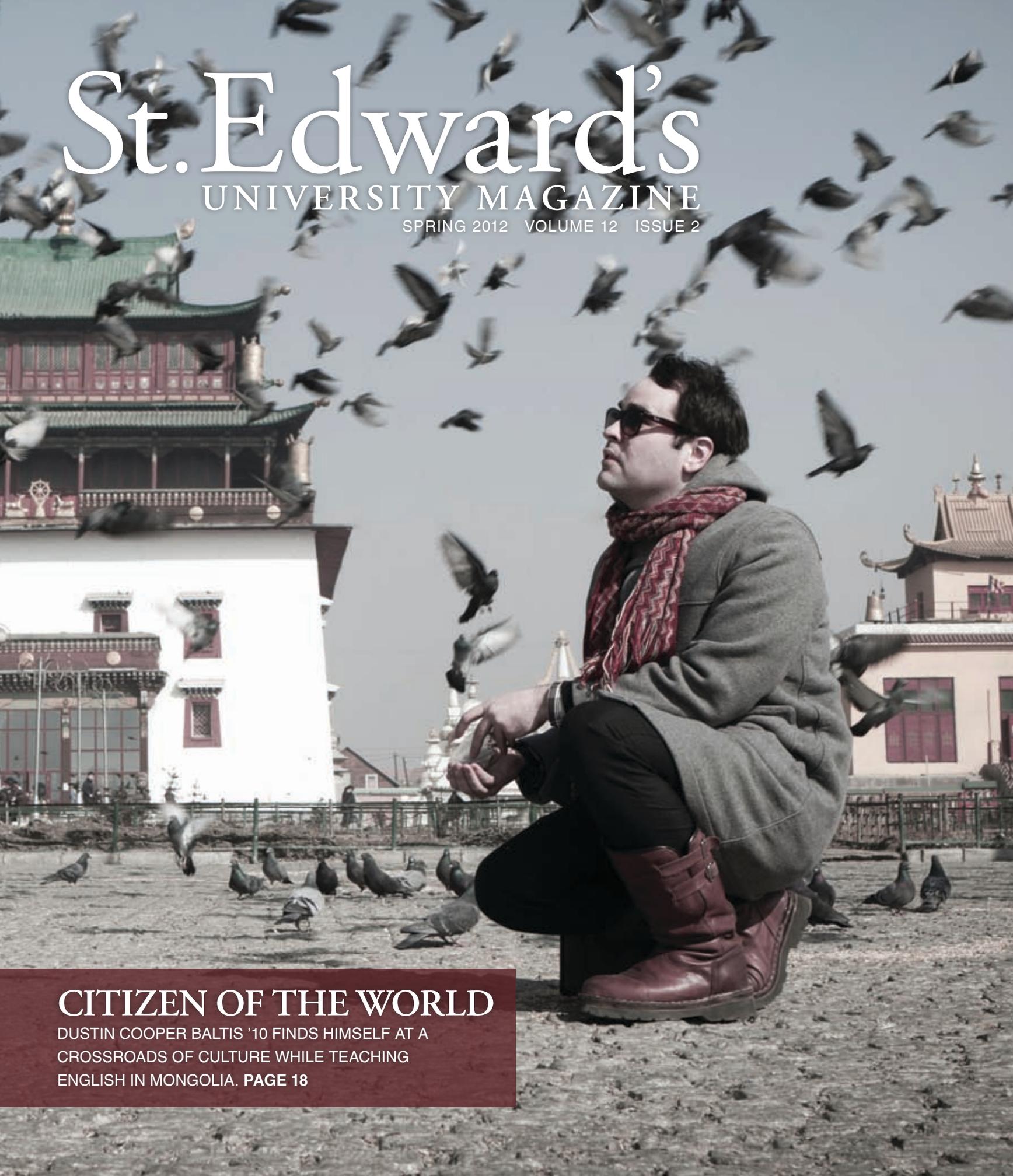


# St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2012 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2



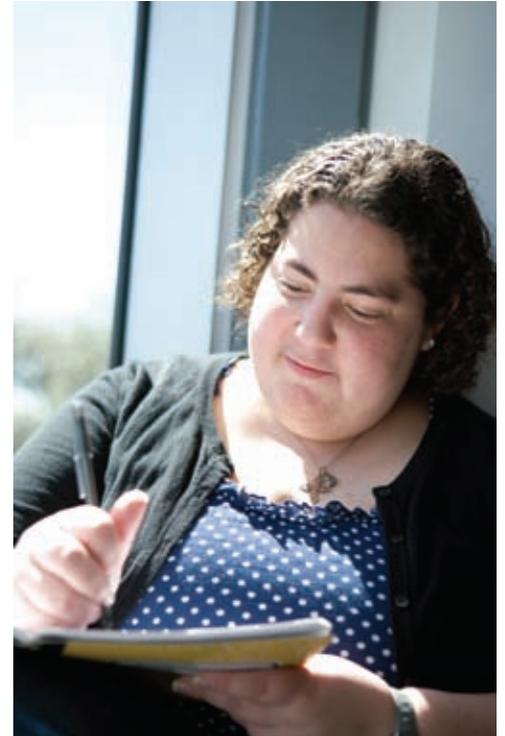
## CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

DUSTIN COOPER BALTIS '10 FINDS HIMSELF AT A  
CROSSROADS OF CULTURE WHILE TEACHING  
ENGLISH IN MONGOLIA. **PAGE 18**



## 18 ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

**Dustin Cooper Baltis '10** is a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Mongolia. With its tent communities, shamanic rituals and masked residents, it sometimes feels like another world. It's also home. 



## 14 HALLOWED GROUND

Believers have long sought holy places, from Mecca to Jerusalem, from Rome to Mexico City, traveling en masse to a shrine or on a lone quest for enlightenment. They are all, in some way, seeking a connection with the divine. The personal stories shared here may challenge the notion of sacred spaces — they speak to the unique places where people encounter God.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I think I can safely say that *St. Edward's University Magazine* is one of the last bastions of the university to take the leap online. While the university has been quick to take advantage of the latest technology — Facebook, Twitter, Google+, you name it, someone on campus is probably using it — the magazine has sat on the sidelines, coming to you three times a year the old-fashioned way.

So why have we watched from afar? For one, survey after survey has told us that you prefer to receive the magazine in print. (Don't worry; that's not going to change.) But over the past couple of years, we've had more great stories to share than we can fit in our pages, and alas, the allure of using video, photo slideshows and other cool technology to tell these stories was too much to resist.

We're thrilled to introduce *St. Edward's University Magazine* Web Extras with this issue. At [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras), you'll find unique content that's an extension of what you'll find in print. We're not putting the entire magazine online, but we are going to bring you

additional stories that use the best of the web to tell you the amazing things that the students, faculty and alumni of St. Edward's are doing.

This issue, **Marianne Shea '11** gives us her first-hand account of living in middle-of-nowhere Turkey. We find much more than just books (think frogs and ham radios) in our slideshow of the offices of eight St. Edward's faculty members. And finally, we have videos of five alumni experts showing us how to do everything from throwing a wicked curveball to preparing five healthy snacks for your kiddos.

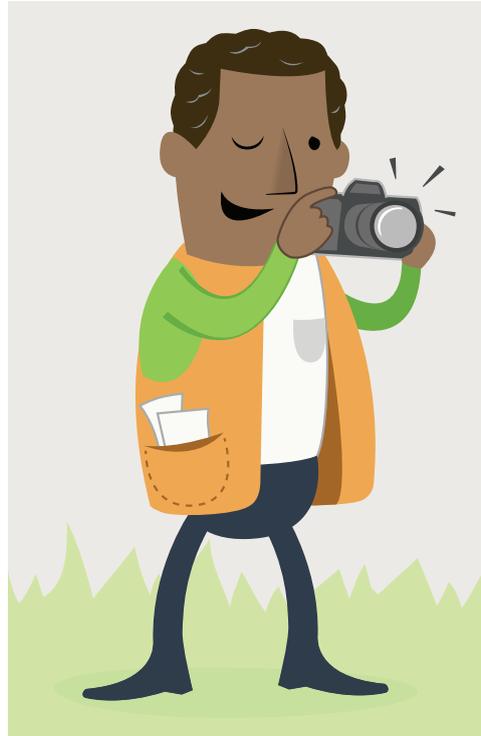
I hope you enjoy the additional content as much as we do. Please email me at [frannies@stedwards.edu](mailto:frannies@stedwards.edu) to let me know what you think.

Frannie Schneider  
Editor



## 24 THE END

Academic libraries are undergoing some major shifts, and the transition is about much more than paper to pixels. The end of the library as we know it is really a beginning of libraries finding new ways to serve students and faculty. 



## 28 THERE'S AN ALUM FOR THAT

Ever wondered what you'd do if you needed to find the nearest bathroom — in China? Or how to make sure you'll have enough money for retirement? Fortunately, St. Edward's University has alumni who are experts in just about everything. We picked eight to share their expertise. 

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[www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras)

**Another Cup of Tea:** What's it like to go from being a college student in Austin to an English teacher in Amasya, Turkey? **Marianne Shea '11** takes us inside her new life.

**Faculty and Their Domains:** Peek inside the offices of eight St. Edward's University faculty members.

**How to Do Even More Stuff:** St. Edward's alumni show us how to build the perfect sandwich, throw a wicked curveball, make five healthful snacks for your kids, train for a 5K and identify real vintage clothing from knockoffs.

## ABOUT THE COVER

We photographed Dustin Cooper Baltis '10 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The city is one of the world's most polluted, and on page 18, you can see how the English teacher copes.

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# St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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## President's Letter

As I write this letter, commencement is less than a month away. It's that time of year when our community takes an accounting of what has been accomplished since the fall, while just beginning to anticipate what lies ahead.

For the university, it's been a year of new records and recognitions. We celebrated the largest freshman class, a new high in undergraduate enrollment and a graduation rate of 68 percent. Advancement is enjoying its best year ever, having secured more total dollars (\$18 million at this point) than in any past year, in a campaign that boasts the largest-ever individual, corporate and parental gifts.

The New Media Consortium — an international group of universities, colleges, museums, and learning-focused organizations — presented St. Edward's with one of two 2012 NMC Center of Excellence awards for demonstrated excellence in the application of technology to learning and creative expression. Institutions cannot compete for the award; they can only be selected in a process similar to the MacArthur Awards. Previous award winners over the past 20 years number only 31 and include Apple Education and the universities of California–Berkeley, Michigan–Ann Arbor, Wisconsin–Madison, UT–Austin and USC.

For the second year in a row, St. Edward's was named a top producer of Fulbright Scholars, and a record number of finalists await word about their selection for next year. Typical of these outstanding students is **Dustin Cooper Baltis '10**, an artist, musician, novelist, world traveler and 2010 Fulbright winner featured in a story on page 18 of this magazine. This year's winners will follow in his footsteps as they head off to countries such as Germany, Spain, Israel and Turkey.

Meanwhile, **Samantha Cook '12** was selected as a Marshall Scholarship finalist and has been invited to join the American Embassy in London as a member of its executive office. **Ellie Frances Douglass '12**, a student of our nationally recognized faculty poet, **Carrie Fountain**, won the Austin Poet Society's Jenny Lind Porter scholarship.

Three young environmentalists have also distinguished themselves. **Jarymar Arana '11**, winner of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and the Environmental Protection Agency's Greater Research Opportunities Undergraduate Fellowship as a student, has recently been selected as an Emerson National Hunger Fellow. **Corina Solis '12**, who also was awarded the Greater Research Opportunities Undergraduate Fellowship, is now contemplating where to use her Waste Management Associate scholarship as she chooses one of the graduate programs that have accepted her, including Yale, Duke, Indiana University, Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of California–Santa Barbara. **Kadence Hamptom '12** has chosen to accept her DOVE Fellowship from the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities to support her studies over the next two years.

This year's McNair Scholar cohort of first-generation, low-income students is on track for an impressive rate of acceptance to prestigious graduate programs. In all cases, the acceptance is accompanied by a scholarship and stipend.

On campus, we are building for the future. Construction has started on a 55,000-square-foot addition to the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center. In a few weeks, the new library, a 21st-century research and learning center will begin to rise on the site of the current library. Both buildings will open in August 2013.

All of us at the university feel very blessed as we review the year. These are challenging times for all of higher education and especially for independent, faith-based institutions. Yet we at St. Edward's continue to move forward, guided by our Strategic Plan 2015 and inspired by Blessed Basil Moreau's trust in God's providence.

— President George E. Martin

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## Goodwill for All

When most people think of helping Goodwill Industries International, they picture dropping off used clothes at their local donation site. For **David Hollier**, assistant professor of Education, donating to Goodwill now has a different meaning.

In early 2011, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas came to Hollier looking for help: They needed a pro to provide feedback on essays written by participants in their Leadership Learning Program, an internal professional-development program focused on improving communication skills. Hollier, Associate Professor of Education **Judy Leavell**, and Assistant Professor of English Writing and Rhetoric **Ryan Hoover** fit the bill, and they agreed to help.

The brief service opportunity inspired Hollier. His graduate students could learn by conducting research in a real-world setting, and Goodwill could benefit from their expertise as educators.

Ultimately, Hollier's team came up with a list of five recommendations to enhance the program based on observations and a survey of 30 participants. And their relationship continues with Goodwill, with Hollier and others presenting workshops for LLP and continuing to support the program.

"It was a rich opportunity in keeping with the mission of St. Edward's," Hollier says. "We were able to show that we want to support the community outside St. Edward's by assisting them with our expertise while creating a really authentic learning experience for our students."

**The Master of Arts in Teaching students learned by conducting research in a real-world setting, and Goodwill benefited from their expertise as educators.**



▲ **David Hollier and Stephanie Upshaw MAT '12** presented a paper about their work with Goodwill Industries at the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education in October 2011.

## Bright Ideas



If you can recharge the battery for a power drill, why do you have to wrangle cords when flat ironing your hair? That's exactly what **Sara Kogut '12** wondered when she entered the inaugural iChallenge competition, sponsored by the School of Management and Business, the Student Entrepreneurs Club, and the Dean's Leadership Council in November 2011. Kogut took home first place with her idea for rechargeable, cordless hair tools.

The event, which was open to all students, captured the spirit of innovative thinking at St. Edward's. iChallenge is about answering three questions: Is it innovative? Does it have impact? Will it improve the community? Students pitched ideas to a panel of judges made up of students, faculty and local entrepreneurs, and several students walked away with coveted Apple gift cards.

**Aaron Reissig '13** landed second place for his device that can link two flash drives together and transfer data from one to the other without a computer.

**Carlos Martin '12** garnered the third-place title with his proposal of a bar or restaurant that uses interactive table technology, facilitating orders and connecting patrons with other diners at the same venue.

## Global Update

St. Edward's University continues to establish new global partnerships and expand international opportunities for students. Here's an update.

- With a new year comes a new graduate degree. St. Edward's will launch the Professional Science Master's in Environmental Management and Sustainability in Fall 2012. Students will examine ecological issues through the combined disciplines of environmental science and project management in an intensive two-year, full-time program, which will be conducted in both Austin and Angers, France. Graduates will receive a joint degree from St. Edward's and the Université Catholique de l'Ouest.
- A \$3.75-million, five-year grant from Japan's Ministry of Culture will take the university's partnership with Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University to new levels. The grant will enable APU students to study at St. Edward's and vice versa. Additionally, the funding will support a religion and culture program for both APU and St. Edward's University students to study abroad together in Thailand and Malaysia.
- February found the hilltop abuzz with French cinema. The Tournées Film Festival was held on campus and showcased seven of the latest French films. The three-week event was made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture.

## Hot Spots

Who needs Frommer's or Lonely Planet travel guides when you have globetrotting St. Edward's students? We asked several study-abroad returnees to give us the scoop we wouldn't find in any guidebook.



### ▲ Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Hot Spot:** At The Konex, which is an old factory, there is a giant percussion concert called *La Bomba de Tiempo* with a different special guest every week. It often sells out, so go early.

**Insider Tip:** Burn the midnight oil. **Emily Zipp '13** discovered many secret bars throughout the city where the social scene was at its best.



### ▲ Hangzhou, China

**Hot Spot:** Outside the city there are several gardens that will take your breath away.

**Insider Tip:** Take advantage of the local food markets. **Ximena Fernandez '14** marveled at the offerings: cat, starfish, shark, fried cockroaches and traditional fried ice cream.



### ▲ Geneva, Switzerland

**Hot Spot:** Lake Geneva is surrounded by the Alps and offers incredible views. People head there to relax on the grass, ride paddle boats, sail or just lie on the pier.

**Insider Tip:** Indulge in the cheese. **Juhi Tariq '12** found new appreciation for the vast number of *fromage* varieties.



### ▲ Amman, Jordan

**Hot Spot:** Wadi Mujib. This long canyon has a river that flows through it and runs into the Dead Sea. Visitors can climb through the canyon and slide down waterfalls in a gorgeous setting.

**Insider Tip:** Embrace the people. **Daniel Borgersen '13** was frequently invited to dine at people's houses, even by those he hardly knew: his taxi driver, his barber and new acquaintances.



### ▲ Paris, France

**Hot Spot:** Jardin des Tuileries, the gardens in front of the Louvre, is a great gathering spot. Bring your picnic blanket, a bottle of wine and a fresh baguette for the quintessential Parisian experience.

**Insider Tip:** Take in the art scene. **Alex McCormack '12** says the young, artsy community of Montmartre is the Austin of Paris. Although Montmartre is known for the Sacré Coeur church and the Moulin Rouge, its back streets are an artist's paradise with an abundance of street-art markets and cafés buzzing with locals.

# The Science of Scandals

## POP QUIZ

Which scandal is more likely to put at risk a Senate incumbent's chance of reelection: a Republican who cheats on his wife or a Democrat who cheats on his taxes? These are the kinds of questions that got **Chad Long** thinking during the 2006 midterm elections when the Democrats took control of the Senate amidst a higher-than-usual number of scandals across party lines.

The assistant professor of Political Science gathered data on all Senate races from 1974 to 2004 and found that 19 percent of those matchups involved a scandal, defined as an incident reported by the media that raised questions about honesty, judgment or competence. But not all scandals are created equal.

## CHALLENGE

Put these infractions in order of impact on an election:

- Outrageous statement (e.g. racial slur)
- Financial impropriety (e.g. shady investments)
- Immoral behavior (e.g. cheating on your spouse)
- Criminal act (investigated, arrested or indicted)
- Abuse of office (e.g. nepotism)

Long found that financial impropriety affected an incumbent least, with a net loss of 4.34 percent of the vote, followed by an outrageous statement (5.33 percent). Biggest surprise? Criminal acts came in at a 5.36-percent loss, making an arrest potentially less "incriminating" than abuse of power (5.73 percent). The worst infraction? Immoral behavior gets the blue ribbon, with a loss of 6.51 percent of the vote.

Of course, in all U.S. elections, incumbency has significant power. In the House, for example, more than 90 percent of incumbents are reelected by a significant margin, meaning a loss of 5 or 6 percent of the vote isn't



likely to affect the outcome. But in closer races, politicians might be wise to keep their improprieties in check.

## QUESTION

True or false?

- A Republican is more likely to face wrath after a scandal than a Democrat.
- First-term senators are more likely to be involved in a scandal.

## ANSWER

Both are true. Perhaps because more Republicans run on a platform of values, Long speculates, a misstep reflects more poorly on them. And why are more tenured senators less likely to be affected by scandals? "If you're not a cynic, then you might surmise that with age comes wisdom, and wise people avoid scandalous behavior," Long explains. "If you're more cynical, then those senators are just better able to prevent their behavior from becoming public."

Long continues to research, focusing his next paper on House elections, campaign receipts and more specific types of scandals. We'll be sure to pass along the salacious details.

In the meantime, some advice for incumbents in the upcoming election: Pick your next scandal carefully.

# Social Clout



## Suzanne Bonifaz DMBA '12 and Robert Flores DMBA '12

had a busy semester last fall. So when representatives from a national life-insurance company approached the Digital MBA students with a competition to create a social-media plan, many students thought twice about taking on such a huge time commitment.

Bonifaz and Flores, however, readily accepted the challenge and teamed up to develop SocialClout, a comprehensive social-media plan for Jackson National Life Insurance Company, based in Lansing, Mich. "I liked this competition because this was real life," says Bonifaz. "We were creating a strategy that a multi-billion dollar company could implement. We could take what we learned in the program and apply it to a company out there."

The two spent countless hours preparing their social-media business plan. They practiced their pitch numerous times and received feedback from digital-media faculty. Yet it was still unnerving to step off the plane on Jan. 19 knowing that in a few short hours, they would be pitching the plan to Jackson National executives in the finals.

Bonifaz was in class when the email popped into her inbox. "When I saw the missed calls on my phone from Rob, I knew something was up," she says. They were ecstatic to have won first prize — and \$15,000 to share.

Bonifaz and Flores got this incredible opportunity to pitch their plan to a multi-billion-dollar company in part because the university's digital media program has become an international rock star, of sorts. Visit [www.stedwards.edu/makegifts](http://www.stedwards.edu/makegifts) or return the enclosed envelope before June 30 to make a gift to The St. Edward's Fund that will support the university's diverse academic programs.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In the Winter 2012 issue ("From the Archives" on the inside back cover), you asked for old St. Edward's football stories. My father-in-law, **Harold Jansing '30**, played in a game against Trinity University. Harold scored the game's only touchdown and kicked the extra point.

Later in the game, with his back to the goal line, Harold had his punt blocked. He recovered the ball in the end zone, a safety for Trinity, scoring the final two points of the game. Harold scored all nine points, making the final score St. Edward's 7, Trinity 2.

**Ray Bourgeois '57**

Dear Editor,

You asked for thoughts about St. Edward's football during the 1930s. While I was not present then, I recall seeing in the Old Gym or Old Library a trophy showing St. Edward's as the Southwest Conference champion, which would have been when **Jack Chevigny** — one of Knute Rockne's All-Americans at Notre Dame — was the head coach. When St. Edward's stopped fielding a team in 1939, Coach Jack was hired by the University of Texas as its head coach. When the Second World War broke out, Coach Jack joined the Marines and was killed at Iwo Jima.

As a freshman in 1953, I had **Father James Gibbons, CSC**, for religion class. After class one day, he asked me if I was related to the Bresnahan who played quarterback on one of those St. Edward's late-1930s teams. I told him no.

In the course of this exchange, he told me that the football player Bresnahan was a quarterback from Indiana. I believe Father may have even said Greencastle, Ind., where I later learned a Bresnahan family lived but moved to Washington, D.C., after the Civil War. But that's a whole different story, which brings me to ask if you could find any additional information on the St. Edward's football player with the last name of Bresnahan.

**Tom Bresnahan '57**

**Editor's Note:** *The only Bresnahan we have record of during that time was Robert E. Bresnahan, who graduated in 1937. Unfortunately, there weren't any yearbooks published from 1931–1941, so information from this time period is sparse, at best.*

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

## Keeping the Interfaith



### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INTERFAITH CHALLENGE

Look at any major newspaper, and chances are pretty good you'll find an article about religious divisiveness, especially as the 2012 elections pick up. St. Edward's — and 249 other campuses across the country — are trying to change the conversation by fostering a movement of interfaith cooperation as part of President Barack Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge.

Students have attended various presentations, programs and service projects to better understand people with different backgrounds. While the theme, "Displacement, Migration, and Refugees," holds relevancy for people all over the world, St. Edward's students found a group of people needing assistance right in their own backyard: The community of Bastrop was seriously



damaged by wildfires last fall. By participating in three events in Fall 2011, students provided hands-on assistance and raised money and supplies to help the displaced community.

Throughout the year, faith groups on campus have shared traditions and engaged students and faculty in conversations, which were then continued in residence hall discussions called BUTTER: Being Understanding and Tactful Toward Everyone's Religion.

Events in the spring wrapped up with a screening of *Beyond Beliefs*, a documentary that follows four Australians as they consider how Muslims and non-Muslims live in Australia. Although the challenge ends at the close of the school year, similar events will continue in years to come, and leaders hope to establish collaborations like a student interfaith council and perhaps an interfaith living learning community.

*Learn more about how St. Edward's is participating in the Interfaith Challenge at [seuinterfaithchallenge.tumblr.com](http://seuinterfaithchallenge.tumblr.com).*

# To Travel Freely

By Lisa Thiogs

**Associate Professor Kerstin Somerholter escaped from East Germany in 1986. This summer, she takes students to her native Berlin.**



**In July 1990, Kerstin Somerholter (above) returned to East Germany for the first time to visit her family after escaping on Oct. 9, 1986. At the time, the wall was open so she was no longer at risk for being arrested, but unification hadn't yet occurred. Just a few months later, Somerholter returned to West Berlin. The wall was still everywhere, but it wasn't unusual to see people chipping it away.**

At the age of 21, Associate Professor of European Languages **Kerstin Somerholter** was just like any other college student in East Berlin. She studied diligently and seemed to follow the party line. But she was also secretly planning her escape from East Germany.

Somerholter grew up in Brandenburg, Germany, right outside the divided city of Berlin. At Humboldt University, she spent four years studying English and French, when she was hand-picked to work as an interpreter in Paris. "It was like winning the jackpot," she says. "I had the opportunity to get officially out of East Germany with a passport and visa to work in Paris. The wall was still up in 1986, and I thought this was my opportunity of a lifetime. It was my ticket out of East Germany."

While in Paris, Somerholter was under surveillance, but she nonetheless decided to make the daring escape. She was so filled with nerves during her getaway that she told the cab driver to take her to the German embassy. It wasn't until she was halfway through Paris that she realized she needed to clarify it had to be the West German embassy. After being questioned by the West German secret

service, she was given a temporary passport and later West German citizenship.

She was elated to have her freedom, but it meant not being able to return to East Germany to see her family — even for her mother's funeral, which happened only months before the wall fell — for fear of being arrested. In the months after her escape, Somerholter occasionally called home using a neighbor's phone and wrote letters to her family. She had not told her parents that she would seize the opportunity to escape, knowing that the East German secret service would interrogate her parents. "The secret service questioned my parents for six months, but they didn't know what I had planned, so they didn't have to lie," she notes.

She eventually left West Germany for the United States, where she experienced another moment of elation: watching the Berlin Wall come down as communism fell and Germany was reunited. Somerholter has since been back to Germany every year, including four times as the leader of a student study abroad program.

This summer, however, will be the first time she takes students to Berlin. For four weeks, students will explore Berlin's history from the beginning of the German national state in 1871 to present by taking walking tours and visiting historical sites and cultural venues. For one week, they'll visit the more quaint town of Koblenz, a five-hour train ride from Berlin. There, the students will continue exploring history and take a day trip to Bonn, the capital of the former West Germany.

Somerholter has a great love of travel — and an even greater appreciation of being able to do it freely. "There's no place that isn't interesting to me, and I've never had a student say they regret that they went abroad," she says. "Usually it starts a path of lifelong travelling and a desire to learn languages and understand another country's culture."





TOMAS SEGURA '14

# Shedding Light

***Don Quixote: Theatre of the Blind* opens the eyes of the sighted.**

By Robyn Ross

The audience at **Samantha Cook's** spring production of *Don Quixote* was blindfolded. Seated in the middle of a darkened room, theatergoers listened as actors spoke while moving among them and crew members created sound effects. There was no set, no costumes and, when the audience removed their blindfolds at the end of the show, no way to identify which actor played which character.

The production, Cook's Brown Scholarship project, was designed to give sighted theatergoers the chance to experience a play without seeing it. Audiences in Theater of the Blind productions must listen attentively and use their imaginations to construct the story.



Samantha Cook '12 (above right) leads a blindfolded audience member to her seat. During performances of Cook's *Don Quixote* production, audience members are blindfolded.

Cook first encountered the show during the 2009 International Festival Experience Study Tour, an immersion in the summer festivals of Edinburgh, Scotland. Led by Assistant Professor of Theater **Sheila Gordon**, the program includes instruction in event management by **Joe Goldblatt '75** and immersion in the arts festivals.

"I left thinking it was the most vivid and amazing play I'd ever seen, and I hadn't actually seen anything," Cook recalls. "Because *Don Quixote* is already a blend between imagination and reality, it worked perfectly to have the set and the characters all in your mind." The show's creator later agreed to Cook's request to produce the play in Austin.

Cook, who graduated this May, wanted to raise awareness about blindness among the sighted in a respectful way. Staff from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired trained Cook's crew in the correct way to sight-guide the blindfolded audience into the performance space. The cast also did a test performance for TSBVI theater students and solicited their feedback.

Cook's degree is in Arts and Event Management, a self-designed curriculum that includes courses in theater management, digital media, global studies and communication. The production in Scotland sparked her interest in disability studies, which she plans to pursue after graduation.

*Samantha Cook was recently selected as the university's first finalist for the prestigious Marshall Scholarship, which funds graduate school in the United Kingdom. Cook will work as an intern at the U.S. Embassy in London this summer.*



# What I've Learned

As told to Gregory J. Scott

He's a theologian, an actor, a priest, a teacher and — cover your ears, Texan fans — a St. Louis Cardinals enthusiast. Father Louis Brusatti, who this spring leaves his post as dean of the School of Humanities after 10 years, shares a few pearls of wisdom.

► **I've taught** Intro to Catholicism. I've taught World Religions.

I've taught Homiletics, which is the art of public preaching. Right now, I'm teaching a class on Vatican II. I've always thought of myself as a utility infielder theologian.

► **Huston Smith has a quote:** "To know one religion is to know none." I think that's true. Buddhism has always had a certain appeal, largely because you can mold it to fit many traditions. While Islam is a fascinating tradition, I don't think I would make a good Muslim because I enjoy a glass of wine.

► **My loyalty is still with** the St. Louis Cardinals. I keep a Rally Squirrel jersey hanging in the dean's office and the 2006 and 2012 official game balls on my desk.

► **I was in a couple of plays in high school.** I was in *Inherit the Wind* in college. I did *The Kentucky Cycle* and *Macbeth* here at St. Edward's. I think it's always related to the priest thing. You know, every Sunday, I put on vestments and lead a community of people in prayer.

► **What am I going to miss most** about being dean? Being in charge. Having control over stuff. I'm actually just moving upstairs. The view is the same. So if push comes to shove, I can look out the window at that same tree and just imagine that I'm still in charge — at least of the tree residents.

► **I've got a really good homily** I've used a couple of times on pro-life issues. It has a tendency to make some people mad. Someone once asked me, not long after the Oklahoma City bombing, to come in and talk about the death penalty. This guy came up to me afterward, and he was just furious. That's when you know you're doing something right.

► **I do a great Father Guido Sarducci impression.** Faculty members enjoy this after a couple glasses of wine. I also do a great impression of Joel Olstein, that televangelist who's always smiling. I really want to work on a routine of having Guido interview Joel. That might be the first project I take on after I get out of the dean's job.

*After he relinquishes his post as dean, Brusatti will return to the Religious and Theological Studies faculty in the fall. He is also working to develop a center for religion and culture at St. Edward's that will look at how religion is imbedded in culture and how culture impacts religious expression.*



# Christmas in Sudan

As told to Gregory J. Scott

Kyle Overby '09 celebrates the most western holiday in one of the world's least western locales.



Kyle Overby '09 (in center of top photo) had lots to celebrate while in Sudan in December. He and Awad Abdelgadir delivered used laptops, like the one being used below, to six rural Sudanese schools. Thanks to Overby's idea, these are the first public schools in all of Sudan to have their own computers.



Kyle Overby became interested in Sudan because he was inspired by one of his instructors at St. Edward's. Maybe your professors didn't make you want to go to Sudan, but we're willing to bet that there's a St. Edward's faculty member who touched your life. Visit [www.stedwards.edu/makegifts](http://www.stedwards.edu/makegifts) or return the enclosed envelope before June 30 and honor all the amazing faculty on the hilltop with a gift to The St. Edward's Fund.

How did I end up in Africa?

There were a bunch of Bahraini students at St. Edward's when I was a student. They've been going here for generations. That got me interested in the Middle East, which in turn got me interested in Arabic. So I started taking Arabic classes, and I'm glad I did because that's how I met **Awad Abdelgadir**, the university's instructor of Arabic studies.

He's just the most amazing man. Very inspiring. After I graduated, I kept up a relationship with him and actually ended up working for him. He runs a hibiscus tea company in Austin. I sold the tea at the local farmers market. Over the years, I figured out that he uses his money from the tea business to support the Mother Maryam Foundation, which does humanitarian work in his home village in Sudan.

I came up with the idea of collecting used laptops, but it was inspired from watching Awad. I work as a Spanish teacher now, so I wanted to think of a way that I could help the schools. Since meeting Awad, I've always wanted to travel to Sudan. But I wanted to go with a purpose. I didn't just want to show up. So after months of collecting computers, I packed my suitcase and left on Dec. 19, 2011.

The opening ceremonies for the computer labs in two of the schools — the first in Kulumiseed, Awad's village, and the second in Jirada, a neighboring village where Awad attended school almost 50 years ago — were on Christmas Day. It was a beautiful, beautiful ceremony. They had groups of girls sing songs. A boy read a speech in English. The opening ceremony was probably my favorite part of the whole trip. I've never felt so honored in my whole life. The schoolchildren were so happy and excited that I felt like Santa Claus. Throughout the day, strangers kept walking up to me to shake my hand. Smiling, they would say "Shukran, Misterrrrr Kyle!"

But dinner that night was the most unexpected part. All I knew was that we were going to see some friends of Awad's at the home of a guy named Isa Kuri. He's a Korean anthropologist who runs a hostel. It turns out Isa is Christian, so they were all celebrating Christmas. I walked upstairs and saw a little Christmas tree all decorated and lit up. They had carols playing on the iPod. You know, all day I hadn't had a Christmas. And I come here, and I hear "Jingle Bells."

Will I be back? Oh yeah. We're already collecting computers. As soon as I have enough laptops to fill up my suitcase, I'm gone.

# Answering the Call

In honor of the Year of the Brother, we talked with Brother Larry Atkinson, CSC, about finding his calling.

Interviewed by Gregory J. Scott

On Oct. 17, 2010, the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated the canonization of Brother André Bessette, CSC, by Pope Benedict XVI — the congregation's first-ever saint. In honor of Bessette's achievement, the congregation kicked off the "Year of the Brother" last October. It would be 12 months dedicated to honoring the vocation and ministry of service lived out on a daily basis. We sat down with **Brother Larry Atkinson, CSC**, assistant director of Campus Ministry, to find out why he answered his call.

**As a young brother, you took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Most college students couldn't imagine doing that.**

**What's the draw?**

You get to work with so many different types of people. I've worked in elementary schools, high schools and colleges. I spent four years in Rome. The Holy Cross community just provides so many opportunities. So that's one. The other thing is the community life. If you're in any need — sickness, a family illness — there's tremendous support here. People are willing to get involved and respect one another. The community really becomes a new family.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

I was actually studying to be a teacher. I was thinking of doing special education because I have a sister with special needs. I really enjoyed seeing the people [who] worked with her. It just seemed like a natural thing to do. It was about helping people. That's what helped me find Holy Cross; it's a teaching order.

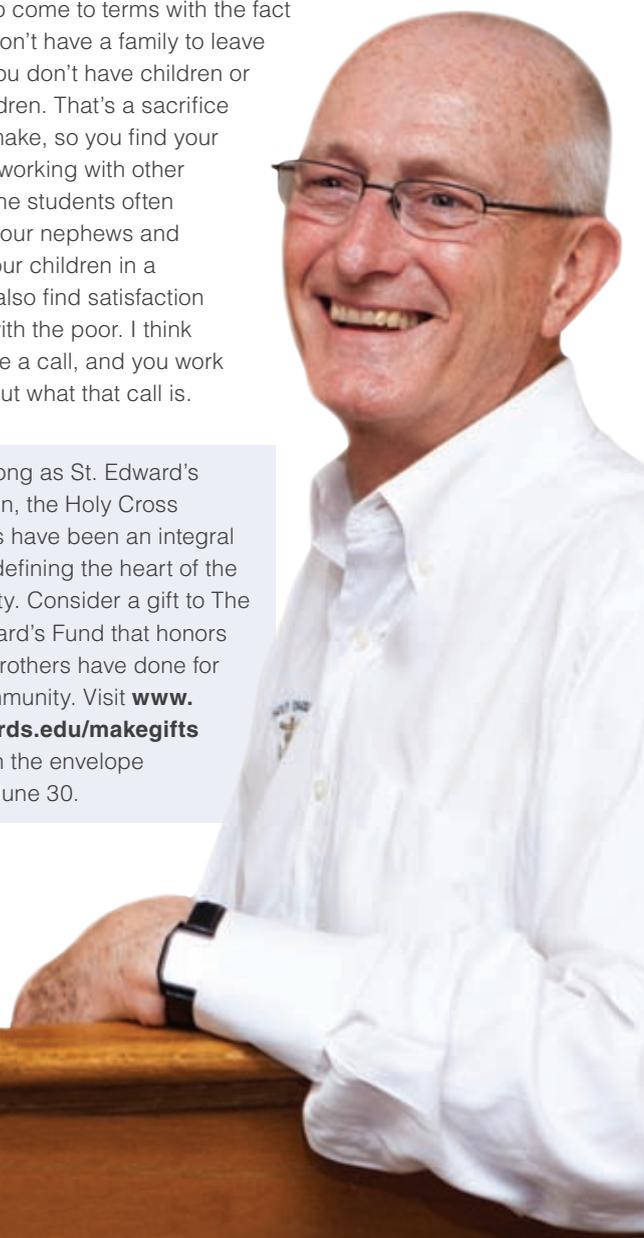
**Tell me about "the call." Was it a flash of epiphany or more of a slow evolution?**

Definitely a slow evolution. I think the priests and the sisters I knew from Catholic school influenced me over time. They were just great role models, always encouraging young people. I didn't realize it at the time, but I think they were making impressions on me with their senses of commitment. But I was planning to train as a teacher. And then suddenly I realized that maybe the religious life might be a good fit for me. I had thought about the priesthood, as some Catholic boys do. But I didn't feel called to the ordained life. So I started investigating religious communities, and I found Holy Cross. I took my first vows when I was 19. You take annual vows for six years, and then ultimately you take your final vows, which is when you realize, "I'm doing this forever."

**What's the hardest part about being a brother?**

It's hard to come to terms with the fact that you don't have a family to leave behind. You don't have children or grandchildren. That's a sacrifice that you make, so you find your legacy in working with other people. The students often become your nephews and nieces, your children in a way. You also find satisfaction working with the poor. I think we all have a call, and you work to figure out what that call is.

For as long as St. Edward's has been, the Holy Cross Brothers have been an integral part of defining the heart of the university. Consider a gift to The St. Edward's Fund that honors all the brothers have done for our community. Visit [www.stedwards.edu/makegifts](http://www.stedwards.edu/makegifts) or return the envelope before June 30.



# The Power of Math

**They graduated nearly 50 years apart, but Zach Carpenter '12 and Bob Wilems '63 see eye to eye on how science and math can change the world for the good.**

**Zach Carpenter '12** is trying to make life a little easier for attorneys. The Math Education major has spent the past year working on a procedure that could be used to divide assets in divorces or deaths. When two people part ways, for instance, Carpenter envisions a formula that would allocate the car, house and other material goods in such a way that neither person is envious of what the other receives.

"Each person would place the same quantitative value on the items that they received, so it would be envy-free and equitable," he says. And if the divorce or estate is hotly contested, Carpenter has a solution: The formula would render it impossible for the parties to deceive each other.

The fair division procedure Carpenter is using is technical — it relies on mathematical formulas, graphical representations and statistics to divide assets — but it's also highly practical, which is exactly why Carpenter loves math. "When math is applied, you start to see how useful it is, and that's really exciting," he says.

Carpenter is quick to rattle off countless examples of how math can be applied — selecting teams for the Bowl Championship Series in college football, determining the best place for a fence in your yard, even attempting to get politicians to agree on the federal budget. He sees math everywhere and wants to share it with everyone, which is perfect for an aspiring math teacher.

**Bob Wilems '63** thinks students like Carpenter are critical to the next generation of St. Edward's University alumni — people who will go out and change the world. Wilems and his wife, Nela, recently made the largest bequest from an alumnus in the university's history in support of the natural sciences. Wilems completed a prestigious summer fellowship in computer science after his junior year and, after graduation, went on to earn a PhD in Physics. They understand just how critical it is to find students like Carpenter to major in mathematics or science.

And although they've never met, Bob and Carpenter agree that math and science are necessary for everyone, not just those majoring in the sciences. While Carpenter plans to spend his career making math exciting for middle- and high-school students, Bob and Nela are helping ensure that all St. Edward's University students graduate with an understanding of science and math.

The new John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South will not only provide additional opportunities for graduate-level research like Carpenter's, but it will also provide new ways for non-science majors to engage with the field.

"St. Edward's has an opportunity with this new building to educate students from all disciplines in the sciences and to develop alumni who have a better understanding of what it takes to succeed in an increasingly technological environment," Bob says. "We believe educating people in science and math can help improve our world."

Construction on the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South began this spring, but there's still work to be done. To help inspire students like Carpenter who want to make a difference with math or science, consider a gift to support scholarships for students in the School of Natural Sciences. Visit [www.stedwards.edu/giving](http://www.stedwards.edu/giving) to find out more.



Many of Zach Carpenter's (left) great ideas come during conversations with his mentor, Jason Callahan (right), assistant professor of Mathematics. Whether these conversations take place in the hallway or in Callahan's office, Carpenter says the resulting ideas fuel him for months at a time — or until another idea is discovered.



# Disallowed GROUND

BELIEVERS HAVE LONG SOUGHT HOLY PLACES, FROM MECCA TO JERUSALEM, FROM ROME TO MEXICO CITY, TRAVELING EN MASSE TO A SHRINE OR ON A LONE QUEST FOR ENLIGHTENMENT. THEY ARE ALL, IN SOME WAY, SEEKING A CONNECTION WITH THE DIVINE. THE PERSONAL STORIES SHARED HERE MAY CHALLENGE THE NOTION OF SACRED SPACES — THEY SPEAK TO THE UNIQUE PLACES WHERE PEOPLE ENCOUNTER GOD.

BY EILEEN FLYNN | PHOTOS BY ABI JUSTICE '04

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*Ali Khorasani '12 enters the low-ceilinged room where his grandfather's body is stretched out on a table awaiting the Islamic preparation for burial. It's a special room in the mosque where his family occasionally prays. The building itself, though, is unremarkable. Except for the Arabic flag and the "Hijab required" sign, it isn't recognizable as a mosque, and it never felt especially sacred to Khorasani. But as he dons scrubs and gloves and begins washing the body, a wave of peace sweeps over him. Surrounded by fellow believers and the symbols and rituals that bind them together as Shia Muslims, Khorasani senses God's presence. The funeral experience transforms the mosque for Khorasani. And the mosque — much to his surprise — transforms him.*

When we think of sacred spaces, we often picture inspiring architecture or natural beauty. Encounters with the divine evoke images of millions of Muslims circling the Kaaba or a bearded spiritual seeker trekking through the Himalayas.

But for Khorasani, **Jenny Eakin '13** and **Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC**, the most powerful spiritual moments happen in unexpected places. Years of spiritual direction have taught Giallanza that "God is not locked in a church" and that the divine can be felt most strongly in human interaction. Here are their stories.

When Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC, thinks of holy places, his mind returns to the beach house in Waveland, Miss., where his family used to vacation. It's gone now — obliterated by Hurricane Katrina — but throughout his youth, it was a sanctuary of sorts. No phone, no television, no work obligations for his father. Just the endless water that stretched out to the sky and a tranquil quiet that couldn't be found in their New Orleans neighborhood.

Giallanza, the interim executive director of the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's, recalls standing on the water's edge and watching a massive storm roll in, blackening the horizon. He remembers walking along the beach, breathing in the sea air and contemplating a religious vocation.

"It was a very incarnational experience of God being present in my surroundings," says Giallanza, a tall, trim man with a faint Crescent City accent.

There are other places — the cathedrals and little tucked-away churches in Rome, where he lived for years — that have stirred his soul. And experiences with the majesty of nature have made him feel God's presence, too.

But the most profound encounters with the divine, he says, occur in a more abstract space: his conversations with people. As a longtime spiritual director — a vocation he describes as "walking along with people and reminding them God is still here" — Giallanza has counseled many believers through dark nights of the soul.

He's heard the questions time and again: Why did God allow this to happen? Why doesn't God love me?

In these sessions, he says, "It's just striking to me how evident God is. Sometimes God seems more evident [to me] when it's not evident to them."

Giallanza, who co-founded the Institute for Spiritual Direction for the Catholic Diocese of Austin in 2002 and has written several books about spirituality, sees humanity and divinity as so tightly interwoven that they are sometimes indistinguishable.

"To me, that's where you look for God — in people," he says. "God is not locked in a church. Yes, God is present there. Those are strong symbols of how we express our faith. But I think it's just as powerful when you look at a human life."

That personal interaction, Giallanza says, becomes a sort of sanctuary. "Hearing the story is another kind of cathedral," he says. "It's another kind of sacred space."

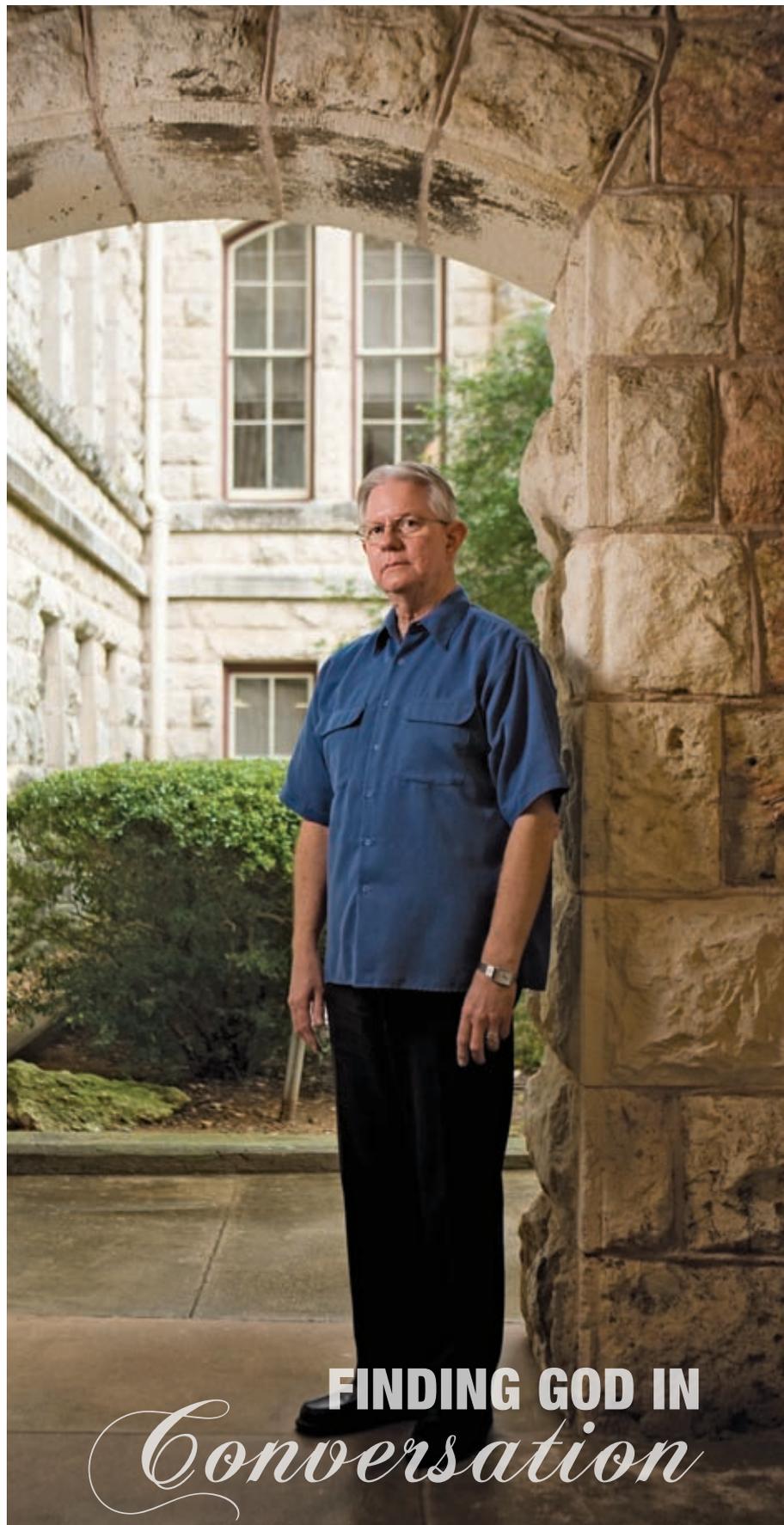
Some people tell him devastating stories of loss and heartbreak. Others simply feel disconnected from the divine. How can their boring lives be holy, they wonder. Giallanza loves reminding believers how God is present in even ordinary tasks.

He remembers counseling a struggling young mother to look for the "holiness of the dirty diaper." Even mundane tasks, he told her, offer an opportunity to find God.

He faces a different challenge from people who aren't easy to sympathize with. "Deep down, I might say, 'I don't like you,'" he says. "But faith tells you to find God [in that person]."

Giallanza frequently reminds himself of one of his core beliefs: Humans are made in the image of God.

"The deeper I look into human nature, I'm not going to come up with evil," he says. "I'm going to come up with majesty. It just gets covered up by barnacles."



**FINDING GOD IN**

*Conversation*



FINDING GOD THROUGH

*Community*

Growing up in the Dallas suburb of Garland, Ali Khorasani rarely prayed in a mosque. The nearest worship center for Shia Muslims, the Momin Center, was 25 miles away, so his family would usually observe major religious events at home. Every year, during the Islamic month of Muharram, the house Khorasani shared with his parents, grandparents and older brother became a place of worship for local Shia families who gathered to pray and watch sermons on DVD.

Only occasionally did they visit the mosque, a nondescript, low-slung building in Irving, on the far side of Dallas. His father was a founding member of the center, but Khorasani did not assign any deep spiritual importance to the place.

Khorasani's religious identity is complex. The Biochemistry major considers himself "open to all religions." His mother is Christian, and he's always held a deep interest in Buddhism. The prospect of enrolling at a Catholic college didn't faze him. He first fell in love with St. Edward's when he visited with a family friend in eighth grade, and he embraced the school's religious diversity. As an interfaith peer minister, he's comfortable attending Mass, counseling non-Catholic students and organizing religious dialogue events.

Then last summer his grandfather died. Khorasani found himself at the mosque, tasked with preparing the body for burial. He assisted his cousin, his brother and a mosque official in washing the body three times, then wrapping it in a white cloth in accordance with Islamic tradition.

As the men carried the body into the prayer hall, a community of believers swarmed around them. Khorasani felt himself jostled into the crowd as others took their turn in handling the body. He watched, amazed at the beauty of the place — with its gleaming mosaic mirrors and ornate shrine to the martyrs of Karbala — and of the people, many of whom he'd known since he was a child.

At one point, someone called out "Ali!" and several men turned to answer.

"That never happens," Khorasani says with a laugh.

It was a strange feeling. Growing up among evangelical Christians, Khorasani was more accustomed to his role as a minority and a magnet for proselytizing. As a teen, he became active in Muslim organizations, serving as president of the Garland Association of Muslim Values, organizing Eid parties and making a film about Muslim stereotypes. But even then, he says, he labeled himself a Shia Muslim "only by tradition."

"It wasn't until that point," he says, "that I identified myself distinctly as a Shia Muslim."

Forty days later, Khorasani returned for the ritual of Chehlum, when Muslims recite the Quran in honor of the dead. He read a section that addressed the importance of community. He looked around at the men seated on the green carpet and all the symbols of his Persian and Iraqi religious roots, and he felt a powerful connection.

The Momin Center had become a holy place for him. And the reason was clear: "The sense of community is where I get my connectedness to God."



## FINDING GOD IN

# Solitude

Jenny Eakin's sacred place is conveniently portable. It's her journal, a yellow marbled black and white composition notebook that most students have carried in their backpacks at one time or another.

For Eakin, an Elementary Education major from Kingwood, writing is a form of prayer. And while her journal goes with her everywhere, there is one place that makes her feel especially connected to God: her bedroom in her off-campus apartment.

Every night before going to sleep, Eakin climbs into her "super comfy" bed, sits cross-legged, leans into her pillows and puts pen to paper. On bad days, she vents, her words just a jumble of frustration. On good days, she details her gratitude in clear thoughts. In solitude, with the soft glow of a bedside lamp, Eakin finds she's able to draw closer to the divine.

This semester, that room feels even more sacred as Eakin has been longing to return to the normal life of a college student following an ordeal that forced her to leave campus for the last two weeks of the fall semester and tested her both physically and spiritually.

After returning from a trip to Europe last fall, Eakin went to the Health and Counseling Center complaining of swollen ankles. After several tests, she learned she had Cushing's disease, a rare hormonal disorder in which a tumor on the pituitary gland causes the overproduction of cortisol in the body. Symptoms include insomnia, high blood pressure and weight gain.

Eakin took a leave of absence from school and underwent brain surgery to remove the tumor in late November. In the weeks that followed, as the cortisol levels in her body plummeted, she experienced grueling withdrawal: joint aches, fatigue and nausea. Some days left her barely functioning.

Even more disheartening, Eakin says, was being kept in suspense about the surgery's success: It could be months, even years, before she'll know if she's cured.

"I have found times where I've been extremely frustrated because it can't be explained why it's happening," she says. "And I've wanted something to blame, but there's nothing to blame. It's something that's been put in my life. And it's something I have to accept."

As a Catholic, Eakin turns to her faith for perseverance. She understands the purpose of suffering, even doubt, in one's spiritual journey. And she's learning the importance of patience as she tries to follow God's plan for her.

"The whole time last semester," she says, "I would joke, 'I never prayed for patience so I don't know why I'm getting so many lessons in it.'"

But exercising patience doesn't mean standing still. Eakin returned to St. Edward's in January, wrapping up outstanding assignments and tackling new classes. In March, she served as a student leader for Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans, where students worked on housing projects. (She helped out at a food kitchen and an inner-city elementary school in Chicago last year for Alternative Spring Break.)

She wants to keep moving forward, which is why those quiet moments in her room are so important. That is the space in which God speaks to her and where she draws the strength to follow God's plan. Even if it means facing down Cushing's disease and brain surgery and a detour from her original plans to graduate in four years and start

a post-graduate teaching program after earning her undergraduate degree.

"I've definitely seen during the past semester that everything is up to God," she says, "so it's a lot easier if you become more open to God's will."

Eakin's faith is strong. And she's working on the patience.



## OUR SACRED SPACE

For many students, finding God at St. Edward's begins by spending time in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. Small and unassuming, it's been the university's spiritual home for the 65 years it's stood on the hilltop. Now it will undergo a significant renovation that will expand seating by almost 100.

It's a welcome change for **Father Rick Wilkinson, CSC**, director of Campus Ministry, who says that it's often standing room only at Sunday Mass. The renovation will include an all-faiths meditation garden and new Campus Ministry offices. Wilkinson looks forward to accommodating a larger community and offering more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "It will be inviting to the community and serve as a dignified space for the celebration of the Eucharist," he says.

Simplicity will be a priority in the renovation design so that the sacredness of the space is honored, says Wilkinson. "These renovations are a statement that St. Edward's is a Catholic university and our worship space expresses that," he notes.





# ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

**DUSTIN COOPER BALTIS IS A FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT IN MONGOLIA. WITH ITS TENT COMMUNITIES, SHAMANIC RITUALS AND MASKED RESIDENTS, IT SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE ANOTHER WORLD. IT'S ALSO HOME.**

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05 | Photos by Gan-Ulzii Gonchig

*Dustin Cooper Baltis '10 pauses at his front door, a mass of Soviet steel that someone has painted blue. Over his face he straps a blue pollution mask that looks designed more for a fighter pilot than an English teacher. He's wearing three pairs of pants, two jackets, wool socks, knee-high boots, a scarf— and a red rabbit-fur hat.*

*He's about to step out into the coldest capital city in the world, where winter lasts more than half the year and temperatures plummet to -40°F. And between the ubiquitous smokestacks and dust from the nearby Gobi Desert, the air is 14 times dirtier than the World Health Organization would like. One in 10 deaths in Ulaanbaatar is attributed to the pollution. Ironically, more people have Facebook accounts than pollution masks.*

*It's Monday in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.*

Baltis is on his way to work at Mongolia's National University, the country's first university, established in Mongolia more than 70 years ago. Just last year, he was working the night shift at Austin's Bennu Coffee and finishing his BA in History at St. Edward's. Now he's the university's 13th Fulbright scholar.

He arrived in Mongolia last August to begin his yearlong teaching assistantship and quickly acclimated, despite the strangeness of it all. Compared to the four months he spent studying Buddhism in Nepal — with running water on alternate days and electricity in scant six-hour stretches — Ulaanbaatar's mirrored skyscrapers, Walmart-esque mega stores and high-speed Internet feel almost like home.

"Honestly, Mongolia is nearly as 'modernized' as Texas," he says. "I expected life to be as hard as it was in Nepal when I got here. But I arrived, and everyone was on an iPhone."

That he has settled in so easily doesn't surprise the university's director of Fellowships, **Caroline Morris**. "Dustin doesn't really experience culture shock like most students do. He's now spent significant time in India and Mongolia, and he seems to be one of those rare people who truly don't experience [their] home culture as the center," she says. "He sees each place as different and equally important. That requires a tremendously strong sense of self."

*Baltis plows through the dusty, dreary cityscape, barely able to see more than 10 feet in front of him. A 20-something guy battling the chill with a bottle of homemade vodka stares at him as he crunches through an icy alley. He's used to the staring. He doesn't like it, but he's used to it. The cashier at Minii Market, the gap-toothed girl with pigtails on the No. 34 bus, his neighbors, his doctors — everyone looks at him and wonders why he is here, in their country, so obviously foreign. He knows some Mongolians see him as a threat to their own and to their resources; others have simply never seen someone with fair skin. He looks down, walks fast (he once was assaulted for being a foreigner) and tries to remember what it's like to go unnoticed. The more invisible he is, the better.*

*As the alley empties out near the Korean barbecue place that sells decent brisket, he grabs his red suede messenger bag and heads toward the university. He thinks of Otgo, the chubby, gregarious mother and professor who is his Fulbright supervisor. She offered him room in her parents' house when his dorm flooded three months into his assignment. She helps him cut through the endless red tape, from lines at the hospital to problems at the visa office. And often, they share borscht and beer over lunch, talking about stipends, scholarships and the best Mongolian chocolate. They've decided it's Golden Gobi from the south. Or at least he has; she only eats Russian chocolate.*



It took three recommendations, two essays, one interview and 13 months before Baltis tore into his Fulbright acceptance packet.

The process is daunting, no matter how qualified you are, says Morris, but Baltis forged ahead fearlessly. “Dustin can break down a skill or a subject and absorb it systematically. He understands how long it might take to learn to speak a language fluently or write a novel, but he is not intimidated by the scale of the task,” she says. “He figures out a creative plan of attack and begins.”

When he decided to learn Tibetan, he swapped language lessons with a monk in Austin. When he wanted to explore Buddhism, he spent a semester in Nepal and a month teaching Tibetan exiles in India. And when Baltis couldn’t use words to make friends there, the guitar/drums/piano/sitar player organized jam sessions instead.

“There is the old adage ‘Sometimes things are better left unsaid,’” says one of his instructors from St. Edward’s, **Josh Bertetta**, who teaches religious studies. “In the space where language barriers prevented communication, Dustin brought people together through music. In that space, where things were left unsaid, the music communicated thoughts, feelings, ideas that perhaps language could not express in the first place.”



## MONGOLI-WHAT?

If you’re wondering exactly where Mongolia is and what its claim to fame is, you’re not alone. The country isn’t exactly making U.S. news headlines on a daily basis. Here’s a CliffsNotes overview of this faraway land.

### Where the heck is Mongolia?

It’s in northern Asia — sandwiched between Russia to its north and China to its south. Genghis Khan hailed from Mongolia. The country declared independence from China during the collapse of the Qing Dynasty and became a democratic country in 1990.

### And what languages are spoken?

Most Mongolians speak Mongol, but a minority (less than 10 percent) also speak Turkic and Russian.

### So is it a big country?

It’s the 135th most populated country with more than three million people calling it home. It’s twice the size of Texas.

### What’s the Mongolian economy like?

There used to be a lot of herding and agriculture, but that’s changing: The country’s extensive mineral deposits are drawing foreign investors, and there’s a mining boom of sorts going on right now. Its GDP is estimated to grow 20 percent this year, matching the growth in 2011.

### What should I know about Mongolia?

Ulaanbaatar, the capital (and largest) city in Mongolia, has a very good chance of becoming the Dubai of central Asia, says **Dustin Cooper Baltis ’10**, who’s currently living there. “You should also know that the discovery of America hinged on the fact that the Mongol Empire lost control of what is commonly known as the Silk Road, which connected Asia to Europe in the 15th century,” he notes. “This forced European explorers to look for alternative routes to Asia. Columbus sailed west and landed in the Caribbean. The rest is history.”





*At 9:13 a.m. Baltis approaches the fuchsia building where he teaches English three days a week. Hazy blocks of dense smoke make it look like dusk, though most people are still clutching their morning coffee. The pollution is worse in winter, when the Mongolians who live in round canvas-and-timber huts called ger burn coal to stave off the constant cold. It clears up around February, only to return when cold nights descend upon the city.*

*Baltis remembers when he spent a weekend in a family's ger on the city's edge. Saturday night, the neighbors invited him to watch an old shaman pass traditions to a younger one in a sacred ceremony. He sat next to an old woman, and she shared her basket of chocolate gummy candy with him.*

*The old shaman and the young shaman each beat a drum the size of a hula hoop, bending and stooping and spinning in rhythm. Embroidered animal patterns shimmered between the red and blue strips of the shamans' robes, and hunks of fur bobbed around the headpieces. Baltis couldn't see their faces because they were covered with a long, dark cloth, but he knew the spirits had taken hold when the shamans began talking in voices that weren't their own. The younger shaman fell to the floor of the ger, talking in the voice of a 90-year-old woman.*

*He took pages and pages of notes — he's writing a novel set in Mongolia — as a translator explained what was happening. Just a few feet away, in the canvas tent next door, the family's children watched one of the 100 or so channels the satellite dish broadcasts on their flat-screen TV. Afterward, at dinner, everyone shared part of a sheep sacrificed and prepared for the celebration.*

Baltis has a Tibetan friend who calls him *inje nyompa*. "It means 'divine madman,' which is someone who teaches people by doing things in a very strange fashion," he says. Take last semester, when he introduced his students to *New Yorker* fiction via podcasts, which led to a discussion on the privatization of warfare. This semester, he'll share seven poems — and then reveal them as lyrics from the Beatles.

His students are a motley mix of 16- to 24-year-olds all majoring in English. Some are already fluent; others know just a few words. The common denominator, albeit a challenging one, is conversation about their own country.

Mongolia's exploding economy — it's predicted to grow faster than any other in the next decade — "has created lots of problems and loads of opportunities," Baltis says. "It also has created a culture that is trying to maintain its heritage. The youth are into Korean pop and rap, while the older generations sometimes 'miss' communism, or parts of it at least. Everyone is trying to figure out their cultural identity."

Not least of all is 28-year-old Baltis, who took vows to become a Buddhist from a Tibetan lama in Austin last summer and is planning return trips to Nepal and India. After his Fulbright ends in June 2012, he will stay in Mongolia to start a creative-writing program at the University of the Humanities. He'll also draw a paycheck as a writer and editor for the city's English newspaper, a position he already holds as a volunteer. And he'll finish three more novels, bringing his total to seven completed.

Ultimately, that's what he wants to do: teach, write books and publish them. "Everything I do is to accomplish these goals," he says.

And that's why, even when he's reached his goal of becoming a professor, he'll always be a student at heart, says Bertetta. "Education, in whatever form it may take, is part of life, part of the human process — not just something that leads to getting a job and securing a future," he adds. "Dustin understands this and lives this."

Baltis himself is more humble: "Oh, I hope to just not work in the service industry anymore."

*Baltis heads inside the dilapidated building and unfastens his pollution mask. Drenched with sweat despite the frigid temperatures, he strips off his scarf and two jackets as he climbs the concrete stairs to his classroom.*



*He dodges the missing floorboards and walks to the front of the room, where the chalkboard has fallen off its hinges and leans against the wall. The yellow and lime wallpaper the Soviets selected back in the 1950s peels at the corners. As his students tuck into rows of metal desks, Baltis distributes a poem — lyrics from “Across the Universe” by the Beatles.*

Words are flowing out like  
endless rain into a paper cup.  
They slither wildly as they slip away across the universe.  
Pools of sorrow waves of joy  
are drifting through my opened mind,  
possessing and caressing me.

*He reads it aloud. Then they read it with him. They talk about the new English vocabulary words, the symbolism, the figures of speech. They draw parallels to their own lives. And then he takes out his iPod and plugs it into the classroom’s only speaker. With a spin of the dial, Baltis makes John Lennon’s voice fill the room. The words, these new words, this new song, ricochet off the stained ceiling tiles.*

*They listen. They talk. About the song, about their lives, about the Beatles statue in the center of town, where on one side a Mongolian teenager hunches over his guitar, alone, in his drab communist flat. On the other side, the metallic figures of John, Paul, George and Ringo emerge from brilliant red brick. They listen again. And they talk about pools of sorrow, waves of joy and what it means when words can, finally, flow like endless rain.*

## TOP OF THE CLASS



Since 2004, 13 Fulbrights — a highly selective scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State — have been awarded to St. Edward’s University students to study around the world in places including Costa Rica, Germany, Thailand and Turkey. This number takes St. Edward’s to the top of the list of master’s-granting institutions producing Fulbright students. Last year, St. Edward’s was tied for fourth.

And it just keeps getting better: Of this year’s 21 Fulbright applicants from St. Edward’s, 10 students and recent alumni are finalists. We’ll keep you posted on who’s headed where next year.

To help educate, inspire and shape amazing students like Dustin Cooper Baltis, make a gift to The St. Edward’s Fund by June 30 that will provide scholarships at [www.stedwards.edu/makegifts](http://www.stedwards.edu/makegifts) or return the enclosed envelope.

**YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT  
DUSTIN COOPER BALTIS’  
EXPERIENCES IN MONGOLIA  
AT [WWW.COOPERBALTIS.COM](http://WWW.COOPERBALTIS.COM).**



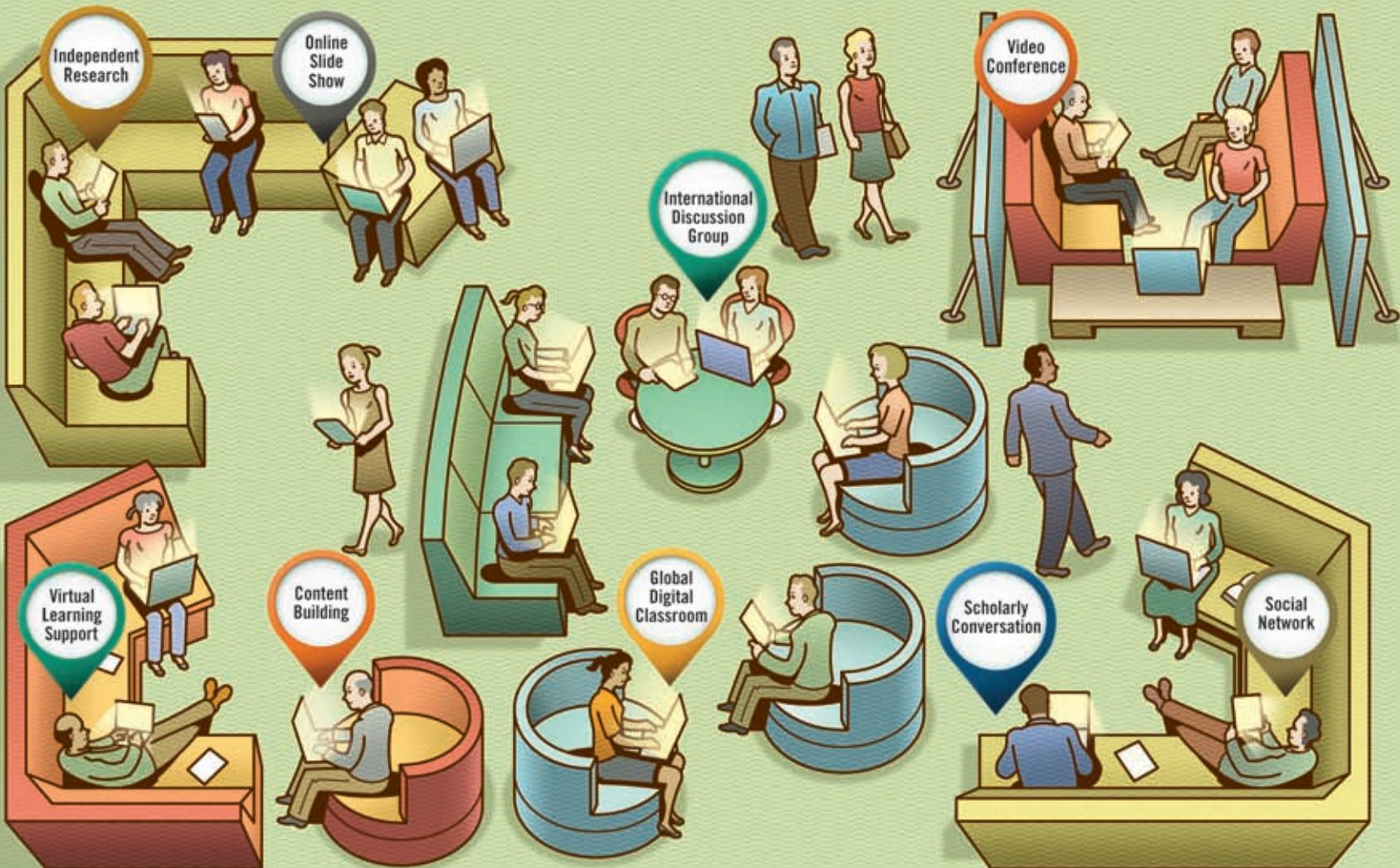
### ANOTHER CUP OF TEA

St. Edward’s University Magazine asked **Marianne Shea ’11** what it’s like to go from being a college student in Austin to an English teacher in Amasya, Turkey. In her own words, she tells us what it’s like to live each day 7,000 miles from all that’s familiar. Go to [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras) to read her story and see the photos.

By Erin Peterson | Illustrations by Peter and Maria Hoey

# The End

Academic libraries are undergoing some major shifts, and the transition is about much more than paper to pixels. The end of the library as we know it is really a beginning of libraries finding new ways to serve students and faculty.



As director of the St. Edward's University library, **Pongracz Sennyey** could easily list the names of many remarkable books in the collection. But he finds two late medieval music books, known as antiphonals, to be the most striking. The large tomes, which have print for an entire choir to read and perform sacred music during Mass, are hundreds of years old. "They are the two most valuable and beautiful items in the collection," he says.

For bibliophiles, these descriptions — valuable, beautiful, sacred — apply not just to single books, but to collections of books and libraries themselves. And though libraries are much more than the books they contain, few think of them without envisioning endless, towering shelves of books. Indeed, one of the central roles of libraries since the printing press was invented in the 15th century has been to house vast collections of books and periodicals.

But technology is upending our understanding of libraries faster than you can say "Google." Recent reports from Amazon.com and *USA Today* suggest that electronic book sales are beginning to outpace their ink-and-paper counterparts. Some worry that this might put an end to libraries. Others see these changes as an opportunity for transformation.

Over the past decade, many academic journals have jettisoned their print versions entirely in favor of less-expensive electronic formats. And although books aren't yet being de-accessioned for e-books, many libraries are taking a serious look at their collections. In fact, St. Edward's will de-accession thousands of obsolete books this year, while significantly increasing the e-book collection.

Between the gradual transition to electronic journals and the removal of obsolete books, academic libraries are re-envisioning how their physical space should be allocated. At St. Edward's University, an extensive library renovation is helping propel this rethinking. The soon-to-be-built Munday Library and Learning Commons will transform the library into a modern facility optimized for the needs of students in the 21st century. It will include improved technology and more thoughtfully planned meeting spaces that will create an environment conducive to both student team exploration and independent research.

But this transformation is about more than construction: As a result of technological advances and new ways of acquiring and distributing information, the appearance of academic libraries around the world is changing.

#### **A HUB FOR LEARNING, SCHOLARSHIP AND ACTION**

When St. Edward's current library was built in 1981, it did an excellent job at one of its primary purposes: storing books. But as resources moved online and students began doing more work in groups, the design wasn't nearly as effective. Over the past 30 years, stacks have been removed to make space for computers and group study spaces. "We had to improvise," says Sennyey. "We massaged it into what it is today. The next space will be much more deliberate and suitable for the tasks students are doing."

Certainly one of the primary functions of any academic library is facilitating traditional research with books, journals and newspapers. While Google has changed the research landscape with such offerings as Google Books and Google Scholar, there are still thousands of

publications locked behind digital pay walls. And that's part of what makes libraries and librarians so critical. Libraries foot the bill for hefty subscription fees, which can easily top \$5,000 for a single publication. And librarians, who have both broad and deep knowledge about the resources available, can guide students and faculty to the most respected and useful sources.

Facilitating this type of traditional (if admittedly digitized) research will remain critically important. Yet there are other far more dramatic changes impacting learning for today's students — and the libraries on which they depend.

Students and faculty have long used libraries as places to learn and gather data, which they then use to produce new knowledge. Libraries in the digitally networked age, however, are making this process more immediate with a palette of tools that support professors and students in their various tasks.

““ The library can become the hub of the global university that St. Edward's aspires to be.””

—*Dave Waldron*

For example, a professor might require students to cull ideas from a speaker they watched online from half a world away via videoconference then apply those ideas at a social-justice organization across town. Or an instructor might require students to work together to create an online slide show that can be optimized for search engines. As a result, they might end up responding to comments not just from their instructors, but from their peers and anyone else who has interest in the topic.

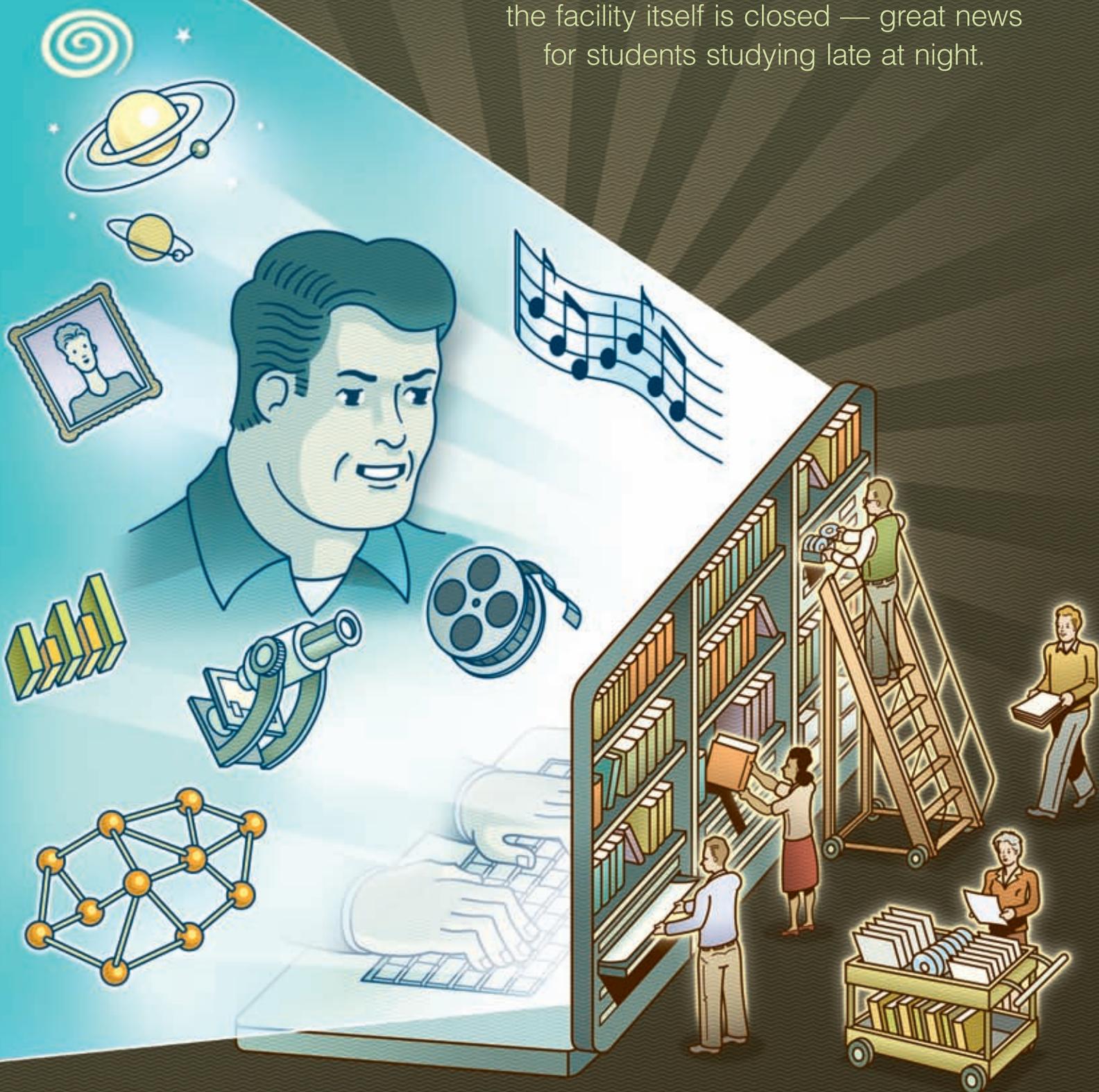
The library is responding to these new ways of teaching and learning by giving students more tools and better spaces to complete this type of challenging work. The new library will include more videoconferencing capabilities so students can interact, in real time, with experts and thought leaders around the world. There will be more group study spaces with all the technology students need to facilitate those collaborations, from plenty of outlets for laptops to networking computers.

Plugging in and linking up might sound like technical jargon, but it gets to the heart of what St. Edward's is about, says **Dave Waldron**, vice president for Information Technology. "These resources — global digital classrooms that enable students to collaborate with people across geographic, political and cultural boundaries — help move students beyond the St. Edward's campus," he notes. "The library can become the hub of the global university that St. Edward's aspires to be."

#### **MOVING BEYOND THE WAREHOUSE**

To make room for these changes, the Scarborough-Phillips Library — like many others — has had to look thoughtfully at its collection of resources to determine which items should be kept and which have outlived their usefulness.

Electronic collections at virtually every library around the country continue to grow, often providing access even when the facility itself is closed — great news for students studying late at night.



It's not an easy transition. Universities have long touted their library's strength by pointing to a singular statistic: number of books in the collection. **Julie Sievers**, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, says that the number misses the point. Books are only useful if they are used. "There are many printed books that are still an essential part of an undergraduate's education," she acknowledges. "But there are also many, many books that are outdated."

Today, only massive academic libraries with significant resources, such as Harvard and the University of Michigan, can acquire and store the enormous stream of new materials. For smaller undergraduate libraries, like St. Edward's, curating a collection is essential, says **Eric Frierson**, the university's head of library systems.

Instead of spending resources on endless acquisition, most academic libraries must focus on having the highest quality, most relevant materials. By requiring that books meet established criteria, librarians ensure the collection changes over time.

With the help of faculty members, Frierson recently weeded out 890 computer-science books, about 80 percent of the school's print computer-science collection. Not only did this ensure that the remaining books were the most trusted sources on the subject, but it also eliminated books that had unhelpful or even inaccurate information. "If you're wandering through the stacks, most people want to find books that are current and usable now rather than having to look through books with outdated information and that don't support the current curriculum," he says.

The idea that a book — any book — might lose value over time is often difficult for avid readers and scholars to swallow. But libraries have always had careful, methodical processes to remove old materials to make room for new ones, says Sennyey. "Scholarly books have a half-life," he says. "The half-life is different for every discipline, but it complicates the idea that books are icons. Because it means that the icon becomes obsolete."

Still, there are real concerns about moving printed matter to other formats. For one thing, the economic model of book production is being upended in this transition, with broad and unpredictable consequences to the entire edifice of scholarly communications, says Sennyey.

But for now, the electronic collections at virtually every library around the country continue to grow, often providing access even when the facility itself is closed — great news for students studying late at night. Sievers says that people's physical health might benefit from the shift to electronic resources as well. "As someone who's hurt my back lugging books back and forth, I love having things online," she jokes.

The transition is not, and will not be, seamless: The variety of e-book formats today can be needlessly complicated and, at times, difficult to access. The economic model continues to be in flux.

But other industries — most notably, music — have been rocked by digital changes and have slowly found balance. Although record labels suffered financially as music migrated online and away from traditional CDs, many musicians benefited as they gained access to fans with new distribution methods. Authors, like musicians, are finding new and creative ways to share their content and reach new audiences, while publishing houses struggle with ways to make money.



Students at St. Edward's have already gained access to a wider, newer and faster collection than ever before because of these digital shifts.

To be sure, the physical book will never go away entirely. Books that offer something beyond the text itself — a first edition of a prize-winning novel, a children's book with pop-up creations, a gorgeous medieval antiphonal — will always be in libraries. But tomorrow's libraries will offer much more.

#### UPDATING A BUILDING, RETAINING A FOCUS

If yesterday's library was a tribute to the physical book, the next iteration of the library is designed to hold and deliver information in all of its forms, whether in a physical book, on a hard drive or in the cloud.

In a way, the upheaval created by the digital revolution forces libraries to focus on their mission of supporting learning, teaching and research. "The technology is changing, the way in which content is accessed is changing, and the look and feel of the buildings will change," says Sennyey. "But the central purpose will be the same."

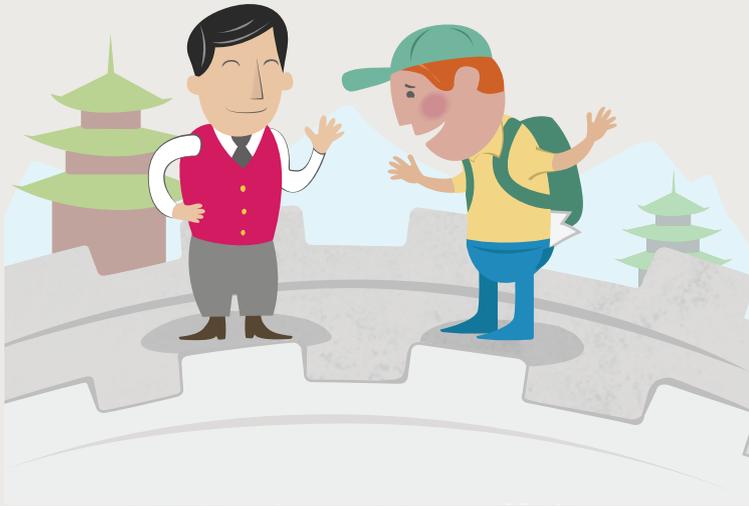


#### FACULTY AND THEIR DOMAINS

There's nothing like an overflowing bookcase or desk cluttered with papers to make you feel like you've arrived in academia. We recently caught a glimpse of some of the most interesting collections on the St. Edward's campus — faculty offices. Join us at [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras), for photos of eight of the most interesting faculty offices on the hilltop.

# There's an Alum for That ...

Ever wondered what you'd do if you needed to find the nearest bathroom — in China? Or how to make sure you'll have enough money for retirement? Fortunately, St. Edward's University has alumni who are experts in just about everything. We picked eight to share their expertise. As told to Hannah M. Hepfer • Illustrated by Steve Lewis



## HOW TO ASK FOR HELP IN CHINA

**Scott Kyrish '06** has been teaching English to middle and high school students in China for the past year and will return to the United States in July. In his time there, he's climbed the Great Wall and bungee jumped from a broken bridge over a reservoir.

China is an exciting and dynamic place. But when you're a stranger in a strange land, just asking for help can be daunting.

### » GET COMFORTABLE ASKING A FEW KEY QUESTIONS.

Practice your Chinese language skills so when you find yourself needing help, you're prepared. To ask, "Excuse me, can you help me?" say, "Boo how E suh, knee ke E bahng zhu woa ma?" To ask if the person speaks English, say, "Du-a boo qi, knee shoah boo shoah ying you ba?"

### » BE GRACIOUS WHEN ASKING FOR HELP FROM A SUPERIOR.

In Chinese culture, it's wise to give a superior an out when asking for help. For example, avoid simply asking, "Can you show me where the bank is?" Instead, say, "Excuse me, I know you're a busy person, but I'm looking for a bank nearby. I'm unfamiliar with the area, and I was wondering if you've seen one recently. I'm in no hurry, so if you need to go, I understand." This approach will generally result in the person laughing and helping you, if you speak Chinese. If not, pointing and creative hand gestures are requisite.

### » IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY, ASK DIRECTLY AND THANK PROFUSELY.

In a country of approximately 1.4 billion people where efficiency is king, the quick approach to asking for help is preferable. If you're not fluent, this can be a challenge when you need the information quickly and can't think of how to say it politely. In these situations, it's usually better to just ask them as directly as you can and then thank them until you're blue in the face!

## HOW TO CREATE WEALTH

**Jim Kee '89** is president of South Texas Money Management in San Antonio and holds a PhD in Economics. He was previously a vice president and economist with H.C. Wainwright & Company, Economics, Inc., a Boston-based investment advisory service, where he advised chief investment officers, portfolio managers and equity analysts.

Creating wealth isn't magic. Most millionaires got that way by following simple and finite rules.

### » START EARLY AND SMALL.

When you're young and barely getting by on an entry-level salary, it's easy to delay saving for retirement. But depositing just \$50 a month into a Roth IRA will reap you sizable returns in the future, thanks to compound interest.

### » PROTECT YOURSELF FROM YOURSELF.

There are good reasons to use credit cards. But if you don't manage them vigilantly, they will enslave you and reduce your net wealth over time. Reserve them for emergencies.

### » FORGET THE JONESES.

High-net-worth individuals typically know how to maintain their cost of living when their income increases — and then save or invest the difference.

The lesson? Spend less than you make, and pay yourself first. Fund your savings with monthly automatic withdrawals so you never touch the money. Ideally, aim to save between 15 and 20 percent of your income (between 5 and 10 percent is a good place to start).

### » REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE IN CHARGE, NOT THE LENDERS.

Never let lenders — be it for your home, car or clothes — tell you how much money you can borrow. If you're approved for a \$300,000 home but you know you can only comfortably afford the mortgage on a \$150,000 home, exercise the discipline and confidence to stick with your budget.



## HOW TO PICK A BOOK WORTH READING

**Zoe Triska '09** majored in English Literature and is the associate books editor with the *Huffington Post*. While she misses Austin and cheap margaritas, she loves Brooklyn and her job that essentially pays her to read all day.

Ever scour a bookstore in search of that elusive perfect book, only to purchase one that misses the mark? Here's how to prevent your half-read book collection from growing.

### » JUDGE BOOKS BY THEIR COVERS.

Forget what you've heard — you can judge a book by its cover. The *Huffington Post* gets about 30 new books a day. The books with well-designed covers are almost always the ones that end up being talked about and praised by critics.

### » SHOP AT INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES.

Most indie bookstores aren't getting paid by book publicists to feature certain books more prominently than others, so books deemed "good" by local readers are placed front and center, making them easier to identify. Most indie bookstores also have a shelf with bookstore employee picks; these are fine books.

### » READ BOOK BLOGS AND WEBSITES.

They're always looking for new books to keep on their radar, and they work with authors to help them write articles about their books that give the reader a feel for the author's writing style and topic. Good blogs include HuffPost Books, Flavorwire's book page, the *Publishers Weekly* PWxyz blog and Book Riot.

### » STICK TO THE CLASSICS.

Still stuck? Read a classic. Even if you don't enjoy the book, classics are great conversation starters. For example: "Have you ever read *Ulysses*? Ugh. I couldn't stand it!"



## HOW TO MEDITATE

**Brother George A. Klawitter, CSC**, is a professor of English at St. Edward's. He received his PhD in Renaissance Poetry from the University of Chicago and enjoys sharing his love of literature with his students. He often begins his classes with meditation.

Our frenetic world shows no signs of slowing down. Carving out even a few minutes a day for reflection can reap restful rewards.

### » FIND A QUIET PLACE.

Go somewhere silent to calm your mind and forget distractions. The morning is usually an effective time to meditate because you've slept away a lot of worries from the day before.

### » FOCUS ON ONE THING.

Concentrate on a favorite painting, picture, poem or hymn — anything that helps you reflect on the mystical. You can also repeat a word such as "life" or "sunset" over and over to move your mind and body into a relaxed, meditative state.

### » REFLECT.

Gently turn your attention to questions such as "Why am I here? What am I hoping to do with my life? How can I help others?" Be still and listen. Stay calm if your mind wanders. This is a natural part of the process. Remain at rest for at least five minutes and gradually work up to 15 minutes of meditation over time.

### » END WITH RESOLVE.

Close your meditation by deciding on an action or perspective you'd like to adapt for the day. For example, if through your meditation you realize you were unpleasant to your co-workers, make a point to reach out to them with a word of kindness.

### » ENJOY THE FRUITS OF MEDITATION.

You'll discover that an interior searching of your soul increases your overall productivity and concentration in daily tasks, such as school and work. Meditation allows you to see the bigger picture, obtain a peaceful perspective, and improve the quality of your life and relationships.



## HOW TO TAKE THE PERFECT PHOTO

**Dylan Vitone '01** is a professional photographer and an associate professor in the School of Design at Carnegie Mellon University. His photographs have been widely exhibited and collected by major museums, including the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Ever wonder why your photos don't measure up with the ones taken by the pros? Follow these tips to capture pictures you'll actually want to keep for a lifetime.

### » BUY A CAMERA YOU'LL ACTUALLY USE.

Select a camera that is simple enough to use regularly and easy to carry so you can capture images spontaneously. This prevents your new — and possibly very expensive — camera from sitting home collecting dust because it was a burden to take with you every day.

### » FORGET THE RULES AND HAVE MORE FUN.

Try to let go of a preconceived aesthetic you think a picture should have. You can get caught up trying to be technically perfect and miss a lot of good moments. For instance, don't be concerned about the time of day when you photograph. Morning light may be visually pleasing, but gritty photos taken at noon in bright sun show the reality of what was going on at that moment and place in time. The authenticity draws in the viewer.

### » THINK NARRATIVE, NOT DOCUMENTATION.

Expand the use of your camera beyond documenting sentimental moments, holidays and vacations. For example, instead of simply taking a photo of your family standing in front of the Grand Canyon, look for the narrative in the setting, which is key to making a photo interesting. Ask yourself, "What's the story in this photograph?" A candid photo of your daughter laughing at something taking place outside the picture while your son looks earnestly at the canyon hints at a greater story.

## HOW TO STAND OUT IN A SEA OF RÉSUMÉS

**Jennifer Hill '98** has been a vice president and corporate recruiter for Bank of America for six years and a professional recruiter for 13 years. She received her degree in Business and Management.

The digital age has changed the way we find employment. While networking is still the gold standard for landing your dream job, these tips can help your application get the attention of those who matter.

### » MANAGE YOUR IMAGE FROM THE OUTSET.

Your online application is the first impression a recruiter has of you. If there are errors in your spelling or grammar or parts of the application are left blank, you could be eliminated before your résumé is even opened. Your time and attention to this first step could make the difference in moving forward in the hiring process, especially in a competitive market.

### » USE A RÉSUMÉ TEMPLATE.

There are several free résumé editors available online. Pick one and stick with it, so your résumé is consistently formatted. Take advantage of bulleting — include detail but avoid being overly wordy in your descriptions of past jobs.

### » TAILOR YOUR RÉSUMÉ TO EACH JOB.

Many people think it's best to have one general résumé that shows a broad array of skills and experience. However, by submitting a "catchall" résumé, you run the risk of leaving out relevant experience you may have that pertains to a specific job. Take the time to tweak your résumé so it honestly conveys that you're an obvious match for the job. Be sure to include keywords and language from the job description.

### » ABOVE ALL ELSE, BE PROFESSIONAL.

Save the goofy email address names for your personal account, and open a new one that includes only your first and last name for your professional correspondences. Strive to put your most polished foot forward in each interaction with your potential future employer.



## HOW TO CHOOSE A GOOD WINE

**Matt Landry '62** is a volunteer with the Grapevine Wine Pourers Society, where he employs his love for Texas wine as a certified bartender at civic events. He is also a part-time engineer at Lockheed Martin. He likes to enjoy a glass of Cosentino Secret Clone Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley with his wife, Sandy.

Don't know the difference between sauvignon blanc and chardonnay? Learning how to pick a good wine doesn't have to be hard.

### » EXPAND YOUR PALATE.

Most people prefer the sweeter white varietals, such as Moselle, when they first start sampling wines. However, by drinking a broad range of wines, your taste preferences will change. Sample semi-dry white wines, such as a New Zealand sauvignon blanc, and work your way into the reds to discover what you like. Your palate will mature if you exercise it systematically. Hint: Bypass the cheap boxed wines altogether.

### » EXPERIMENT WITH FOOD PAIRINGS.

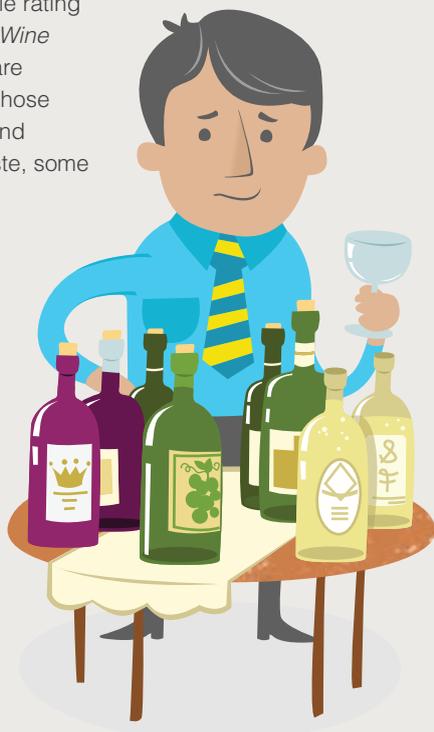
There's no question that red meat complements red wine. However, don't get too caught up in food and wine pairing "rules." They're only guidelines. Experiment with creative pairings to discover sumptuous combinations. Some general guidelines do apply: A dry or semisweet white (sauvignon blanc or Moselle) will go better with a salad, and a dry, full-bodied red (Bordeaux, merlot or cabernet sauvignon) will go better with beef or pork. Late harvest wines and ports go better with dessert. Champagne is always a good choice for appetizers or just good pre-dinner socializing.

### » TAKE NOTE OF WINE RATINGS.

Wine ratings are an excellent way to accurately predict a wine's quality. The two best known and most reliable rating systems are Robert Parker and *Wine Spectator*. Wines rated as 100 are considered practically perfect, those in the 90s are still outstanding and depending on your personal taste, some in the high 80s are very nice.

### » DON'T BE A WINE SNOB.

You can get quite a few wines rated in the 90s for less than \$20 a bottle at Costco and other discount vendors. One excellent example is the Chateau Ste. Michelle Horse Heaven Hills cabernet and merlot. Wait until you've developed your palate before sampling expensive wines. A hefty price tag won't make it taste any better if you haven't learned to appreciate a wine's specific nuances.



## HOW TO PLAN A BLACK-TIE EVENT

**Katy Blankinship '01** is senior manager at Rodeo Austin and has been with the rodeo for 11 years. She plans the Rodeo Austin Gala, the city's largest annual black-tie event, with more than 3,000 people in attendance — and a few celebrities, too.

Steinbeck knew that man's best-laid plans often go astray. However, with a little foresight and moxie, you too can pull off a high-end event that will leave your guests raving.

### » CONSIDER THE FLOW OF THE EVENING.

Coordinating large groups of people so they can all park, find their seats, eat, visit the bar, participate in an auction, enjoy live music and leave the venue within a four-hour span is challenging. Make sure there are enough open areas for people to mingle and avoid cluttering the tables. Place bars against the wall in each corner of the room. Have plenty of staff and signage to direct guests.

### » BUDGET FOR UNEXPECTED EXPENSES.

Catering and entertainment are the big-ticket items, but signage, catering staff, and a professional sound and light crew can add up quickly. Build a slush fund into your budget to accommodate these and other last-minute expenses.

### » STOCK THE BARS AND BUFFETS WELL.

People will notice if you skimp on food and drinks — especially if they paid \$300 a ticket and up to attend. Pass appetizers and drinks the minute doors open. Select menu items based on your guest's preferences, not your personal ones. For example, Texas events should have one beef entrée and at least one other meat, preferably two. Round out the meal with two starches and two vegetable dishes. Use double-sided buffets to minimize the amount of time spent waiting in lines.



### HOW TO DO EVEN MORE STUFF

St. Edward's alumni show us to build the perfect sandwich, throw a wicked curveball, make five healthful snacks for your kids, train for a 5K and identify real vintage clothing from knockoffs. Go to [www.stedwards.edu/webextras](http://www.stedwards.edu/webextras) to check out the videos.

## 2012 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

ON FEB. 10, ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY HONORED THREE ALUMNI WITH AWARDS.  
ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE SAT DOWN WITH THE HONOREES.



### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD: JOHN BAUER '62

*John Bauer lives in Washington state and has traveled the globe, but he still makes frequent stops in Austin to visit his alma mater. A two-time chair of the board of trustees, Bauer has been integral in leading St. Edward's to become one of the country's best small universities. He spent 21 years at Coopers & Lybrand, followed by another 10 years as executive vice president at Nintendo of America, where he oversaw all financial and legal functions. Bauer*

*now stays connected to the computer-science and gaming industries as executive advisor and chief financial officer of DigiPen Institute of Technology in Redmond, Wash.*

#### **Q: Why do you think it's important for the university to ensure its students graduate with a global perspective?**

**A:** I spent 10 years with Nintendo. It's a very international business, and it gives you insight into the importance of dealing with different cultures in any business. Students need to understand those cultures. It's a lot more than language. It's understanding people and how they're different, how they think differently and how they make decisions differently. Every place is interesting; it's a different interest depending on what you're doing there and how you want to absorb yourself.

#### **Q: Why is working at DigiPen an inspiration for you?**

**A:** I love being around students who have such energy and creativity. It's so different from my background, which is finance. The students are so passionate about what they are doing. In fact, they're so engaged that we have to close the labs and throw the kids out of here at night. It's inspiring to see the youth and change and watch these students grow and develop their careers.

#### **Q: How has St. Edward's changed since your first time as chair of the board of trustees?**

**A:** You can see the new buildings, the growth in enrollment, the academic caliber of students that St. Edward's is attracting, and the [improvement in] retention and graduation rates. With our broader global reach, when students come to St. Edward's and are surrounded by [many] nationalities, they are going to learn and grow a lot differently than if there were only kids from Texas. These are all critical for a university. You can see the success we had [as a result of] the last capital campaign, and we have a new campaign right now that will continue to help us improve.



### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: TAJ MCWILLIAMS-FRANKLIN '93

*When Taj McWilliams-Franklin arrived at St. Edwards on a partial basketball scholarship as a single mom with a daughter in tow, she knew she had a tough road ahead of her. She made the most of the opportunity, proving to be both dedicated in the classroom and exceptional on the basketball court. After setting numerous school records, she's excelled as a professional basketball player both here and abroad. In 2011, she helped lead the*

*WNBA's Minnesota Lynx to their first-ever championship. She shared her thoughts on her latest achievement and the impact of her St. Edward's experience.*

#### **Q: Were there any experiences at St. Edward's that continue to influence you today?**

**A:** Coach David McKey took a real chance on me. He didn't know what kind of person I was, he didn't know if I would fit in or be able to manage the rigorous academic curriculum. I'm grateful for that, and I try to be that open — to take chances — on my teammates and other people.

#### **Q: This was the second time you've been on a WNBA championship team. What did it feel like?**

**A:** It was amazing because it had been 20 years since a major sports team had won a championship in Minnesota. Even now, it still feels a little surreal.

#### **Q: You signed with the Lynx for another season. How do you expect your role on the team to change?**

**A:** Last year, I had to be really vocal to help players understand what it takes to get to the next level. But this year, I'll let [Lynx forward] Seimone Augustus take over. I'm excited about sitting back a little more and just being one of the troops.

#### **Q: Minnesota has a great team but be honest — the weather is a little different than Austin. How did you adjust?**

**A:** I remember getting off the plane in Minnesota last May and getting hit with 40-degree weather. I will never forget that. I thought, "What was I thinking? I'm turning around." But now I love it. I find the cold, crisp air pretty refreshing.

*To read more about Taj McWilliams-Franklin and her time at St. Edward's, see the fall 2011 issue of St. Edward's University Magazine at [www.stedwards.edu/newsroom/publications](http://www.stedwards.edu/newsroom/publications).*

## BIRTHS

 To **Arlene Finlay '00** and husband Christopher, daughter Annabelle Marie on July 7, 2011

 To **Michael Marks MSCIS '04** and wife **Rachel '07**, daughter Violet Alexandra on Feb. 6, 2012

## MARRIAGES

 **Christy Mein '99**, of Dallas, to Keith Harris on Aug. 13, 2011

 **Amy McNair '04**, of Austin, to Jed Rogers on July 4, 2011



#### LEGACY AWARD: VIRGINIA AND JACK DAILEY AND FAMILY

In the mid '60s, **Virginia Dailey** was one of three female faculty members at St. Edward's. She's had a hand in the growth of the university's School of Humanities, where she was involved in selecting faculty and redesigning curriculum. After more than four decades of involvement with the university, the campus feels like home to her, and the Holy Cross Brothers, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters and the faculty feel like family. Not to mention, seven of her nine children and one of her grandchildren graduated from St. Edward's. Her connections to the university run deep, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

#### Q: How did you balance raising a family and establishing your career?

**A:** It was very taxing. I'm grateful I was young and highly energetic. My degrees and whatever success I've had in life belong as much to my husband as to me. Jack, who was employed by the University Co-op for 38 years, pitched in and did whatever needed to be done. He encouraged me with my studies when other men would have said to stay home. We've always been a team, and it was his help that enabled me to do all these things.

#### Q: You taught English and linguistics. What were those classes like in the early years?

**A:** It was pure joy to teach the Holy Cross Brothers, and, of course, there were only male students during the regular school year. When I arrived, St. Edward's was still a men's school. The next year, Maryhill — the coordinate women's college — opened. In the summers, we had sisters enrolled who came from South Texas and different places to work on degrees or teaching certificates. We offered ESL courses that drew students from Mexico and Central and South America. Soon afterward, we began to attract international students from many parts of the world. For several years, I taught all the freshman English classes for these students.

#### Q: Do you have any favorite family memories on campus?

**A:** In the late '60s and early '70s, the Scholastic Brothers lived in Vincent Hall, a big old barracks building on the southeast corner of campus. They had fundraiser pizza suppers on weekends from time to time, and going to those — a very special treat — is one of the earliest memories our children have of St. Edward's. One of our other family traditions that began in those early years, around 1970, was that we always went to Midnight Mass at St. Edward's. That was a custom that persisted until the year before last and sometimes involved two or three dozen Daileys.

## IN MEMORIAM

✚ **Carl Young Jr. '44**, of San Antonio, on March 13, 2008

✚ **Benjamin Parma Sr. '50**, of Galveston, on Oct. 26, 2011

✚ **Don Hipple HS '51**, of Cedar Park, on Nov. 14, 2011

✚ **Brother John Dobrogowski, CSC, '54**, of Notre Dame, Ind., on Dec. 18, 2011

## In Memoriam



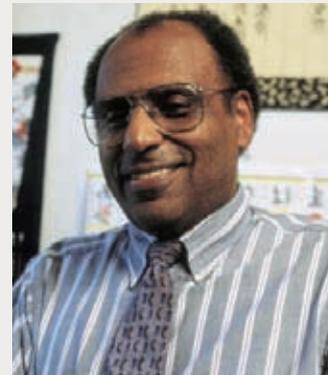
#### MARCIA KINSEY

When faculty approached **Marcia Kinsey**, she'd invariably respond, "Let's think about how we can make this work." Kinsey, who started teaching at St. Edward's in 1975 and was once dean of the School of Humanities, died March 26.

Kinsey was a professor of English and Writing Rhetoric. She created the Visiting Writers and Poets Series and led the

transformation of the former St. Edward's cafeteria into the Fine Arts Center.

But where Kinsey excelled most was teaching. She received the university's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2010. Although she valued all of her students, she cultivated a special bond with the College Assistance Migrant Program students and taught many of them in freshman composition courses. She delighted in hearing of their personal and professional successes when they'd return to campus long after graduating.



#### CECIL LAWSON '76

**Cecil Lawson**, a longtime faculty member in the School of Humanities, died March 15 while working at Asia Pacific University, a St. Edward's partner university, in Beppu, Japan. Lawson retired in 2010.

In addition to teaching in several areas, including championing the Japanese language program, Lawson helped develop the Student

Leadership Team and the Student Leadership Training Program. He was also involved in several student organizations, including the Japanese Culture Club. Colleagues describe him as an outstanding teacher, mentor and ambassador and a seemingly tireless workhorse.

Lawson established the Ayako Isami Lawson Study Abroad Memorial Endowed Scholarship in memory of his wife. The scholarship provides support to St. Edward's students studying abroad in Japan through the Office of International Education.



## EXPERIENCE FRANCE WITH ST. EDWARD'S ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP

**Join St. Edward's on a special voyage — our first trip for alumni and friends to Angers, France!**

Trace the rich history of St. Edward's back to Angers, where the Congregation of Holy Cross was founded. Explore the beautiful countryside that inspired French kings to build elegant châteaux throughout the Loire Valley. Connect with an intimate group of travel companions who share your ties to St. Edward's.

**Space is limited to enhance the experience.**

Reserve your spot by June 1 at [bit.ly/seu\\_francetrip](http://bit.ly/seu_francetrip).

**TRAVEL DATES:  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 29—SUNDAY, OCT. 7**

**1950s**

**Father Walter Foley '51**, of Blue Ridge, Ga., was inducted into the Holy Cross High School Hall of Fame on Nov. 19, 2011, in Flushing, N.Y.

**1960s**

**Brother Harold F. Hathaway, CSC, '67**, of Dartmouth, Mass., will celebrate 50 years in his vocation in 2013. He says that he was attracted to serving as a brother while experiencing them in the classroom. He currently serves as assistant superior and steward of his Holy Cross community.

**1970s**

**John Zick '72**, of York, Pa., was named corporate vice president for talent acquisition and development at Select Medical in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

**Vicki Rice '75**, of Helena, Mt., was recently appointed as a clinical laboratory science practitioner by the Montana governor. Rice is the laboratory manager for the department of veterans affairs at Fort Harrison.

**Gary Gimbel MBA '79**, of Martinsburg, W.V., received the Winners Award at the meeting of the Falling Waters Battlefield Association on Dec. 8, 2011. The award is given to a person or group committed to helping others and who gives time and energy to make the world a better place.

**1980s**

**Mary Curtis '80**, of Austin, was featured in the *Austin American-Statesman* for volunteering to paint watercolor reproductions of homes that were burned in last fall's Bastrop fires.

**Robert Hillard '80**, of Corpus Christi, and **Steve Shadowen '80**, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., opened the law firm of Hilliard & Shadowen, LLC. The firm will concentrate on issues of economic justice as well as civil and human rights. Offices are located in Corpus Christi and Mechanicsburg, Pa.

✚ **James Alhand '56**, of Avon Park, Fla., on Sept. 8, 2011

✚ **Brother Joseph Ballard, CSC, '60**, of Notre Dame, Ind., on Jan. 8, 2012

✚ **Dominic Delconte '63**, of Kensington, Conn., on July 16, 2011

✚ **Al Semptimphelter '68**, of Florence, N.J., on May 3, 2011

✚ **Brother Leo Rossignol, CSC, '58**, of Notre Dame, Ind., on Dec. 5, 2011

✚ **Brother Anthony Papan, CSC, '61**, of Austin, on Nov. 16, 2011

✚ **Ralph Hernandez HS '65**, of Temple, on Nov. 13, 2011

✚ **Martin Klein III '69**, of Gretna, La., on March 17, 2010

## CHAPTER NEWS

**Ruth Guerra '83**, of Gonzales, was featured in the *Gonzales Inquirer* for her work ethic and professional success. Guerra is the principal in several Gonzales business ventures, including The Tax Place, Sleep Inn, Holiday Inn Express and AG Homes. She also develops residential subdivisions.

**Erich Glave '87**, of Rolla, Kan., was promoted to district environmental administrator by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in the Southwest District of Dodge City.

**Salomon Torres '87**, of Harlingen, is running as a Democratic candidate for Congress.

**Ju Hung "Joan" Yeh '87**, of Fremont, Calif., was appointed accounting manager of Jupiter Systems in Hayward, Calif. The company is the industry leader in display wall technology.

**Denver Campbell '88**, of Schwerin, Germany, was featured in *Schweriner Kurier Online* in August 2011. Campbell moved from Texas to live and work in Germany for the investment company Mecklenburg-Vorpommern GmbH.

**Tracy Randazzo '88**, of Buda, joined North Oaks Health System as vice president of business development. Previously, she served as a consulting manager for Thomson Reuters.

### 1990s

**Charles "Tom" Etheredge '91**, of Austin, was recently appointed to the Hill Country Conservancy. The group marshals public and private resources to preserve the rural heritage of the Hill Country.

**Chad Wilbanks '92**, of Austin, is running for Congress as a Republican in the newly created 25th Congressional District.

**Gigi Bryant '93**, of Austin, was honored at CASAblanca, the annual gala for Court Appointed Special Advocates, on Feb. 11. The organization provides advocacy services for thousands of vulnerable children. Bryant serves as chairman of the Texas Department of Family Protective Services Advisory Council.

### PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTIONS

President **George E. Martin** visited the Laredo and Dallas alumni chapters this spring to share updates on Strategic Plan 2015. The Laredo reception was hosted by **Joaquin G. (Kinny) Cigarroa III '74**, and the Dallas reception was hosted by **Joan and Martin Rose**, parents of **Allyson Rose Schaeffer '03, MBA '10** and **Bryan Rose '00**. Both events offered the opportunity for alumni and parents of current and prospective students to meet each other and spend an evening with Martin to hear the latest news about St. Edward's University.

### BATTLE OF THE SAINTS

San Antonio alumni and parents gathered together to cheer on the Hilltopper men's and women's basketball teams as they played archrival St. Mary's University in the second-annual Battle of the Saints on Feb. 4.

### A NIGHT AT THE SPURS GAME

Alumni and parents in the San Antonio and Austin areas gathered for an exclusive event with the San Antonio Spurs on April 22. Attendees enjoyed premier access passes and a courtside experience prior to the game. The Spurs took on the Cleveland Cavaliers.

### THE BIG EVENT

Austin-area alumni joined current students this spring to participate in the annual BIG Event, a community-service project benefiting neighbors and the neighborhoods surrounding the St. Edward's campus.



### NEW YORK CITY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Alumni, parents and current students from across the nation gathered in New York City for the 251st New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Following the parade, alumni, parents and students celebrated at a local restaurant.

### ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK GATHERINGS

New York City alumni gathered with Alternative Spring Break students in March as an opportunity for the students to meet and interact with local alumni.



### FLORIDA ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Florida alumni gathered for a luncheon this spring to create connections and plan for future alumni events in the area. If you winter in Florida and are interested in receiving information on alumni events during the winter and spring months, please contact **Kristina Weaner '07** at [kristinw@stedwards.edu](mailto:kristinw@stedwards.edu) with your information.

 **Joseph Bagan '72**, of Oakland, Calif., on May 23, 2007

 **Naoma Morgan '79**, of Hemphill, on Dec. 4, 2011

 **Terry Hubbard-Pittman '96**, of Pflugerville, on Oct. 31, 2011

 **Carol Sintef '03**, of Georgetown, on Nov. 13, 2011

 **Howard Jones '77**, of Amarillo, on Sept. 30, 2011

 **Maria Gelat '90**, of Dana Point, Calif., on Aug. 30, 2011

 **Betty Crowe '97**, of Amarillo, on Oct. 27, 2011

 **Brian Flores '11**, of Manor, on Jan. 30, 2012

## DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 30

Make a gift and be counted for 2011–2012 alumni giving

AUG. 4

Austin Night at the Ballpark

FEB. 15-17, 2013

Homecoming

Learn more about upcoming events with **Hilltop.Connect**  
[www.stedwards.edu/hilltopconnect](http://www.stedwards.edu/hilltopconnect)



**E-MAIL:** [advancement@stedwards.edu](mailto:advancement@stedwards.edu)

**WEB:** [stedwards.edu/alumni](http://stedwards.edu/alumni)

**FAX:** 512-416-5845

**MAIL:** **St. Edward's University**  
 Campus Mail Box 1028  
 Attn: Data Specialist  
 3001 South Congress Avenue  
 Austin, Texas 78704-6489

**NETWORK:** Search for St. Edward's University Alumni Association



**Clayton Christopher '95**, of Austin, joined the board of Beanitos Inc., whose chips are sold in more than 5,000 outlets nationally.

**Marilyn C. Robertson '95**, of Cedar Park, joined the law firm of Brown McCarroll LLP as an associate on the health-law team.

**Jason Fertitta '96**, of Houston, co-chaired a luncheon for the Houston Museum of Natural Science's Excellence in Science event. The fundraiser doubled proceeds from last year's luncheon.

**Michael Lucas '97**, of Atlanta, was honored with the Stuart Eizenstat Young Lawyer Award by the Atlanta chapter of the Anti-Defamation League. Lucas is the director of housing and consumer programs at the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and litigates in the areas of tenants' rights, unpaid wages and debt defense.

**Suzette Browning '99, MAC '06**, of Manchaca, was named elementary teacher of the month for the Schulenburg School District in January.

### 2000s

**Faisal Habib '00**, of Toronto, Canada, has been promoted to chief operating officer of the QWeMA Group.

**Gailya McElroy MAHS '00**, of Austell, Ga., was recently appointed general counsel of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia. She was also named the 2012 featured attorney by the *Atlanta Tribute – The Magazine*.

**Evan Daniel Streusand '02**, of Austin, is the founder of Inca Boot Company, which was featured in the *Austin American-Statesman*. The company imports boots from Peru.

**Kevin Koronka '01**, of Allen, was named a partner in Brown McCarroll LLP's Dallas office.

**Kerri L. Lierman MBA '02**, of Dublin, Calif., is vice president of operations of EK Health.

**Lizet Hinojosa '04**, of Mission, graduated *cum laude* with her master's in Communication at the University of Texas–Pan American in Edinburg in December 2011. Hinojosa is an auditor with the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission and an adjunct professor for the University of Texas–Pan American.

**Sister Stella Kanyuyuzi '04**, of Fort Portal, Uganda, celebrated her silver jubilee as a Banyatereza Sister on Jan. 6.

**Colin Ellis MSOLE '07**, of Dallas, was named the 2011–2012 chairman of the board for Career Colleges and Schools of Texas.

**Nora Lynn Eddings '08**, of Austin, was featured in the *Austin Chronicle* in an article about SB 81, the law that allows home bakers to sell their goods.

**Valerie Hyland Savage MAC '08**, of Austin, gave a talk about holiday eating and stress at Carver Library on Nov. 29, 2011.

**Shawn Weinstein '08**, of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., plays for the Meralco Bolts in the Philippine Basketball Association. According to recent media reports, he is catching the eyes of endorsement companies and TV networks.

**Emily Nicole DeAyala MAC '09**, of West University Place, joined the Pelvic Health and Physical Therapy Center in Houston to provide sex therapy, a subspecialty of psychotherapy.

**Mary Gonzalez '09**, of Austin, is running for state house representative for District 75 as a Democrat.

### ▲ KEEP IN TOUCH

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

# FROM SMALL-TOWN TEXAS TO THE SMITHSONIAN

By Camille Saad



In Spring 2011, a group of St. Edward's University Photocommunications students ventured 30 miles southeast of Austin to document life in the small town of Lockhart. Their photographs would soon give the renowned "barbeque capital of Texas" another claim to fame — and bring national attention to the St. Edward's University Photocommunications program.

The students' photographs of this quaint and bustling community are now part of a permanent collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History Archives Center in Washington, D.C.

The semester-long project was overseen by Professor **Joseph Vitone**, whose work has also been collected by the Smithsonian. Vitone appreciates the scope of learning inherent in the documentary approach, which goes beyond the technical aspects of photography. "Students must learn to communicate with the people they photograph and engage them in the process of capturing their history," he says.

Vitone submitted the final portfolio of around 280 images to David Haberstich, curator of photography at the Smithsonian, not knowing if it would be accepted.

How unusual is it for the Smithsonian to acquire student work? "Very," says Haberstich. "This is a thorough documentation of a place and its people from multiple viewpoints — a rare addition to our collection."

▲ Nicolas is a regular at Lilly's Bar on Main Street in Lockhart. He claims to be a gangster and to be on the run from the law. Regulars at the bar speak very highly of him.  
*Photo by Aaron Reissig '13*

View the photography acquired by the Smithsonian at:  
**[faculty.stedwards.edu/josephv/lockhart](http://faculty.stedwards.edu/josephv/lockhart)**



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