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WHY WOUNDED WARRIORS
ARE TURNING TO CROSSFIT 18

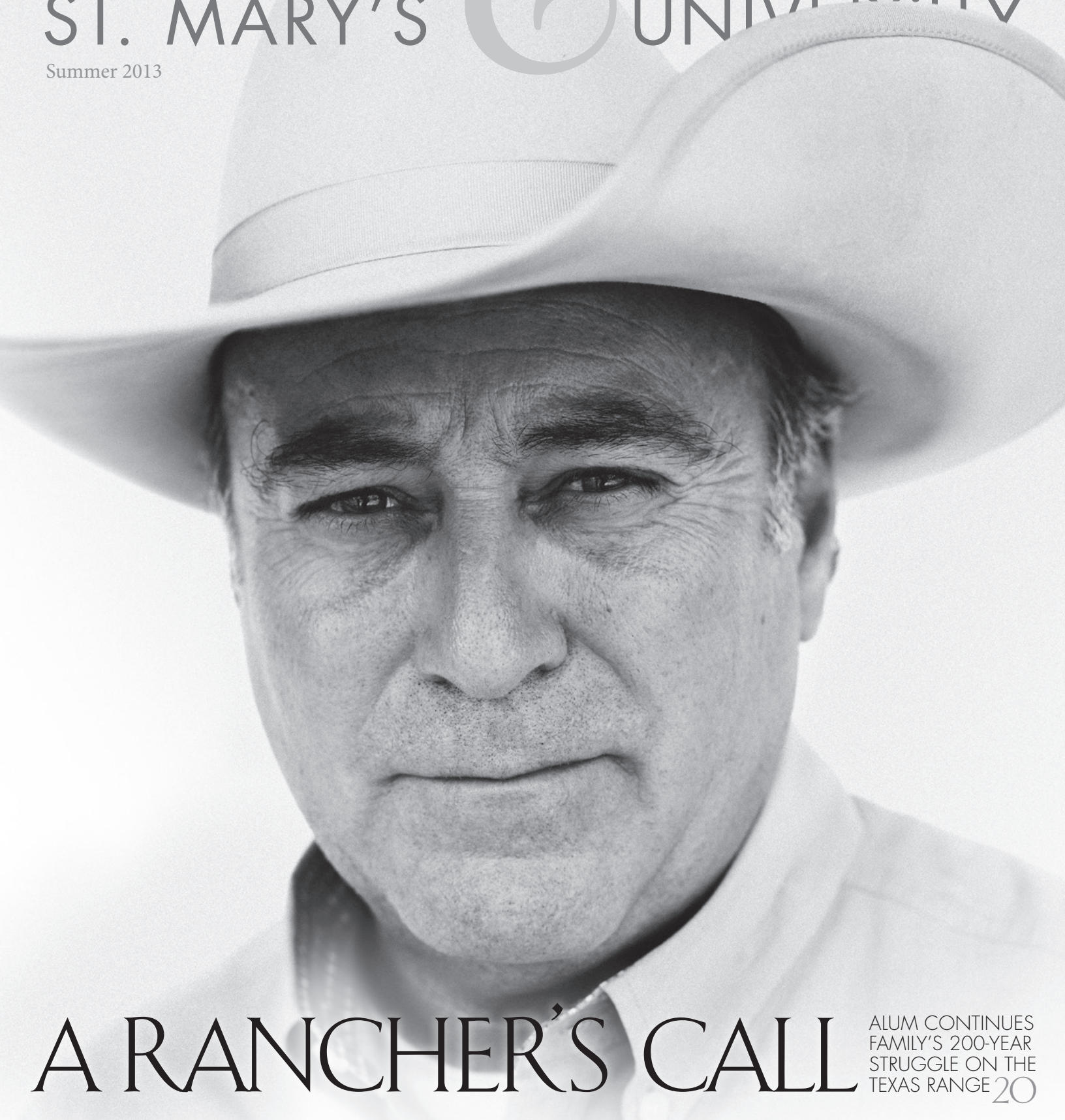
MEET HOMER: COMPUTER
SCIENTIST, SPACE MAN 28

BEHIND THE CAMERA
IN HOLLYWOOD 30

GOLD & BLUE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Summer 2013



A RANCHER'S CALL

ALUM CONTINUES
FAMILY'S 200-YEAR
STRUGGLE ON THE
TEXAS RANGE 20





Photo by Bill Sallans

For the past three semesters, Ryan Muñoz has visited Brother Leo Willet, S.M., once a week in the Marianist Residence.

“We talk about history, philosophy and Mary,” said Muñoz, a sophomore from Arlington.

The duo was matched through the Student Marianist Friends Program, which pairs brothers and priests in the Society of Mary with current students. Without fail, the result is a mutually enriching experience. In the short time it took to snap this photo, Brother Willet and Muñoz swapped thoughts and stories about their spiritual journeys, the importance of family, and the value of what Brother Willet calls a “gut check.”

“Every night before I go to bed, I do a ‘gut check,’” he said. “What did I do today that I didn’t like, and what did I do today that was good? It’s amazing how much you can change your life with something as simple as that.”

The Student Marianist Friends Program is an initiative of the Civic Engagement and Career Development Center.

CONTENTS

4

GATEWAY: A VISION FOR ST. MARY'S

Read the University's new strategic plan

10

CAMPUS NEWS

13

WILL COMPUTER GAMES SAVE EDUCATION?

A new certificate program puts educational gaming in the spotlight

14

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AT ITS BEST

With "classrooms" in places like Dubai, Hong Kong and Panama, Professor Jeff Johnson gets a gold star for longest commute

18

TRANSITION POSSIBLE

Wounded warriors transition into civilian life with the help of jumping jacks, kettlebells and a little camaraderie

20

STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Rick and Carmen Ramirez took a leap of faith when they bought the family's centuries-old cattle ranch. Thirty years later, they're still afloat in spite of drought, debt, industry change and more.

26

COLOR ME ABSTRACT

"Developing Telekinesis to Overcome Gravity" and other paintings from Art Prof James Joffe (pictured right) that you have to see to believe

27

9,000 MILES FROM HOME

Peace Corps volunteer teaches about agricultural resources in an impoverished coastal town

28

HOMER AHR ON SPACE FLIGHT

How to land a man on the moon and still be home in time for dinner

30

A CLOSE-UP ON STEVE ACEVEDO

A young cinematographer talks about life and luck in Hollywood

32

CLASS NOTES

32

ON THE BOARD OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Lawyer Kristal Thomson has learned to always "be brave in the attempt"

33

H-E-B MANAGER TURNED SOUL DIRECTOR

Pastor Dave took a major detour late in life and is now truly living the word

35

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

36

LAW FELLOWSHIP AIDS JUVENILE JUSTICE

Emily Schools is putting a prestigious law fellowship to work for juveniles

37

IN MEMORIAM

FONDEST FAREWELL





Our Vision for the Future of St. Mary's

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

Over the past year, I have talked with you about the process of developing the next strategic plan for St. Mary's University, and now we have that plan in place. Gateway: A Vision for St. Mary's University is our community's blueprint for keeping true to our Catholic tradition and Marianist heritage, while also adapting for the change that inevitability comes.

Our vision is clear: As a Catholic and Marianist University, St. Mary's will become one of the finest private universities in the region, a gateway for our graduates to professional lives as ethical leaders in Texas, the nation and the world.

There are five goals guiding the Gateway plan: Build on our strengths (Catholic and Marianist, liberal arts, personal and professional formation, and quality professional degree programs); develop a culture of excellence; align all decisions with our strategic priorities; become more visible and more vital through partnership; and adapt through innovation and change.

The University faces challenges in the future. St. Mary's must maintain and strengthen its Catholic identity and Marianist charism. The University must develop new revenue streams and increase funds raised. We must enhance innovation and technology more than ever before, while continuing to provide a relevant residential Catholic liberal arts education.

Starting on the next page, you can read in more detail how the Gateway plan directs us toward meeting these challenges while achieving our vision and goals. As you read the stories in this issue of *Gold & Blue*, you will be reminded of what is accomplished at St. Mary's every day — of how our graduates personify working for the common good (Aleigha Barrera, page 18), dedicate their lives to being stewards of the earth's beauty and resources (Rick Ramirez, page 20), and even land men on the moon and safely bring them home (Homer Ahr, page 28).

These are the stories of St. Mary's. They remind us what our St. Mary's community has accomplished and give us a glimpse of what is yet to come.



Gateway: A Vision for St. Mary's University

2020 Goals and Objectives

Our vision

As a Catholic and Marianist University, St. Mary's will become one of the *finest* private universities in the region, a gateway for our graduates to professional lives as *ethical leaders* in Texas, the nation and the world.

As a gateway, St. Mary's University in its undergraduate programs must build on its historic role of providing opportunity for young adults to be well grounded in the liberal arts, formed in faith, centered as ethical leaders, and prepared experientially for meaningful employment. At the undergraduate level, these are and must continue to be the University's distinctive advantages — with the heart of this formation being the St. Mary's Core Curriculum.

In its graduate and professional programs, St. Mary's University must provide students with highly relevant technical and advanced knowledge and expertise, and facilitate in students the development of the values, skills and habits of an outstanding professional.

Throughout, St. Mary's University, as Catholic and Marianist, must be a gateway to faith among its members, a faith that extends outward and builds community through career, service and civic engagement.

We embark on this vision, mindful of the significant challenges ahead. In a milieu that questions the cost of higher education generally — and particularly of residential,

private liberal arts education — St. Mary's University is tasked to make a persuasive, visible case for the relevance and value of its undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. Similarly, as distance and online delivery methodologies continue to advance, St. Mary's University must invest in and incorporate the best of these new methodologies in a manner that is consistent with Catholic and Marianist ideals and commitment to academic excellence.

Responding and adapting to higher education's changing environment will require bold, courageous action and innovation.

St. Mary's must reach out and become a more significant partner with local and regional, as well as national and international, businesses and organizations. These challenges will also require **dedication to excellence and accountability as a first principle, a pervasive focus on St. Mary's mission, investment in strategic priorities, wise allocation of resources, and the development of new and innovative revenue streams.** If we do these things well, we envision that as a Catholic and Marianist University, St. Mary's will become one of the finest private universities in the region, a gateway for our graduates to professional lives as ethical leaders in Texas, the nation and the world.

Goal 1

Promote a Culture of Excellence

In that most Marianist scriptural passage, in the Gospel of John at the wedding at Cana, Mary gently prodded the servers to do “whatever he tells you.” Mary urged the servers to follow God’s call — to undertake no half measures or tentative steps. The servers responded to Jesus’ direction so responsibly that they were able to serve the wedding feast’s best wine.

Every member of the St. Mary’s University community is obliged to do no less. We have a duty to promote and expect excellence from all who are members of St. Mary’s — to hold one another and ourselves accountable for St. Mary’s future. In order for St. Mary’s to be a gateway to excellence, our community must recruit and retain outstanding faculty, staff and students who live the Marianist mission of faith, develop and expect best academic and administrative practices, and invest in the resources to achieve these objectives.

We have a duty to promote and expect excellence from all who are members of St. Mary’s.

Goal 2

Foster Formation of Faith at St. Mary’s and Throughout the Southwest

As our professed Marianist religious diminish in numbers, the duty at St. Mary’s University to nurture and sustain our Catholic and Marianist identities rests on the shoulders of our lay faculty and staff and Board of Trustees. Programs should expand for faculty, staff, administration and Trustees to engage in ongoing formation of faith, a gateway to answering God’s individual call to each of us. Similarly, University leadership, faculty and staff should identify and increase opportunities for students, inside and outside the classroom, to meet and be mentored by ethical leaders from our community who integrate their faith and values with their careers and service activities.

An important dimension of St. Mary’s University, as Catholic and Marianist, in becoming among the finest private universities in the region will be the ubiquitous manner in which it engages San Antonio and the Southwest, and its cultures through the lens of our Catholicity and Marianist charism. To further this objective, St. Mary’s University will establish an interdisciplinary Center for Catholic and Marianist Studies. Such a center would engage in education and research that promotes dialogue and understanding about the Catholic faith and Marianist charism — and, more broadly, about religion and culture.

Goal 3

Prepare Students for Professional Lives as Ethical Leaders in Texas, the Nation and the World

Increasingly, our principal constituents — prospective students, current students and graduates — will judge the value of a St. Mary's education by its capacity to facilitate career achievement. That means, in the short term, meaningful employment following graduation. It means, in the longer term, the opportunity to enjoy successful professional careers of ethical leadership in a global community. For its graduates, St. Mary's must, in effect, be a gateway to significance.

Consequently, St. Mary's University must become even more deliberate in providing the experiences and developing the skills and values that employers seek and find in the outstanding professional employee. Our programs must provide to our students not only the technical knowledge necessary to master a professional field, but also the vital skills of effective communication, critical thinking and problem solving. And our programs must facilitate the development of the values and interpersonal skills of ethical leaders — men and women who humbly appreciate that their talents and treasure are gifts and that they are called to serve family, workplace and community.

St. Mary's
must, in
effect, be a
gateway to
significance.

Goal 4

Innovate and Change

One of the five Marianist characteristics of education is the gateway of adaptation and change. The Society of Mary's founder, the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, often remarked, "New times call for new methods."

Without question, St. Mary's University and higher education are experiencing challenging new times. A successful future for St. Mary's University will depend on our willingness and courage to focus on that which defines and distinguishes us — in innovative ways that are relevant to the needs and demands of the next generation of students.

We must promote and invest in entrepreneurial activity — innovative collaboration and partnership with community entrepreneurs and organizations; new degree programs; new directions for existing degree programs; and ambitious use of new technologies. St. Mary's must also ensure that our programs and facilities meet the needs of students in the 21st century.

Goal 5

Steward Wisely — Allocate Resources Strategically, and Increase Financial and Capital Funding

With the future of higher education uncertain, it is essential that St. Mary's University stewards its resources wisely and develops significant additional resources. St. Mary's Trustees, University leadership, faculty and staff must align every decision with our mission and strategic priorities. We must establish an ongoing process of review of academic and administrative units and programs for their centrality to mission and priorities, demand and cost-effectiveness. St. Mary's must utilize space efficiently and build, renovate and equip facilities that will strengthen our competitive advantage and distinguish us. And we must develop significant new resources to advance the St. Mary's mission and implement a vision and set of strategic priorities.

A successful future for St. Mary's University will depend on our willingness and *courage* to focus on that which defines and distinguishes us.

These efforts will ensure that St. Mary's University's gateway to a *successful future* is marked by excellence, humble service to God, collaboration, innovation and change.

With prudent stewardship, an expanded resource base, new *energy and vision*, St. Mary's, as a Catholic and Marianist University, will become one of the finest private universities in the region. ■



Campus News

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

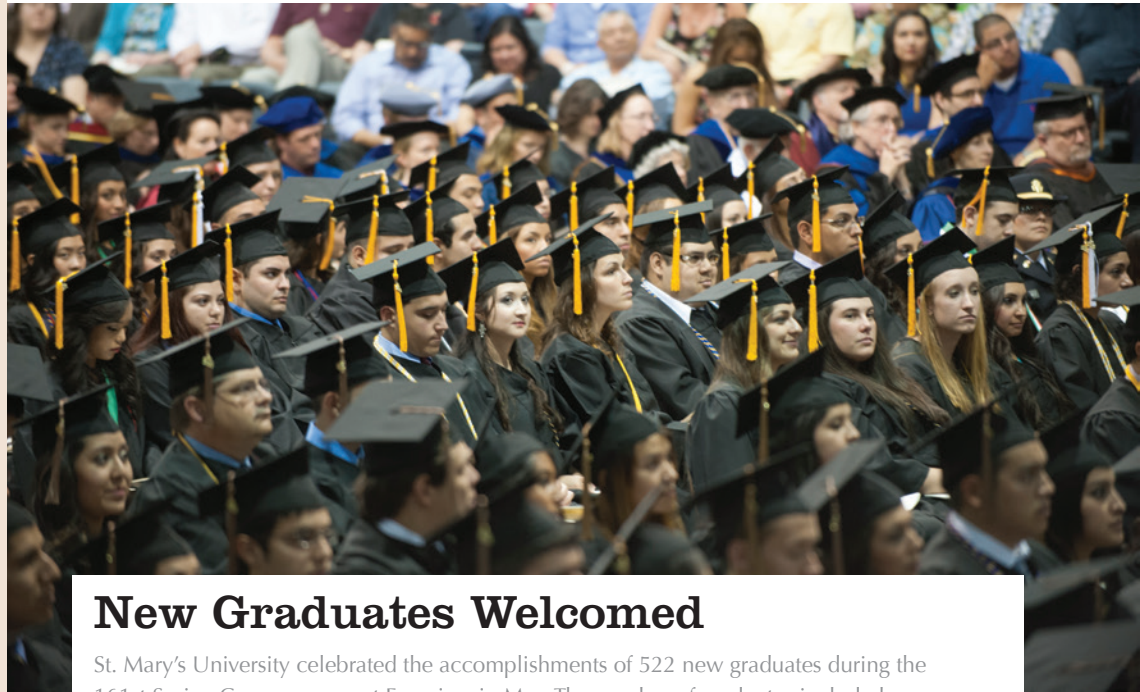
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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



MISSION

St. Mary's University,
as a Catholic Marianist University,
fosters the formation of people in faith
and educates leaders for the common good
through community, integrated liberal arts and
professional education, and academic excellence.



New Graduates Welcomed

St. Mary's University celebrated the accomplishments of 522 new graduates during the 161st Spring Commencement Exercises in May. The number of graduates included 379 earning bachelor's degrees, 141 earning master's degrees and two earning doctoral degrees. The commencement speaker was Barbara Gentry (B.A. '71), former senior vice president of community affairs at USAA. She also served as president of both The USAA Foundation and The USAA Educational Foundation, and on the St. Mary's Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to the 2013 Presidential Award Winners

Each year, the Presidential Awards are presented to graduating students who exemplify leadership, service and academic excellence.

Carla Aguilar, M.A.,
International Relations

Erik Albach, B.S., Biology

Claudia Balli, J.D., Law

Tiffany Brown, B.A., Biology

Brian Buchmeyer, B.S.,
Industrial Engineering

Agnelio Cardentey, B.S., Biophysics

Sofia del Cid Quilico, B.B.A.,
Financial Services/Risk Management

Brittany Galvan, B.A., Political Science

Mariya Kontsepolskaya, B.A.,
International Relations

Sean Lanagan, B.B.A.,
Corporate Financial Management and
Financial Services/Risk Management

Kelly Niemiec, B.S., Biology

Tanairi Ochoa Rodriguez, B.A.,
Political Science

Marcos Sanchez, B.A., Sociology

Megan Torres, B.B.A., General Business

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HUMANITIES

New Advancement
Vice President Announced

Richard D. Kimbrough II has joined St. Mary's as vice president for University Advancement. Kimbrough comes to St. Mary's from his previous position as chief development officer at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minn.

Raised in San Antonio, Kimbrough attended Holy Spirit Catholic School before going to Churchill High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and will finish his master's this summer from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

"Rick's fundraising and leadership experience, along with his energy and strong people skills, will be a welcome addition to the University's leadership team," President Tom Mengler said. "In his position — one that is vital to accomplishing Gateway strategic plan goals — I am confident he will strongly contribute to reaching our vision of St. Mary's, as a Catholic and Marianist University, becoming one of the finest private universities in the region."



Marianist Trust Fund
Supports Students

The U.S. Province of the Society of Mary continues its support of St. Mary's through the Marianist Trust Fund. The fund's most recent gift of \$371,000 supports undergraduate scholarships for students in the Marianist Leadership Program, as well as scholarships for graduate students for the 2013-2014 academic year.

New Trustees Join Board

Edward C. Speed (B.B.A. '70, M.A. '86) and The Hon. Israel Ramon Jr. (B.A. '74, J.D. '77) are the newest members of the St. Mary's Board of Trustees. Both began their terms June 1.

Speed is the retired president and CEO of Texas Dow Employees Credit Union. Ramon is a judge on the Texas 430th District Court and joins the board as the Law Alumni Association representative.



Members of the St. Mary's Music and Drama departments performed the award-winning musical *RENT* this past spring in Treadaway Recital Hall. The production was directed by Drama Professor Adam Burke, with musical direction by Visiting Lecturer of Music Jacob Cantu, choreography by Associate Professor of Drama Bernadette Hamilton-Brady, and scenic and lighting design by Dion Denevan.

Student Newspaper Wins Big

The Rattler student newspaper took home a total of 30 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's 2013 convention.

Managing editor Amanda Cano, a senior majoring in English-Communication Arts, was named Editor of the Year, which is the highest honor for individual excellence. The Rattler placed third in Best in Show for overall excellence for newspapers published biweekly or less. In total, The Rattler captured 27 individual awards and three staff awards.



Grant Sends Students to Japan

A group of St. Mary's students and faculty members spent nearly two weeks in Japan this summer thanks to a grant awarded to the Languages Department by The Japan Foundation, an organization that promotes international cultural exchange.

Heather Hill, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, and Flordelia Balite, an adjunct teaching Japanese, traveled with 11 students from a variety of disciplines. They conducted research on how social, political and economic changes have increased the number of elderly people in Japan.

The group visited several universities in Tokyo and Kyoto, as well as the headquarters of The Japan Foundation, and toured numerous sites throughout the country.

Bertrand's Newest Book Honored

St. Mary's University's writer-in-residence Diane Bertrand has been recognized by the Texas Library Association for her new book, *Sofia and the Purple Dress: Sofia y el vestido morado* (Arte Publio Press, 2012). The book has been named to the 2013-2014 Tejas Star Reading List — bilingual titles that promote authentic representation of Latino culture and language — and deals with families making small changes that contribute to health and wellness.

Bertrand's books, which are often tailored to children and young adults, have received national recognition for featuring characters familiar to the Latino population and incorporating Spanish language.



SCIENCE

MARC Program Gets \$1 Million Grant

St. Mary's University has been awarded \$1 million for a five-year renewal of its Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) grant, which is sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

The grant provides underrepresented students majoring in Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics or Engineering with opportunities to complete research training and work alongside faculty mentors. 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 for Ph.D. programs in the biomedical sciences.

About 100 St. Mary's students have benefited from MARC U*STAR since its inception at the University in 1983. Of those, 60 percent have entered graduate school, and 10 percent have entered medical school.

Engineering Certificate Program Unveiled

St. Mary's will offer a 12-hour certificate program in Software Engineering through the graduate Engineering Department starting this fall.

Students must have a Bachelor of Science degree in Software Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering or a closely related discipline. The four courses required for the certificate can be applied toward a master's in Software Engineering, provided the student applies and meets the program's admission requirements.

The certificate program is ideal for students who would like to increase their skill levels in the field of software engineering in a concentrated amount of time. For more information about the program, contact Engineering Professor Djaffer Ibaroudene, Ph.D., at 210-431-2050.



Environmental Science Program Receives \$200,000 Boost

The Environmental Science Program has received a \$200,000 grant from the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation to support expansion of the program, which began in fall 2011.

The grant will support highly technical and advanced instrumentation, allowing the Environmental Science program to reach full student enrollment while expanding the educational opportunities available to students in the School of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Students in Engineering and Physics programs will also benefit from the new equipment, which will include a spectroradiometer, which is used to study vegetation and soil; hyperspectral satellite imagery — high-resolution images used to study vegetation; environmental science kits; and petrographic and binocular microscopes. The equipment will provide the necessary resources for upper-level student instruction and give students real-world experiences that will make them more competitive in the job market.

Game On

PROFESSOR WANTS TO PUT THE FUN BACK IN LEARNING

by Andrew Festa

For Carol Luckhardt Redfield, Ph.D., teaching isn't a one-way process. She believes that effective teaching — and learning — requires students to be engaged in the effort. Considering how much of her time and teaching centers on game development, that makes sense.

“Learning is inherently fun; let's keep it that way,” said Redfield, who is a Computer Science Professor and director of the St. Mary's Computer Science graduate program. “What happened that learning became something other than fun?”

Recognizing the role games can play in learning, Redfield recently introduced a graduate certificate program in Educational Computer Gaming, making St. Mary's only the second university in the nation to offer such a certification. Students in this program will learn to develop these kinds of games in preparation for careers in the emerging industry of game-based learning.

Her enthusiasm is obvious, and it rubs off on her students, who eagerly demonstrate the games they're creating. Redfield doesn't limit her teaching to college classes; she is a longtime volunteer at the John Jay Science and Engineering Academy (SEA), a magnet high school in San Antonio.

Her impact there has been so great that the Northside Independent School District recently saluted Redfield with an Outstanding Individual award for advancing education in the district.

“I was thrilled to be recognized for something that I love to do: educate students and provide education in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields,” said Redfield, who began helping at SEA when her son enrolled there in 2006.

Redfield works with the students on their science projects and recruits industry professionals to judge the SEA Science and Engineering Fair. One of her favorite things to tell students is, “Math is exercise for your brain.”

Principal Jay P. Sumpter nominated Redfield, noting that her work at SEA has



generated about \$1.5 million in college scholarships for students. St. Mary's awards seven \$40,000 scholarships annually to the fair's top winners, who then present at the University's annual research symposium.

In addition to her work with the science fair, Redfield serves on the school's advisory board, has created teacher appreciation initiatives, presents on artificial intelligence and computer game development, tutors and even coaches the Ultimate Frisbee club.

“Her commitment to excellence in STEM research at the high school level is unparalleled,” Sumpter wrote in his nomination statement. ■

For more information on the Educational Gaming Certificate, contact Carol Redfield, Ph.D., at 210-436-3298 or credfield@stmarytx.edu.

BUSINESS

A Window to the World

by Chris Jarvis

Jeff Johnson, Ph.D., is a well-versed expert of foreign entrepreneurial practices. As director of the Center for Global Business Studies in the Bill Greehey School of Business and an Associate Professor of International Business, that's to be expected.

But when it comes to teaching what he knows, Johnson prefers to take students out of the classroom and right to the subject — in whatever country that may be. In the past year alone, Johnson has accompanied students on study abroad trips to Dubai, Hong Kong, Panama, Scotland and Brazil.

"I could teach classes right here at St. Mary's, but the whole idea is to get them out to see the international business environment," Johnson said.

Johnson's trips include visits to international companies where students hear executives explain the infrastructure of their market strategies and how they maximize commerce.

Each excursion offers a different perspective and a new cultural experience. That's why Johnson abides by the philosophy that the best classrooms don't always have four walls, and that there are some things a textbook just can't teach.

"They ordinarily wouldn't get an opportunity like this at any other university of our size," he said.

Since becoming director in 2006, Johnson has devoted himself to finding unique educational experiences and supplying students with an arsenal of career resources, from guest speakers to internships.

"I think we are doing a lot of great things here that are very progressive, innovative and exciting," Johnson said. "The reward for me is opening their perspective to see a bigger world, and that's very exciting for me." ■



LAW AND GRADUATE



MBA Students Travel to Brazil for Hands-on Learning

Twenty-three students in the Greehey MBA program traveled to Brazil in May as part of the program's required international field study.

The students first visited Curitiba, considered one of the world's most sustainable cities based on its transportation system and its more than 52 meters of green space per person. The trip included lectures on Brazil's economy, culture, energy industry and sustainability efforts, as well as a visit to Curitiba's renowned recycling center and innovative "green exchange" that allows residents to recycle trash for fresh produce.

In Rio de Janeiro, the group visited one of the city's major pacified "favelas" or shantytowns to learn about entrepreneurship in these unincorporated areas operating outside of Brazil's mainstream socioeconomic system.

The cohort-based, 18-month Greehey MBA includes a special focus on ethical leadership, sustainability, corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship.



CPS Gives \$100,000 for Scholarships

CPS Energy in San Antonio has awarded St. Mary's University a total of \$100,000 in grants to be used for scholarships in the Bill Greehey School of Business.

The gift will fund undergraduate students as well as students in the Greehey MBA program, which will begin its second year in the fall.

Law Celebrates 295 Graduates, Award Winners

St. Mary's University School of Law held its 79th Commencement Exercises in May, with 295 graduates, including 14 who earned master's of law degrees.

The Hon. David A. Ezra (J.D.'72), a senior U.S. district judge, received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the ceremony. Ezra, a native Hawaiian, earned undergraduate and law degrees from St. Mary's. He has long served on courts in both Hawaii and Texas.

The law school also annually presents two awards to recognize exceptional contributions to the legal profession and education. Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals Catherine M. Stone (J.D.'82) received the Rosewood Gavel Award. The St. Thomas More Award was presented to Keith Sipe and Linda Lacy, publisher and senior editor, respectively, of Carolina Academic Press.

Teams Top Negotiation Competition

Two teams from the School of Law topped the field at the Robert R. Merhige Jr. National Environmental Negotiation Competition at the University of Richmond Law School.

In the all-St. Mary's final, Andrew Jones and David Kilgore edged out the team of J. Dean Craig and Mary Pietrazek for the national championship.

The St. Mary's teams were coached by Allen Craddock (J.D.'97), Adjunct Professor and partner at Rodriguez and Craddock PC.

Cantú Begins Final Year as Law Dean

Dean Charles Cantú, J.D., has announced his plans for retiring as dean of the School of Law at the end of his term in May 2014.

Cantú has served as dean since 2007. St. Mary's will work with a national firm to conduct a search for the next dean. The process will begin this fall, and a new dean will be announced in the spring.



Conflict Transformation Certificate Added

The International Relations Graduate Program is offering an Academic Certificate Program in Conflict Transformation beginning in September.

The nine-month, four-course online certification provides students with skills and strategies designed to help heal divided societies. What makes the St. Mary's certification unique is that it concludes with a two-week, intensive field study in Northern Ireland. Students from across the globe gather for workshops with practitioners, field workers and former combatants and learn from one another's experiences.

Aaron Tyler, Ph.D., chair of the International Relations Department and the interim Graduate School Dean, said, "Through comprehensive online instruction and two collaborative weeks in Northern Ireland, this four-course certificate is designed to equip participants with practical and creative peace-building approaches for addressing conflict in constructive and sustainable ways."

For more information, go to www.stmarytx.edu/grad/ir.

SPORTS



Baseball, Softball Hit It Out of the Park

The baseball team returned to the NCAA Division II South Central Regional for the fourth straight year, advancing to the semifinals following an epic, 13-inning victory over Angelo State. Redshirt freshman Jan Paul Reguero’s pinch-hit, walk-off RBI single fueled the 7-6 win for the defending regional champs. St. Mary’s eventually fell to St. Edward’s, 2-1, in the semis.

The Rattlers were just as good on the softball diamond, advancing to the final round of the South Central Regional before falling 2-0 to Texas Woman’s. It marked the softball team’s 11th trip to regionals in the past 13 seasons.

Rattlers Soar Up Director’s Cup Standings

St. Mary’s University President Tom Mengler had a bold vision when he announced new Athletics Director Liz Dalton in January: to turn Rattler Athletics into the “best Division II program in the nation.”

Six months later, the Rattlers have taken big strides toward that goal. St. Mary’s checked in at No. 80 in the 2012-13 Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup — 85 spots higher than a year ago when it finished 165. The rise in ranking is thanks in large part to a banner spring that saw Rattlers teams capture Heartland Conference regular-season and tournament titles in men’s and women’s basketball, baseball, softball and women’s tennis.

St. Mary’s finished seventh among Texas-based schools and second among Heartland Conference institutions.

The Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup, developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and USA Today, awards points based on each institution’s finish in up to 14 sports.

The St. Mary’s baseball team, pictured left, celebrates the winning run in a 13-inning victory at the NCAA D-II South Central Regional. The Rattler softball team, pictured above, celebrates a postseason win at the Heartland Conference Tournament en route to winning its 12th conference title in 13 seasons.

Six Student-Athletes Named All-Americans

Six St. Mary’s student-athletes earned All-American honors this year, the second-most ever recorded by the Rattlers in a single year.

Baseball pitcher Carl O’Neal is an All-American — again — and so is teammate Jonathan Perez and softball ace Emily Brittain. O’Neal was named to the Daktronics and National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association All-America Second Team, while Perez earned Honorable Mention consideration. Brittain was named an Honorable Mention All-American by Daktronics.

In addition to being an All-American on the field, O’Neal became an All-American in the classroom as well, making the Capital One Academic All-America First Team. For O’Neal, this athletic All-America honor marked the second-consecutive year, becoming just the fourth Rattler baseball player ever to achieve that feat.

Men’s basketball’s Kevin Kotzur, women’s basketball’s Jackie Woods and women’s tennis’ Mariana Rong also earned All-America distinctions. Kotzur was named to the Daktronics All-America First Team, while Woods received All-America Honorable Mention from the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. Rong earned All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.



Mr. 1,000

This spring, baseball Coach Charlie Migl became just the 11th coach in NCAA Division II baseball history to reach 1,000 career victories. Migl reached the milestone with a 9-1 triumph over Oklahoma Panhandle State on April 12. With a career record of 1,012-451, Migl is the fourth-winningest active D-II baseball coach and No. 10 on the all-time wins list.



Women Make Tennis History

The women's tennis team made school history this spring by advancing to the NCAA regional tournament for the first time after winning the Heartland Conference Tournament championship.

All-American sophomore Mariana Rong led the way for the Rattlers, going 21-0 in singles competition to earn a bevy of awards, including Heartland Conference Player of the Year and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's South Central Region Player to Watch.

Teammate Cristina Lopez earned Freshman of the Year honors, while Head Coach Lisa Dausin was named the region's Wilson/ITA Coach of the Year in both men's and women's.

Bowed Not Broken



Alum finds her niche advocating for wounded warriors through physical fitness

by Gina Farrell (M.P.A. '11)

Aleigha Barrera is executive director of a nonprofit with big plans, but she's not your typical CEO. It's more likely you'll find her wearing sneakers and workout clothes than a business suit.

Barrera (B.A. '97), who earned degrees in Sociology, and Exercise and Sport Science from St. Mary's University, has two longtime passions: helping others and physical fitness. Since becoming executive director of a nonprofit benefiting wounded warriors through group exercise, her passions have merged.

Last spring, Barrera joined Transition Possible, a young organization that positively impacts wounded service members and others with physical challenges or disabilities by helping them find community and achievement through exercise.

"You realize how important it is for these individuals to be a part of a community and have the support of others," Barrera said. "You see how important it is for them not just physically but also emotionally, and how they can overcome adversity even though their life is going to be different than what they had expected."



San Antonio resident Rick Martinez, a former Army nurse who felt called to help wounded warriors after leaving the military, started Transition Possible in 2011. He first opened gyms specializing in CrossFit — a popular type of group exercise — where wounded warriors and other adaptive athletes could work out alongside regular athletes. The basis for Transition Possible fully formed, Martinez needed a full-time leader for the effort. He turned to Barrera, a regular and coach at his gym.

Barrera explained that CrossFit is effective for wounded warriors for the same reason that it's popular in general: It is adaptable to different ability levels, and it happens in a supportive social environment. Both are important for wounded warriors dealing with the many challenges of war injuries, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), amputations and adaption to what Barrera calls their "new normal."

"Most of today's wounded warriors are in their early 20s, and they may have had a very different idea of what their lives after

a deployment were going to be like," she said.

Transition Possible helps the public understand how it can help, how important it is to simply say thanks to a wounded warrior, and how to help them find community. It is also a resource clearinghouse, providing information and advice on how to adapt to exercise for wounded warriors.

"It's about the awareness and understanding that there are just a few more things that you need to do to make it really inclusive," Barrera said.

Transition Possible wants wounded warriors to find a solid social support network, and also a solid career.

“They have their whole lives ahead of them.”

"They have their whole lives ahead of them. Many of them were planning for military careers, and that changes when they come back from deployment with this kind of injury," Barrera said.

She is planning to develop an entrepreneurial boot camp that will help give clients the tools and resources to find a career path.

"You see a lot of good programs that do special camping weekends or other activities for wounded warriors, and those are great. But what happens on Monday? They are young people, and many don't have job training that they can use after the military," Barrera said.



The organization's mantra is "Bowed Not Broken," and wounded warrior Mike Gallardo is a great example of that.

Gallardo started CrossFit a year ago and now coaches classes. He lost a leg during an Iraq deployment in 2007 and wears a prosthetic, but it hasn't slowed him down.

Gallardo struggles with the effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and PTSD, making it hard to remember names or cope with social interaction. But CrossFit is a social experience in a safe environment, and it has helped. Now, while he works as a coach, he's also going to college and plans to open his own gym one day — exactly the kind of result Transition Possible is looking to promote.



Above: Wounded warrior Mike Gallardo leads a CrossFit class. Left: Alumna Aleigha Barrera is executive director of Transition Possible, benefiting wounded warriors through group exercise.

While Barrera knows the wounded warriors get so much from the supportive environment of a group exercise class, so do the "able-bodied." Working out next to Gallardo and other wounded warriors, it's almost impossible to let yourself quit, she said.

"It's inspiring to say the least. When you're doing box jumps and you feel like, 'Oh crap, I can't finish,' and you look over and (Mike's) going like a rabbit, you think, 'How can I stop if he's still going?'" ■

A RANCHER'S CALL

ALUM CONTINUES FAMILY'S 200-YEAR STRUGGLE ON THE TEXAS RANGE *by Chris Jarvis*



Sometimes, when he's driving through South Texas, Rafael Ricardo "Rick" Ramirez feels his jaw clench and his grip tighten on the steering wheel.

It happens when he's spotted a pasture that hasn't been tended to in years, left to bake in the sun. To a lifelong steward of the land like Rick, it's a tragedy.

Rick (B.S. '79) and his wife, Carmen (B.A. '79), own and run Charco Redondo, an 1,800-acre cattle ranch near Hebbbronville that has survived under the Ramirez name for six generations. On it lie 450 acres of Kleingrass and legumes that are part of the Conservation Reserve Program; Beefmaster cattle, sporting the same Five Bar brand that Rick's father, Horacio, registered 60 years ago; and a Quarter Horse breeding operation.

Everything Rick and Carmen own today has been paid for with decades of grueling work and tears. So when he sees neglected land, it's personal.

"This has not been given to me," he said. "It's a whole lot different when it's something you've had to work for."

And the work is far from over.

During rare moments of leisure, Rick navigates his way on horseback through a dry tangle of thickets to a spring-fed watering hole. It's one of his favorite places on the ranch, and after abundant rainfall, wildlife tracks read like a roadmap to the pool.

The problem is that the rain is scarce. Since 2010, a relentless drought has dried up pastures across the state. Complicating matters is the Charco Redondo's location in the heart of South Texas, a region notorious for sweltering heat and unpredictable rainfall.

"There's been plenty of drought before, but never anything as severe as this," he said. "Mother Nature has not been very kind to us."

No rain means no grass, and without sufficient food for their herd, ranchers who rely on cattle for revenue must find an alternate source of income or a new livelihood.

Rick and Carmen, too, have been affected. They've had to significantly reduce their heads of cattle, and the ones that remain graze on a rotational basis to help replenish the land.

For years, the roundups were done entirely on horseback in an arduous game of man versus cattle. These days, Rick adheres to the more modern practice of using anything with a motor to gather a herd; it's simply more efficient and much less hazardous. But he still uses horses to sort cattle once they're confined in their pens — a nod to his family's history and legacy.

"We pride ourselves in trying to keep a little of that lifestyle there," he said, "and it gives the horses a little something to do."

The long-term effects of a drought of this magnitude are unknown, but the Ramirezes accept the uncertainty. As gritty as it is wholesome, ranching is a fading lifestyle they hold dear.

"We could walk away and retire today simply by selling the ranch," Rick said. "But I just don't know what I'd do without it."

Nestled along the southern border of Duval County, the Charco Redondo Ranch is a 200-year-old piece of Texas history — a relic from the days before barbed wire and highways sliced through the landscape, ending the open range.

Its origins date back to 1808 when four rancho brothers — attracted to the lush pasturelands north of the Rio Grande — acquired a Spanish land grant of 22,147 acres.

The brothers divided the property into quadrants, but to water their cattle, they shared a round, spring-fed tank, in Spanish called a *charco redondo*. That pond became the namesake of the Charco Redondo Ranch which, today, is

Continued on next page





a remnant of the area that was owned by one of those brothers, Don Simón Ramirez.

Don Simón and his direct descendent, Rick, were raised on the same cowboy ideals: an appreciation for hard work and a respect for the earth.

Rick's childhood was spent in the pastures of the Charco Redondo assisting his father, Horacio. At an age when most children were just pretending to be cowboys, Rick was becoming the real thing — as comfortable in a saddle as he was on his own feet. By high school, Rick was foreman of the Charco Redondo's summer hay-cutting operation.

“Some of my best memories were the roundups with the older cowboys,” Rick recalled. “This was done twice a year, and it was all on horseback. I still remember the sound of cows bawling for their separated calves.”

But unbeknownst to him at the time, Rick enjoyed a carefree childhood in the shadow of his father's private struggle to keep the ranch in business.



Struggle has pervaded the Charco Redondo story from early on. The Great Depression took a long-lasting toll on the business, and still reeling years later, Horacio's mother (Rick's grandmother) sold a 600-acre chunk of land while her son was serving in the Korean War. Determined to put the ranch back together upon returning, Horacio took out several loans to repurchase as much of the plot as he could.

Then, ranchers everywhere were dealt severe blows. The 1950s saw one of the worst droughts on record, and in the 1960s, cattle prices plunged thanks to mega-sized feedlots and meatpackers streamlining the industry.

By now, Horacio's financial investment in the Charco Redondo outweighed the return, and he had a wife and six children to support.


“It was a difficult time for our parents,” Rick said.

By the late 1980s, Rick was a young dentist with a practice in San Antonio and was investing his own capital into the Charco Redondo. Twice, Rick saved the ranch from foreclosure on the courthouse steps.

Horacio, aging and unable to maintain the workload the ranch required, convinced Rick to purchase the land in 1995.

Continued on page 24

Top Left: Gabino Flores has worked at Charco Redondo on and off for 25 years.

 A short film was produced in conjunction with this story. View it online at: www.stmarytx.edu/gold&blue

Right: Charco Redondo, about 70 miles from the Mexico border, has a front row view of the immigration debate. People coming to the U.S. illegally follow a gas pipeline easement that dissects the ranch. In the mornings, Rick often notices abandoned pallets near the brush, as well as eggs pilfered from his hens.

It hasn't always been prudent, but sometimes you have to put prudence aside. I mean, what are you living for?"





“I think dad took a lot of solace in the fact that I would be able to service that loan and keep the ranch intact,” Rick said. “It would’ve been devastating for him had that property gone for sale.”



Rick’s wife, Carmen, recalls the bittersweet early years.

The two met as undergraduates at St. Mary’s University in 1979 during Fiesta Oyster Bake. At the time, Rick was preparing for dental school, but in every free moment he helped his family run the ranch. It was clear that he and the Charco Redondo were a packaged deal, but Carmen said all it took was one smile.

“That was it,” she said. “I quit dating anybody else.”

By the time their four daughters were born, Rick was engrossed in paying the Charco Redondo’s mortgage and turning it into a cash-flowing operation. Times were precarious — for a while, hand-me-down clothes and hot dog dinners were the norm in the Ramirez household.

“It was really slim pickings, but he busted his rear and never gave up,” Carmen recalled.

The trade-off was that the girls grew up in the tranquillity of open country. And even though Rick was spread thin working the ranch and supporting a full-time dental practice, he was fiercely committed to spending time with his daughters.

“Ranching is a tremendous way to raise a family,” he said. “It’s just good, clean living.”

On Nov. 3, 2011, Rick reached a milestone.

Standing front and center in the House Chamber of the Texas State Capitol alongside his mother, Rick was formally honored by the Texas Department of Agriculture with the Family Land Heritage Award for 200 consecutive years of operation by the same family. It’s a distinction shared by only eight other ranches in the state.

“It’s been a long 25, 30 years, but it’s something I was completely dedicated to,” Rick said. “It hasn’t always been prudent, but sometimes you have to put prudence aside. I mean, what are you living for?”

Now the Charco Redondo is poised to be inherited by a seventh generation of Ramirezes. Two of Rick and Carmen’s daughters are interested in taking over the ranch.

“It gives me much pleasure to know that the girls want to continue this legacy,” Rick said, “and I know they can do it successfully.”



A cowboy’s two biggest enemies are Mother Nature and Father Time. Nowadays the pond that the ranchero brothers shared two centuries ago is nearly dried up. As for Rick, he imagines he’ll be on horseback for the next 10 years wishing it could last forever.

On the rare occasions he complains of exhaustion, Carmen teases that he could have all the rest he’s ever wanted — if only he’d sell the ranch. His answer is quick.

“Hell no.” ■



Editor's Note: For this story, the *Gold & Blue* staff traveled to Hebronville where Rick and Carmen opened up not only their lives but their home. It became clear that any one part of their story could have merited a feature article of its own.

We could have explored the ranch as it relates to immigration issues, or to the Eagle Ford Shale — a stone's throw away — where polarizing hydrolic fracturing (fracking) operations are in full swing.

We could have focused on Rick's longtime work as a dentist:

Every week for nearly 25 years, Rick has driven from Boerne (where he lives and maintains a full-time practice) to Hebronville to see patients from surrounding towns. His office is in a historic building built by his great-grandfather who served as the community's sole family physician; his grandmother ran a pharmacy and soda counter there, too.

So much of Rick and Carmen's story is steeped in legacy that it could seem as if all of this was meant to be, but that says more of their spirit than of reality. Case in point: When their first daughter, Margo, was just 4 years old, she suffered a brain injury that resulted in hemiplegia and other long-term challenges. The event changed their lives, but now it's a part of who they are. As Carmen said, "Prior dreams and expectations died, and new ones were born."

We chose to focus on their stewardship of the land because it is evidence of their commitment to the greater good. Personal gain has never governed their choices; they've made many sacrifices, and they've been given many gifts in return. We are grateful to this special family for sharing their story with the St. Mary's community.

Behind the Magic Eye

by Nicolette Good and Christina Mendez

Artist James Joffe, M.F.A., must have a soft spot for viewers who, as children, flipped through the newspaper to the funnies just for the Magic Eye. On first viewing, the wild movement and colors in his paintings present a distinct feeling. But after peering at a piece's title — names like “Her Charmed Incantations,” “See the Trees,” or “Embrace Still Waters” — the elements on the canvas shift and give way to a greater vision.

Joffe (B.A. '96), Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, calls his works nonrepresentational compositions, and he says his titles should “encourage the viewer to be playful in their interpretations.”

Paintings like “Developing Telekinesis to Overcome Gravity” pair garish colors with glowing ones, spastic gestures with graceful strokes; the result is angelic or nightmarish, depending on your perception. Other works like “Sun Setting on Soft Evening Hills” betray their plain

titles and invite you to step into a calm, delicate mist of hues and forms. And if you were to linger, you might lose perspective and find yourself in a happy hallucination.

Joffe counts among his early inspirations the South Texas landscape, but today he draws from a more urban life: the layers of abandoned, sun-faded billboard vinyls and the sounds of city buses as they woosh past his studio.

In between teaching classes, he heads to that studio in the Deco District on Fredericksburg Road, a primitive workspace he shares with Brian St. John, M.F.A., Chair of the Art Department. The space is full of evidence of his process (Joffe often pours paint onto canvases that lie on the ground), but his creations are greater than the sum of their parts. It's a reminder of how transformative art can be for both the artist and the viewer.

“You never know where life will lead you,” mused Joffe, and the same can be said of his work. ■



Granddaughter of Madagascar

Peace Corps volunteer finds family, even 9,000 miles from home

by Chris Jarvis



There's no electricity in the hut that Samantha Bezdek (B.A. '10), a Peace Corps volunteer, calls home.

Stationed in the impoverished coastal village of Manafiafy, Madagascar, Bezdek gets fresh water from a well down the road, and any chores not completed before nightfall are done by candlelight.

"I love this experience and the challenges that come along with it," said Bezdek. "It's certainly not for everyone, but it's something I'll be proud of the rest of my life."

She serves as an agricultural adviser for the community, collaborating with local farmers to develop revenue-generating agronomic projects.

In one venture, she raises awareness of the nourishment properties of the moringa tree. Because the region is made of a sandy soil, raising crops is challenging. The fast-growing moringa tree flourishes in even the most drought-prone areas of Africa, and its bark and leaves are rich in nutrients.

"There are trainings approximately every other month to demonstrate how to properly prepare and cook the leaves and to explain its worth," she said. "More families are becoming interested in moringa, and we hope we can reduce the number of malnourished children in our area through this magical plant."

But Bezdek's work as a Peace Corps volunteer often requires less concrete steps toward helping the community.

Each morning, she makes time to chat with fishermen over coffee and fried bread about the outlook for the day's catch. In the afternoons, she spends an hour socializing with the children, swimming in the waters of the Indian Ocean or holding an impromptu English class.

Her constant presence and work ethic have endeared her to the locals, so much so that the mayor and other high-ranking village leaders have come to affectionately refer to Bezdek as "granddaughter."

"I adore my community and my work here," she said. "In several ways, I've found it simple to integrate."

When she thinks about the kinship she's developed with the inhabitants of Manafiafy, the community she set out to aid has, in many ways, returned the gesture.

"I have come to be a member of an African community 9,000 miles from home," she said. "I have gained respect, trust and so many life lessons through my time spent here. The prospect of living here for another 10 or so months makes me feel as if I've won the lottery." ■

HOMER'S SPACE ODYSSEY

by Nicolette Good

NAME: Homer Ahr (B.S. '68)

HOMETOWN: Corpus Christi, now lives northwest of Austin in Horseshoe Bay

MAJOR: Computer Science

OCCUPATION: Retired IBMer

YOU'D NEVER KNOW THAT: He and his wife, Carol, have been foster parents to more than 30 children

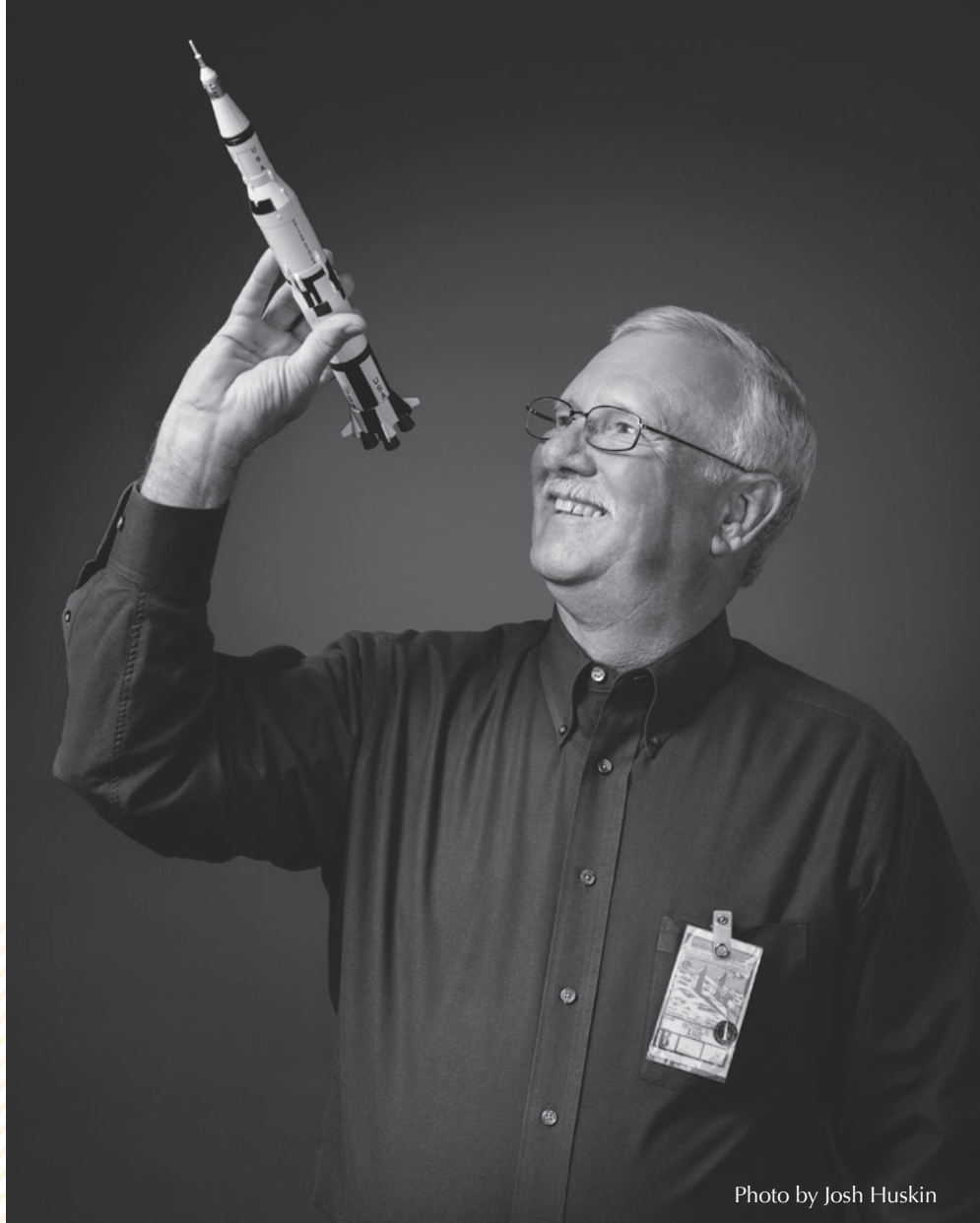


Photo by Josh Huskin

Thirteen months after graduation, Homer Ahr was on mission control of NASA's Apollo 11 — the 1969 mission that landed the first man on the moon — working as a computer programmer. A year later, he was working on Apollo 13. It was the beginning of what would become a 37-year career with IBM, which at the time was a NASA contractor.

We caught up with Homer this year (the 45th anniversary of Apollo 13) to ask him important questions like, “What role does computer science play in innovation?” and “How much do you love Tom Hanks?”

I'm giving you permission to brag. What was your role in the Apollo missions?

A: I was considered the lead architect and technical person at IBM on manned space in Houston, programming real-time software for trajectory and maneuver planning. They had me start training during simulations for Apollo 11, and then they chose me to be on the console.

I was called in to support Apollo 13 when an explosion damaged the spacecraft and forced the crew to return to Earth early. The path they were on would have taken them too long to get back, and they would have run out of oxygen. I was involved in the maneuver that got the crew back alive. That maneuver was computed for the first time on Apollo 13.

How was it being a fresh college graduate working on a project of this magnitude?

In retrospect, it caused a lot of consternation on the part of management because I was the youngest guy and least experienced. A year, that's all I had, and they chose me to be on the prime team. I was on one of the most complex consoles over there.

During Apollo 11, how did you keep your cool knowing the astronauts' maneuvers were in your hands?

We were dealing with life and death. If we didn't do things right, we could send the astronauts in the wrong place, and they would eventually die. But we knew that if we could just get Neil Armstrong close enough to the moon, he'd land it. If any man in the world was going to land on the moon that day, it was him.

Once the alarms started sounding during Apollo 13, what went through your head?

I think we were scared. It was very real to us, and we did it all in front of the world, in public. And yet, we had to put that out of our minds. That can scare you if you dwell on it too much.

What was one of the more memorable moments during Apollo 11?

When the astronauts land on the moon, they land on the side of the moon we see. But before that, they're actually behind the moon. For 45 minutes we couldn't see them or talk to them.

Consequently, the system that got taxed the most was the bathroom. Right before they were going to land on the moon, everybody knew they needed to go to the bathroom because, if things didn't go well, you may not be able to leave your console for hours. It was like the worst football halftime you've ever seen.

Did you get to meet Neil Armstrong or James Lovell Jr.?

I was not an astronaut groupie. We didn't bother the astronauts. We had a job to do, they had a job to do.

What advice would you give to Computer Science majors at St. Mary's?

Never think that just because you designed it, built it or coded it, no matter how thoughtfully and carefully, that it is "right" and "good."

One of the first programs that I wrote on the space program was hard to use under the real-time pressures of the mission. So, I wrote a problem report on myself and changed it.

We built operating systems, displays and computers simply to do the things that were really important like fly space shuttles and land men on moons. Computer Science is just a means to an end.

Now for the important stuff. What's your take on the 1995 film *Apollo 13*?

The movie is a really good, if not excellent, dramatization of what occurred. It does an outstanding job of creating the environment that we went through. The emotions all come back. It is not, however, particularly technically accurate.

I watch it every time it comes on. I've seen it 15 times. ■



You're going to want to see this.

In 2011, Homer Ahr told his story as part of IBM's centennial celebration. Watch as he talks about the Apollo 13 mission.

Follow the QR code to see the video.





Photo by Graham Dunn

Young Filmmaker Depends on a Little Luck — and a Lot of Hard Work

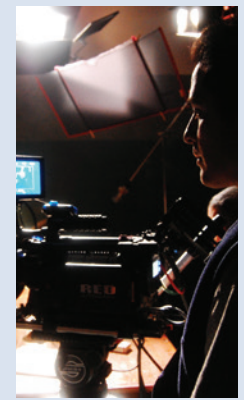
by Andrew Festa

Steve Acevedo (B.A. '00) knows how fortunate he is to have a rising career as a director and cinematographer in Hollywood.

"It's a difficult industry to break into, and I'm grateful I can make a living doing it," he said.

Acevedo earned a prestigious Disney/ABC-Directors Guild of America Directors Fellowship in 2008 after graduating from film school at Florida State University. He shadowed directors of TV shows, including *Grey's Anatomy* and *Desperate Housewives*, for a year.

Speaking of difficult to break into, 800 people applied for that fellowship, 26 were interviewed and only three earned spots.



These days, Acevedo continues to shadow television directors as an NBC Universal Directing Fellow. He also directs and shoots feature-length and short films as well as commercials, music videos and a Web series called *Minda (Never) Learns* (yes, that's how it is spelled). His work has been screened at festivals including SXSW and Cannes Film Market.

Acevedo received praise for his cinematography in the feature film *Satellite of Love*, shot last year in Austin and recently released on Amazon and iTunes. He also directed *El cocodrilo*, a short film starring Jacob Vargas of *Traffic* fame, which earned honorable mention at the 2013 CineFestival en San Antonio.

But everyone has to start somewhere.

His first film — a lurid story of an urban turf war, with all the dialogue in rhyme — premiered on a pull-down screen in the Reinbolt Hall Theater. And it might never be seen again, he joked.

Acevedo came to St. Mary's as a Biology major with his eye on a career in medicine, but a TV production class he took nurtured his true desire: cinema.

"Dr. (Lucien) Manchester begged me not to change my major. 'Why would you change your major?' He took it worse than my parents," Acevedo recalled of the Biology professor.

So the next year — as an English-Communication Arts major — he teamed up with a friend, Ariel Gonzales, to write his first film and shoot it on his parents' Sony Digital 8 camera.

All four actors — Vanessa Martinez, Sheila Macchia, Matt Hish and Joel Settles — were St. Mary's students. (Martinez went on to



become an actress who has appeared in TV shows such as *ER*, *Castle*, *2 Broke Girls* and *The Mindy Project*. Acevedo and Martinez both live in Los Angeles and remain friends.)

"Filmmaker" is an occupation that gets tossed around more often now that inexpensive technology and the Internet have simplified video production. Anyone can afford a camera and make a movie, Acevedo said, but he offers some advice for aspiring filmmakers.

"Most people don't realize there's a craft to filmmaking and storytelling," he said. "People don't think there's a lot more than going out and making a movie. Study and understand storytelling and craft."

Acevedo points out that more than talent is required to make it in this business. There's also luck involved.

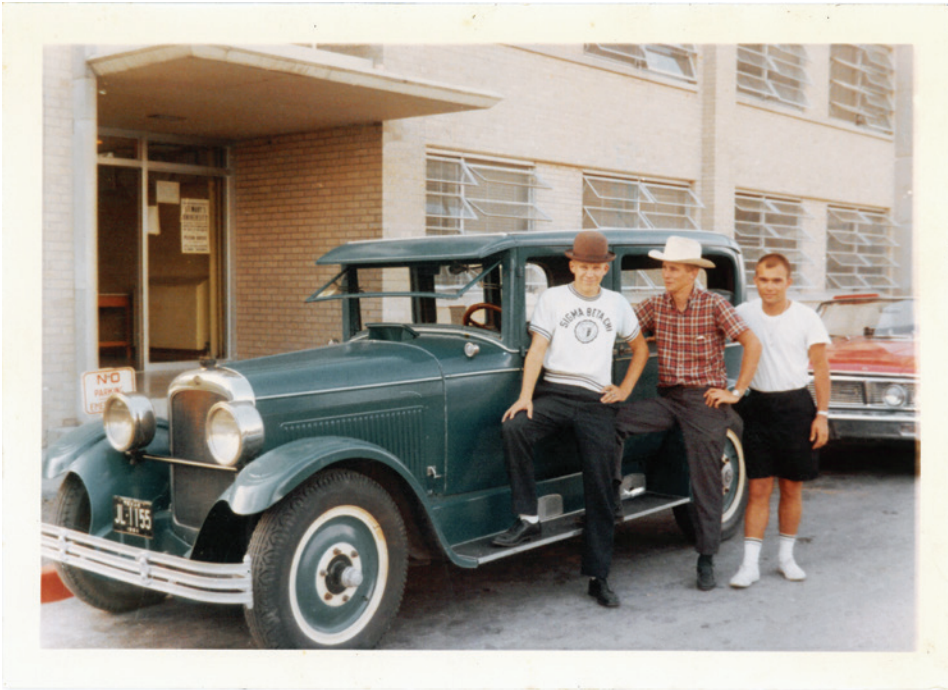
"Becoming a doctor is easy, in my opinion, because you follow a path," he said, saying that he might be a doctor by now if he had stayed the course. "You go to school, study, make the grades. To be a filmmaker, there's no path and no guarantees."

Some people, though, make their own luck. ■



From left to right: A movie poster from *Satellite of Love* (an official selection of 10 film festivals), for which Acevedo directed photography; a still from *Satellite of Love*; three behind-the-scenes photos; a movie poster from *El cocodrilo*, which Acevedo directed.

Class Notes



Three Sigma Beta Chi members hamming it up outside of Chaminade Hall in 1963. From left: Richard “Dick” Aboia (B.A. ’66), Martin George (B.A. ’66, M.A. ’69) and Al Mueller (B.B.A. ’65). They are pictured with George’s 1929 Nash, which he bought for just \$600.

Have a fun photo from your time at St. Mary’s that you would like us to consider publishing?

Send it to gfarrell@stmarytx.edu or Gina Farrell, University Communications, St. Mary’s University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas 78228.



Kristal Thomson is an attorney specializing in family law and a partner at Wilson, Pennypacker & Thomson LLP in San Antonio. She is active in the Bexar County Women’s Bar Association, San Antonio Bar Foundation, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, the Valero Alamo Bowl Committee and the Junior League of San Antonio, among others. Thomson also serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Mary’s Law Alumni Association.

Advocating for Champions

by Beth Barbee

Kristal Thomson (J.D. ’02) has always identified with the Special Olympics, especially its oath: Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

“It is just a great motto for life,” said Thomson.

She often tagged along as a child with her mother who volunteered with the Special Olympics.

Those experiences made an impression on her, and she now has served on the group’s board of directors since 2009. Board members support the group through planning and fundraising, but they also back the athletes at the competitive events.

Thomson tells a story of helping the athletes off the track in a running heat. The athlete she was paired with came in last, but he still rejoiced in his accomplishment.

“Instances like that really teach life lessons to me,” Thomson said. “I strive to look at life the way these athletes do.” ■



Pastor Dave: Soul Director

by Candace Kuebker (B.A. '78)

Silver hair combed back, dressed in clerical garb, David Brockhouse (B.B.A. '88) looks like a man at peace — a man who is right where he wants to be. But the journey wasn't easy, nor was it short. This 66-year-old only recently began a new career (a calling, really) that for decades had only been a whisper. Today, he's The Rev. David Brockhouse, Senior Pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in San Antonio.

Raised in Peoria, Ill., Brockhouse held a successful 26-year career with Texas-based H-E-B Grocery Co., but it was a career whose path wasn't, in the end, where Brockhouse wanted to go.

"During those years, it was all about things of the world," he said.

He still kept the faith, sending his four sons to Mt. Olive Lutheran School and attending church with his wife, Patricia. It seemed like enough. He had graduated from the H-E-B management program, finished as an assistant store director and had even gone back to school.

But in 1996, Brockhouse was called home to Peoria, where his father was dying of cancer.

"Dad's death woke me up to being there for people," he said. "I heard God loud and clear, and it changed my whole life. I was much more open to hearing what God was saying to me."

Back in San Antonio, Dave became a church elder, but still, something was missing. He started ministering to the sick. When Mt. Olive's pastor fell ill himself, Dave became the congregation's lay leader. He took on more, teaching classes and expanding his ministry. He became a deacon. All the time, he kept up his 65- to 70-hour weeks at H-E-B as store director.

One day in 2004, Dave noticed a billboard he'd surely passed many times. It said: "Don't make me come down there." — God.

"I retired and started seminary soon after," he said. "To be where I am, I can't explain it. It's one of those things that, until you're ready to hear (God's call), your ears are closed. But when you're ready to listen, wow!" ■

(Long) Lost and Found

We occasionally get letters from *Gold & Blue* readers, passing along story ideas or comments on something they've read. But a small package that arrived in May was different than most.

It included a short, typed and unsigned letter that said the writer found a pair of rings on a ladies' bathroom sink in Alumni Gym many years ago. The writer recently came across those rings again and sent them in to us hoping a *Gold & Blue* reader might know to whom they belong.

We're not sure when the rings were found, only that it was before Alumni Gym was torn down, so perhaps in the 1990s. It is likely that at least one of these rings has sentimental value. If you think you know the jewelry's owner, or if you lost two rings on campus decades ago, drop me a line at gfarrell@stmarytx.edu and give me a description.

We'd love to get these back to their owner, after all these years.



Art With Purpose

Painting with a Twist, a San Antonio business, hosted a unique fundraising event for St. Mary's University this past spring.

Sixty-two painters, instructed by an art teacher, painted their renditions of St. Louis

Hall. Participants included graduating seniors, alumni, parents and faculty. Half the cost of participating went to the Class of 2013 gift, benefiting the Annual Scholarship Fund.

Get Involved

Austin Capital Area Alumni Chapter

Eugene "Gene" Sekula (B.A. '70), President
www.facebook.com/StMUAustin

Dallas/Fort Worth Alumni Chapter

Benjamin "Ben" Hart (B.B.A. '00, M.P.A. '04), President
www.facebook.com/StMUDFWAlumni

Great Lakes Alumni Chapter

David "Dave" Ronzani (B.A. '78), President
www.facebook.com/GreatLakesAlumni

Houston Alumni Chapter

Arthur Bryan II (B.A. '06), President
www.facebook.com/StMUHoustonAlumni

Laredo Alumni Chapter

Xochitl Mora-Garcia (B.A. '95), President
www.facebook.com/StMULaredoAlumni

Rio Grande Valley Alumni Chapter

Edna Zambrano-Martinez (B.A. '99, M.P.A. '01), President

San Antonio Young Alumni Chapter

Classes of 1998-2013
 Jose R. Treviño (B.B.A. '04), President
www.facebook.com/StMUYAC

Southwest Texas and New Mexico Alumni Chapter

Gloria Cervantes (B.A. '88), President

St. Louis Alumni Chapter

Kathleen "Leeny" Hoffman (B.A. '86), President
www.facebook.com/StLouisAlumni

Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter

Richard Olague (B.A. '03), President
www.facebook.com/StMUDC

Go to www.stmarytx.edu/alumni to connect with a chapter today!

Chapter Spotlight

Great Lakes Alumni Chapter

Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Wisconsin

6

Years Active

442

Alumni in the area

11

Current students from the area

9.5%

Great Lakes donor participation

\$14,800

Funds raised for St. Mary's in 2012-2013



“Being part of a chapter gives you a chance to network and to reconnect with your alma mater in a fun, social atmosphere.

**Be bold,
be an active alumnus!”**

— David Ronzani (B.A. '78)
Chapter President, Great Lakes Chapter



Law Grad Seeks Justice for Juveniles

by Beth Barbee

Emily Schools (J.D. '13) has landed a prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship, which began in May, and she's using it to create a juvenile justice division for the Abilene office of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT). Her project's success could lead to juvenile divisions in all 15 LANWT offices — all in underserved areas. In fact, Schools will be the only pro bono attorney focused solely on juvenile issues in LANWT's coverage area of 114 counties.

"My intention is to provide homeless and runaway youth access to justice, help them escape from poverty, and vastly improve the quality of their lives by giving them a much better start as adults," said Schools.

There are about 100,000 runaway teens each year statewide, according to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. If these runaways do not return home shortly after being reported, they

become classified as homeless. Homeless youth face mental illness, disease, inadequate medical care and malnutrition, as well as danger.

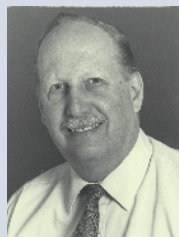
As these teens reach adulthood, employment or college becomes less likely due to their delinquent histories; however, many young people are unaware of laws that allow their records to be sealed or certain items to be expunged.

"There are so many kids out there with absolutely no accessible legal help unless they stumble across a generous lawyer, and that is devastating," she said.

For young people who face life on their own, even the smallest obstacles, like transportation, college application costs and building credit, can be insurmountable.

"I have to focus on what I can do," she added. "I can use my passion for the law to help these youth and make a difference." ■

Fondest Farewell



THE REV. NORBERT BROCKMAN, PH.D., S.M.

The Rev. Norbert Brockman, Ph.D., S.M., age 79, died March 29, 2013 in San Antonio.

Born in Cincinnati, he entered the Society of Mary in 1951 and professed first vows in 1952. He earned a bachelor's in Political Science in 1955 from the University of Dayton. After professing final vows in 1956, he earned a master's and doctorate in Political Science at the Catholic University of America. Brockman finished his master's in Sacred Theology at United Theological Seminary in Dayton and was ordained in 1973.

He taught in several Marianist high schools before becoming a professor at the University of Dayton. In recent years, Brockman was dedicated to students and scholarship as Professor of Political Science and International Relations at St. Mary's, where he taught for more than 20 years and was named a Piper Professor for outstanding teaching.

EDWARD V. CHEVIOT

Edward V. Cheviot, age 89, passed away on May 19, 2013. He served St. Mary's University as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1981 until 1988, including as both vice chairman and chairman of the board.

Cheviot was a U.S. Marine during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart. In civilian life, he was vice president of United Television Inc. and president of KMOL-TV.

WILLIAM KUEBKER

William "Bill" Kuebker, a St. Mary's University Athletics Hall of Fame Associate, passed away June 21, 2013 at the age of 82 after a brief battle with lung cancer. Kuebker and his wife, Joan, who passed away in 2012, were jointly inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2002.

All three of their children — Craig, Candace and David — are St. Mary's University graduates. Bill and Joan supported the University and Rattler Athletics with a passion, participating in countless events and traveling the country to attend basketball games.

He had a 20-year career as a dentist and officer in the U.S. Air Force, and he started a second, 25-year career at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School as a professor.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

the St. Mary's University
Alumni Association's 2013

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI DINNER



honoring

William H. Combs (B.A. '70)

Retired President and CEO, Tamaqua Cable Products Corp.

Michael M. Mitchell (B.B.A. '68)

CEO, Suncoast Beverages Sales

Michael F. Reimherr (B.B.A. '67, M.B.A. '71)

President, Reimherr Professional Business Consulting

Friday, October 18, 2013

6 p.m. Reception

7 p.m. Dinner and Awards Program

Omni San Antonio Hotel
9821 Colonnade Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas 78230

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE OPENING OF

THE PARK

AT ST. MARY'S



10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 18, 2013

Grand opening, dedication and
blessing of The Park at St. Mary's

Followed by a reception and tours
of the facilities

Watch for details on upcoming special
recognition events for Dickson Stadium
and Sigma Beta Chi Soccer Field on
Saturday, Nov. 2.

www.stmarytx.edu/ThePark