

# St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2012 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3



## A CHURCH IN RUINS

THREE ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY MBA STUDENTS FIGHT TO  
SAVE HISTORIC CHURCHES IN FRANCE | PAGE 12



## 12 FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Some 1,700 historic French churches are in danger of being torn down. Three MBA students have joined the fight to save them.



## 18 MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Four MBA students are helping a fourth-generation French winemaker bring her family's label to Texas. [🔗](#)



## 20 SEE HOW THEY RUN

Fueled by individual hopes and dreams plus a sense of service, four alumni share why they set out on the rocky road of campaigning for political office.

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Catholic church I attend has been under construction for most of the summer. There's going to be new tile, new pews, an elevator, a few new stained-glass windows and a bunch of other stuff that all costs a lot of money. This church is 30 years old, and it's the third or fourth church the parish has had in its 200-year history.

Contrast my present church with the Cathedral of the Assumption in the tiny German village of Wolframs-Eschenbach. A few years back, I attended Christmas mass there. You'll never find mention of this church in a guidebook, but it's painted concrete steeple and soaring-but-understated columns are stunning. As I sat there, warmed only by the sound of the choir and natural acoustics of the church, I thought of all of the people who had sought solace in this church for more than 700 years, of how many prayers had been said in this space since the 14th century.

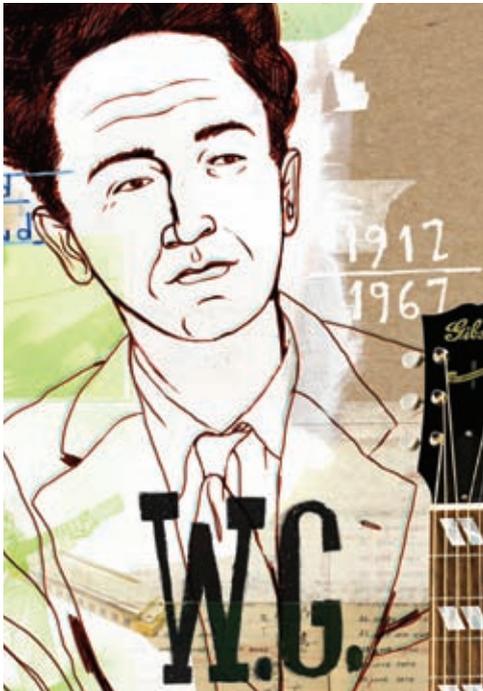
So why am I telling you all this? Because this issue's cover story tells how two historic village churches in France are in danger of being torn down. The churches, in desperate need of repair, will be replaced with something easier to maintain, something more American, something that may need a face-lift in 30 years.

The questions this debate stirs are many, and the passion it ignites is fierce. And in the middle of it all are three St. Edward's University MBA students who spent a good part of the summer working on a business plan to save these churches, among others. As they developed their plan, they had to think about all the people who would be impacted and take into account culture, history, politics, emotions and the proverbial "right thing to do."

This issue of *St. Edward's University Magazine* is chock-full of stories of students, alumni and faculty tackling the tough issues, the ones light on easy answers and heavy on gray area. We have alumni making the tough choice to run for public office, faculty seeking a cure for a currently incurable disease and young alumni taking bold steps like moving to Israel to talk about religious diversity.

These are all uphill battles. And the world needs people who really believe in something, who care about finding solutions to tough problems and who aren't afraid to take action.

Frannie Schneider  
Editor



## 24 UNDERSTANDING THE MIND OF AN AMERICAN ICON

Sixty years ago, folk legend Woody Guthrie was diagnosed with Huntington's disease. Now 100 years after his birth, scientific researchers and global health experts at St. Edward's and around the world are cracking the code of this destructive neurological disorder and bringing worldwide attention to the disease. 



## 28 THE SENSE OF ST. EDWARD'S

As any good Hilltopper can tell you, four years on the St. Edward's campus leaves you with a collection of memories that are both personal and sensory, ones that defy the typical and cerebral. Here we invite you to experience the elusive nuances of campus through images of the small, the grand, the recognizable and the obscure. 

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**When God Has Other Plans: Father Rick Wilkinson, CSC**, the former director of Campus Ministry, shares two notable homilies from his last summer at St. Edward's.

**Uncorking French Wine:** Madame Evelyne de Pontbriand, owner of the French winery Domaine du Closel, gives tips on the finer points of appreciating wine.

**Ask the Expert:** Professor of Chemistry **Eamonn Healy** fills us in on the latest research on Huntington's disease.

**Do You See What I See?** Check out these extreme close-up photos of some of St. Edward's most familiar spots. Can you identify what they are?

## ABOUT THE COVER

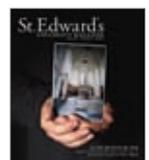
**Ash Warren MBA '12** holds a photo of the St. Aubin du Pavoil church in Segré, France. The church, in a state of disrepair, was slated to be torn down by the municipal government this summer.

3001 SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704-6489  
512-448-8400 | [WWW.STEDWARDS.EDU](http://WWW.STEDWARDS.EDU)

**FOR THE EDITOR:**

512-448-8775

[FRANNIES@STEDWARDS.EDU](mailto:FRANNIES@STEDWARDS.EDU)



# St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

EDITOR	Frannie Schneider
CREATIVE DIRECTOR	Rick Ramos
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS	Mischelle Diaz
DESIGNERS	Joanie Cahill Kelly King-Green Betsabe Rodriguez '11
STAFF WRITER	Hannah Hepfer
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER	Jessica Attie '04
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	Ellie Francis Douglass '12 Eileen Flynn Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05 Joel Hoekstra Erin Peterson Shelley Seale MLA '08 Gregory J. Scott Lisa Thiels
PRESIDENT	George E. Martin, PhD
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## THE NOT-SO-SECRET LIFE OF WASPS



Let's face it: When most of us encounter wasps, we either run the other way or send them to their untimely death. These creatures undoubtedly get a bad rap, but **Allan Hook**, professor of Biology, says they are worth watching. Here's why.

### Solitary wasps are different than social wasps.

Solitary wasps (think mud daubers and cicada killers) are harmless. Social wasps, like paper wasps and yellow jackets, are the ones that can be problematic with their stingers. Texas has about a dozen species of paper wasps (*Polistes*); the Austin area has only two species of yellow jackets (*Vespa*).

### Wasps are related to bees and ants.

They all come from the insect order Hymenoptera. Ants are wingless wasps, and bees are just hairy vegetarian wasps. In other words, they are all wasps — just modified, specialized and diversified over time.

### Wasps are skilled architects.

There is great diversity in the nests solitary wasps construct. Some are in the ground, with only a small hole with a mound of soil at the nest's entrance. Some make aerial nests of mud or plant resin. Some nest in holes in wood. Social wasps, on the other hand, build paper nests.

### Wasps are good for the environment.

Wasps and bees are indicators of a healthy, stable and complex terrestrial community. Wasps can help control some insect pests, and they assist in the pollination of native plants.

### Wasps play a role in the study of evolution.

Wasps have figured prominently in studies attempting to understand the evolution of sociality — specifically how sterile castes (the group of worker bees or wasps that give up their own reproduction to support the queen) have evolved.

*Hook began studying wasps and their complex behaviors in 1976 when he started his master's degree in Entomology at the University of Georgia. Since that time, he's had three species of insects named after him — two solitary wasps (Solerella hooki and Pseudopolis hooki) and one fly (Nemomydas hooki).*

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## BEST COLLEGES

# MOVIN' ON UP

If you've always wanted to say that you graduated from a top-20 university, this is your year. St. Edward's University moved up from number 21 to number 17 in U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges" annual ranking among Best Regional Universities in the West.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

*St. Edward's University Magazine* arrived the other day — I always enjoy receiving and reading it from cover to cover.

Two stories were particularly touching and brought back many fond memories: "Answering the Call," about **Brother Larry Atkinson, CSC**, and the Legacy Award story about **Virginia and Jack Dailey**.

I was a Scholastic Brother of Holy Cross at Vincent Hall with Larry and many other young men. I was there from 1969 and graduated in 1971. I just had to call Larry after I read the article and saw his photo. We had a great conversation and caught up after several years.

The story about Virginia also brought back many fond memories. When she was asked, "Do you have any favorite family memories on campus?" she responded by talking about the pizza suppers the brothers had at Vincent Hall, where I was the chief chef and organizer of the fundraisers for the Holy Cross missions. I can remember all the Scholastic Brothers helping in so many ways. It was truly an amazing undertaking.

These events brought the Vincent Hall community and the St. Edward's community together as we lived the Holy Cross family.

My best,

**Ken Tedesco '71**

Dear Editor,

I'm an instructor at St. Edward's teaching advertising classes. I read the article about human trafficking in the winter issue of *St. Edward's University Magazine* and was blown away. How could this be going on in my own backyard and I didn't know anything about it? It occurred to me that perhaps my advertising students could contribute to building awareness of this issue. I contacted **Kay Firth-Butterfield**, and two of my classes are currently working on a service-learning project for the Bernardo Kohler Center.

By the way, the magazine is outstanding, and I look forward to reading it cover to cover each time it comes out!

**Susan Whiteside**

*St. Edward's University Magazine* invites letters on its content. Send yours to [frannies@stedwards.edu](mailto:frannies@stedwards.edu) or Attn: Frannie Schneider, CM 1029, 3001 S. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78704.

# SUMMER IN A WORD



Ah, summer. Hot lazy days, syrupy snow cones, icy dips at Barton Springs — intensive grizzly bear research? Summers for St. Edward's students are anything but typical. Here are just a few of the places and topics they studied, worked and researched.

## WHAT THEY RESEARCHED:



## WHERE THEY STUDIED:



## WHERE THEY INTERNED:



# 8 THINGS We Love

## GRUB AND GRATITUDE

When **Tom Morris '07**, co-owner of the popular food trailer Coreanos in Austin, received a catering request from the Admission office at St. Edward's, he offered to provide the meal for free. The trailer — which features Korean Mexican BBQ — is co-owned by Morris and fellow St. Edward's alums **Genaro Macias '07** and **Jamil Assaf '07**. The Three Wise Fries with caramelized kimchi top our list of favorite things.

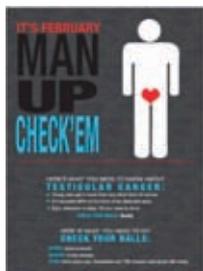


## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS IMPRESS

St. Edward's ushered in a new batch of academic leaders with the start of the 2012–2013 school year. **Brenda Vallance** is the interim vice president for Academic Affairs, **Sharon Nell** is the new dean of the School of Humanities, **Helene Caudill** was promoted to dean of New College and **Russ Frohardt** is the interim dean of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

## FULBRIGHTS, FUTURE BRIGHT

We know the university's most recent Fulbright scholars packed their Hilltopper spirit as they trekked to such locations as Germany (**Amarette Edmonson '12** and **Morgen Brown '11**), Costa Rica (**Amanda Bolton '12**), Israel (**Elizabeth Narvaez '12**), Spain (**Marielle Septien '12**) and South Africa (**Collin Phillips '12**).



## LOVE YOURSELF, CHECK YOURSELF

Cancer awareness posters designed by students in an advertising strategy course taught by instructor **Susan Whiteside** were distributed on college campuses throughout Texas, including St. Edward's, Texas Tech and Texas State. The posters, which educate men ages 15 to 35 about testicular cancer and the importance of monthly self exams, were sponsored by Single Jingles, A Testicular Cancer Foundation, started by cancer survivor **Matt Ferstler '10**.

## NEW MEDIA HONORS



St. Edward's received the New Media Consortium Center of Excellence Award, which recognizes excellence and outstanding achievement in the application of technology to learning or creative expression. The university was recognized for its Global Social Problems course, offered in Fall 2011, which used technology to help students research and

address world issues. Now that sounds like a college class we want to take!

## FROM MINOR TO MAJOR

St. Edward's University graduated its first three Jewish Studies minors in May, and they're definitely taking on the world. **Don Jolly '12** began graduate studies in religion at New York University. **Elizabeth Narvaez '12** is teaching English in Israel on a Fulbright scholarship. And **Brittany Rittger '12** is a case manager at a community justice center in Brooklyn through the auspices of AVODAH, a Jewish service corps. Mazel tov!



## GIVING PEACE A CHANCE

The Peace Corps named St. Edward's one of the top volunteer-producing Hispanic Serving Institutions. Currently seven alumni from St. Edward's, which ranked 10th on the list, are serving as Peace Corps volunteers throughout the world.



## FARE THEE WELL, FR. RICK

**Father Rick Wilkinson, CSC**, has been a fixture at St. Edward's since 1998, when he became director of Campus Ministry — and he's shared his wisdom, insight and grace with many during that time. And though we don't love that we had to say goodbye to him this summer, his new position is quite the honor. Wilkinson was appointed Vicar of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross on June 28.



## WHEN GOD HAS OTHER PLANS

**Father Rick Wilkinson, CSC**, said his last mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel on Sunday, July 29. Go to [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras) to read his homily from his farewell mass, as well as the homily in which he announces his decision to leave. Trust us — these are two homilies you'll want to sit through.

# the “IT” LIST

We admit it. We have no idea what’s “cool.” From shellac to skinny jeans, what’s in and what’s out in pop culture for the college crowd is as hard to keep up with as J. Lo’s evolving arm candy. We polled our discerningly trendy Hilltoppers to find out what’s sizzling right now — and what’s as yesterday as MySpace.

**WHAT’S HOT**

GOING “THRIFTING” TO AVOID DOING LAUNDRY



5 O’CLOCK SHADOW

CALLING YOUR PARENTS



WATCHING MOVIES ONLINE

ROCK BANDS  
(BLACK KEYS, MUMFORD & SONS, FLORENCE + THE MACHINE)



MAIN BUILDING



BOOKS



Instagram



MAXI DRESSES

**WHAT’S NOT**

DOING LAUNDRY



BEARDS

TEXTING YOUR PARENTS



GOING TO THE MOVIES



LEGGINGS

OVEREXPOSED POP STARS  
(GAGA, RIHANNA, KATY PERRY)



MOODY HALL



E-READERS



Thanks to **Matthew Cahill '12, Rhonda Crystal Charles '15, Danielle Dalton '13, Georgiann Garza '15, Stephanie Gregory '13, Derrell Kirk '12, Juan Lopez '12, Rosalie Macias '15, Chris Naley '13, Katherine Najera '13, Leslie Nix '14, Phil Oates '13, Melissa Olivares '15 and Andrew Wilson '12** for bringing us up to speed. And we thought our e-readers were making us look younger.

## THE TALK OF THE HILLTOP

Whether breaking news or airing student gripes, the St. Edward’s University student newspaper, the *Hilltop Views*, is the place to go to find out what students are talking about. We polled the editors about what stories got the most attention last spring.

### EARTH MIRTH

Mother Earth got a shout out as St. Edward’s celebrated its largest Earth Week ever with more than 30 events, including a recycled-clothes fashion contest, a tomato-planting party and climate-friendly food. The newspaper encouraged students to get involved in the event’s earth-sustaining efforts as well as join the Students for Sustainability organization to contribute to long-term goals such as planting a fully functioning garden on campus.

### DEFINITELY MABEE

The “Say Yes to Mabee” campaign raised more than \$1.7 million in less than 100 days to successfully complete a challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation. The foundation promised \$1 million for the new John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South if others committed the remaining \$5 million for the project within one year. Students from all disciplines became the face of the campaign at events and in appeals to donors.

### CEREMONY ACRIMONY

When the university announced plans to consolidate all commencement ceremonies into one May ceremony — eliminating the December and August ceremonies due to overcrowding in the Recreation and Convocation Center — disappointed students rallied with a forum, but to no avail. Plans to consolidate remained, with new campus traditions being added to the May celebration.

### RUGBY INVADES

We may not have football, but the St. Edward’s University Rugby Football Club is providing the student body with a contact sport to cheer on. The team, which is entering its fourth year, finished the 2011–2012 season with an overall record of 12–1–1. Watch them in 2012–2013 as they play Division 1 schools in the Texas Rugby Union, including the University of Texas–Austin and Baylor University.

### GROWING PAINS

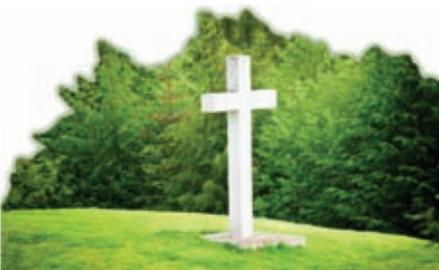
Reduced parking, grating drilling noise, dust and debris — while the hilltop is in the throes of major construction, it’s easy to forget that the payoff will be a state-of-the-art science center and a new library. But the promise of new and updated buildings didn’t appease irritated students who questioned the timing of the construction, which began mid-semester instead of in late May, after students had left campus.



## *Passing a Graveyard North of the City*

A poem by Ellie Francis Douglass '12

I wish I could park the car  
and plant myself in the rectangular plot  
with your name on it.  
There is no plot.  
I don't want to visit your old house.  
You are sealed in the urn  
on the table next to the bed  
where your wife still sleeps.  
The dogs and my sister's baby  
are running around  
and the cat is meowing for food  
and the man in the TV is laughing  
and my mother is crying  
and your urn sits there —  
another object.  
In a graveyard  
I could let time pass without me  
and come back only after  
absorbing my share of stillness.



*Douglass' poetry has been published in the Sorin Oak Review, the Poetry and Round Top anthology, J Source and The Dirty Napkin. She spent this past summer attending a writing residency in Florida, where she worked with poet Marie Howe.*

# Letters of Sacrifice

An art exhibit brings the costs of war to life at St. Edward's.

By Shelley Seale MLA '08



**Jennifer Hassin '12** knows the panic that can be triggered by the arrival of a uniformed stranger at the doorstep of a service member's house. Hassin served in the Air Force for four years before enrolling at St. Edward's and became well-versed in the risks of her military service.

So when it was time for Hassin to develop her senior art project, she wanted to create something that would honor fallen military personnel and the sacrifices made by their families. She used condolence letters for the sculpture, called "Letters of Sacrifice," and recreated more than 6,000 letters to reflect the sacrifice of military personnel since the start of the Global War on Terror in 2001.

"A condolence letter is that feared letter that so many families have received," says Hassin. "It puts the emphasis on the unfortunate parent, [spouse] or child left behind to read that letter."

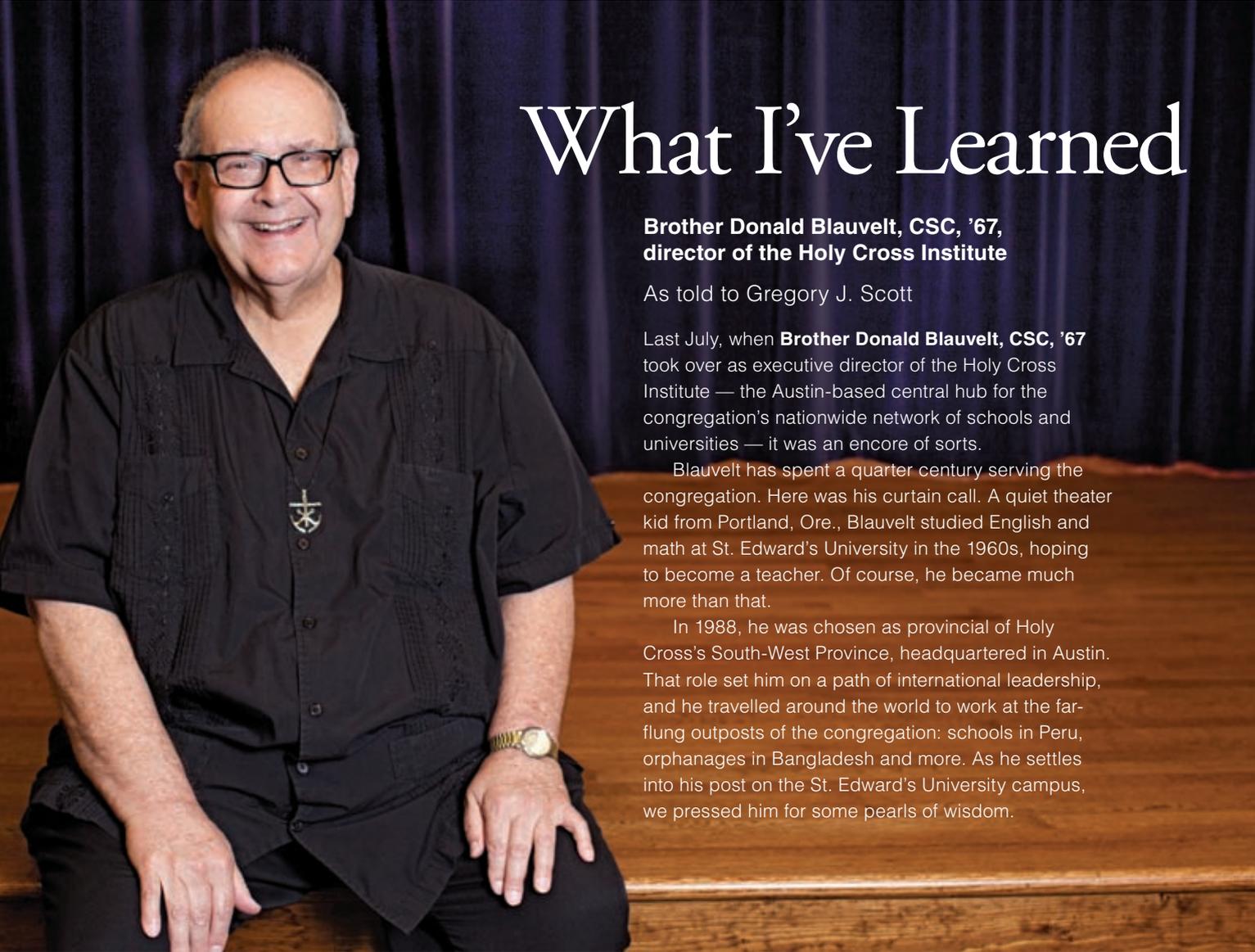
To start the project, Hassin contacted her former commander and asked him to write a letter to her parents, as if she had died in service. That letter became her template. "When I read the letter, I cried," she says. "He put everything together about my service, as well as being active with my church and volunteering for deployed family members. I was surprised that he remembered all that about me, and it became obvious to me what kind of impact I had."

Assistant Professor of Art **Hollis Hammonds** says that Hassin has taken an emotional topic and created a work that is hopeful in some ways. "I think it is because so much care has been taken in making the piece, and the community aspect of the work is very strong," Hammonds says. "Jenn is an intelligent and sensitive artist who is conscious of the issues surrounding artwork dealing with social issues and, in this case, the tragedy of our current war."

As Hassin built the sculpture, she intentionally left empty space at the top of the installation. With many men and women still deployed, more condolence letters will be sent — and "Letters of Sacrifice" will grow taller as an ongoing work.

Hassin says that the work would not have been possible without the support she received from the university community. She held events, during which people helped roll the letters. Hammonds says students seemed genuinely thrilled to contribute: "Her peers really appreciated her ability to create a work of art that was so current and relevant to what is going on in the world today," she says.

"Letters of Sacrifice" was exhibited in the Fine Arts Gallery from April 13 to May 12. Afterward, it was installed at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry, where it was exhibited for two months this summer.



# What I've Learned

**Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, '67,**  
**director of the Holy Cross Institute**

As told to Gregory J. Scott

Last July, when **Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, '67** took over as executive director of the Holy Cross Institute — the Austin-based central hub for the congregation's nationwide network of schools and universities — it was an encore of sorts.

Blauvelt has spent a quarter century serving the congregation. Here was his curtain call. A quiet theater kid from Portland, Ore., Blauvelt studied English and math at St. Edward's University in the 1960s, hoping to become a teacher. Of course, he became much more than that.

In 1988, he was chosen as provincial of Holy Cross's South-West Province, headquartered in Austin. That role set him on a path of international leadership, and he travelled around the world to work at the far-flung outposts of the congregation: schools in Peru, orphanages in Bangladesh and more. As he settles into his post on the St. Edward's University campus, we pressed him for some pearls of wisdom.

- I grew up around Portland, Ore., in the 1950s and '60s. It was a pretty sheltered experience. I could suffer culture shock at Taco Bell.
- My leadership roles within Holy Cross have taken me to schools and parishes and orphanages around the world: Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Chile, India, Peru, Canada, Ghana, Italy and East Africa. Holy Cross schools are pretty similar no matter where they're located, except for the smells, which vary wonderfully from country to country.
- When I was young, I acted in any play that came along. I also dabbled in drama as an undergrad at St. Edward's. There are those today who use a pejorative term for the role that theater has played in my life. But I came to learn early on in my career that a touch of drama goes a long way with students of most any age.
- It is possible to make the world a better place, and the men and women of Holy Cross know the secret: You offer an education that touches minds and forms hearts. A Holy Cross education cannot flourish if we divide mind and heart.
- Despite the very rare dud, I can honestly say that the best teachers I had in my life were at St. Edward's.
- How is acting like teaching? You do your best to reach the audience, and you hope no one walks out on your performance.
- People ask, "Where are the giants of yesterday?" I like to say, "Ladies and gentlemen, they are in the room."

# No Boys (or Girls) Allowed

By Gregory J. Scott

**A former NFL star leverages what he's learning in his Master of Arts in Teaching program to tackle gender differences in high-school physical education.**

**Mike Rosenthal MAT '13** has been through a lot of football practices that have required him to tune out the rest of the world. After an illustrious football career in Mishawaka, Ind. — Rosenthal was named to the *USA Today* All-America team as a senior at Penn High School — he went on to start for the University of Notre Dame's offensive line and ultimately spent nine years in the NFL. He knows what sort of focus it takes to succeed at the highest levels of his sport.

But it wasn't until he started teaching high-school physical education in 2010 that he realized how distracting sports could be for the average 15-year-old. And that was a big problem for a new teacher trying to run a gym class.

It's not just the girls who might hold back in gym class — the boys can be just as distracted by their female peers.

"I don't know how else to say it, but it's just that high-school dating dynamic," Rosenthal says. "Girls want to be active, they want to participate, but they don't want to do it in front of boys because they think the boys will make fun of them." And he adds that it's not just the girls who might hold back in gym class — the boys can be just as overcome (and distracted) by the presence of their female peers.

Rosenthal focused his capstone project on how to conquer the self-consciousness that both genders face in physical-education class. And he came across an old-fashioned idea: single-sex gym class. Girls-only for one period, boys-only for another, plus a curriculum more finely tailored to differing gender preferences. (Read: The girls can play a competitive game of flag football without fear of being tackled by the biggest boy in school.)

For Rosenthal — an enlightened guy with three athletic daughters of his own — the idea seemed outdated. "In the wake of Title IX, you had a lot of females excelling in athletics and a lot of females who wanted to compete against the boys," says Rosenthal. "And I totally support that. But the same-sex strategy really does make a huge difference."

The idea, he says, is cyclical; it tends to come in and out of fashion every couple decades. And now that the Austin High School head football coach and physical-education teacher has some research under his belt, he might just give it a shot.

"If you remove the social aspect of having the opposite sex in the classroom, it allows [students] to focus on actually participating," says Rosenthal. "It's all about giving every kid an opportunity to participate in things he or she might enjoy."



# The Case of the Decomposing Pigs

**Students unearth evidence against the backdrop of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.** By Lisa Thiegis

The sun hung low in the western sky, and the temperature began to drop. With dusk approaching, the investigators knew they were racing against the clock to gather important evidence before darkness covered the hills and obscured the shallow grave they needed to inspect.

Earlier that evening, the group was briefed that a hiker had come across decomposing remains in a remote area of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve and that clothing scattered nearby could indicate that those remains were human. It was their job to process the crime scene by taking photographs, drawing sketches, collecting evidence and recording data.

Although it sounds like an open-and-shut case that can be solved in an hour-long drama, it's actually the very hands-on "scattered remains" exercise for students in instructor **Casie Parish-Fisher's** Crime Scenes II course. Parish-Fisher has set up mock crime scenes for students in the past, but this one required much more preparation — and the partnership with Wild Basin — to create a very realistic crime scene.

Wild Basin, which was acquired by St. Edward's in 2009, was initially preserved in the 1970s to counter increasing urban development and to protect native plant and animal species. It has served as a living laboratory for the School of Natural Sciences, but last spring was the first time the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences and its Forensic Science program have taken advantage of the surroundings for this type of exercise. The program will continue to work with Wild Basin to offer similar experiences in the future.

Parish-Fisher, along with Wild Basin staff, assembled the crime scene in an area not open to the public. Four deceased hogs were buried in shallow graves and left to decompose for three weeks. Then the remains, along with some clothing, were scattered to give the impression of human remains.

Parish-Fisher, who has worked as a DNA analyst for the CODIS laboratory at the Texas Department of Public Safety's Austin headquarters and as a property crime scene technician for the Austin Police Department's crime-scene unit, strives to give her students insight into real-life investigations. "I try to get the *CSI* effect out of their brains," she says. "They don't realize how meticulous you have to be. There are no easy answers on a crime scene. This class teaches them how to make good decisions when they get to those scenes."

Sixteen juniors and seniors, divided into groups of four, surveyed the scene during the course of two days. Although the groups approached the situation in different ways (some better than others), they all walked away with a better understanding of what it takes to establish effective communication and teamwork. Moreover, they learned that there are times to rise up and be leaders — and times to step back and be followers.

And even though this exercise only solved the mystery of four untimely bovine deaths, Parish-Fisher is quick to point out that the lessons learned were no less impactful for her students. "In the end, it's about seeking justice for victims and their families," says Parish-Fisher.



▲ Casie Parish-Fisher (top) buried four deceased pigs at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve this spring, so her students would have a realistic crime scene to investigate and solve. The students packaged the bones located at the scene, took detailed field notes and assigned a unique identifier to each piece of evidence logged.



# Something Old, Something New

Fulbright winner **Elizabeth Narvaez '12** takes a modern approach to navigating the ongoing challenges of religious diversity in Jerusalem. By Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05

Jerusalem has hundreds of churches, temples and mosques, all sharing the same one-square-kilometer expanse of holy ground in its Old City. There's also a McDonald's just steps away from this section of town.

This juxtaposition fascinates **Elizabeth Narvaez '12**. "Looking at Israel exclusively as a historical tour of religion is devaluing what the country is today," she says. "The modern and ancient are intertwined in creative, beautiful ways. This balance is what makes it such a special place."

Narvaez speaks from experience — the kind you get only by poring over ancient texts and then serving soup in a Jerusalem homeless shelter. With Professor of Humanities **Richard Bautch**, she has studied archeological documents from what scholars believe is the home of Peter the Apostle. She has presented to the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. She has completed three master's-level religious studies courses at Tel Aviv University.

But she has also worked the cash register at a little shop that sells figurines made of olive-tree wood in the Old City. She has celebrated a bar mitzvah at the Western Wall. And she has shared an Iftar dinner with Muslim friends in their home.

"I've studied the diverse beliefs and traditions of Islam, Judaism and Christianity," she says. "I've found a lack of interreligious dialogue, even in Israel where all three faiths live side by side."

That's why this fall Narvaez is back in Israel — this time in Tel Aviv. By day, she teaches English at Levinsky College of Education through a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship. After class, she organizes cooking groups so that young adults — Christian, Jewish and Muslim — can get to know each other beyond their religious affiliations.

That's the first thing to come up in conversation, she says — right before your political views.

"In the United States, both of these things are very private issues; we are taught that they should not be discussed at the dinner table," she says. "But my experience in Israel is that these are very public things that everyone expects you to talk about. You can't get in a taxicab or sit next to someone on the bus without being asked about your religion and political stances."

Narvaez hopes that the community she is building helps people see each other as equals. "They are creating friendships and learning to respect each other for their similarities and differences," she says.

That's something the Religious and Theological Studies major and Jewish Studies minor couldn't have imagined growing up in small-town Texas — with more cows for neighbors than people. "There was little exposure to other traditions," she says. "I am horrified that I was 13 before I knew there were non-Catholic Christians."

Nearly 10 years later, she feels part of "an informed global conversation among faiths." Down the road, she hopes to start a nonprofit focused on keeping that conversation going. She'll keep her brain busy with a few ancient texts, too.

"I am interested in religion on both an intellectual and a personal level," she says. "And taking a closer look at interreligious interactions of the ancient world is a helpful jumping-off point for practicing interreligious dialogue now."



*Elizabeth Narvaez's world changed when she became a student at St. Edward's. Our Holy Cross tradition not only introduced her to a global conversation about faith but also inspired her to be a force of positive change in the world. Scholarships supported her along the way. She received The Kinsella Trust Scholarship and The Lillian Cervenka Endowed Scholarship, both of which were*

*originally funded by benefactors — and continue to be funded by faculty and staff — who believe that financial concerns should not limit academic or personal achievement. You can support students like Narvaez, too. Visit [www.stedwards.edu/giving](http://www.stedwards.edu/giving) and open doors of opportunity.*

# Seeing Green

**Jarymar Arana '11** was 13 when her family left their San Antonio suburb and moved to Brownsville, a Texas border city that exposed her to a world she didn't know existed. For the first time, Arana saw up close the heartbreak of abject poverty and tragic consequences of environmental pollution.

In San Antonio, weekly trash collection and recycling were the norm. In Brownsville, not only did the city lack a comprehensive recycling program, she says, but some people had no trash service at all. In the region's *colonias*, impoverished communities that lack running water and sewage, residents burned their garbage. Even more disturbing were the stories of local children born with birth defects as a result of contaminants dumped in the Rio Grande by American and Mexican factories.

"Living on the border opened my eyes," she says.

It also stoked a passion for environmental justice in Arana, who went on to earn a degree in Environmental Science and Policy at St. Edward's and is now working with an immigrant rights and community development organization in the San Francisco area through the Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program.

Her dream, she says, is to obtain a master's degree in environmental justice with a focus on community organization, advocacy and dispute resolution. "I want to work within communities that are underserved by policies, that are underrepresented, that are afflicted by decisions made by someone else to place toxic dumpsites or coal plants or incinerators next to them," she says.

At 23, Arana, who also has two Environmental Protection Agency internships under her belt, is well on her way to realizing that dream. And she has already developed a healthy respect for the challenges of environmental activism.

In her high school in Cameron County — one of the poorest counties in the country — she spearheaded a recycling program that lost steam within a year. From that experience, she learned that "it isn't just the physical infrastructure that will fix some of these problems," she says. "It's environmental awareness."

She took that lesson to St. Edward's, where she focused on educating fellow students and the administration about sustainability. As part of a national initiative, Arana helped develop a climate commitment plan for St. Edward's, which included an inventory of the school's greenhouse-gas emissions and a recommended action plan to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

As she pursues a career that she hopes will help communities rise out of "social, economic and environmental degradation," Arana is grateful for the emphasis St. Edward's places on a life of service. "Coming into St. Edward's, I wanted to focus on a career that would serve others," she says. "St. Edward's didn't change my philosophy, but it confirmed and encouraged my view of the world."

Rather than shielding students from the ills of the world, she says, her professors shone a bright light on problems as an invitation to find solutions. In course after course, Arana adds, the faculty posed key questions that continue to inspire her: What are the consequences of our actions in the world? How are we connected to the world? And what can we do to make the world a better place?

**At 23, Jarymar Arana '11 is a tried-and-tested environmental activist. And she's not about to let the challenges that come with this kind of activism get in her way.** By Eileen Flynn

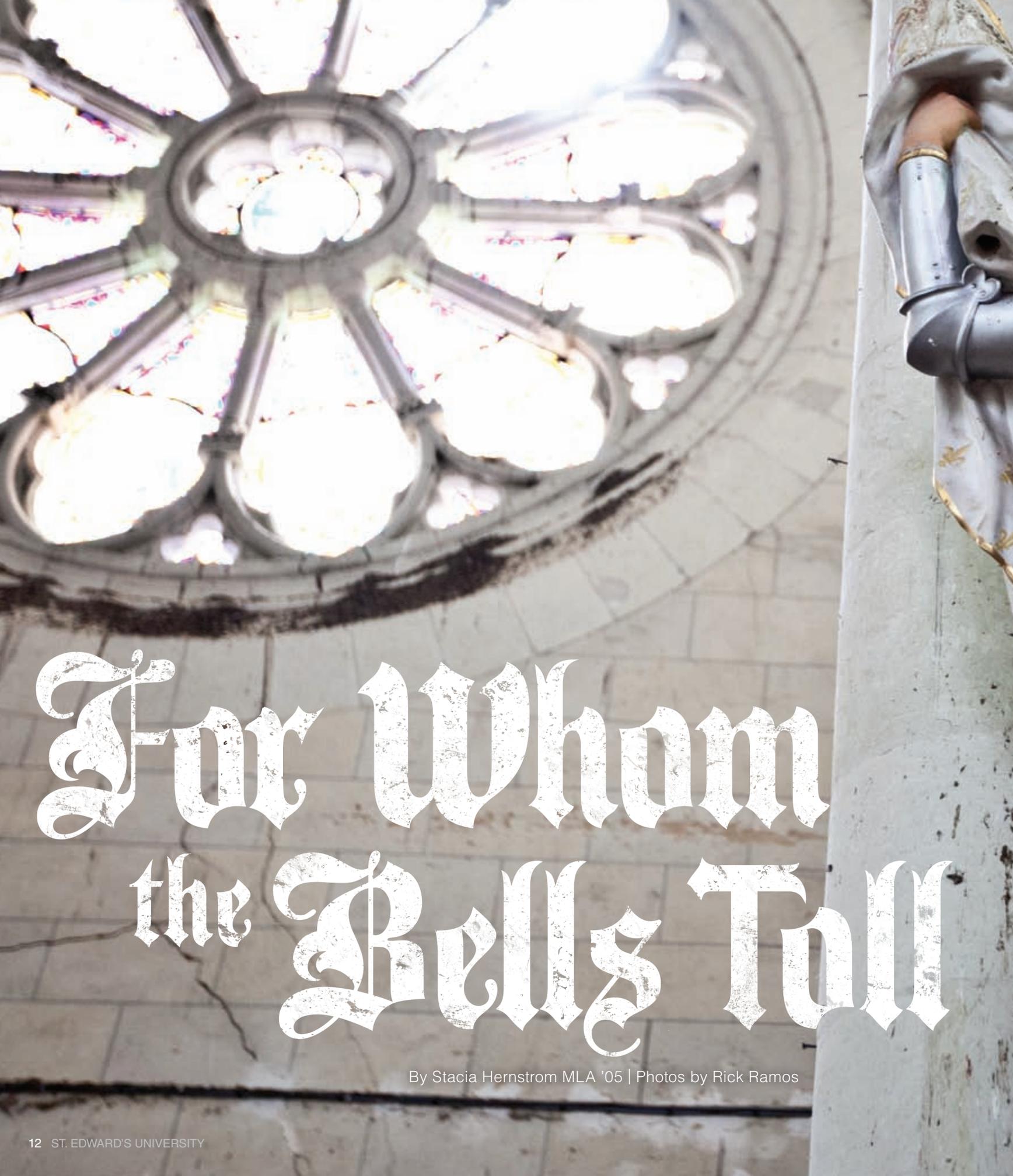


## The Pitch

### St. Edward's University launches a new ad campaign.

When Jarymar Arana applied to St. Edward's, she had no idea that she'd lead a major sustainability effort at the university before graduating. But she did know she'd be attending a school with an emphasis on making a difference.

Beginning in February, the university launched an advertising campaign with the tag line "Take on Your World" that's designed to help prospective students get to know St. Edward's better. The ads, which reflect the priorities outlined in Strategic Plan 2015, focus on how St. Edward's prepares students to make a difference and provides an extraordinary educational environment and global perspective. The campaign will run intermittently for the next few years on local and regional media, including television, newspapers and billboards. There is also a digital component to the campaign. Visit [www.stedwards.edu/campaign](http://www.stedwards.edu/campaign) to see the ads, and read more stories about students and alumni taking on their world in upcoming issues of this magazine.



# For Whom the Bells Toll

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05 | Photos by Rick Ramos



Some 1,700 historic French churches are in danger of being torn down. Three MBA students have joined the fight to save them.

The Catholic church that sits on the pastoral outskirts of Segré, France, is stunning. There's a Gothic rose window and luminous stained glass. The bells peal in the tower overhead. A stone Joan of Arc in blue robes and body armor holds her sword close and her flag high. Stoic and still, she surveys the dust, debris and bird droppings that cover nearly everything.

By the time this magazine is published, she'll be gone.

So will the historic village church she guards, razed by a municipal government citing a lack of funds for restoration and maintenance. Some 1,700 churches across France face the same fate, including the one where **Benoit and Lucy Patier** worship, just three kilometers away from the Segré church.

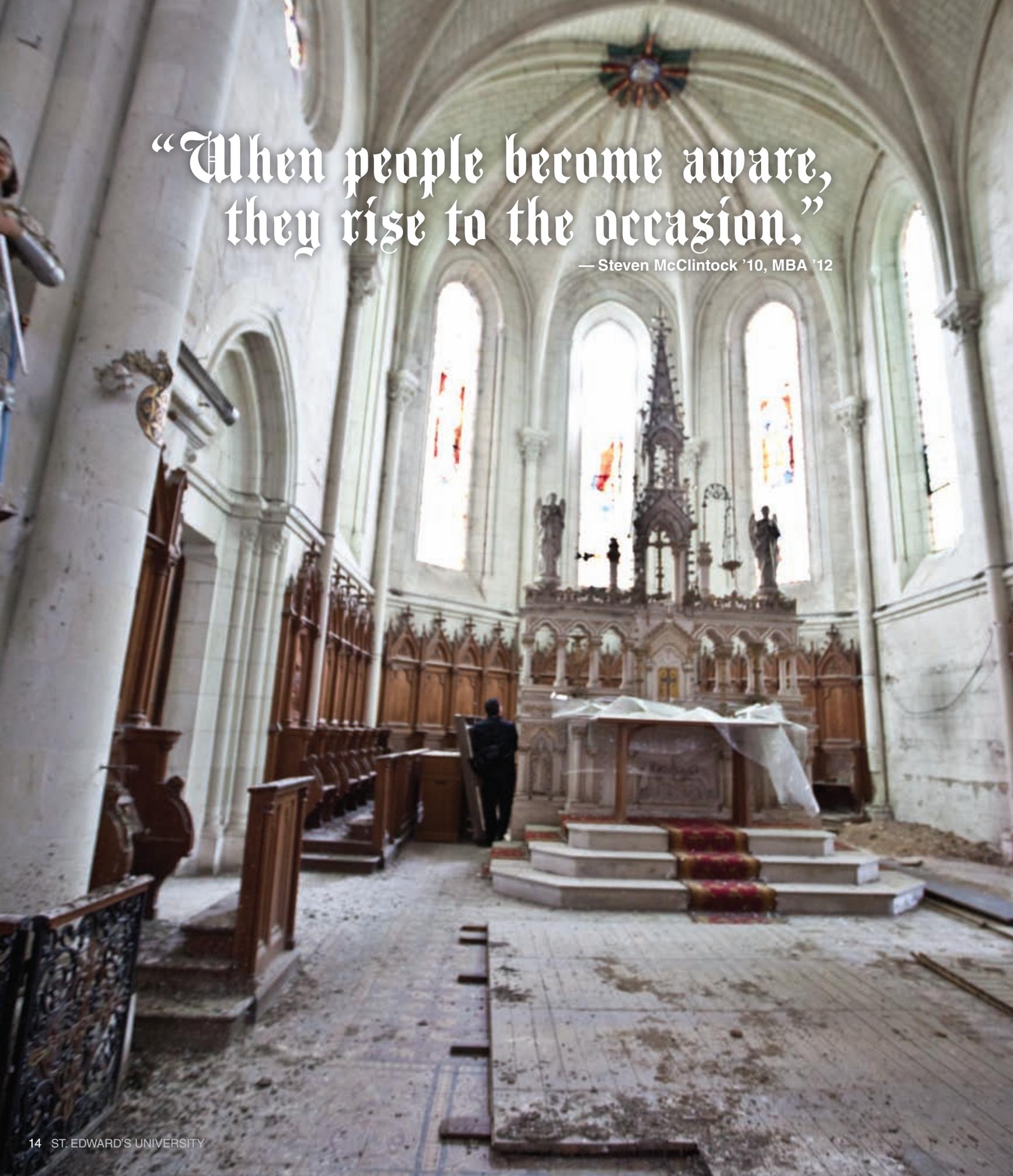
Longtime Austin residents, Benoit now recruits for St. Edward's University in Angers, France. He and his wife relocated their family to the small village of Ste.-Gemmes-d'Andigné and joined its St. Marguerite Catholic church four years ago. Now they're spearheading the fight to save it from demolition.

Or "deconstruction," as the French government euphemistically calls it. Thanks to a 1905 law, all churches built before that year are the responsibility of the state. As the buildings get older and the economy weaker, many local governments have opted to skip renovation costs, tear down existing structures and build something easier to maintain.

"When our ancestors decided to build our church, it was to make it bigger, more beautiful, more luminous, in the model of a cathedral," says Benoit. "How can you prefer a smaller building in concrete, without direct lighting, disconnected from local architecture?"

Last year, the Ste.-Gemmes-d'Andigné town council voted for exactly that. In a 14-to-1 decision, it chose to deconstruct St. Marguerite's and replace it with a smaller, more modern — round, metallic, windowless — church. In response, the Patiers formed the nonprofit Association de Sauvegarder de l'Eglise de Sainte-Gemmes-d'Andigné.

"Here's what we've heard [from the town council] to justify the demolition: The church is structurally unfit. It takes up valuable development space downtown. The cost of restoration is too great. And its architecture is no longer in line with the modern church's needs," says Benoit. "Well, we have a saying in French: *'Qui veut tuer son chien l'accuse de la rage!'* If you want to kill your dog, accuse him of having rabies!"

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral during renovation. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with a central rose window, tall pointed arch windows with stained glass, and a highly ornate altar with statues. The floor is covered in dust and debris, and wooden pews are visible on the left. A person is standing near the altar area.

“When people become aware,  
they rise to the occasion.”

— Steven McClintock '10, MBA '12

Already, the Patiers have gathered 800 signatures of support and collected data from architectural and legal experts to refute the council's statements. These new figures (the ones the council used were four years old) indicate that renovation will actually save the town 600,000 euros, or \$730,000.

But the price tag is still high — about 2 million euros. Plus the Patiers must convince the council to graciously reverse its decision. Fortunately, they have help.

Three MBA students from St. Edward's University, supported by a team of undergraduates, spent most of the summer creating a business plan for the Patiers' nonprofit. It identifies potential donor groups outside the town's already tapped residents. It introduces the idea of online fundraising. It overhauls the association's Internet presence and outlines social-media techniques. And it details construction costs, available grants and government subsidies.

"It tells the church's compelling story and creates a win-win situation for all parties," says **Ash Warren MBA '12**. "That's the biggest thing we can do to help Benoit and Lucy — generate more awareness about their cause and what they are trying to do in preserving this church."

Awareness is key, says teammate **Steven McClintock '10, MBA '12**, who has been working on this project for a year — he was part of the team that helped the Patiers form their nonprofit. "When people become aware, they rise to the occasion."

The numbers are a compelling call to action, agrees teammate **Jay Gul MBA '12**, who has helped fundraise for mosques in Kuwait and the United States. "Even though I am not Catholic, this project has shown me that anyone can help another person regardless of religious differences," he says. "We want to help because it's the right thing to do."

It's Saturday morning in Trustee Hall on the St. Edward's campus. Nimble fingers, fueled by venti cups of Starbucks, pull up PowerPoint presentations and Skype windows. Nearly everyone is wearing a starched button-down shirt and tasseled loafers. Today is the day.

The project team is about to present its plan for saving St. Marguerite's to Benoit, who is awaiting their call some 8,000 kilometers away. The town council is standing firm. The association's bank account is still significantly short. Demolition looms.

But Associate Professor of Finance **Les Carter** has a feeling that's about to change. "This is the first church Benoit's organization has fought for," says Carter, who co-teaches this global entrepreneurship capstone course with Assistant Professor of Management **Gary Pletcher**.

"If it is saved, it becomes a tremendously powerful symbol for all he and Lucy are trying to do," adds Pletcher.

Carter and Pletcher, more than anyone else in the room, know what their students are capable of. In the past five years, they've coached some 500 graduate and undergraduate students in 16 countries from Chile to the Czech Republic.

As they uncap their ballpoint pens and gather their grading rubrics on this Saturday morning, it's easy to see why these two faculty members work so well together, beyond their (unintentional) matching pinstriped shirts. They understand their clients. They understand their students. And they understand each other.

"We share common goals — providing academic and practitioner experiences for our students," says Pletcher, who is also director of



the Global Business and Social Justice Institute for the School of Management and Business. "We put the students in real-world, real-time situations that expose them to the history, culture, societal norms, processes, practices, politics, government, economics, ethics and, ultimately, the conduct of business in a specific region of the world."

"We both want our students to grasp the significance of what they are doing during the term with us and be able to apply it wherever they are," adds Carter, who directs all SMB global programs. "Gary and I are different, which requires us to discuss everything to 'certify' that what we are doing is the best for the students and St. Edward's. Once we agree, we're pretty hard to beat."

So are their students, who often come back for as many projects as they can. Warren has been involved in four; McClintock, three. This is not a group of novices at the podium.

And it shows as they flip through carefully prepared slides, offer memorized statistics from numerous sources, and talk articulately and passionately about a church they've visited only once.

"The projects are all different, but the challenges are all the same," says Carter. "We ask students to undertake a major business consulting project — one that will impact business and the lives of people in that business — without knowing much about the business or entity. We put them in a country where they probably don't speak the language, haven't lived in that culture and may be out of the United States for the first times in their lives."

The stakes are high, and everyone in the classroom this morning feels it. Despite the even voices and casual small talk, the air is heavy with nerves.

Carter puts it best: "The plan *must* be top-quality or it will reflect poorly on the School of Management and Business, St. Edward's University, Texas and America."

But the rewards — oh, the rewards. “Students gain experience-based confidence in their competencies,” says Pletcher. “That easily transfers to various regions of the world if students use the systematic processes that we teach in the classroom.”

In short, the students are ready to go anywhere and help anyone, says Gul. “Private companies, public companies, for-profit, nonprofit, American or overseas — it all takes a lot of hard work and commitment,” he says.

It’s 5 p.m. in Ste.-Gemmes-d’Andigné when Benoit clicks his laptop shut. He flips through his notes from the presentation the MBA students have just given from across the Atlantic. And he remembers St. Mary’s, the Austin cathedral his family attended when they lived there.

Built just seven years after St. Marguerite’s, it’s made from the same stone and showcases the same Gothic arches and pillars. Thick wood doors shut out the hustle and bustle beyond both sanctuaries. Benoit knows there’s a glaring difference, though: St. Mary’s was just renovated.

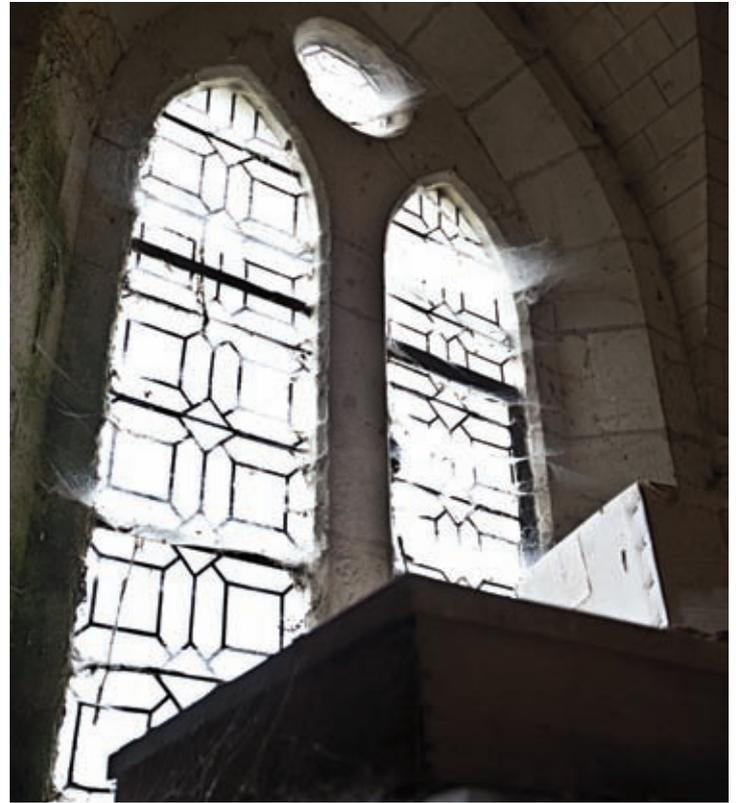
But with the plan from the St. Edward’s team, Benoit now has high hopes and solid facts. Surely, that’s enough to save St. Marguerite’s.

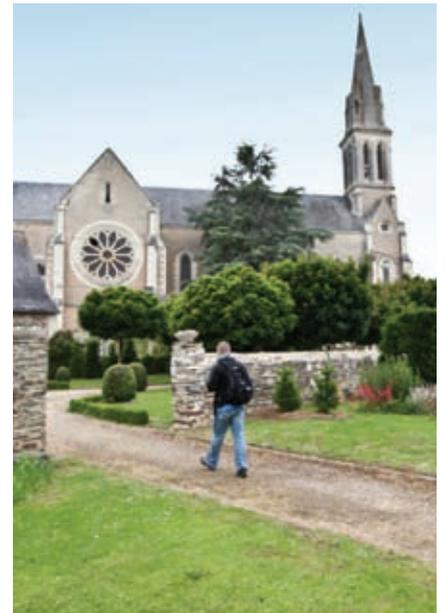
Warren thinks it is. “In five years, my biggest hope is that the church in Ste.-Gemmes-d’Andigné is still standing and still serving its congregation,” he says. “Beyond that, I hope that what we’re doing can be applied to other churches. I would like our project to lay the groundwork for a plan that can, really, be used anywhere in the world.”

Benoit and Lucy Patier and their nonprofit may very well come to stand for the other French churches in immediate danger of deconstruction. But now, on this bright Saturday, their eyes are fixed on one.

“This church, our beautiful church, will not be the disastrous example of a building destroyed by a horde of backhoes, but the example of a heritage saved by its village and its inhabitants,” says Benoit.

And three soon-to-be MBAs from Austin.





Benoit and Lucy Patier (above) have taken up the cause of saving historic village churches in France marked for deconstruction. They are using a business plan written by a team of St. Edward's University graduate and undergraduate students to try to reverse the town council's decision to tear down St. Marguerite's in Ste.-Gemmes-d'Andigné. Unfortunately, it's too late for St. Aubin du Pavoil in Segré (pictured on the opposite page and in the top and right-hand photos on this page).

# Message IN A BOTTLE

**Four MBA students are helping a fourth-generation French winemaker bring her family's label to Texas.**

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05

On a hillside 300 kilometers from Paris, rows and rows of hardy, brown trunks stake their claim in the sandy soil. Thin, verdant tendrils stretch to greet the golden morning. Wisps of cloud ripple across the sky like ruffles on a couture dress. The wind dances by. There's a hint of something in the cool, damp air. Something sweet, something crisp. Peaches. Jasmine. Jealousy.

Yes, jealousy. Or *La Jalousie*, as the French call it.

And Madame Evelyne de Pontbriand and her family have been bottling it for four generations. As owner and manager of the Domaine du Closel winery, de Pontbriand oversees 16 hectares of chenin blanc grapes, just as her mother, great-aunt and great-great-aunt did before her. Her vineyards produce some 50,000 bottles per year — the light, fruity *La Jalousie* is just one of 11 wines bearing the Closel label.

But it's more than a business for de Pontbriand. She lives in the chateau on her family's vast estate, which includes the vineyards, flower and vegetable gardens, a park, a nature sanctuary, and even a branch of the Loire River. She serves meals — accompanied by her own wine, naturally — to friends and guests in the many-tabled dining room. And she one day will hand the winery over to her daughter Isaure.

Until then, she wants to build on her success in markets across Europe, Japan, New York and Louisiana. And she wants a presence in Texas. She also wants to maintain the unique artisan quality of her wines that comes with handpicked, organically grown grapes, time-tested fermentation techniques and her own seal of approval.

That's where **Scott Chen MBA '12**, **Shannon Hoge MBA '12**, **Michelle Vanhose MBA '12** and **Julio Vazquez MBA '12** come in.

As part of their global entrepreneurship capstone course — taught by School of Management and Business professors **Les Carter** and **Gary Pletcher** — the four MBA students have created a three-year business plan for de Pontbriand that includes operational, financial and marketing components. The ultimate goal? To ensure steady, profitable expansion into Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin.

"Managing a business in the United States is difficult enough. Managing from another country takes a lot of time and resources," says Vanhose. "Our team is trying to find a balance by creating demand through online events, partnerships and social media, like Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest, that can be managed remotely."



The bottom line, says Chen, is “providing Madame de Pontbriand with enough information to get into the Texas market successfully and efficiently, as well as helping her raise brand awareness of her wines in the overall U.S. market.”

But even as they research export laws and calculate value-added taxes, the team understands that de Pontbriand will measure her success in more than cases shipped and euros earned.

“Madame de Pontbriand speaks about the wine as if it were a person — she has a personal relationship with it,” says Vanhoose. “Each wine has its own personality, and she describes that as part of her personality.”

The winemaker herself agrees: “My goal is to express this magnificent, complex terroir,” says de Pontbriand. “For us, wine is part of life; it is more than just a piece of art.” Even if it tastes excellent paired with duck confit, aged cheese and lightly salted asparagus.



TIM FOX



### UNCORKING FRENCH WINE

Buttery. Oaky. Grassy. Ever wonder how you can taste all those things in a glass of wine? Watch Madame Evelyne de Pontbriand, owner of the French winery Domaine du Closel, teach St. Edward’s University students (and you) how to savor a glass of *vin* at [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras).

## HOW TO SPEND THE SUMMER IN ANGERS

For the past four years, St. Edward’s has been ramping up its study-abroad presence in Angers, France, and the summer of 2012 offered opportunities for students to take classes, hone their video-editing skills, volunteer at a French school and develop a business plan for a French winery — just to name a few. Here’s a by-the-numbers look at St. Edward’s University in France this summer.

### WHO WAS IN ANGERS?



### WHAT DID THEY DO?



- BUSINESS PLANS • RESEARCH PAPERS • CASE STUDIES • BLOGS
- INTERVIEWS • SPEECHES



- GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP • GLOBAL BUSINESS STRATEGY
- INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY • CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES • COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE • PRESENTATIONAL SPEAKING



- OMAHA BEACH IN NORMANDY • LEONARDO DA VINCI’S HOME AND MUSEUM IN AMBROISE • COINTREAU MANUFACTURING PLANT IN ANGERS • TOUR OF THE LOIRE VALLEY • CHÂTEAU DES VAULTS WINERY IN SAVENNIERES



# See How THEY RUN

Fueled by individual hopes and dreams plus a sense of service, four St. Edward's alumni share why they set out on the rocky road of campaigning for political office.

by Joel Hoekstra

**T**exas politicians are well-known for their swagger. From LBJ to the Bush clan, from Sam Rayburn to Ann Richards, the state's public servants have a reputation for cutting a wide swath and airing their opinions at a decibel loud enough to carry all the way to Washington, D.C.

But the ability to listen and a sense of humility are often key to getting in the door, and, according to four St. Edward's alumni, you're not likely to get very far down the campaign trail if you don't have the best interest of your constituents in mind. You've got to knock on

doors. You've got to travel to the far reaches of your district. You've got to shake hands at the local Dairy Queen and endure being chased by the occasional collie — or chicken. None of that ensures you'll win the race, of course, but failing to connect with the community is a surefire way to lose.

Campaigning isn't for the faint of heart, as the experiences of these alumni — two Republicans, two Democrats — demonstrate. We asked them what inspired them to throw their hats in the ring and how they felt when they won (hurrah!) or (oh no!) lost.

## BLAZING A TRAIL

### MARY GONZALEZ

Social justice has always been important to **Mary Gonzalez** **MLA '09**. Social change, however, is often intertwined with political action. When a seat came available representing East El Paso in the Texas House of Representatives, Gonzalez decided it was time to hit the campaign trail and vie for the Democratic endorsement. Victorious in May, she heads to the Legislature in January (no Republican ran for the seat). Here are a few measures of her success.

**Age: 28**

**Hours per day spent campaigning: 16**

**Number of doors knocked on: 11,000**

I personally knocked on about 3,000.

**Number of promises made: 0**

Given the reality of politics, you never make any specific promises. All I promised to people was that I would work to make the realities of people's lives better.



**Estimated chance that a seat with no incumbent will come available in the Texas Legislature during any year: 1 in 20**

I was running in an open seat, which only comes around every 20 years or so. It seemed like a wonderful opportunity to really create a culture shift and make a difference.

**Rank of “infrastructure” as a campaign issue in Gonzalez’s district: 1**

I live in the rural part of El Paso County, and a lot of my area is still struggling to get roads, water, street signs, lights and other very basic infrastructure.

**Longest conversation Gonzalez had on the campaign trail: 30 minutes**

Usually people don’t want to take the time to talk — but one day I knocked on a door, and the man who answered wanted to discuss education reform. He was asking questions that were important. He took his role as a voter very seriously.

## SCENES FROM A KNOCKOUT

### CHAD WILBANKS

While at St. Edward’s, **Chad Wilbanks ’92** volunteered for a number of campaigns, including President George H.W. Bush’s re-election run. It was a riveting view, and Wilbanks went on to become a conservative political consultant as well as executive director of the Republican Party of Texas. Last fall, the Lake Travis resident threw his own hat into the ring, announcing his candidacy for Congress. But redistricting lawsuits, some heavyweight opponents and several other factors collided last May to foil his plan to serve in the U.S. House, and he was defeated in the primary. This summer, as he recalled these scenes from the campaign, Wilbanks was still considering his next career move but did not rule out a future bid for political office.

#### **My First Endorsement**

I said to my wife, “What do you think about running for Congress?” And she said, “Yeah. Let’s do it.” As I started to walk away, though, she said, “But we won’t alter the kids’ schedules. We’re not going to take them away from their activities to go on the campaign trail.” I agreed.

#### **Grass-roots Support**

I met with a veteran who was 83 years old. He had served in Korea and Vietnam, and I joined him and his wife at a GOP luncheon. We had a good, pleasant conversation. A week afterward, I received a handwritten letter from him, along with a \$50 check, saying that he felt that I was the right guy at this particular time to represent our area. That meant the world to me. I had that letter framed.

#### **Election Day**

In some precincts, there’s the opportunity to greet voters on the way in and give them one last pitch as to why you’re the best candidate for the job. I think we were able to persuade a good number of folks, and I felt

**Number of times Gonzalez got stalked by chickens or cows: Too many to count**

We joked that it’s not a real campaign in District 75 unless you’re getting chased by livestock.

**Percentage of votes Gonzalez needed to avoid a runoff and win her seat: 50 percent of total, plus one vote**

In the end, I got 52 percent of the vote, which meant no runoff. I start my legislative term in January. What am I going to do between now and then? Finish my PhD — and sleep!

**Number of women who previously have represented East El Paso in the Texas Legislature: 0**

I’ll likely be the youngest person in the Legislature next year. I’ll be the first “out” LGBT woman in the Texas House — ever. And I’m the first woman to represent my district. This race is about breaking glass ceilings and showing what the next generation of leadership looks like.



JESSICA ATTE '04

good about that. Of course, what makes you feel even better is if you stop somebody and they say, “Oh yeah, I’m already voting for you.”

#### **The Concession**

We were at Craig O’s in Lakeway, a nice pizza place. Around 8:15 p.m., we saw the first returns from Travis County, and I thought, this doesn’t look good. I told supporters, and of course they were encouraging. They said, “Hold your head high. You ran an honorable campaign. You’ll live to fight another day.”



# UNWAVERING FAITH

## SALOMON TORRES

**Salomon Torres '87** already knew the ways of Washington, D.C., when he announced his plans to run for Congress last fall. Torres had spent nine years as district director for Texas Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, crisscrossing the Rio Grande Valley to work with constituents and serving previously on Capitol Hill for three years. His quest to represent the Lone Star State's newly created District 34 ended abruptly in May, however, when he lost to a well-funded opponent in the Democratic primary. Still, Torres says he has no regrets: The campaign taught him some hard lessons, but his faith in democracy remains strong.

### What inspired you to seek a seat in Washington?

I'm the youngest of eight kids. My parents were migrant workers from Texas. Every May, they'd pack up our family, and we'd travel north to Wisconsin to work in the canneries. In the fall, we'd start the school year there, then midway through the year, we'd return to Texas, where we'd pick carrots and onions. We also traveled to California to clear cotton fields and pick grapes.

Even as a kid, you see how one region is more prosperous than another, how there are more opportunities in schools and jobs. I grew interested in government and how funding happens. As time went on, I educated and prepared myself to help the communities in south Texas become more prosperous.

### Many people are cynical about government. Is the system broken?

I spent nine years working for Congressman Hinojosa. I saw that you can have a big impact on people's lives. Constituents who had reached dead ends and had nowhere to go came to us. When you resolve a problem for a senior citizen who needs help with housing or a veteran who needs medical assistance but is too proud to seek benefits, you see that government can work. Government can make a difference.

### How did you prepare for the campaign?

I thought I had the best combination of background on the Hill and experience on the ground. I thought I could be the best representative of the people. But I was advised before the race that the process is geared toward those who have money. If you don't start out with significant financial resources, it's going to be an uphill battle.

### How did money affect your race?

I raised more than \$50,000 in individual contributions and borrowed approximately \$15,000. Most other candidates raised about the same amount, but then they also took out personal loans of \$60,000 or \$80,000 or more. The winner raised about \$100,000 and put in about \$200,000 of his own money. He outspent the rest of us by a margin of nearly 3-to-1. I ran on individual contributions, which is theoretically the cleanest way to run. But it's not the most effective way to run. If I run again, I will have to start with a larger war chest. Having great ideas and solid experience is just not enough in our modern congressional campaigns.

# WISDOM TO WIN BY

## DENNIS BONNEN

**Dennis Bonnen '94** was just 23 when he decided to run for a seat in the Texas Legislature. A decade and a half later, he's in his eighth term, serving District 25, which includes southern Brazoria County. As an incumbent with a long history, the Republican representative hasn't had a serious challenger in quite some time. Here's his advice for future political campaigners.

### **Learn to self-promote — even if it makes you self-conscious.**

You have to promote yourself. When you're out on the campaign trail, you're telling them how great you are. That's not really my style. But especially at the start, you have to get out there.

### **Keep your day job.**

We're in session every other year for 140 days. A lot of people think we get paid like somebody in Washington, D.C. We get \$600 per month to be legislators. But that's a good thing: You have to go home and have a real job (I'm the president and CEO of a local bank), and you have to live and work and participate in your community.

### **Politics is a service industry.**

I've always been focused on my local constituents and local communities and the issues that are important to them. Those are the areas that I put the greatest amount of energy and effort into.

Last session, there was a proposal to defund the local community college. It created mass hysteria and confusion in the community. People wondered if there would be a college in the community the next year. So I held a town-hall meeting with the faculty and staff and told them that I was putting my reputation on the line, and if the college was not funded, no one should support me for re-election. I guaranteed that I would fix it — and, in the end, it did get funded.

### **Experience is important.**

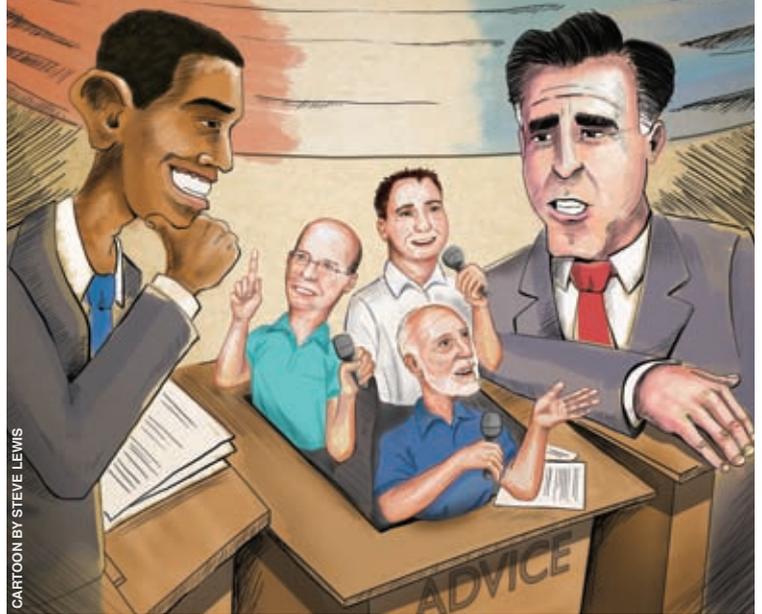
I don't think of myself as a career politician. But there's value in experience. You understand the process. You understand government agencies. You understand how to get things done and better help your constituency.

### **The rules are simple.**

Tell the truth. Do it your way. And work hard.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS BONNEN



CARTOON BY STEVE LEWIS

## Dear Mr. President

With the presidential race heating up, we asked three St. Edward's Political Science professors — **Neal Wise**, **Chad Long** and **Brian Smith** — what advice they would give the candidates as they make their runs for the White House.

### **PROFESSOR NEAL WISE**

"Demonstrate leadership, and model the way we should be doing politics," says Wise, who adds that Americans are very discouraged with our political system today. "Expect differences, and listen to them." Wise suggests candidates look at John McCain's concession speech of November 2008 as a model for respecting and incorporating differences.

### **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CHAD LONG**

Focus on education, says Long. "The president needs to provide a clear vision for how we educate ourselves in the Information Age. Traditionally, education policy has been handled at the state and local levels, but now the federal government is playing a more prominent role. We have an education system designed to meet the demands of the 20th century, but we have a different set of challenges today. There's incontrovertible evidence that we are losing ground to other countries, but that need not be the case."

Long cites the more than \$800 billion spent on the Iraq War, while it costs an average of \$27 million to build a school. "We could have constructed close to 30,000 new schools with the money we spent in Iraq," he notes. "Which is the better investment?"

### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BRIAN SMITH**

"Dance with who brung ya," says Smith. "To get re-elected, Obama needs to re-establish his 2008 coalition of liberals, Latinos, young people and African Americans and get them back out to the polls."

Romney, on the other hand, must find a message that will mobilize voters to "fire" the sitting president. "He must flip states that went Democratic in 2008 but Republican in 2010 and expand his support into Democratic areas," notes Smith.

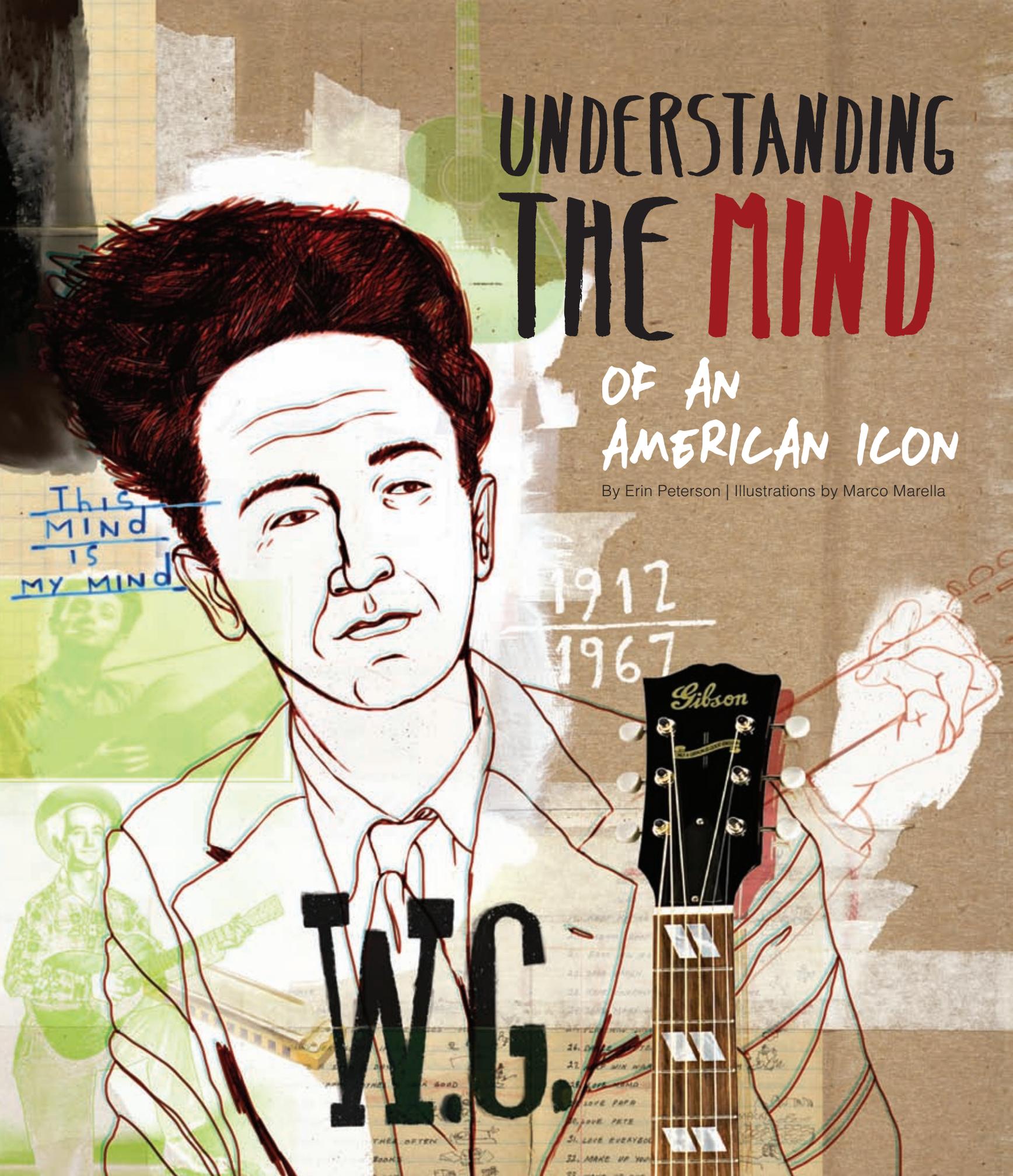
Smith would remind candidates that the overall popular vote is irrelevant; it's all about getting at least 270 Electoral College votes. "Avoid going to states where you know you will win and states you know you will lose," he advises. "Focus time, effort and resources in competitive states where a single vote can win the electoral vote."

The 2012 election will likely be closer than 2008 was, Smith adds. "How close it becomes depends a great deal on the political, social and economic events of the next several months." What is certain is that either candidate can still win. —*Shelley Seale MLA '08*

# UNDERSTANDING THE MIND

OF AN  
AMERICAN ICON

By Erin Peterson | Illustrations by Marco Marella



This  
MIND  
IS  
MY MIND

1912  
1967

W.G.

Gibson

**Sixty years ago, folk legend Woody Guthrie was diagnosed with Huntington's disease. Now 100 years after his birth, scientific researchers and global health experts at St. Edward's and around the world are cracking the code of this destructive neurological disorder and bringing worldwide attention to the disease.**

Few musicians have etched their way as deeply into the American DNA as Woody Guthrie. Known as the "Dust Bowl Troubadour," the prolific songwriter influenced musicians ranging from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen to The Clash's Joe Strummer. Though Guthrie's left-leaning political views riled many, his songs about the Great Depression and World War II tapped into the fear and frustration of the times.

Guthrie had a sharp mind and a gift for words, but deep within his genetic code was a disease that unraveled him. In 1952, after years of erratic behavior, Guthrie was diagnosed with Huntington's disease. The inherited neurodegenerative disorder affects one in every 10,000 people, but symptoms often don't appear until well into adulthood. The devastating illness is marked by cognitive problems, depression and psychiatric issues. Those with the disease lose control of their movement, and they walk almost as though they are dancing. The disease's progression is slow but inexorable. Guthrie lived for 15 years after his diagnosis, finally succumbing to the disease in 1967 at age 55.

But the story does not end there. This year marks the centenary of Guthrie's birth. It also has been a time of breakthrough discoveries in our understanding of Huntington's and related diseases, including a project designed by Professor of Chemistry **Eamonn Healy**.

This October, experts from across the continent will gather at St. Edward's for the Global Health and Infectious Disease Symposium, sponsored by the Brother Lucian Blersch Endowment and the Kozmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance. They will celebrate Guthrie's legacy, highlight scientists' progress on diseases related to protein misfolding and discuss the broader issues surrounding global health policy. Healy says that the synergy that comes from pairing a beloved public figure with scientific research and policy issues will prove to be powerful. "This symposium is a way to look at the research not just in a narrow chemical or biological focus, but to put it in a larger social context," he says.

## THE RED DEVILS

Several of Guthrie's family members, including his mother, suffered from Huntington's. His mother's unpredictable anger and depression were imprinted in his memory, though he rarely discussed it. Guthrie himself may have begun exhibiting symptoms of Huntington's more than a decade before his diagnosis. In 1942, just two years after writing "This Land is Your Land" and in the midst of penning his autobiography, he wrote a disquieting letter to Marjorie Mazia, the woman who would become his second wife. In it, he lamented the uncontrollable rage that boiled up in him, often from nowhere: "There really are quite a big bunch of little red devils with pitchforks poking around in me," he wrote. "[T]hat's just one of the wagon loads of wrong habits in me."

These early outbursts, which he attributed to alcohol and personal failings, likely had a deeply biological component. Huntington's disease, much like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, belongs to a class of diseases caused by misfolded proteins. That makes them profoundly different from illnesses like chicken pox or Lyme disease, says Healy. "[Huntington's] isn't caused by a virus or a bacterium," he says. In other words, there's no rogue element to kill that will transform the individual from sick to well. The problem is burrowed within the body's cells themselves; the disease, even if unexpressed, has lived within the individual from the very beginning.

"THERE REALLY ARE QUITE A BIG BUNCH OF LITTLE RED DEVILS WITH PITCHFORKS POKING AROUND IN ME."

Misfolded proteins occur in all of us to some extent, and the body has developed a natural mechanism, called heat-shock response, to avoid the problems associated with this misfolding. Supercharging this heat-shock response may provide an exceptionally powerful tool against Huntington's, says Healy. While the heat-shock response is not equipped to deal with the substantial physiological changes associated with diseases like Huntington's, Healy and others believe it can serve as a road map for the development of novel treatments.

For now, the research isn't being done with beakers and microscopes but with powerful computers. Chemistry major **Carley Little '13** spent the summer working on the project. She and Healy used a computer simulation to mimic the behavior of the mutated proteins that misfold and collect to cause Huntington's. "Our hope is that by bonding amino-acid segments to this mutated protein, we can inhibit the activity that leads to neurodegenerative symptoms in Huntington's," Little says.

If the initial work continues to look promising, Healy will turn the project over to colleague **Peter King**, an associate professor of Biology, who will move the work from computer to laboratory. King and his students will isolate the mutated proteins to see if the effects predicted in the program actually occur in a real-world setting. The collaborative approach will ensure that the research moves forward from theory to practice. It also gives students a chance to watch scientific progress over time.

Even more importantly, the work has meaningful real-world implications. Although it is impossible to cure a genetic disease, new therapies may help prevent it from taking such a crushing toll.



## FROM WORDS TO ACTION

The upcoming Global Health and Infectious Disease Symposium will cover a vast swath of territory, from the life of Woody Guthrie to Huntington's disease research to global health policy. But perhaps even more ambitious than the topics themselves is the action symposium organizers hope to inspire.

Chemistry Professor **Eamonn Healy** hopes the discussions and speeches will help students see that the objectives set forth in the St. Edward's mission take life at events like these. "This symposium will show what it means to be involved in important issues," he says. "Certainly, it will show what it means to be a scientist and a public policymaker but also what it means to be a citizen and to be engaged in important issues in society."

**Elisa Díaz Martínez**, director of the Kozmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance, believes the symposium will inspire actions, both small and large, from those who attend. "Students, faculty, community members — they can volunteer, do surveys or do community work," she says. "There are so many huge problems, and the only way we'll find solutions is to collaborate. The message we hope to get across is that we can all be involved."

## THAT GONE FEELING

In 1952, as Guthrie's symptoms continued to worsen, he was admitted to Brooklyn State Hospital. Doctors hadn't yet homed in on the cause of his many problems, but Guthrie described his perplexing symptoms, from restlessness to depression, in another letter to Mazia: "Here's my funny feeling over me again. That lost feeling. That gone feeling. That old empty whipped feeling. Shaky. Bad control. Out of control. Jumpy. Jerky. High tension," he wrote. "No bodily (physical) pains; just like my arms and legs and feet and my whole body belong to someone else and not to me."

The acute burden of a disease like Huntington's is not simply that patients lose their health, says Simonetta Sipione, a Pharmacology professor at the University of Alberta, who will speak at the symposium. The most painful part is that Huntington's patients become, in a very real sense, different from who they once were. "With many diseases, you lose your health, but you don't lose yourself," she says. "With a neurodegenerative disease, you lose your ability to communicate with others. Your character itself is affected."

Sipione's research takes a different tack from Healy's, but it has already offered some promising results. Her lab is trying to understand the molecular mechanisms that underlie Huntington's. Specifically, her team is trying to understand why neurons become dysfunctional when they express the mutant protein known as "huntingtin."

The answer may lie, at least in part, in important lipid molecules known as gangliosides. Critical for healthy brain functioning, gangliosides help neurons communicate with each other and interpret signals sent from the surrounding environment. But for those with Huntington's, one of these crucial types of gangliosides, known as GM1, is produced at lower levels than normal, and this may be one of many factors that causes the dysfunction.

Sipione's research group began administering GM1 to live mice that had the mouse version of Huntington's. The hope was that boosting GM1 levels would show therapeutic effects. "Indeed, when we administered the GM1 to these mice, we were able to completely restore normal motor behavior in this specific mouse model," she says.

The results couldn't be more encouraging, but Sipione is quick to note the pitfalls: Mice are not humans, and many auspicious treatments never bridge that interspecies gap. There are years of work and clinical trials ahead. But she says there is real reason for optimism: "It's impossible to say right now, but our hope is our findings will eventually be successfully translated to humans."

## A REAL PERFECT KIND OF CHANCE

As Guthrie's disease progressed, doctors ultimately were able to connect the dots and diagnosed him with Huntington's. He reflected on the diagnosis with thoughtfulness and heartbreaking clarity in a 1956 letter to a friend: "My mother Nora Belle did have my very own [H]untington's," he wrote. "God is just giving me here my real perfect kind of a chance to just see and to just feel exactly how my own Mother saw and felt." Guthrie's struggle was a personal one that connected him to his family, but his fame helped bring a misunderstood disease to light.

With hundreds of thousands of people around the world carrying the gene for Huntington's, it's critical to look beyond the scientific questions to see the disease from a global health standpoint, says Kozmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance Director **Elisa Díaz Martínez**. "Huntington's can be found on every continent, but researchers who work on the disease are typically in the developed world," she says.

Because knowledge and resources are concentrated in wealthy countries, individuals with the disease in developing areas are far less likely to have significant knowledge of Huntington's, let alone treatment for its symptoms. Organizations such as the World Health Organization can have a major impact in ensuring greater access to medical treatment for the disease, but they must first be convinced of its critical importance.

Identifying Huntington's as a global health issue may also hasten the creation of treatments for the disease, says conference speaker Luiz Augusto Galvão, sustainable development manager at the Pan American Health Organization. "Building partnerships among countries and researchers can help develop a global health network that can lead to both new and innovative solutions," he says. "The more we are able to share scientific research globally, the faster we can upgrade our knowledge." Because Huntington's shares important characteristics with more widely known diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, the work being done on one disease may influence the research approach for others, he notes.

Guthrie hoped to have an enduring impact through his music, not his illness, but he may do both. His life, scientific research and global health policy may not seem to have obvious links, but they are deeply connected. Stories like Guthrie's bring awareness to important health issues and inspire interest in greater scientific research. That scientific research, in turn, bolsters the case for public policymakers who hope to bring information and therapies to the wider world. The effects that ripple out are both powerful and necessary.

For Healy, the conference represents not just a powerful gathering of specialists sharing critical information, but an embodiment of the liberal arts at St. Edwards. "We want students to see how they can expand their scientific questions to include questions of public policy and social activism," he says. "The [event] is a natural expression of the ethos of education here."

## GLOBAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SYMPOSIUM

The public is invited to attend the following free events scheduled for Friday, October 19. Attendees can register at [www.stedwards.edu/lucian](http://www.stedwards.edu/lucian).

### 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m.: Pathogenic Proteins

- Eamonn Healy, St. Edward's University: Small Heat Shock Proteins: Pathogen or Protector
- Lary C. Walker, Emory University: Kochs Postulates and Infectious Proteins
- Neil Cashman, University of British Columbia: Transmission of SOD1 Misfolding and Familial ALS
- Simonetta Sipione, University of Alberta: GM1: An Experimental Approach for Huntington's Disease

### 1:30–2 p.m.: Health in the Americas

- Luiz Augusto Cassanha Galvão, Pan American Health Organization

### 2–3 p.m.: Health as a Human Right Across the World

- Speaker from the United Nation on the Right to Health to be announced

### 3–4 p.m. Panel Discussion on Health as a Human Right

*All events will be held in the Jones Auditorium in the Robert and Pearle Ragsdale Center on campus.*

*The symposium is sponsored by the Brother Lucian Blersch Endowment and the Kozmetsky Center for Excellence in Global Finance.*



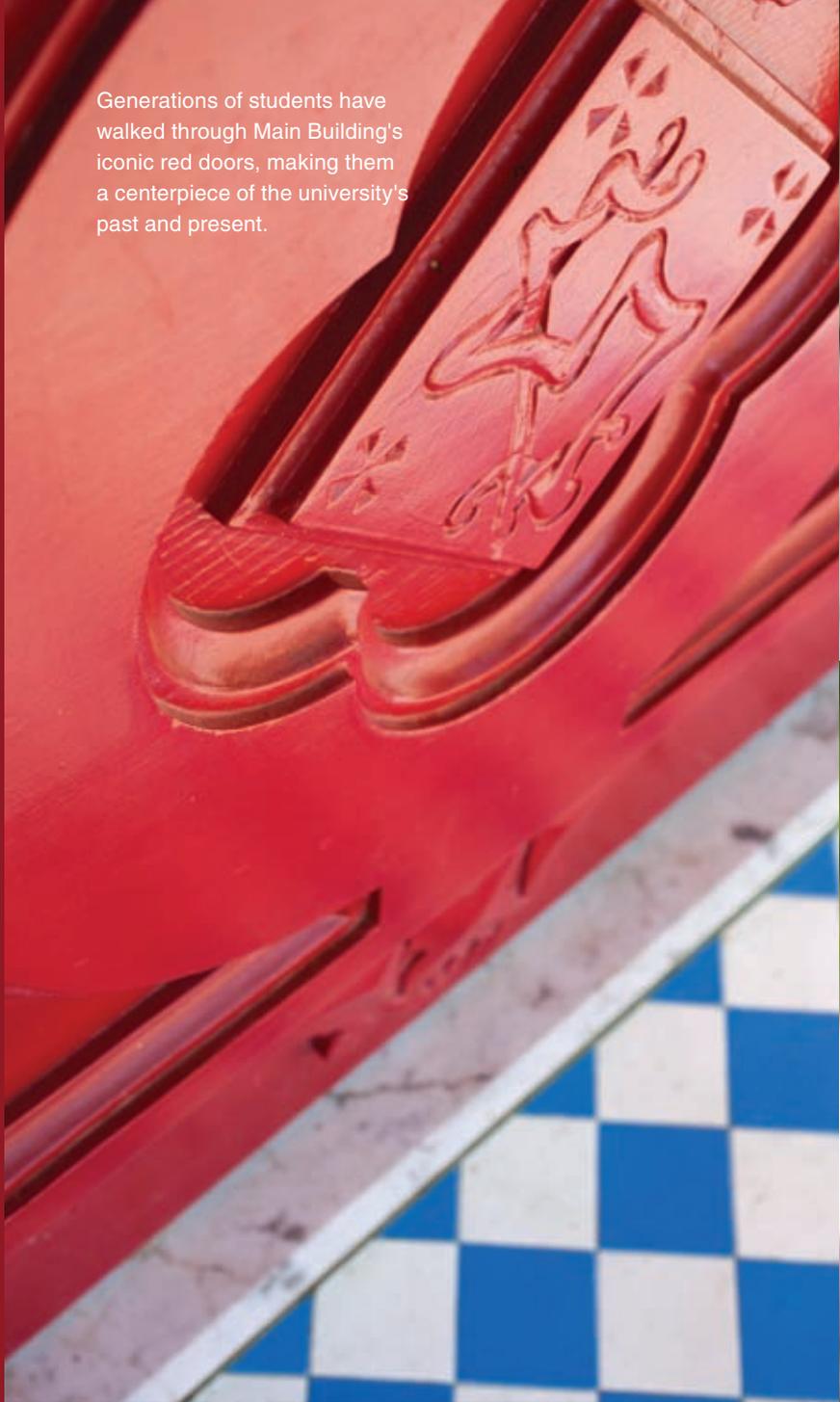
### ASK THE EXPERT

Huntington's disease affects thousands of lives every year. Professor of Chemistry **Eamonn Healy** is trying to do something about it by researching new avenues of treatment. *St. Edward's University Magazine* sat down with Healy to find out more about this disease, his research and what promising new treatments might be on the horizon. See the conversation at [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras).

# The Sense of St. Edward's

By Hannah M. Hepfer  
Photography by Jessica Attie

The sound of hallway chatter outside a dorm room. The spicy taste of hot pizza during an all-nighter. The feel of sweaty palms before finals. Some things are universal to the college experience. But others are unique to the place where they alone can be found. As any good Hilltopper can tell you, four years on the St. Edward's campus leaves you with a collection of memories that are both personal and sensory, ones that defy the typical and cerebral. The echo of feet on Main Building's staircase, the feel of a soft breeze on your skin as you sit under the shade of Sorin Oak, the heavy weight of the red doors under your hands as you enter through them — these are the subtle details that make St. Edward's, St. Edward's. Here we invite you to experience the elusive nuances of campus through images of the small, the grand, the recognizable and the obscure.

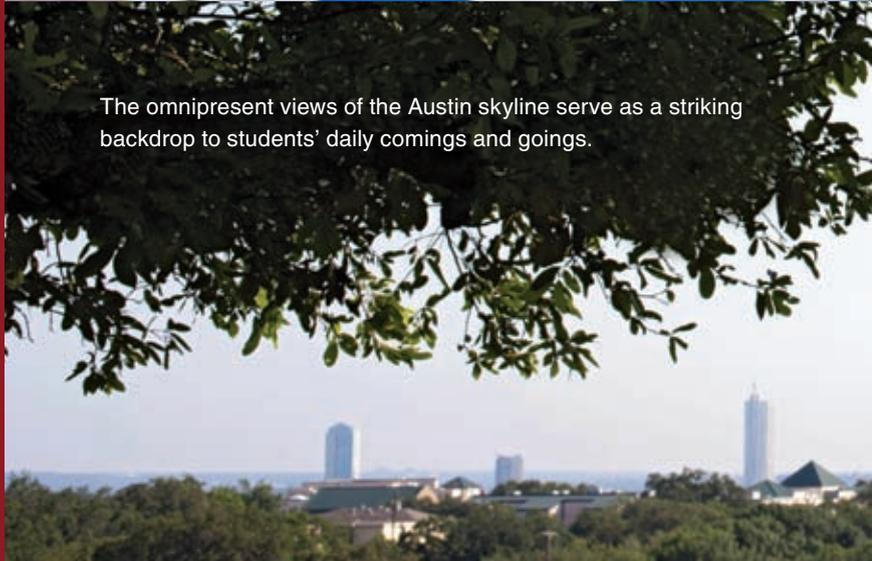


Generations of students have walked through Main Building's iconic red doors, making them a centerpiece of the university's past and present.



## DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

After spending four years on the St. Edward's campus, you probably think you know every nook and cranny on the hilltop. Test your knowledge with our slideshow of extreme close-ups of some of the far-flung corners of campus at [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras).



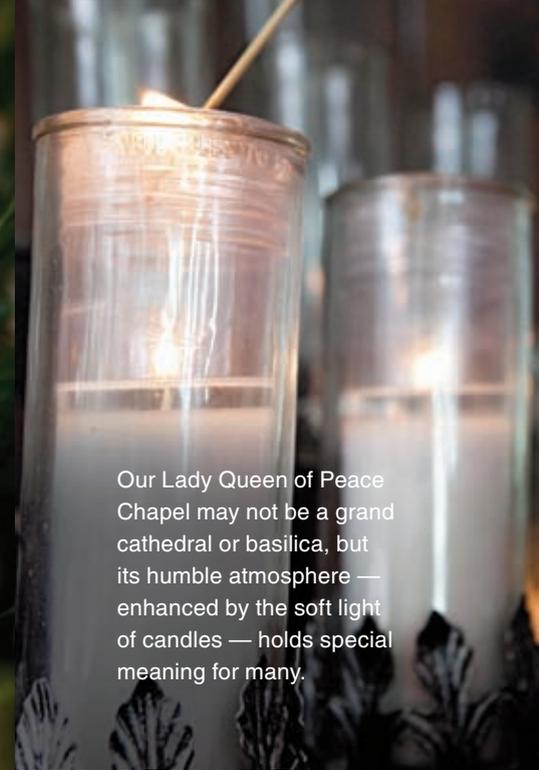
The omnipresent views of the Austin skyline serve as a striking backdrop to students' daily comings and goings.

Constructed in 1932, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto was inspired by the shrine in Lourdes, France, and has been used by members of the university community through the decades as a place to pray the rosary.



Whether it's to take in the basketball games, enjoy some tailgating or simply cherish the blue and gold, the St. Edward's community returns year after year to celebrate Homecoming on the hilltop.

Although this sign may often be overlooked, the tradition of walking around the university seal as a daily tribute to our Holy Cross founders is well practiced by students, faculty, staff and alumni.



Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel may not be a grand cathedral or basilica, but its humble atmosphere — enhanced by the soft light of candles — holds special meaning for many.

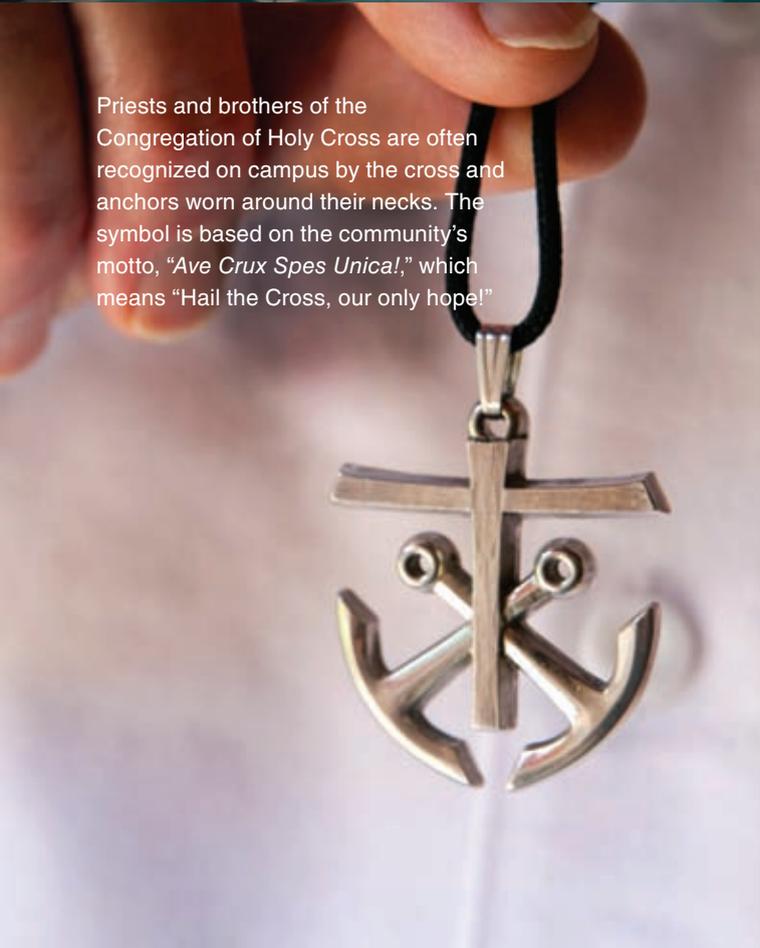


The benches surrounding Sorin Oak are a favorite spot for students to hang out — for everything from a leisurely outdoor lunch to a quick cram session before class.





Met with the sharp smell of chlorine, students, faculty and staff swim laps in the campus pool — renovated in 2009 — where three of the four surrounding walls let in the natural light and surroundings with their floor-to-ceiling windows.



Priests and brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross are often recognized on campus by the cross and anchors worn around their necks. The symbol is based on the community's motto, "*Ave Crux Spes Unica!*," which means "Hail the Cross, our only hope!"

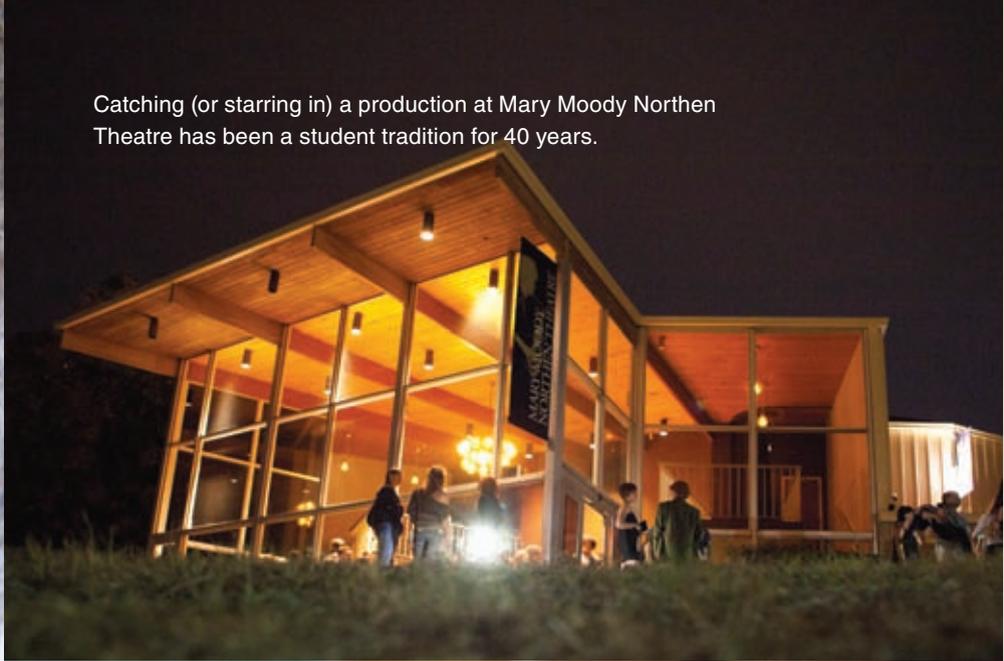


Students from residence halls around campus, including East and Teresa, trek to their mailboxes housed in Main Building. More than 75 care packages arrive daily for the first two weeks of every semester.

A plaque honoring former university librarian **Father Paul J. Foik, CSC**, gets frequent visits during finals week from students who rub his nose to summon good luck.



Catching (or starring in) a production at Mary Moody Northern Theatre has been a student tradition for 40 years.



Though the coffee shop's management has changed several times, the comfort brought on by a steaming cup of java remains constant.



"March on and win for good old SEU and bring home the victory!" Cheerleaders keep Hilltopper spirit — and the fight song — alive in the Recreation and Convocation Center during home basketball games.



Faculty office doors are often a unique reflection of the people who sit behind them. Associate Professor of German **Harald Becker**'s door is dotted with stirring quotes and a collection of black-and-white pictures. Sadly, Becker passed away Sept. 8 as this issue was going to print.



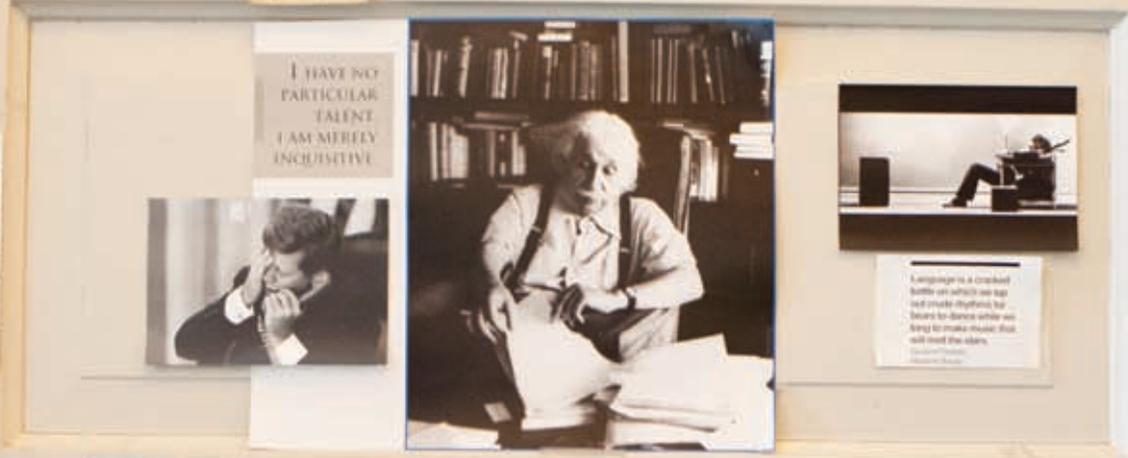
THE DEVIL HAS PUT A PENALTY ON ALL THINGS  
WE ENJOY IN LIFE. EITHER WE SUFFER IN HEALTH  
OR WE SUFFER IN SOUL. OR WE GET FAT.

Hate is a failure of imagination.



Arbeit macht das Leben süß  
aber leider  
bin ich Diabetiker.

You Can Always Tell A  
**GERMAN**  
But You Can't Tell Him Much



# HONOR ROLL OF GIVING FISCAL YEAR 2011–2012

The ambitious goals of the university's Strategic Plan 2015 inspired and motivated us during the 2011–2012 fundraising year. To fulfill our vision for 21st-century Holy Cross education at St. Edward's, we sought benefactors to help strengthen our living and learning spaces, especially given the urgency of the Mabee Challenge (as noted in the timeline below). We asked for more flexibility through unrestricted gifts to meet fluid and urgent annual obligations. We requested endowed and annual scholarships to give more students access to educational opportunities that are too often elusive.

When we announced to the St. Edward's family all that we aspired for, we happily discovered that the generosity of alumni, parents and leaders would help us to celebrate a year of historic proportions. During the 2011–2012 year, benefactors committed more than \$19 million. Thousands gave, hundreds gave at the leadership level, and a few set new records for the university community.

In venturing ahead, we will repeat the act of faith modeled to us by our founders. In 1872, they arrived at a farmland in Austin and took bold strides forward, relying on faith and determination to create an educational institution that would strengthen Blessed Basil Moreau's vision: an improved world through values-based Christian education.

Our direction has never changed, even as we have continually reached for new heights. To all who join us in this endeavor, we thank you and invite you to celebrate some of the many benefactors whose generosity during the 2011–2012 academic year pushed us far beyond our hopeful expectations. In the photographic timeline and donor listings that follow, we honor those donors and milestones that were instrumental in our successes!

Michael F. Larkin  
Vice President for University Advancement

*"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"*

—Robert Browning

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### JULY 2011

#### July 7: **GradFest**

August 2011 graduates get everything they need, including helpful advice from alumni.

#### July 25: **Munday Gift**

Pat and Bill Munday give \$13 million to build the new Library and Learning Commons, the largest gift in university history.



"We just feel like St. Edward's is a fine university. We feel privileged that we're able to make this donation to the university."

—Bill Munday

#### July 30: **El Paso Summer Send-off**

The El Paso alumni chapter hosts incoming freshmen and their families and shares stories of St. Edward's.

### AUGUST 2011



#### August 4: **Night at the Ballpark**

The Austin alumni chapter hosts the 11th annual event with the Round Rock Express.

#### August 13: **Rio Grande Valley Summer Send-off**

The Rio Grande Valley alumni chapter shares advice with incoming freshmen.

#### August 18: **San Antonio Summer Send-off**

The San Antonio alumni chapter hosts incoming freshmen and their families before they head to the hilltop.

#### August 20: **Summer Graduation**

### SEPTEMBER 2011

#### September 7: **Involvement Fair**

Undergraduates find out how they can make an impact on campus through student organizations, intramural sports, leadership programs and service projects.



#### September 9: **Hillfest**

The University Programming Board hosts the 10th annual Hillfest, featuring live music, carnival attractions and prizes.

#### September 9: **Check Presentation with UFCU**

The University Federal Credit Union presents a check for \$1.7 million — the largest gift from a corporation — for the renovation of the Alumni Gym.



"We are delighted to help make [the] St. Edward's vision of a renovated Alumni Gym a reality and to further deepen meaningful relationships with university students, faculty, staff and alumni."

—Tony Budet,  
president and CEO of UFCU

#### September 23: **Night at the Museum**

St. Edward's University hosts a reception at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, where photographs by Photocommunications students were featured in the exhibit Texas High School Football: More Than the Game.

#### September 27: **Washington, D.C., Presidential Reception**

Alumni, parents and prospective students gather to converse with President George E. Martin.

### OCTOBER 2011

#### October 3: **Phonathon Begins**

Student callers contact alumni, parents and friends of St. Edward's to update them on campus activities and upcoming events.



#### October 8–14: **Alumni Founder's Day Events**

Alumni and parents participate in community-service projects across the country to honor the university's Holy Cross founders.

October 18: **“Say Yes to Mabee” Campaign Begins**

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation presents the university with the opportunity to receive the final \$1 million needed to build the \$22 million John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South. The challenge is to raise \$5 million in 365 days. The campaign kicks off the final push to meet the challenge by Jan. 12, 2012.

October 22: **Baseball Alumni Weekend**  
Baseball alumni take on the current team in the annual alumni game.

October 22: **East Coast Alumni Reunion**

Alumni from the East Coast enjoy a day at the races and dinner at Delaware Park.



October 23: **Miles for a Mission 5K**  
Proceeds from the annual fun run and walk benefit Campus Ministry outreach programs.

October 25–December 11: **Mitzel Mixers**

The university kicks off seven Mitzel Mixers — small gatherings for alumni and donors to get updates on the construction of the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South from **Thomas Mitzel**, dean of the School of Natural Sciences. Hosts include: **Joseph Napolitano '02, Dr. Mark E. Jordan and Nancy Macdonald Jordan '03, Dr. David '68 and Debra Moeller, Michael Raiford, Margo and Ken Train and Jan and Bob Marbut, Pam and Tom Bernhardt, and Mynor E. Alvarado '07.**

October 28: **Wilems Gift**

**Nela and Bob '63 Wilems** make the largest bequest from an alumnus in the university's history in support of the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South and the School of Natural Sciences.

“St. Edward’s has an opportunity with this new building to educate students from all disciplines in math and science to develop alumni who have a better understanding of what it takes to succeed in an increasingly technological environment. This type of cross-disciplinary education will improve the world.”

—Nela and Bob '63 Wilems

**NOVEMBER 2011**

November 5: **Alumni Softball Game**  
The St. Edward’s University softball coaching staff and team welcome back softball alumni for the annual alumni game.

November 14: **New York Presidential Reception**

Alumni, parents and prospective students gather to converse with President **George E. Martin.**

**DECEMBER 2011**

December 2: **Amey Scholars Luncheon**

**Linda and John Amey** enjoy a luncheon with the students who receive support from their generous scholarship endowment.



December 9: **32nd Festival of Lights**  
The St. Edward’s community reflects upon the Advent season under the brilliant illumination of Main Building.

December 10: **Houston Alumni Chapter Holiday Service Project**

Volunteers from the Houston alumni chapter help at the Salvation Army Secret Santa Warehouse.

December 17: **December Graduation**

**JANUARY 2012**

January 12: **Mabee Challenge Ends**

The university raises the final \$5 million needed to build the \$22 million John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South.

**FEBRUARY 2012**



February 10–12: **Homecoming**  
More than 1,300 alumni, parents, students and guests reconnect with friends, professors and Holy Cross Brothers during the weekend festivities.

**MARCH 2012**

March 17: **St. Patrick’s Day Parade in New York**

Members of the St. Edward’s community march in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

March 21: **Dallas Presidential Reception**

**Joan and Martin Rose**, parents of **Allyson Rose Schaeffer '03, MBA '10** and **Bryan Rose '00**, host a reception attended by alumni, parents and incoming freshmen.

March 23: **Spaeth Gift**

**Lou Ann and David hs '68 Spaeth** give the largest gift from a high-school alumnus ever received by the university.

“I hope my gift will help students, who couldn’t have afforded it otherwise, to change their lives for the better. Then maybe they’ll do the same for someone else someday.”

—David Spaeth hs '68

March 27: **Laredo Presidential Reception**

**Melissa and Kinny '74 Cigarroa III** host a reception at Texas Community Bank NA, attended by alumni, parents and community leaders.

March 28: **Paula Marks Luncheon**

New College alumni attend a luncheon to preview the work of Professor of American Studies **Paula Marks** for her role as a guest curator for an exhibit about women in Texas at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.

**APRIL 2012**



April 22: **Spurs Alumni Event**

Alumni and parents watch the Spurs take on the Cleveland Cavaliers.

April 24: **McCarthy Scholars Luncheon**

The **Most Reverend John McCarthy**, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Austin, meets with the CAMP students who received the McCarthy Scholarship to learn about their accomplishments.

**MAY 2012**



May 10: **John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South Groundbreaking**

Donors and trustees gather to celebrate the newest academic building to be constructed on campus, the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South.



May 11: **Hilltop Send-off**

Graduates and their families and friends participate in Baccalaureate Mass, a Legacy Walk through the heart of campus and a festive outdoor reception on the eve of graduation.

May 12: **106th Graduation Ceremony**

**JUNE 2012**

June 1–2: **Annual Alumni Board Meeting**

The university’s alumni board convenes.

June 30: **End of Fiscal Year**

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*The President's Council of Advisors is composed of benefactors who support President George E. Martin's strategic priorities with a leadership annual commitment of at least \$5,000 and who actively engage in activities that positively impact students' educational experiences.*

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### **In Memoriam Members**

Anonymous  
Dr. Larry Armijo '58  
Mr. Allan I. Asseo  
Mr. Robert J. Brune '52  
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Mr. John Brooks Williams

# WASHINGTON INSIDERS

These alumni may not be running for office, but they're all involved in making our government run in one way or another.

As told to Lisa Thiegis | Photography by Stephen Voss



## the FELLOW

**Shannon Kroll MAHS '11** was selected as a Presidential Management Fellow right before she graduated from St. Edward's. PMFs receive a two-year appointment in a federal agency, along with leadership and development training. Kroll landed at the U.S. Department of Treasury, where she advises senior officials in the Office of International Affairs on a variety of human-resources management issues.

### Most useful learning experience at St. Edward's:

I enrolled in a capstone course aimed at establishing a comprehensive business plan for a company in Valle de Bravo, Mexico. The course was set up to function like a real consulting team. We traveled to Central Mexico to gain a better understanding of the culture, market, opportunities and resources.

### Benefits of working in a government agency:

Working in government is very different from working in the private sector, mainly because it is service-driven rather than profit-driven. I've been exposed to a whole new culture and way of solving problems. I was pleasantly surprised by the fast pace of my government office and the brilliant, hard-working people I am surrounded by every day.

### Austin vs. D.C.:

Austin is much more laid-back than D.C. People in D.C. are very career-focused and tend to work long hours. I'd say D.C. has a better cultural scene, but Austin wins when it comes to the social scene.

### Favorite things to do outside of work:

Bikram yoga, spending time with friends and exploring my new city.



## the STAFFER

**Jake McCook '06** didn't waste any time after graduation. Soon after receiving his diploma, he hit the campaign trail and worked the Iowa caucuses for New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson's presidential campaign. After the 2008 election, McCook returned to Washington, D.C., where he had studied for a semester of his junior year. It wasn't long before McCook was a member of New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman's energy committee staff. He recently accepted a position as deputy press secretary for Sen. Tom Udall, also from McCook's home state of New Mexico.

### Best part of the job:

I really appreciate the Senate as an institution, and I'm very honored to work here. Jeff Bingaman is a true statesman, and he's served here for 30 years. Just

to be around as these decisions are being made is rewarding. That's the experience you get working on Capitol Hill. That's why I came to D.C.

### Biggest challenge on the job:

It's hard to work for an institution in American politics today, when we're not really getting anything done. We don't legislate the way we used to. I work for very senior people who are incredibly talented in their field. It's hard to watch their work sit while all the tit-for-tat politics goes on.

### Most valuable part of your education at St. Edward's:

My Political Science professors: **Neal Wise** really made me a statesman, and **Bill Nichols** made me a diplomat. They both helped me realize that there has to be more to our discussion than partisan politics. Working in the Senate, this is a real virtue that I strive to live by every day. I believe very strongly in public service, and I'm tenaciously devoted to the community that I serve.

### If you could play hooky for a day:

I don't have enough time to enjoy the wonderful museums and history that are here. If I had the day to do what I want, I would stroll down to the mall and be a tourist in my own city.

## BIRTHS

 To **David Reimer '95** and wife Emily, daughter Isabella and son Townes on April 30

 To **Brian Hargrove '98** and **Judy-Ann Hargrove '98**, son Grant Alexander on December 28, 2011

 To **Richard Mireles '01** and wife Lauren, daughter Katelyn and son Collin on February 25

 To **Lyanca (Martinez) Reyna '02** and husband Roy, son Ryzen Jesse on March 30



## the **FINANCIER**

After practicing law at international firms and facilitating multi-billion-dollar international infrastructure transactions for private banks, **Kate Baragona '87** was hired by the World Bank in Washington, D.C., as a senior infrastructure finance specialist. She focuses mainly on countries in Africa that are restructuring their economies, like Nigeria and Mauritania. Her goal? To create financially sustainable transactions for developing governments — and to celebrate similarities among people of other cultures while also respecting their many differences.

### **The rewards of working with evolving African countries:**

It's probably the most exciting and dynamic market in the world. I meet people who are the Benjamin Franklins and Thomas Jeffersons of their nations. They're thoughtful, well-educated, hopeful and hardworking as they bring their country into the 21st century. This is what our country was like when it was being formed. These types of people are willing to sacrifice their personal lives to build a dream. And I think, "I'm blessed to be here."

### **Your perspective on other cultures:**

As one who has walked among people of other nations, I know that these are people whose hearts and minds are no different than mine. They want a better world for their children. They want interesting work. They want a comfortable life where they can grow old with their grandchildren. It doesn't matter what the outer shell looks like. It doesn't matter how educated you are. We're much more similar than we realize.

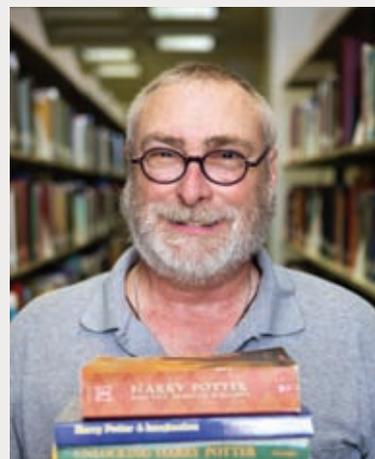
### **Best course at St. Edward's:**

The World Religions class is the one I go back to the most at a core level because I work with Taoists, Confucianists, Muslims and Hindus, and it's amazing to be able to remember similarities and differences. I don't think I would have ever considered that important when I was signing up for my classes.

### **Most interesting person you've had dinner with:**

I had dinner at an event and sat next to Madeleine Albright. I find her fascinating, and it's amazing how intellectually sharp she is. She's a woman ahead of her time and a real inspiration to me.

## In Memoriam



*Professor of Religion and Theological Studies*

**Ed Shirley** passed away on August 15. Shirley began teaching at the university in 1985. St. Edward's University Magazine asked one of his former students, **Austin Gunter '09**, to share an excerpt of a blog post he wrote on Shirley. You can read Gunter's complete memorial at [www.austingunter.com](http://www.austingunter.com).

Ed Shirley was one of the first professors I had as a freshman at St. Edward's, and he helped me develop an awareness of where faith and science meet. Shirley knew how to find unity in the middle of controversy. He had a profoundly vital impact on how I continue to view the world today.

When I stop for a moment, I know that Shirley gave a part of himself to hundreds of 19-year-olds like me who had no clue how to be adults yet. He helped us keep our values intact as we navigated college and stepped into the lives we lead today.

One of Shirley's specialties was showing the world how to inject joy and humor into our lives. The stories he told and the songs he would sing to us always sounded better with the twinkle he had in his eyes. I remember when he hijacked my Segway and drove it around the building singing "Wild Thing" as if he were on a Harley.

Those were his legacies: hijacking our lives and our hearts, teaching us how to sing our own wild songs, striking the balance in our lives between science and faith, between humor and hard work, and growing up and growing old.

His life is proof-positive that it is possible to grow up and keep a smile on your face and bring laughter into every room you walk.

### **RON CINAL '60** of Reston, Va., passed away Oct. 12, 2011.

He served as a lieutenant commander in the Navy and as an operations officer for the Central Intelligence Agency, where he conducted several overseas tours in his 28 years of service to the agency. Cinal's inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery took place on June 26. Several of Cinal's classmates attended the ceremony, including **Bart Cronin '60**, **Bob Kamm '61** and **Tony Scaperlanda '60**. For photos of the ceremony, please contact Cronin at [tbartcronin@hotmail.com](mailto:tbartcronin@hotmail.com).

To **Angela Garcia Lindfors '08** and **Gunnar Frederick Lindfors III '10**, son Gunnar Frederick Lindfors IV on January 26

To **Della Spoor '02** and husband William, daughter Aemilia Holland on November 4, 2011

To **Kristin Stork '02** and husband Chase Thomas, daughter Emerson Lilli on May 26, 2011

To **Tyler Pivec '03** and wife Megan, child Jaylen on March 16

## In Memoriam



Professor of Mathematics **M. Jean McKemie** passed away on August 21. McKemie began teaching in the School of Natural Sciences in 1988. St. Edward's University Magazine asked writer **Stacia Hernstrom** **MLA '05** to recall her very first campus interview McKemie.

When I first walked into Jean McKemie's office 10 years ago, I was nervous. She was a professor. Interim dean. Big-time. And I was a rookie reporter writing about her for the university magazine. We talked for two hours. She told me about her work — quasiconformal mappings. She told me about her farm and how she spent summers selling tomatoes and peppers and okra at markets around town — while puzzling over some of her most difficult math problems, one that she had been working on for four years. What struck me about Dr. McKemie then — and continues to impress me now — was her intelligence, her humility, her wit, her tenacity. I know those same qualities carried her through her tough battle with breast cancer. I know those qualities impacted countless students during her 24-year tenure on the hilltop. And I know they will continue to soothe all of us as we try to imagine the School of Natural Sciences without her friendly smile, easy laugh and agile mind.

## CHAPTER NEWS

The **Austin** chapter hosted the 12th annual Alumni Night at the Ballpark in August. Area alumni, family and friends cheered on the Round Rock Express as they took on the Tucson Padres.

**Chicago** alumni gathered for a dinner this summer to create connections and plan for future events.

**Houston** alumni gathered for a baseball game this summer to cheer on the Sugar Land Skeeters. **Cindy and Bill Ward**, parents of **Blake Ward '13**, also hosted a summer send-off at their home. Incoming freshmen and their parents interacted with alumni and current parents before heading off to start their tenure on the hilltop.



**New York City** alumni gathered for a happy hour to wish chapter president **Alicia Barron '03** farewell as she returned to Austin. The get-together also served as an opportunity to welcome new chapter co-presidents **Gilberto Fuentes '06** and **Meghann Bolton '08**.

The **Rio Grande Valley** chapter hosted a summer send-off in McAllen for incoming freshmen and their families. The event allowed them to meet local alumni and parents before heading to the hilltop.

The **San Antonio** chapter hosted a summer send-off, where incoming freshmen and their parents interacted with area alumni and parents before heading to the hilltop. **Margo and Ken Train**, and **Jan and Bob Marbut**, parents of **Marcy Marbut '15**, hosted the event at the Marbuts' home.

## 1950s

**Bob Kirkhoff '57**, of Indianapolis, was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame on April 28.

## 1960s

**Victor Orlowski '63**, of Gold Canyon, Ariz., was mentioned in an article in the *Arizona Capitol Times* on April 2 for helping farmers reduce their rising electricity costs with solar panels. The deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited Arizona to see Orlowski's solar panels at a dairy farm.

**Frank Woodruff '69**, of Boerne, was featured in the *San Antonio Express* on March 20. In the article, he outlined the steps a CEO should take to ensure a smooth transition of power.

## 1970s

**Raymond "Buddy" Schmotzer '78**, of Irving, retired from teaching and coaching in the Irving Independent School District after a 32-year tenure.

## 1980s

**John Cobb '83**, of Austin, had 20 paintings featured at the Welcome Center of First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. They were loosely inspired by the New Testament.

## 1990s

**Taj McWilliams-Franklin '91**, of San Antonio, signed to play in the WNBA with the Minnesota Lynx for the 2012–2013 season. After the conclusion of the season, she will join Greg Williams' staff as an assistant coach at Rice University.

**Rob Catalano '92**, of Fort Worth, was appointed to the Governor's Criminal Justice Advisory Council by Gov. Rick Perry. Catalano is a Tarrant County District Court judge and a former assistant district attorney in the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office.

**Cleto Chazares '92**, of Plant City, Fla., was a guest on *Daytime*, the WFLA morning show, alongside Sandra Amrhein, author of *Green Card Stories*. The book chronicles the journeys of 50 recent U.S. immigrants from around the world and included Chazares' story. In addition, Chazares was recognized as High School Principal of the Year by the Hillsborough Counselors Association for the 2011–2012 school year.

## MARRIAGES

♥ **Kay Froelich '09**, of Victoria, to **Jake Gullede '09**, of Roanoke, on February 4

## IN MEMORIAM

✚ **Vanessa Bailey Adams '06**, of Collingswood, N.J., on May 22

**Shasta Roca '94**, of Erie, Pa., was named vice president of vendor management for the Erie Insurance Group, where she is responsible for sourcing, vendor development, vendor negotiations and procurement.

**Clayton Christopher '95**, of Austin, founder of Sweet Leaf Tea and Deep Eddy Vodka, spoke at the *Austin Business Journal's* monthly Face-2-Face breakfast on April 25.

**Sally Riedle Hernandez '97**, of Austin, is challenging Richard McCain for the position of Travis County Constable, Precinct 3.

**Richard Paul Doucet '98**, of Iota, La., a former Holy Cross Brother, received the Louisiana State University–Eunice Foundation Staff Excellence Award for his superior work performance and outstanding contributions to LSUE in 2012.

**Jay Thompson '98**, of Gilbert, Ariz., is the director of industry operations and social media for Zillow. He will be relocating to Seattle, where Zillow is headquartered.

**Erin Prather Stafford '99**, of Dallas, is the executive producer for *Wonder Woman! The Untold Story of American Superheroines*. The film premiered at the South By Southwest Film Festival in March 2012.

## 2000s

**Alan Ahlrich '00**, of Houston, launched a catering company called Ahlrich Foods.

**Justin Leach '00**, of Arlington, Va., is assistant professor of International Relations at Troy University's Arlington campus. His book, *War and Politics in Sudan: Cultural Identities and the Challenges of the Peace Process*, was published by I.B. Tauris in summer 2012.

**Matthew Abbott '03**, of Austin, joined the charter operator Eden Park Academy, where he will lead the school's expansion from a 250-student, single-campus charter school to a multi-campus charter management organization in the next 10 years.

**Jake McCook '03**, of Washington, D.C., was accepted to the Master of Professional Studies Program in Public Relations and Communications at Georgetown University. He began the program in January. He was also elected to the executive board of the Gay, Lesbian, and Allies Senate Staff Caucus on

Capitol Hill, where he's worked for more than two years.

**Jennifer Dockeray Muniz '03**, of Cedar Park, was promoted to director at Apple, where she supports order fulfillment worldwide for the Apple Online Store.

**Monica Clem '04**, of Houston, joined Wholesome Sweeteners as its marketing communications coordinator.

**Ricardo Zamarripa '05**, of Austin, was named regional manager for Klotz Associates.

**Angelique Montgomery-Goodnough MLA '06**, of Austin, received the St. Edward's University Master of Liberal Arts Alumni Achievement Award on April 18 for achievement in lifelong learning.

**Rachel Armbruster '07**, of Austin, was named a recipient of the Austin Under 40 for Marketing PR and Advertising. She also published her first book in December 2011. *Banding Together for a Cause* is designed to identify ways to generate funds for programs and missions through valuable and meaningful partnerships.

**Vera Cruz MAT '08**, of Austin, received the St. Edward's University School of Education Master of Arts in Teaching Alumni Award on April 18 for achievement in lifelong learning.

**David Fuentes '09**, of Boerne, won the men's division of the 2012 Chuy's Hot to Trot 5K and the 2012 Schlotzsky's Bun Run 5K. He also competed in the USA Half Marathon Championships in Duluth, Minn., on June 16.

## 2010s

**Carla Soriano '10**, of Spring, wrote an article about the Coreanos food truck for the *Houston Press*. The food truck is co-owned by **Tom Morris '08**, **Genaro Macias '07** and **Jamil Assaf '07** and serves a mix of Korean and Mexican cuisine. It was recently named the No. 1 food truck in Texas and the No. 8 in the nation by *Smithsonian* magazine.

**Adam Finch DMBA '12**, of Austin, **Conrad Heinz DMBA '12**, of Austin, and **Ryan Kuehl DMBA '12**, of San Antonio, rebranded their company, bandLENS, as creationlien. The change is part of the company's strategy to expand its digital marketing scope and services.

**Stephen Johnson '13**, of Boulder, Colo., was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the sixth round of the 2012 Major League Baseball draft.



**MIKE PRENDERGAST '62**, of Austin, checked one thing off his bucket list when he went skydiving in May. Prendergast did a tandem jump with a certified instructor and says the best part was the free-fall experience from 10,000 feet above the earth.

## ▲ KEEP IN TOUCH

Send your Class Note and wedding or birth announcement to the Alumni Office at [sealumni@stedwards.edu](mailto:sealumni@stedwards.edu).

## Correction

In the spring issue of *St. Edward's University Magazine*, we incorrectly noted **Vicki Richter Rice's '75** recent appointment by the Montana governor. Rice was appointed to the Montana Board of Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners. She has been a clinical laboratory scientist for more than 35 years. We regret this error.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 20

Austin Founder's  
Day Event

Houston Founder's  
Day Event

OCTOBER 27

Dallas-Fort Worth  
Founder's Day Event

Alumni Baseball Game

NOVEMBER 3

Women's Basketball  
Alumni Luncheon  
and Game

NOVEMBER 10

Men's Alumni Golf  
Tournament

APRIL 14,  
2013

Dallas Presidential  
Reception



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## ALUMNI BOARD NEWS

The St. Edward's University Alumni board of directors recently embarked on a yearlong strategic-planning process, which will culminate in a comprehensive strategic plan for the St. Edward's University Alumni Association. The board is focusing on four key areas: chapter and network expansion, marketing and communications, volunteer engagement, and national and global alumni board development.

The alumni board is working with university representatives as well as regional, class and program alumni volunteers to assess the current state of the alumni association and board. The board will review national best practices among peer institutions to determine ways the association can reach its long-term goal of significantly increasing alumni involvement and participation as well as, ultimately, creating a top-tier alumni association.

"We are entering an exciting time as an alumni association. With almost 1,000 alumni joining us annually, we are laying the foundation to care for all 23,000 alumni no matter where they are — figuratively and literally," says **Kay Arnold '04, MLA '06**, alumni board chair. "We want to stay relevant in the lives of our alumni, whether they graduated in the 1930s or last May, whether they live in Austin, in a large city or a small town, in the U.S. or abroad. Whether they are seeking career advice, fellowship, volunteer or mentoring opportunities, service projects or travel, we want the St. Edward's alumni family to continue to grow and to remain close."



### Alumni Board of Directors

Kay Arnold '04, MLA '06

Stephanie Bazan '02

Alicia Barron '03

John Dudley '59, '64

Fred Estrello '77

JD Garza '93

Lupita Hernandez '05

Lizet Hinajosa '04

Jennifer McGee '07

Michael McGee '07

Betsy Moore '97

Michael O'Brien '90

Charles Porter MLA '07

Betty Reichel '88

Josie Ryan '80 MAHS '85

Br. Bill Nick, CSC, '64, Holy Cross representative

Dr. William Zanardi, faculty representative



## SAYING GOODBYE Photo by Jessica Attie



Freshman move-in day is often an emotion-filled time for families — the fear of the unknown, the stress of being separated from mom and dad by hundreds or thousands of miles for the first time. But there's joy in the anticipation, too — new adventures to be had, new friends to be made and so much more.

*St. Edward's University Magazine* captured this photo of **Natasha Zafar '16** (center) and her family, as they piled in for a goodbye hug near the steps of Main Building on move-in day. Zafar grew up in Pakistan, though her parents and siblings currently live in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

"The most difficult part of goodbye with my parents, brothers and sister is that I won't see them everyday like I'm used to," Zafar says. "It'll be hard to absorb the fact that they're miles away, and I have to wait a while to see them."

But she knows that much awaits, and she's quickly making St. Edward's her new home. The Criminal Justice major has been impressed with how accessible everything is on campus and how helpful the people are, especially her professors.



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## MAGAZINE WEB EXTRAS

Visit [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras) for a video on savoring French *vin*, Father Rick Wilkinson's final homilies at St. Edward's, and photos of some of the hilltop's most recognizable (or not) spots.