the facts, said Clinical Professor of Law Anne Burnham (J.D. '96).

This is why the project carefully chooses cases. Where did the case occur? How easy would it be for law students to travel to the county to investigate? Do the merits of the case increase the likelihood of success? Is there something about the person's story that stands out?

"When the students narrow down the cases and do a preliminary investigation, they bring it to us, and we determine if there may be something more we can do to help," Stevens said. "After that, we begin a more thorough investigation."

That involves meeting with witnesses and going through police reports. But if the case is old, people may be difficult to locate. Records may have been destroyed. Rarely, a case makes it past that second investigation. Then the project staff file a writ, which leads to more legwork and investigation.

"By that point, we may have invested a couple of years or more on the case," Stevens said.

And with that time invested comes mountains of files. Briefs. Court opinions. Case law. Letters from the community. Petitions. Interview transcripts.

The staff has dedicated a "war room" in the Center for Legal and Social Justice to house files and plan tactics. Because of how long cases take, the clinic ensures each is well documented, said Francisco Martinez (J.D. '20), former research assistant for the project.

"It allows everyone to go through and see where the case is now. There's a lot of discovery, so it definitely helps," Martinez said.

Due to the exhaustive post-conviction work, the Wrongful Convictions Project — currently consisting of 10 students — is only handling three cases, Burnham said.

One of those cases involves a man named Rogelio Gutierrez, who was convicted of participating in a gang rape in 1992. Gutierrez served more than two decades in prison before he was released on bond pending ongoing litigation of his case thanks to the project's efforts.

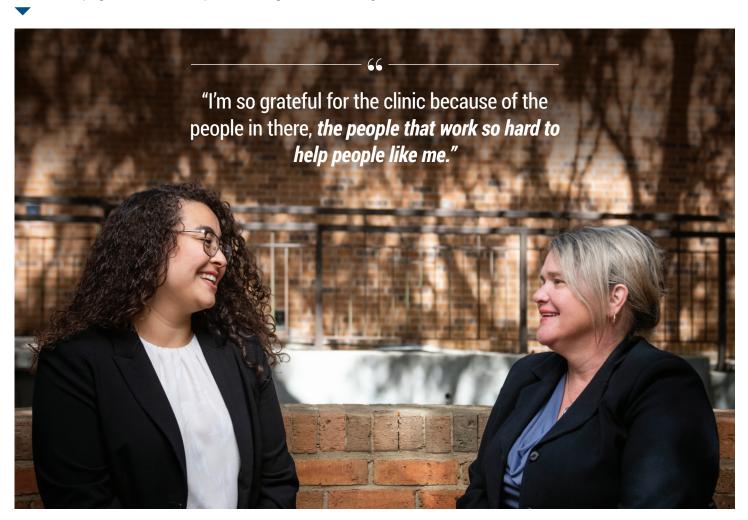
"His mother and sister went to bat for him, and when I started looking at the case, I thought it was compelling," Burnham said. "The victim had already recanted, and the system hadn't done right by him in recognizing his innocence."

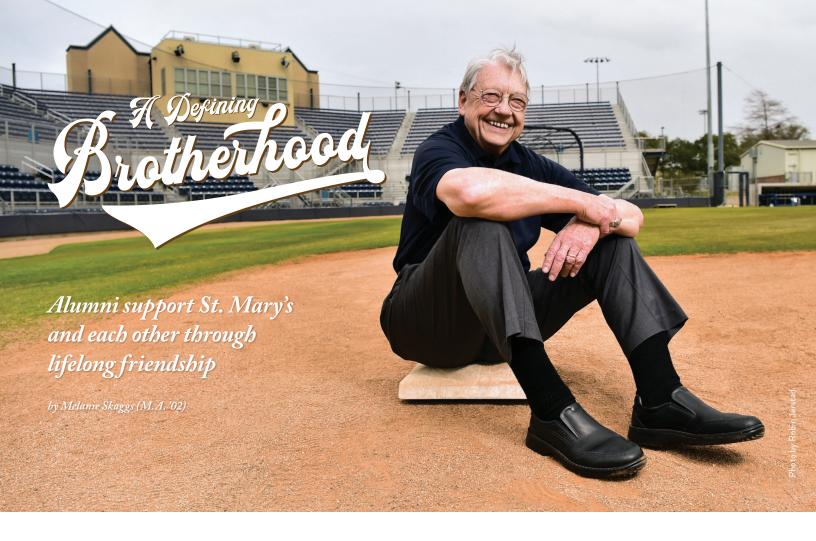
After several hearings over the past few years, the Wrongful Convictions Project awaits the court's findings to grant Gutierrez relief in the form of a new trial or acquittal.

Like Gutierrez, in Moreno's case, though she's out of prison, there's still work to be done. The next step is seeking clemency for her, so that she might enjoy the full rights of citizenship again, such as the right to vote, Stevens said.

"I'm so grateful for the clinic because of the people in there, the people who work so hard to help people like me," Moreno said. "I couldn't pay them back, and yet they were willing to take a big chance on me, without knowing me. Something the rest of the world couldn't give me, they did."

Working with Clinical Professors of Law Stephanie Stevens, not pictured, and Anne Burnham, right, showed recent alumna Ashley De La Garza, left, the need for a program in the community like the Wrongful Convictions Project.





Michael "Mickey" Schott (B.B.A. '68) peers over first base toward the green outfield. The bat makes a loud crack! Schott fields the ball and tags the runner out. The memories flood his mind like it happened yesterday, but it has been more than 50 years.

Time may have passed, but Schott, as an active alum, has continuously stepped up to the plate in support of St. Mary's — and he is not alone. The friendships forged when Schott was a student are in a league of their own. Even after decades, these alums share an ironclad fellowship dedicated to each other and St. Mary's.

"St. Mary's is such a special place," Schott said. "The connections you make here are powerful."

Schott, a certified public accountant and president of the Gorman Foundation, is truly an all-star alum. A former Rattler Baseball first baseman, he was inducted into the St. Mary's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002. The U.S. Army veteran is also a past-president of the University Alumni Association and has served on the St. Mary's Board of Trustees since 2009. He stepped down as Board Chairman when his term ended in June 2020.

"The last two years as chairman have been very exciting. There's been a renewed energy around St. Mary's with The Defining Moment Comprehensive Campaign," Schott said. "Fundraising is not easy, but the Campaign has been led well and been very effective. It has been a tremendous shot-in-the-arm for St. Mary's. I anticipate, with confidence, it will continue to be successful going forward. This leadership team has the capability and commitment to make it happen."

Schott, along with many of his high school friends from Central Catholic, gravitated to St. Mary's University. At St. Mary's, many became members of the Rho Beta Gamma fraternity, ROTC or athletic teams, which deepened their relationships.

"St. Mary's and the Marianists played an important part in my life and the lives of most of my lifelong friends," Schott said. "There's a unique bond of brotherhood among the guys."

Rho Beta Gamma, founded in 1946 by the late Rev. Louis Reile, S.M. (B.A. '49), was St. Mary's oldest social fraternity until it disbanded in the 1970s. It provided the perfect foundation for lasting friendships to form. Their motto — suaviter in modo, fortiter in re (gentle in manner, strong in action) — is something members said they carried forward into all aspects of their lives.

This band of brothers still swings for the fences when it comes to making significant contributions (in both time and money) to St. Mary's University. A vast majority are active members of the Alumni Association — many having served as association president. A large number, including Schott, earned recognition as Distinguished Alumni. They are Fiesta Oyster Bake volunteers, like heavy hitter David Dickson (B.B.A. '68), who has done it for 38 years. In addition, many have been influential in shaping the future of the University by serving on the Board of Trustees.

"We've grown to be part of this incredible, influential group of alumni who are committed to each other and St. Mary's," Dickson said. "We go to bat for one another every chance we can."

Those who live in the San Antonio area meet regularly for lunch, dinner, golf or to catch a Rattler Baseball game. For the last 50 years, the larger group of 40 or more goes on a Gulf Coast fishing trip each spring.

"The tie that binds us is St. Mary's, but we are there for each other through the best and worst of times," Schott said. "Our sense of commitment to St. Mary's and each other comes from the Marianist spirit and helps make us all leaders within our community."

## CLASSNOTES alumni news

### 1970s

The Hon. Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, U.S. Air Force, Ret., M.A. '70, Fairfax, Virginia, former Director of National Intelligence, was commencement speaker for winter graduates at the University of Maryland.

The Hon. Israel Ramon, B.A. '74, J.D. '77, Edinburg, Hidalgo County 430th District Judge, presented a resolution to The Hon. Mario E. Ramirez, J.D. '75, Edinburg, commending him on his 40th judicial anniversary. Ramirez has presided over the 332nd Judicial Court since its establishment

#### Anthony Chapa, B.A. '75, M.A. '79,

Washington, D.C., executive director of the National Hispanic American Command Police Officers' Association, received the Global Alliance of Hispanic Law Enforcement Professionals Man of the Year Award during the seventh annual International Law Enforcement Awards event in Astoria, New York. Chapa retired from the U.S. Secret Service as assistant director.

Michael J. Novak, B.B.A. '75, San Antonio, executive director of the Texas Facilities Commission, is overseeing one of the largest construction sites of his professional career an \$895 million redevelopment of the State of Texas Capitol Complex. When completed, the venture will increase the complex by 1.5 million square feet in four buildings, consolidate state agencies and include a walkable greenbelt much like the National Mall.

Jose Aguirre, D.M.D., B.A. '76, San Antonio, is an Adjunct Clinical Professor at the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry and earned the designation of Qualified Dentist to fabricate oral sleep appliances to treat obstructive sleep apnea. His practice was named among America's Best Dentists for 2018 and 2019.

### 1980s

Leon Walls, Ph.D., B.S. '81, Enosburg, Vermont, an Associate Professor of Elementary Science Education in the College of Education and Social Services at the University of Vermont, gave a talk titled Beating Climate Change: The Case for Diversity and Science Education.

Franco Mondini-Ruiz, B.A. '82, J.D. '85, San Antonio, an artist who has lived and worked in both San Antonio and New York, has settled in his hometown and opened his studio on South Presa Street in Southtown.

### 1990s

Debbie Eng, B.B.A. '90, San Antonio, is senior operations manager of program integration for Boeing Executive Transport Services and Support.

Homer Renteria, B.B.A. '90, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has joined the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union as assistant director of marketing.

Mark Haby, B.A. '91, J.D. '95, Castroville, has been appointed 38th Judicial District Attorney for the State of Texas by Gov. Greg Abbott.

Clarissa Benavides, B.A. '93, J.D. '97, Irving, joined Flowserve, a Fortune 500 company, in March 2019 as director of privacy and regulatory counsel to lead its global Data Privacy Program and provide privacy and regulatory counsel across the enterprise and its affiliates. Benavides is tasked with establishing a privacy framework and developing a program that addresses privacy laws in more than 50 countries.

John Castillo, B.B.A. '95, Wildwood, Missouri, celebrated his 15th year of service at Energizer where he serves as vice president of North America Sales. He is in a second term on the board of directors for the Global Market Development Center, a retailer-owned trade association and was appointed to an advisory board position for the Missouri State University Customer Experience Program.

Gina (Garcia) Riojas, B.A. '97, Katy, has been elected to the St. John XXIII College Preparatory board of directors.

Elizabeth Eguia Robinson, M.A. '97, San Antonio, a graduate of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Leadership San Antonio Class No. 43, was appointed director of community partnerships for Project QUEST to oversee its community partnerships team. She was elected to the Association of Fundraising Professionals San Antonio and South Texas Chapter board as a member-atlarge in January. In August 2019, she married John Lawrence Robinson.

Erika Gonzalez, M.D., B.S. '98, San Antonio, president and CEO of South Texas Allergy & Asthma Medical Professionals, chairs the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce with the goal of keeping small businesses healthy. She also has served on the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

Joseph F. Hoelscher III, J.D., B.A. '98, M.S. '02, San Antonio, managing attorney and specialist in family and criminal defense law at the San Antonio-based law firm Hoelscher Gebbia Cepeda PLLC, authored the 2019 version of the practice guide for Texas Drunk Driving Law.

### 2000s

Lucia Dura, Ph.D., B.A. '00, El Paso, is Associate Dean of the graduate school at the University of Texas at El Paso. She has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and serves on its education committee.

Kris (Balekian) Hayes, M.B.A./J.D. '00, Dallas, president of Balekian Hayes, PLLC, has achieved professional status as a boardcertified lawyer in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Michelle K. Alonzo, B.B.A. '01, Dallas, is a newly elected shareholder in the immigration practice at Dallas-based Cowles & Thompson, P.C. She is active in the legal community and public service, providing pro bono services at several events and serving as vice chair of the Immigration Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association.

### Melissa Vela-Williamson, B.A. '02,

San Antonio, owner of MVW Communications, is a member of the 2020 Class of Leadership SAISD, a nine-month educational leadership development program that prepares aspiring and proven leaders to meaningfully impact San Antonio's education landscape.

Kathryn Cervera, B.A. '03, M.A. '04, San Antonio, has published a young adult fiction novel called Who Is It?, now available online at Amazon and at Barnes & Noble bookstores.

Jason Binford, M.A./J.D. '04, Dallas, has accepted a position as an assistant attorney general with the Texas Office of the Attorney General in Austin and will manage the Bankruptcy Regulatory Team.

Stefanie Gonzalez-Lopez, Ph.D., B.A. '04, M.P.A. '06, and Carlos Lopez, B.S. '05, M.S. '15, San Antonio, welcomed their first child Olivia Carolina, born July 17, 2019.

Artessia House, B.A. '04, J.D. '14, owner and managing attorney at Tess House Law PLLC, was named to the San Antonio Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Class of 2020.

Michelle (Gonzales) Bowling, B.B.A. '05, Denton, and John Bowling III, welcomed son Samuel Rhett, born June 9, 2019.

### Riann (Bensel) Moore, M.A./J.D. '05,

Richardson, certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in criminal appellate law, is assistant district attorney and deputy chief of the Conviction Integrity Unit in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

Greg Pardo, B.A. '05, Arlington, Virginia, who is serving as a political officer in the U.S. State Department's Office for Israel and Palestinian Affairs, recently took part in the Walsh School of Foreign Service's

Diverse Diplomacy Leaders Speaker Series at Georgetown University. His presentation, given in honor of Latinx Heritage Month, was Humility, Resilience, and Mentorship in the State Department.

Anne Claire Andaya-Nauts, M.A. '06, is consul at the U.S. Embassy to the Philippines in Manila. She currently serves in the Immigrant Visa Unit, working to reunite Filipinos with their families in the United States. Prior to the Philippines, she served in Afghanistan, China and India.

Denise Gonzalez, B.A. '06, Fort Worth, has joined the Fort Worth Police Monitor's Office to help lead the effort to finalize a model for independent review of the city's police department.

Kara Hill, M.B.A. '06, San Antonio, director of executive account management at CPS Energy, is among the San Antonio Business Journal's 40 Under 40 class of 2020.

Ron Monachello, Ph.D. '06, Houston, has been promoted to program coordinator of the Counselor Education program at the University of Houston-Victoria.

Mercedes Elias, B.A. '07, Elmhurst, New York, AmeriVet Securities' head of veteran engagement, appeared on Fox Business to discuss ways to help veterans get back into the workplace.

Marina J. Gonzales, B.A. '08, San Antonio, president and CEO of Child Advocates San Antonio, is among the San Antonio Business Journal's 40 Under 40 class of 2020.

Scott Rheinschmidt, M.A. '08, San Antonio, has been appointed clinic director of the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at

Endeavors San Antonio. He will oversee all clinical operations as he continues to serve San Antonio's post-9/11 veterans and their families.

Alejandra Zertuche, B.S. '08, M.B.A. '12, San Antonio, CEO of San Antonio-based startup Enflux, has raised more than \$3 million in preparation for marketing its analytics software for health science schools.

Veronica Velasquez, B.A. '09, San Antonio, while maintaining a full-time flight attendant position with Southwest Airlines, completed her instrument airplane rating and commercial pilot airplane license last year. She has accepted two contractor pilot positions, and is studying for her multi-engine add-on rating and flight instructor certification.

### 2010s

Nicholas Saenz, B.A. '10, Charlotte, North Carolina, is an assistant coach with the Greensboro Swarm, the NBA G-League affiliate of the Charlotte Hornets.

Alex Z. Salinas, B.A. '11, M.A. '19, San Antonio, has had WARBLES, his full-length book of poetry, published through Hekate Publishing (November 2019), and *Dreamt*, a poetry chapbook, published through Analog Submission Press (April 2020).

Salvador Lievanos, Lt. j.g., B.A. '12, New London, Connecticut, is serving in the U.S. Navy submarine force and was the supply officer onboard the USS North Dakota during its six-month maiden deployment.

**Angela Van Dyke, B.A. '13,** Houston, earned an MBA from the University of Texas at

Austin McCombs School of Business and has accepted a finance role with McKesson Corp.

Kevin Lee Matula, B.A. '14, San Antonio, has joined the CPS Energy Government Relations, Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy team, and serves as the manager of local government relations.

Eric Michael Garza, M.B.A. '15, J.D. '16, was featured during National Pro Bono Celebration Week in October. Garza volunteers with American Gateways at their citizenship clinic, assisting legal permanent residents to become citizens.

Madeline Rodriguez, D.D.S., B.S. '15, Weslaco, graduated from the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry in May 2019.

Mariangela Zavala, B.B.A. '15, M.B.A. '17, San Antonio, has been named interim director at the Maestro Entrepreneur Center, a nonprofit organization that provides resources for entrepreneurs to grow their small businesses.

Jamie-Lee Denton, B.A. '16, Dallas, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Dallas as an associate attorney in the litigation department for which she handles a range of commercial litigation, including dram shop, breach of contract and insurance matters.

Kimberly (Ouimette) Sama, M.B.A. '17, San Antonio, was promoted to director of youth and workforce development at UP Partnership, which has been a leader in collective impact for young people in Bexar County for a decade.

**Kyler Lambert, B.B.A.** '18, El Paso, is assistant vice president of credit analysis for Western Heritage Bank.

# Batter up

The 1967 St. Mary's University Rattler Baseball team poses for a group photo before kicking off their season. See Page 25 for a story about a member of the 1967 team who is a St. Mary's Athletics Hall of Fame inductee. To read about this year's Athletics Hall of Fame inductees, visit rattlerathletics.com/2020HOF.

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 them digitally to **ucomm@stmarytx.edu**, or mail them to University Communications, St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas, 78228. Mailed images will be returned.



## FRIENDSWE'LLMISS

### 1940s

Lt. Col. Raymond Oswald Delahoussaye, U.S. Air Force, Ret., CL'42, Menchaca, Oct. 5, 2019

George Ray Teskey, CL '42, Alba, Oct. 26, 2019

Pat Legan, B.A./LL.B. '46, San Antonio, March 2, 2020

Arthur C. Flores Jr., B.A. '49, San Antonio, Dec. 27, 2019

Herbert Gordon "Herb" Haynes, B.B.A. '49, New Braunfels, Dec. 6, 2019

### 1950s

Richard "Dick" Fritz, B.S. '50, Victoria, March 8, 2020

Harold Joseph Gorrell Jr., B.A. '50, San Antonio, Dec. 15, 2019

Leon August Netardus, B.B.A. '50, Gonzales, Oct. 4, 2019

Pedro De Leon, M.D., CL'51, San Antonio, Dec. 15, 2019

The Hon. Whayland W. Kilgore, LL.B. '51, Victoria, March 2, 2020

John J. Meny, B.S. '51, Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 3, 2019

Emilio Nicolas Sr., B.S. '51, San Antonio, Oct. 12, 2019

Delmiro Isidro "Dely" Elizondo, CL '52, Spicewood, Feb. 9, 2020

George N. Estrada, B.B.A. '52, Galveston, Sept. 25, 2019

Milton "Lee" Clark, CL'53, San Antonio, Dec. 3, 2019

Daniel A. "Danny" Roeder, B.B.A. '53, Fredericksburg, Dec. 30, 2019

Carl E. Wulfe, B.B.A. '53, San Antonio, Oct. 1, 2019

Robert J. "Bob" Klepac, CL'54, Blanco, Oct. 15, 2019

Sgt. Maj. William Frank "Bill" MacRae, U.S. Army, Ret., CL '57, San Antonio, Dec. 15, 2019

Lt. Col. Albert I. Serna III, U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves, Ret., B.A. '57, M.A. '77, San Antonio, Jan. 23, 2020

Albert C. Esquivel Sr., B.A. '58, San Antonio, Nov. 11, 2019

James Earl Mahan, B.A., '58, San Antonio, Nov. 11, 2019

Alex L. Stewart, B.S. '58, San Antonio, Dec. 29, 2019

Humberto G. Guerrero Sr., B.S. '59, Richardson, Jan. 4, 2020

Lt. Col. Victor M. Hernandez Jr., U.S. Army, Ret., B.B.A. '59, M.A. '75, San Antonio, Feb. 20, 2020

William R. "Bill" Herrera, B.A. '59, M.S. '64, San Antonio, Jan. 28, 2020

Samuel Ralph Thompson III, Ph.D., CL'59, San Antonio, Nov. 23, 2019

### 1960s

Ernest B. "E.B." Duarte, B.A. '60, Alexandria, Virginia, Oct. 17, 2019

Marvin Gerald Kelfer, LL.B. '60, San Antonio, March 7, 2020

Albert Joseph "Big Al" Bauer, B.B.A. '61, Dallas, Sept. 14, 2019

Kenneth Ray Dugosh, B.A. '61, Boerne, Feb. 11, 2020

Michael Kearney "Mike" O'Daniel, B.B.A. '61, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Dec. 27, 2019

Gerald Bernard Mutchler Sr., CL '62, San Antonio, Jan. 3, 2020

Frank Edward Wittler, B.S. '62, Katy, July 20, 2019

Christopher J. Chaput, M.D., B.A. '63, Victoria, June 26, 2019

William Robert Harris, B.A. '63, Garden Ridge, Oct. 20, 2019

Bill D. Pope Sr., B.A. '63, Rio Grande City, Jan. 6, 2020

Mariano G. Sanchez, B.A. '63, Floresville, Oct. 5, 2019

Patricia Ann "Pat" Graham, Ph.D., M.A. '64, La Feria, Feb. 17, 2020

Lynwood Charles Siebold, B.B.A. '64, Spring Branch, Sept. 21, 2019

Ralf Eric Taupmann, M.D., B.A. '64, Edmond, Oklahoma, Feb. 8, 2020

John Michael Ille, LL.B. '65, Menlo Park, California, Jan. 6, 2020

Joe Mansfield, B.A. '65, Brentwood, Tennessee, Oct. 31, 2019

Lt. Col. Bernard A. McGaffigan, U.S. Air Force, Ret., M.B.A. '65, San Antonio, Nov. 14, 2019

Jerald R. "Jerry" Shelton, B.A. '65, San Antonio, Oct. 25, 2019

Don Ray Griffin, M.B.A. '66, Waco, Jan. 28, 2020

Anthony Daniel "Danny" Matocha, B.A. '66, Jourdanton, Feb. 7, 2020

Rodolfo Ramirez Jr., B.A. '66, Annapolis, Maryland, Feb. 15, 2020

Valente "Val" Terrazas Salmon, M.A. '67, Corpus Christi, Dec. 23, 2019

Ruben Rene Cardenas, B.A. '68, M.A. '76, San Antonio, Jan. 2, 2020

Joseph Fertitta Sr., B.A. '68, San Antonio, Oct. 7, 2019

Daniel E. Kasprowicz, M.S. '68, Fair Oaks Ranch, Jan. 26, 2020

Karl Lee Rubinstein, J.D. '68, Corpus Christi, Feb. 25, 2020

Dorothy "Joan" Frank, M.A. '69, San Antonio, Sept. 21, 2019

Master Sgt. Edward D. Gustina, U.S. Air Force, Ret., B.B.A. '69, Corning, New York, Sept. 21, 2019

Donald Carlin Kay, B.A. '69, J.D. '72, League City, Dec. 23, 2019

### 1970s

Fausto Rene Garcia, B.A. '70, San Antonio, Nov. 28, 2019

Monsignor Thomas Patrick McGettrick, M.A. '70, Corpus Christi, Feb. 9, 2020

Jeff Sanders, B.A. '70, Estes Park, Colorado, Jan. 13, 2020

Thomas J. Stokes Jr., B.A. '70, Beaverton, Oregon, Nov. 19, 2019

Philip Lee Cellmer, B.B.A. '71, Richardson, June 16, 2019

Robert George "Bobby" Dunn III, J.D. '71, Leesburg, Georgia, Dec. 28, 2019

Charles William Morin Sr., B.B.A. '71, San Antonio, Feb. 13, 2020

Gerald F. "Jerry" Retzloff, B.B.A. '71, San Antonio, March 10, 2020

Peggy Jeanne Duffin Skinner, B.B.A. '71, Carrollton, Jan. 19, 2020

The Rev. Angelo Bertini, M.A. '72, Georgetown, Jan. 13, 2020

Charles Clifford "Chuck" Gardner, B.A. '72, Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 29, 2019

Roman Constance Gomez Jr., B.B.A. '72, San Antonio, Sept. 29, 2019

Michael Gerard Keller, B.B.A. '72, Helotes, Feb. 29, 2020

C.R. "Kit" Bramblett, J.D. '75, El Paso, Nov. 13, 2019

Robert Brent "Bob" Grau, B.B.A. '75, San Antonio, Jan. 23, 2020

Arthur Latimer "Buddy" Rutledge, M.S. '75, Marietta, Georgia, Nov. 16, 2019

Brig. Gen. Connie Lee Slewitzke, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Ret., M.A. '76, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Sept. 2, 2019

James D. Everett, M.B.A. '77, Mountain City, Tennessee, Feb. 2, 2020

James William Little, J.D. '77, San Antonio, Nov. 20, 2019

Della C. Maginot, B.S. '78, San Antonio, Dec. 29, 2019

Michael Kent Wagner, J.D. '78, Grand Prairie, Nov. 6, 2019

Thomas David Doerr, M.D., B.S. '79, St. Louis, Missouri, Nov. 12, 2019

#### 1980s

Lt. Col. R. John Burns, U.S. Air Force, Ret., M.A. '81, Temple, July 1, 2019

### Let us pray for those who have passed away.

Ana Maria Gonzales Salinas, B.B.A. '81, Laredo, Feb. 2, 2020

Chief Master Sgt. Frank Peña, U.S. Air Force, Ret., B.A. '82, M.A. '85, San Antonio, Jan. 19, 2020

Chief Master Sgt. Jesse Sandoval, U.S. Air Force, Ret., M.A. '83, Live Oak, Sept. 1, 2019

Patricia Ann Lozano Centeno, B.B.A. '84, San Antonio, Sept. 8, 2019

Irma Ann Spears, M.A. '86, Katy, Dec. 13, 2019

### 1990s

Tech Sgt. Louis Cousins Sr., U.S. Air Force, Ret., B.A. '90, San Antonio, Jan. 17. 2020

Elizabeth Waterhouse Layman, J.D. '90, Pearland, Oct. 12, 2019

Vicki "Honey" Brandenberger Smyer, M.A. '90, Waco, Jan. 23, 2020

Sergio G. Castilleja, B.A. '91, San Antonio, Jan. 1, 2020

Greg Abbott. James Rosskopf, M.A. '92, Bulverde, March 1, 2020 Michael A. Barron, B.B.A. '93, San Antonio, Jan. 11, 2020

Paul Edward Hernandez, B.A. '94, Lewisville, Sept. 28, 2019

Barry Edward Swartz, M.D., J.D. '95, Fair Oaks Ranch, Dec. 30, 2019

Frank Anthony Cruz, B.S. '98, Arlington, Sept. 14, 2019

Robert Leo Taus, J.D. '98, Henderson, Nevada, Aug. 4, 2018

### 2000s

Ruben Noriega, B.A.M. '00, M.P.A. '18, San Antonio, Jan. 14, 2020

Ronald "JoJo" Hope, J.D. '03, Big Spring, Oct. 20, 2019

Suzanne Graham Raiford, J.D. '05, Cedar Park, Sept. 9, 2019

### Fondest Farewell

### The Rev. David Fleming, S.M. (B.A. '59)

The Rev. David Fleming, S.M., died March 12, 2020, in Dayton, Ohio. Fleming served as St. Mary's University Chancellor from 1986 to 1987. During the 1999-2000 academic year, he lectured as part of the Lin Great Speakers Series.

Fleming was born in Topeka, Kansas, on April 14, 1939. He professed first vows as a Marianist brother in 1956 and was ordained as a priest in 1969 in Fribourg, Switzerland. Fleming served as Provincial of the Marianist Province of St. Louis from 1979 to 1987, and Superior General of the Society of Mary in Rome from 1996 to 2006. A scholar, missionary and servant of the entire Marianist Family, Fleming had a special affection for his ministry with the Marianists of India.

### James M. "Jim" Koett (B.B.A. '63)

Koett, "The Voice of the Rattlers," died April 25, 2020, in Boerne. Koett was born Sept. 3, 1941. He graduated from St. Mary's in 1963 and received a commission in the U.S. Army after completing ROTC. During his military career, Koett received the Bronze Star and a Meritorious Unit Citation. Koett also worked for Sigmor Corporation for many years. In 1983, he joined Diamond Shamrock. In 1995, he became president of TETCO Stores, retiring in 1998.

Koett handled the public-address announcing for Rattler Men's Basketball for 27 years and served as a member of the Booster Club, including a stint as president. He was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 1992. He served on the University Alumni Association Board and on the University's Board of Trustees.

### The Rev. Bernard "Bernie" Lee, S.M. (B.A. '54)

The Rev. Bernard "Bernie" Lee, S.M., died on Jan. 16, 2020, in San Antonio, after serving 64 years as a professed Marianist.

Lee was born on July 14, 1932, in San Antonio and met the Marianists while attending Central Catholic High School and St. Mary's University. After graduating, he joined the novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin.

He earned a master's degree in Latin and Greek at the Catholic University of America in 1958.

He taught at McBride High School in St. Louis before joining the Marianist International Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, where he was ordained in 1967. He completed his doctorate in Systematic and Philosophical Theology at the University of California in Berkeley in 1972. The prolific religious author joined St. Mary's in 2002 as a member of the Theology faculty and as Assistant Chancellor, a position later named Vice President for Mission and Identity.

### Brother Ralph Neumann, S.M. (B.A. '57)

Brother Ralph Neumann, S.M., died Nov. 6, 2019, in San Antonio.

Neumann was born in 1935 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and educated by the Marianists at Don Bosco High School. In 1954, he entered the Society of Mary. He made his first vows on Jan. 22, 1955, in Galesville, Wisconsin. He graduated from St. Mary's University in 1957 and later earned a master's degree in Education from St. Louis University. Neumann taught at Marianist schools in the U.S., Peru and Mexico.

He was assigned to the Marianist Residence and Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio in 2005. Between the parish, the University and his volunteer work, he became a beloved figure.

### Samuel Thompson III, Ph.D.

Samuel Thompson III, Ph.D., died Nov. 23, 2019, in San Antonio. Thompson joined the St. Mary's University Mathematics Department in 1966 and retired in 2005, with 39 years of service.

Thompson was born on March 24, 1937, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He earned a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Dayton in 1960, an M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Arizona in 1962 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Montana State University in 1966.

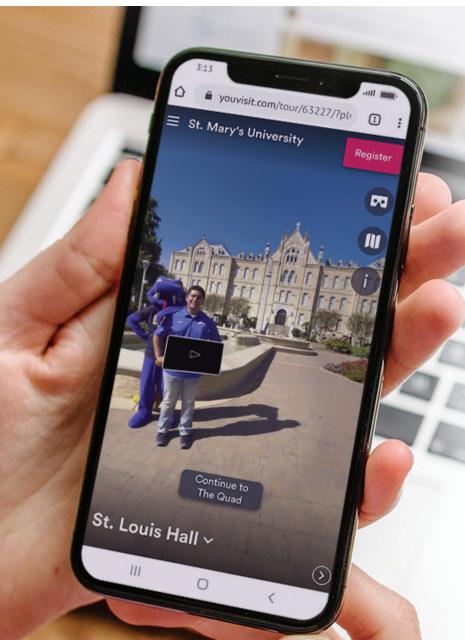
Thompson became the first layperson with a Ph.D. in Mathematics to join the faculty. He said he loved his job so much that he literally skipped from his car to his office each morning.





One Camino Santa Maria San Antonio, Texas 78228-8575

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## Virtual tour brings St. Mary's University to life — remotely

Rattler alums, do you remember your old residence hall? Or that lab in which you studied biology?

They might look a bit different now.

This spring, St. Mary's University launched a virtual tour guiding audiences — when they are unable to visit in person — through the campus community.

Using innovative video and photo capture technology, a team of media specialists from a company called YouVisit highlighted the University's unique physical presence by creating a virtual visit tour. From the historic St. Louis Hall to the modern living of Périgueux Hall, the fully interactive tour design allows users to experience the excitement of exploring our beautiful campus from the comfort of home.

The tour gives virtual visitors an all-access pass to the state-of-the-art technologies like the Biological Science Department's Anatomage digital cadaver table or the Greehey School of Business' Russell Trading Room. The partnership between St. Mary's University and YouVisit will allow us to grow as an institution and connect the Marianist charism with audiences from prospective students to nostalgic alumni — no matter where they are.

See for yourself at www.youvisit.com/tour/stmarytx.