Why Teach

FACULTY ESSAYS • TEACHING AFTER DARK • TONY FADALE, ’61
The Importance of Teaching
Dr. George E. Martin

The student-faculty relationship is the human element of education. Its particular quality was articulated so well by Sir Eric Ashby, the British educator and scholar, when he wrote: "In most fields of knowledge — even in science and technology — the intuitive value judgement, the leap of imagination, the processing of data by analogy rather than by deduction, are characteristic of the best kind of education. We know of no way to elicit these except through dialogue between the teacher and the pupil. The most precious qualities transmitted from teacher to pupil are not facts and theories, but attitudes of mind and styles of thinking.”

It is the human element that creates the special learning environment one experiences in the classrooms and co-curricular activities at St. Edward’s. It is the basis for the care we show our students, and it continues the Holy Cross tradition started by Father Anthony Basil Moreau when he urged that the mind should not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.

The importance of the student-faculty relationship in the university’s mission is emphasized in our second strategic priority, which aims at recruiting faculty of the highest quality. Such faculty, who dedicate themselves to advancing their disciplines through scholarship and providing students rich learning experiences, will help move the university closer to its goal of becoming one of the best small universities in the country.

To assure that our students will have rich, intellectual classroom experiences, we will create centers of excellence and devote substantially more resources to faculty development. Guidelines for the new centers are being devised, with recommendations from faculty expected by next December. Each center of excellence will be led by a faculty member of national reputation who will conduct cross-disciplinary research and organize annual symposia that address issues important both to the academy and the larger community.

This year, Dr. Jean McKemie, who has been recognized by the National Science Foundation for her research, was named the Brother Lucian Blersch Professor in the Natural Sciences. Next spring, she will lead a symposium on issues related to the interplay of math and science in the creation of new technology. Also slated for next year is a symposium on “Ethics and High Technology” to be coordinated by the Patricia A. Hayes Professor of Applied Ethics, Dr. Phillip Thompson. It will bring together scholars and technology experts to discuss issues that figure prominently in today’s headlines.

Opportunities for professional development and collaborative research, as well as competitive compensation and workloads, are essential to attracting and retaining high-quality faculty. Recently, we have expanded professional development programs and awarded summer research grants to 43 faculty members. Included are presidential grants that allow faculty to pursue full-time scholarship in their disciplines. We also are establishing new benchmarks that will bring faculty salaries and workloads more in line with those of other outstanding small universities.

Teaching excellence will always be vital to the university’s mission. To fulfill our mission, we must strive continually to create and maintain an atmosphere in which inspirational faculty-student relationships are both the hallmarks and the commonplace experiences of a St. Edward’s education.
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Why I Teach

This issue's cover features Terry Newton, professor of history at St. Edward's. Newton joins six other faculty members who penned essays in the feature, "Why I Teach."
FOUR NEW DEANS APPOINTED FOR FALL

Four new deans were appointed this spring to serve in the Graduate School of Management, the School of Business Administration, the School of Humanities and the School of Natural Sciences.

Dr. Andrew Robson, a professor of English and former chair of the English, Humanities and Languages Department at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, is the new dean of the School of Humanities. Robson holds a doctoral degree from the Australian National University, where he studied historical and current issues in the area of education and development on the Pacific Islands. He succeeds Marcia Kinsey, who retired as dean of the School of Humanities and has returned to teaching.

Long-time professor of business administration Dr. Frank Krafka was appointed dean of the School of Business Administration. Krafka, who began his teaching career at St. Edward’s in 1978, holds a doctorate in management from the University of Texas at Austin. Krafka served as the interim dean of the school prior to his permanent appointment.

Dr. Roger Yu, formerly chair of the Department of Physics and the director of undergraduate research program at Central Washington University, was named dean of the St. Edward’s University School of Natural Sciences. At CWU, Yu started the institution’s Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression, an annual event that provides CWU students a forum for presenting the results of their original projects. He holds a doctorate in physics from Montana State University. Yu succeeds Dr. J.D. Lewis, who was named vice president of the Undergraduate College and Dr. William Quinn, who served as interim dean of the school for a year.

Marsha Kelliher, J.D., who has been serving as interim dean of the MBA program for the past two years, was appointed dean of the Graduate School of Management. Kelliher joined St. Edward’s as a faculty member in 1996. She holds a doctorate of jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law and a master of laws from the University of San Diego.

SEU HONORS BISHOP DURING 114TH COMMENCEMENT

St. Edward’s University awarded the Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza, bishop of Galveston-Houston, an honorary doctor of humane letters degree during spring commencement. He was recognized for his dedication and leadership within the Catholic community.

Fiorenza was named bishop of Galveston-Houston by Pope John Paul II in December 1983 and was installed to the position in February 1985. He serves as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is president of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities. He also is a member of the St. Thomas University Board of Trustees in Houston. Through his position as president of the National Conference, Bishop Fiorenza apprises the nation’s leaders of the American bishops’ positions on both domestic and global matters. He encourages the peace process among adversarial entities all over the world.

This year’s commencement was the 114th ceremony in the school’s history. More than 370 degrees were conferred at the May 13 ceremony.

FITNESS CENTER SHAPES UP

“It’s going to be incredible,” said Athletic Director John Knorr of the fitness center currently under construction in the Recreation Convocation Center.

The new facility, covering almost 2,300 square feet of exercise space, will feature new, top-of-the-line free weights, circuit-training machines, treadmills, and stairsteppers. The hardwood floor will be decorated with a large Hilltopper logo in the center, and blue and gold mats will soften the surface under many of the machines.

If the décor is not enough to motivate the St. Edward’s community to exercise, perhaps the new sound system and television monitors will attract students, faculty, staff and alumni to the fitness center. The St. Edward’s University community will be able to enjoy the benefits of convenient morning and evening hours for workouts before class or after dinner. In addition, weight-training instruction will be available from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend hours will be offered as well.

The fitness center, located in the former auxiliary gym of the Recreation and Convocation Center, will open in the fall semester.

On May 13, St. Edward’s University conferred 370 degrees at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.
CAMPUS BEAT

H-E-B INTERNSHIPS THRIVING

The H-E-B Community Internship Program was celebrated in May with a luncheon for five students who interned at non-profit organizations in the Austin area.

Students recognized for their internship work were: Christie Greeley, ‘00, Keep Austin Beautiful; Leslie Crowley, ‘00, For the Love of Christi Foundation; Abby Coffey, ‘01, the Austin Project; and Meg Calvelli, ‘01, United Way/Capital Area.

H-E-B Grocery Company and St. Edward’s University joined forces to launch the H-E-B Community Internship Program last fall. The program, led by H-E-B Manager of Public Affairs Kate Brown and Leslie Crowley, ‘00, celebrated a successful semester of internships co-sponsored by the university and H-E-B.

STEFANIE BOSHER

THESPIANS RECOGNIZED BY AUSTIN CRITICS

St. Edward’s University was well represented at this year’s Austin Critics’ Table Awards, which honored students, faculty, staff and alumni for their work on stage.

Award winners included Associate Professor Dr. Melba Martinez, who was named best supporting actress for her role in Teatro Huminadad’s production of “Under a Western Sky,” performed at the State Theatre.

Cory Cruser, ‘00, was awarded the Deacon Crain Award for Outstanding Theatre, an annual award presented to an outstanding actor who is a college student. This is the third consecutive year that SEU theater students have won the award.

Numerous others from St. Edward’s were honored with nominations, including: Tara Battani, ‘00, (actress in a musical for “Camelot”); José Marenco, ‘01, (supporting actor in comedy for “Picasso at the Lapin Agile”) and guest artist Margery Segal (best movement/choreography for “Love’s Fire”).

Nominations for faculty/staff in outside productions included: Martinez (supporting actress in a drama for “Under a Western Sky”) and Theater Business Manager Annie Suite (actress in a comedy for “Millennium Bug”). Instructor Ev Lunning, equity guest, and alumnus Ben Wolfe, ‘99, were cast in the State Theatre production of “The Taming of the Shrew,” which received nominations for best comedy, best director, best actor, best actress, and best supporting actor.

Alumnus Mical Trejo, ‘97, received an award for his role in “Time Bandidos.”

Students also were recognized for their work outside of the Mary Moody Northen Theatre. Jenny Larson, ‘01, Cruser, Jerel Perez, ‘02, and Batani all were cast in the Frontera@Hyde Park Theatre production of “Polaroid Stories,” which was nominated for best director, best costume design and best set design.

SEU student Sacha Bodner ‘00, Cruser, alumni Kevin Archambault, ‘99, and Shirley Reynolds, ‘99, were cast in “Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” which received nominations for direction, choreography, musical direction, best actress and best supporting actor. Bodner, Cruser, Archambault and Reynolds earned roles in “Fiddler on the Roof,” which received nominations for best musical, direction, musical direction, best actor, best actress, best supporting actress, set design and lighting design.

Cory Cruser, ‘00, received the Deacon Crain Award, presented annually to an outstanding college actor by Austin critics.

Pictured left to right: Catherine MacDermott, professor of business communication and director of experiential education, Taryn Parazo, ‘00, Abby Coffey, ‘01, Meg Calvelli, ‘00, Christie Greeley, ‘00, H-E-B Manager of Public Affairs Kate Brown and Leslie Crowley, ‘00, celebrated a successful semester of internships co-sponsored by the university and H-E-B.
McKEMIE NAMED ‘LUCIAN PROFESSOR’

Dr. Jean McKemie, professor of mathematics, was named the Brother Lucian Blersch Professor in Natural Sciences by St. Edward’s University this spring.

McKemie, a mathematician who specializes in complex analysis, particularly in geometric function theory, will begin the professorship in August of this year. The Lucian Professorship provides leadership in the advancement of scholarly pursuits for faculty across the university, but especially in the School of Natural Sciences.

Dr. J. D. Lewis, vice president of the undergraduate college and former dean of natural sciences at St. Edward’s, said, “Jean is not only a brilliant researcher in the field of complex mathematics, she is an exceptional teacher of undergraduates. Her work to encourage and provide undergraduates with significant research opportunities has been of extreme value to the school, and especially to the students as they move on to graduate school and professional positions.”

Since 1988, McKemie has served St. Edward’s University as an assistant, associate and full professor of mathematics. She holds a doctorate in mathematics and a master of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her bachelor of science degree in mathematics and physics from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. In the 1995-1996 academic year, she was an invited visitor at the University of Michigan and the University of Helsinki. Her funded grant proposals, research interests and publications are focused in the field of geometric function theory, as well as the incorporation of technology into mathematics instruction at the undergraduate level.

McKemie counts among her goals increasing opportunities for faculty and student research at the undergraduate level as well as heightening awareness of previous research conducted at St. Edward’s. “Students in mathematics and chemistry already do research,” she said. “I have always been interested in being in an environment that allows faculty and students to share the excitement of scholarly pursuits,” said McKemie. “All of our students do research, not just the ones at the very top of their class, which is typical at larger institutions. It’s nice to be in a program where the students get this experience, and I believe it enriches the academic atmosphere.”

The Brother Lucian Blersch Endowment provides support for the Lucian Professor’s research and scholarly activities, instrumentation in the School of Natural Sciences, and support for a scholarly symposium — the first scheduled for the spring of 2001.

STUDENTS RECEIVE TOP AWARD

University officials presented the prestigious Presidential Awards to 12 seniors during an honors ceremony in May.

At the beginning of the spring semester, the Office of Student Life received nominations from St. Edward’s University students, faculty and staff for the Presidential Award, which has been given selectivity to students since the spring of 1986. More than 30 nominees were asked to complete essays, provide information on activities and honors, and submit letters of recommendation. A nine-member committee comprised of students, faculty and staff narrowed down the list of nominees and selected 12 outstanding graduating students who equally demonstrated qualities of leadership, scholarship and service. Students who graduated between December 1999 and May 2000 were eligible.

FAMILY MEDIATION

COURSE OFFERED

Alumni and non-degree-seeking students who have completed the basic certificate in conflict resolution through the St. Edward’s Master of Arts in Human Services program can take advantage of a new course leading to a certificate in family mediation.

This course is designed to enhance the background, training, skills and knowledge of students who have an interest in serving as family mediators. The course will prepare students to meet requirements specified by the state of Texas to practice court-ordered family mediation. Course work will include family law, family dynamics, child development, family violence, practice considerations and conflict resolution theory. Skill areas include communication, relationship building, information gathering and problem solving.

Students who have completed either the 40-hour mediation training certificate from the Dispute Resolution Center in Austin or the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs may also take advantage of this course.

For more information, contact the Center for Academic Progress at 512-448-8607.

SPORTS SHORTS

St. Edward’s University athletes ended the year with a number of records to their credit, including 157 wins, 112 losses, and two ties — arguably one of the strongest finishes in the history of the department.

In the first year of full NCAA Division II championships, both the men’s soccer and men’s tennis teams progressed to national tournament play. The baseball and softball teams both posted winning records, which included impressive wins over Division I and ranked Division II opponents. Women’s tennis finished third in the inaugural Heartland Conference tournament and posted the most wins ever in a season with 12 victories.

Men’s tennis finished second in the Heartland Conference Tournament. The team was awarded a spot in the NCAA Regional Tournament in Fort Worth, which they won by posting victories over Northwest Missouri State and Cameron. Those wins qualified the men’s tennis team for a slot in the NCAA Division II National Tournament at Pensacola, Fla., where they lost a close first-round match to fifth-ranked Armstrong Atlantic.

Equally impressive were the spring grade reports for all programs. The weighted grade point average for all programs for the spring semester was an impressive 3.08, with 18 student-athletes earning perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Two St. Edward’s University basketball guards, Ryan Flores, ’02, of McAllen, and Benjamin Lyman, ’01, of Kyle, Texas, were named 2000 Arthur Ashe Sports Scholars Awardees by Black Issues in Higher Education.

Named after the famous tennis professional, Arthur Ashe, the award recognizes both athletic and scholastic achievement among university and college athletes. Ashe, the first African American ever selected for the U.S. Davis Cup team (1963), was an advocate for the teaming of athletic prowess and academic accomplishments.

Beginning with the fall 2000 schedules, the Heartland Conference will sponsor championships in all 10 sports, up from the three sponsored during the first year of the conference.

Painters Joe Bettis and Juan Herrara hung suspended in a basket as they scraped, caulked and painted the steeple of Main Building in April. The painting was part of a restoration project funded by an Historic Landmark Commission Grant administered by the Austin Convention and Visitors’ Bureau.
LEADERSHIP, THE LIBERAL ARTS FOCUS OF NEW PROGRAMS

Students seeking graduate degrees have two new educational options to choose from at St. Edward’s University. This spring, St. Edward’s will offer a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Ethics and a Master of Liberal Arts.

Classes for the MLA program will begin this fall. A creative cross-disciplinary degree, the 33-hour MLA program encourages students to develop a broad-based knowledge of critical issues in contemporary culture, both to enhance their understanding of individual identity in relation to society and to heighten their participation and leadership in civic life. Emphases are both on personal intellectual exploration from a liberal arts perspective and on knowledge and skills necessary to be agents of informed change in society.

As the newest addition to the Graduate School of Management’s offerings, the MSOLE is designed as an alternative to the technical business education of the school’s Masters in Business Administration. Developed in response to the needs of Central Texas’ business and nonprofit communities, the program will allow individuals to refine their abilities as ethical leaders. The 36-hour program will include courses such as “Leading Organizational Change,” “Global Leadership Perspectives,” and “Organizational Ethics.” The program will begin in January 2001.

Both programs are expected to appeal to a broad range of individuals in the central Texas area.

For more information on these and other graduate programs, contact the St. Edward’s Center for Academic Progress at 512-448-8600.
WEB SITE
GETS ‘NEW LOOK’

Have you noticed? The St. Edward’s University web site has a new look! If you have not visited the site lately, type www.stedwards.edu into your Internet browser and take a look.

Last summer, a Web Redesign Committee was formed for the purpose of improving the site’s design and making modifications to meet the needs of both our external and internal constituents. The committee, led by representatives from Instructional Technology and the Marketing Unit of University Relations, made every effort to restructure the university’s web site for ease in navigation and in finding information.

While the initial launch of the redesigned site occurred in July, constituents will continue to see phased implementation of the new design and special features over the next several months. Here are links you should visit from St. Edward’s University’s new home page:

About St. Edward’s
www.stedwards.edu/about.htm

Academic Programs
www.stedwards.edu/academics.htm

Alumni
www.stedwards.edu/alumni/index.htm

Athletics
www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm

Careers
www.stedwards.edu/univrel/career/

Calendars
www.stedwards.edu/univrel/calendar/

News & Events
www.stedwards.edu/univrel/news.html

Publications
www.stedwards.edu/univrel/publicat.htm

You can send comments about a given page via email by clicking on the contact name listed at the bottom of that page. Let us know what you think!

For more information regarding the sports schedules, contact Kevin Jannusch, sports information director, at 512-464-8810.
As I walk towards Sorin Hall, the familiar crunching of pink gravel under my shoes sounds new, as if I have not heard it nearly every day since my freshman year. I hold in my hand the culmination of my St. Edward’s University education: a single file folder with a few sheets of paper summing up what it is I am supposed to have learned over the past four years. I am here to turn in my advising folder, beginning the process that will bring me to a graduation ceremony in May — my graduation ceremony.

Four years of life squashed between two sides of a manila folder. How this can possibly contain my evolution from that girl who fell instantly in love with the way the clouds sailed past Main Building’s red spires, into a person who has little time, but great appreciation, for clouds? What is inside this folder is every course I ever took during my time at St. Edward’s. It includes the sting of the first “C” I ever received in a class I truly cared about; the frustration of the philosophy class that I am quite sure changed the very topography of my brain; and the satisfaction of leaving my German class each day having learned something new. It even includes proof that I passed algebra and survived relatively unscathed.

I am not sure if it was because he changed his teaching style in any major way, or if the change came from the students’ increased respect for him, but eventually Farrall did reach our class. So much so that I, and many of my other classmates, rearranged our schedules to sign up for his section of “American Dilemmas” the following semester.

This one experience, early on in my college career, symbolizes for me this university’s mission statement of dedication to “excellence in teaching and in learning.”

I smile now as I peer into my folder. In my perusal of these pages I have only reached the third semester, and I have already remembered countless reasons to be so happy with my decision to attend St. Edward’s. This list of courses and grades, as full of memories as they are, only reflect the foundation of who I have become. I feel confident that upon that strong foundation, something great will be built.
Professor.

It’s an odd title, really. Does it really describe what members of the faculty do? A better title might be researcher, coordinator, ethicist, facilitator, leader, sponsor, mentor, advisor, scholar — or better yet — teacher.

Whatever you call them, professors give up countless hours of evening and weekend time preparing for class and grading mountains of papers and projects. They enthusiastically receive countless interruptions by students anxious for advice. And, they listen to any number of exasperating and sometimes creative excuses from students. And, oh, the meetings...

What is their reward? Why do they teach?

St. Edward’s University Magazine posed this question to seven professors from the far reaches of the university. In their stories, you will find they are primarily motivated by intangibles — the interactions with their students, the passion for their subjects, the chance to influence the course of other lives.

(continued on page 10)
Rewarding faculty

But what creates the environment for these motivators? What encourages them and transforms their choice of a profession into a calling? What binds them to this community of learners? As in most professions, there are tangible factors that help recruit and retain the best professionals. None of our faculty essayists mentioned having money or computers as reasons for teaching. These things don’t determine whether they teach, but where they teach is influenced by an institution’s support for faculty. Are they given time to pursue research and scholarly activities? Are there opportunities for professional development? Do they receive competitive compensation? Do they have excellent classroom facilities full of eager students?

These elements are an essential topic of study among administrators and faculty at St. Edward’s. To become one of the best small universities in the nation by the year 2010, faculty development, scholarship and compensation must be enhanced to ensure a new era of teaching excellence in the Holy Cross tradition.

Attracting faculty

Such major ranking systems as U.S. News and World Report evaluate colleges and universities through statistical criteria that are intended to measure the quality of faculty and teaching, including the percent of faculty with terminal degrees and a school’s faculty-to-student ratio. These rankings influence high school guidance counselors, parents and many opinion leaders in higher education. St. Edward’s is striving for a more favorable ranking, but competition to hire and retain the best faculty is intense. To gain a competitive advantage over similarly situated institutions across the country, St. Edward’s needs to offer faculty competitive compensation and increased opportunities for research, scholarly activities and professional development. If that takes place, the ranking will improve naturally.

Time out for scholarship

While St. Edward’s will continue to be a teaching institution, there is a need to allow faculty to advance within their disciplines. In the past, opportunities for scholarly research by faculty has been limited by course load requirements. As St. Edward’s moves forward, professors will be able to seek a reduced course load in order to pursue research and scholarly activities.

The result will be a faculty that is continually enlivened by work outside the classroom and able to share this excitement with students and other members of the faculty. Additionally, faculty compensation and evaluation systems will be revised to recognize the value of varied contributions to the university, including teaching, scholarship and service.

Improving compensation

Just as in any other profession, money matters. In order to keep the excellent faculty of today and attract the most promising faculty of tomorrow, the university must dedicate more resources to faculty salaries. By 2010, faculty salaries at St. Edward’s will more closely reflect the salaries offered at comparable institutions. In addition, salary increases will recognize the value of an individual’s contributions through teaching, scholarship and service. This will allow the university increased leverage when attracting faculty to campus and keeping the faculty that make St. Edward’s what it is today.

Space matters

The university, through a facilities master planning process, is adding a new generation of teaching facilities so that faculty and students will have a sufficient supply of modern, high technology teaching classrooms, offices and laboratories. Construction of the next classroom building could begin as early as this fall.

These planned enhancements are only part of a university-wide set of initiatives that will assist the university in reaching its goals by the year 2010. Watch for future features on such topics as enrollment, facilities and technology in coming issues of St. Edward’s University Magazine.

About the Photographer

Bill Kennedy, associate professor of photocommunications, began his faculty service at St. Edward’s in 1981. He is a past recipient of the NEA Fellowship Grant in Photography and has exhibited widely. His work is included in major collections at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas and the Ansel Adams Trust at the University of Arizona. He specializes in editorial portrait for national magazines including TIME, Newsweek, Information Week and Texas Monthly.
Paula Marks:

Stepping off

Twenty-three years ago, as a St. Edward’s University undergraduate, I sat in Sister Anne Crane’s office on the ground floor of Moody Hall and told her that I wanted to be a professor. Why? In part, it was because of her example, and that of Pete Pesoli, Virginia Dailey, Brother John Perron, Tony Florek, and Joe O’Neal. These were people who inspired me with their love and knowledge of their subjects and with their attention to individual students. Returning to college at 26, I knew that I wanted to participate as much as possible in the world of learning they inhabited and in the energy, passion, and commitment they brought to it.

Three years later, when I began teaching my first college classes, I was less concerned with the students’ needs than with my own; my shaky ego required that I establish myself as an authority figure in full control of the material and the classroom.

Fortunately, this approach to teaching ended quickly. I had a freshman literature class in which the students seemed eager to explore the material, and at one point early in the semester, a student asked in class about the meaning of a particular passage we had read. Because this was such an involved group, and because the authoritarian stance didn’t fit me very well anyway, I stepped off the precipice and said, “I don’t know — what do you think?” In the discussion that ensued, new insights seemed to sparkle all around and through us — the students claimed and explored their own learning in a deeper, richer way than anything I could have prepared for them.

I wish I could say that every class has been that way since, but of course, that is not the case. Despite my efforts — and the students’ — some classes don’t “gel” as a learning community as well as others, and even in the best classes, occasional meetings seem to lurch dully along, bereft of learning that excites and transforms.

But I teach because of the possibility that together we can do better, the students and I. Together we can step off the precipice again and again, coming to know ourselves and our world more fully and letting that knowledge sing through us in creative and life-affirming ways.

Dr. Paula Marks, ’78, associate professor of American Studies in New College, began her faculty service at St. Edward’s in 1988 and teaches a variety of English and history courses. She received her undergraduate degree at St. Edward’s and her doctoral degree in American civilization from the University of Texas. She received a St. Edward’s University Teaching Excellence Award in 1996. Marks has served as interim dean of New College and is currently directing the university’s new Master of Liberal Arts program.
Elizabeth Katz: Reaping Internal Rewards

Why do I teach? When I think about my answer to this question, I am first struck by the enormous complexity of the question. When I think again, I am amazed at how simple my answer really is. More than any other reason, I admit that I teach because it brings so much into my life. I teach because I am selfish.

I teach because it is a calling that I either ignored or sublimated for the first half of my life, until I finally heard and understood the nature of the calling. The calling of teaching is to give back to others what I have learned and experienced, and in so doing, to become a part of something greater than myself. Teaching is what I do and who I am at the same time, and the two cannot be separated.

Because teaching is my true vocation, it allows me to live my life intentionally, openly, and with meaning. In being a catalyst for the growth and development of students, and in seeing the developing potential of each individual student, I find the meaning and the purpose of my life.

Teaching is not just imparting knowledge, skills, techniques, or even expertise to others. As a psychologist and a teacher, the meaning for me is in the larger perspective. The meaning is in the connection with others, the caring about others, and the knowledge that I can make an impact on others’ lives. By teaching, I can make a difference in the world.

As my students graduate and become professional counselors, each one of them goes out into the world to make an impact on others’ lives. Each one of them makes a difference for another individual, a group, and a community. I reap many internal rewards knowing this.

Thus, I teach because I am selfish. Sometimes, it is good to be selfish.

Dr. Elizabeth Katz is an assistant professor of counseling in the Master of Arts and Human Services program. She received her doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin. Katz began her faculty service at St. Edward’s in 1999. She is licensed as a psychologist in Texas, and has worked in a wide variety of mental health settings. She is also the coordinator of the MAHS Counseling Program.
Terry Newton: Telling Stories

Maybe I became a teacher because my mother was a gifted and audacious educator, or maybe because the men in my family all tell outrageous stories, or maybe because there was an old man living on a ranch some 10 miles away who knew Pancho Villa.

My ranch home in the desert meant little television but a lot of stories about men and women surviving in an arid land. I listened curiously to accounts of bandits, hard-scrabble existence, animals of all sorts and the startling nature of change. These stories might tell of how the countryside once had grass up to the belly of a horse, or of how people used to ranch on both sides of the Rio Grande in days before conflict and laws further separated two countries. I was engaged by word pictures showing me an eastern woman studying opera, forced by tuberculosis to get off the train and settle into an austere ranch life. When cars arrived, the 150-mile dirt road to San Antonio still had more than 100 gates my mother remembered opening. People recalled how some ranchers fought against the telephone, an overpass and a consolidated school system that would unite the Mexican and Anglo students. Later, I saw my region in movies like “El Mariachi” and “Like Water for Chocolate,” but my legacy was really my memory constructed by verbal magicians.

In college, volunteer teaching showed me my vocation, and a year in Mexico gave me insight into culture and into myself. A woman in my village showed me a corner of a familiar story; a closet where she hid when the much-married Villa came to town.

After two decades at SEU, I have experienced the joy of seeing students find pride in themselves and their family culture. I have shared in a never-ending soccer game with international students and seen the birth of a very special Mariachi group. I still love to listen, to interact with other learners and to see how many connections we can find between cultures, eras and people.

Dr. Terry Newton is a professor of history. He holds a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. Newton began his faculty service with St. Edward’s in 1979 and performs with the mariachi group Imagen Norteña.
Becoming a Learner

A child’s self esteem and confidence are delicate qualities that are easily shaken. Once broken, rebuilding these characteristics can be a complex and protracted experience. For me, teaching is intricately tied to my deep and personal experience of rebuilding those qualities and learning how to love learning.

When I was in grade school, my attendance and grades suffered because of an extended illness. Because of poor grades, I was excluded from participation in the drama club — my true passion. I thought I was a failure and not as intellectually capable as my peers. Fortunately for me, the drama teacher sensed my shame and embarrassment and wanted to help. She acquired several textbooks that were effective in educating me about the kind of learning skills I lacked. She believed in me and inspired me to accept the fact that learning was simply the process of allowing oneself to become fascinated, curious and committed.

Armed with regained confidence and self esteem, I entered the ninth grade with new ambitions and determination. Band would be my next pursuit. The high school band director gave me a well-used saxophone. I took it home over the summer, determined that I could learn songs, not just notes. I practiced to a Boots Randolph album that my mother bought for me and eventually learned every song on the first side. On the first day of school, the band director listened to me play during the lunch hour. He asked me to play for the rest of the band later that day — a drill I thought was part of the process for joining the band. Little did I know that few, if any, of the other saxophonists could play entire songs. It was a shock to discover I was the most advanced player among them.

In both instances, I learned to make the learning process fun and exciting for myself. I bonded with the drama and band teachers and came to appreciate the power that teachers have to influence and inspire students.

These early experiences fueled my love of learning and ultimately my love of teaching. Those experiences challenge me to discover how particular students learn and to respect their learning style as part of their identity and self-image. I now realize that talented students are really phenomenal learners.

Dr. Melba Martinez serves as the artistic director for the St. Edward’s University Mary Moody Northen Theatre and associate professor of theater. She teaches acting, directing and arts administration. Martinez holds an interdisciplinary doctorate in film and theater from the University of Texas. She recently garnered the Austin Critics’ Table Award for best supporting actress for her performance in “Under a Western Sky.” Currently, Martinez is participating in the Edward James Olmos International Latino Film Festival for her work in the Austin short film, “Loaves and Fishes.”
Brother John Paige, CSC:

A Privileged Interaction

When I was in high school, there were plenty of opportunities for student summer employment in the offices of the state government. Student duties involved sorting mail, answering telephones and taking messages for vacationing staffers. Since the “work” was easy, paid well, and guaranteed air-conditioned comfort, my classmates rushed to fill these positions. I never did so. Instead, I chose to be a camp counselor and swimming instructor for the summer. Perhaps this choice reveals what attracted me to teaching as a profession.

I needed something active and stimulating to do and ambiance and pay scale were low on my list of priorities. I liked people, so working with others hardly seemed like work to me. I wanted to share my talents and interests with others; I felt good when I helped someone to learn a new skill, develop a talent, become excited about learning, develop self-confidence. For me, teaching was and is a call, not a job.

I have had wonderful experiences as a high school teacher of physics, chemistry, religious studies, and all the maths, and, in Africa, as a visiting college professor of sociology and anthropology. Even as a secondary school principal and president, I always taught at least one class, and coaching track and cross-country was an after-school recreation for me rather than a duty.

While teaching such diverse academic subjects has been intellectually stimulating, memories of particular students are the most lasting. I easily recall images: the boy who placed first in a state track meet, the “afraid-of-math” girl who earned an “A” in her feared subject, the at-risk youth now excelling in college, the African student proud of his original research, the parent forever grateful for the good influence you had on her child. These are the rewards of teachers.

Now I teach teachers. In some ways my work is a missionary enterprise, for I prepare people for a profession demanding hard work, long hours, great responsibility, and mediocre financial remuneration. But for those who are called – fulfilled by this privileged interaction with impressionable youth – the reward is priceless. It is a joy to introduce the future teachers with whom I work to that priceless gift.
John Loucks:

Intrinsic Rewards

“Why do I teach?” This is a question that all teachers should ask themselves periodically. Formulating a response is an important exercise in reexamining the motivation, reassessing the benefits, and possibly refocusing the efforts one associates with a teaching career.

I’m occasionally asked what motivates me as a teacher, given the absence of extrinsic rewards like profit sharing, stock options, and bonuses. I’m motivated by the challenge of, and satisfaction I get from, making even the most difficult concept understandable to my students. I’m also motivated by the challenge to stay abreast of ever-changing technology and managerial trends because I believe students should be exposed to the latest developments occurring in the business world.

The benefits I see in teaching are not readily quantifiable, but numerous nonetheless. A college campus is one of the most tranquil, aesthetic environments in which anyone can work. Faculty and students richly diverse in their cultures, interests, and viewpoints populate our campus. I have the opportunity to positively influence my students by sharing my knowledge and experience, and at the same time improve myself in terms of patience, understanding, and open-mindedness.

My teaching style and focus have changed over the course of 20 years. Early in my career I was pleased if I delivered a good lecture; today my satisfaction comes from facilitating a good discussion. I strive for quality rather than quantity in what I cover in a semester. I constantly remind myself that in the long run students will remember only a small portion of the details we study, so packing more into a course is not necessarily beneficial. Instead, I expect my students to demonstrate a genuine understanding of the essence of a concept or methodology that I believe will have some value in their lives and careers.

I see teaching as a unique privilege not to be taken for granted and a profound responsibility not to be taken lightly. It offers me an opportunity to enrich my own life as well as the lives of my students. The intrinsic rewards will last me a lifetime.

Dr. John Loucks began his faculty service at St. Edward’s in 1992. He is an associate professor of management. He holds a doctorate in operations management from Indiana University and is certified as a quality engineer and a production and inventory control manager. Loucks teaches a variety of business classes, including Statistics, Operations Management, Project Management, Total Quality Management and Quantitative Methods.
Mary Kopecki-Fjetland:

Light Bulb Moments

I have chosen a career in teaching for several reasons. The first incentive that comes to mind is the pleasure I gain from interacting with the students in the classroom and at university gatherings. The college years are such a time of tremendous discovery and change. Students are not only learning about their chosen area of study, but more importantly, they are learning about themselves. I enjoy watching students mature both intellectually and personally as they journey from their freshman to their senior years.

I also enjoy “seeing the light bulb go on” inside students’ head when they are introduced to a new concept. It is very gratifying to know that I have been a guide on this informational journey. I believe if I am excited and passionate about a subject, then I can influence my students to become interested as well, which will hopefully motivate them to work the long hours needed to earn a degree.

But if there is one main reason that I have chosen a teaching career, it would be because of the inspiration and encouragement I received from my college instructors. They were one of the driving forces in helping me to realize my potential. Without their influence and encouragement, I would never have even thought I could earn a graduate degree. I think back to how they helped me, and now I simply want to help other students realize their own potential to accomplish their goals. Some of the best students I have had the pleasure of working with were also the students who had just begun to discover and believe in their abilities. I think to myself, if I can simply help one student realize his or her potential, I will have made a difference in a student’s life — the way that my instructors made a difference in mine.

Dr. Mary Kopecki-Fjetland serves as an assistant professor of biochemistry and biology and holds a doctorate in biochemistry from New Mexico State University. She began her faculty service at St. Edward’s in 1997 as a postdoctoral associate. Kopecki-Fjetland teaches general chemistry and molecular biology and received the St. Edward’s University Teaching Excellence Award in May. She and her husband, Conrad, are the proud parents of one son, Joshua, who was born in March.
When the sun slips behind the western hills of Austin, and the nighttime lights of the downtown high tech start-ups and clubs on Sixth Street flicker to life, the St. Edward’s University campus is just catching its second wind. Many of us would probably choose to go home when the working day is done. We want to relax, recover from the stress of work and traffic. Maybe settle in to watch prime time television, work in the garden, finish that novel, or enjoy supper with the family. But there are other driven, hearty souls who are not content to rest. Instead of going home, they go to class. And whether these students come to St. Edward’s to complete their undergraduate degree through New College, or perhaps pursue a graduate program, it takes a certain breed of educators to meet their needs.
They arrive with a large constellation of responsibilities. Family life, professional life, civic activities — all these compete with their educational goals, but it also means they bring a lot to the classroom,” said English professor Dr. Tom Green, who has taught in the New College program for non-traditional students since 1988.

When a 33-year-old, middle manager at a company walks up the steps of Main Building after a long day at the office, she carries more than a laptop and a PowerBar. She brings with her a decade of experience in the business world. She has already poured over budgets, spent long afternoons returning phone calls and emails. And she could practically write a book of her own from what she’s learned through the years from her failures and successes.

Professors at St. Edward’s know this. They honor — and delight in — the work and life experiences of their students.

“We have an interest in knowing our students and their experiences because of the wealth of information they bring to the classroom,” said Dr. Kay Guess, accounting program director for MBA students.

Life stories and insights of both students and the professor mesh together and create a rich synergistic learning and teaching environment. “We find that our instructors do more facilitating than lecturing,” Guess said. “The professor has to bring more than technical knowledge to the classroom because the students expect knowledge to be coupled with experience. They experience and understand that the world operates differently than a generic book example may demonstrate.” Guess brings 20 years of experience as an accountant, entrepreneur and a small business owner — all things that allow her to use real-life examples to relate to the lives of her students.

Green takes a similar approach. He chooses short stories and plays that speak to the lives of his older students — works such as Death of a Salesman, and writings by Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and John Updike. He has always taught with the assumption that the reader brings a lot to the interpretation of the material; and in his evening classes his non-traditional students offer a great deal of critical perspective, he says.

“I often just lay out a nugget to spark discussion and let it go.” Green said. “They discover more for themselves than I could ever just list for them.”

His students’ willingness to share their own experiences deepens and vitalizes his classrooms. “They broaden each other’s views and in the process take ownership of their own learning experience,” he said.

Sometimes this creates passionate disagreements among students, but fostering an atmosphere of openness, where students feel free to interact, ask questions and challenge one another is something both Green and Guess strive to create in their classes.

This honest and stretching environment also allows professors to get to know their students on a more personal level and to have more chances to influence the lives of their students, something both say they cherish.

There is real empathy and kindness in the voices of Green and Guess when they talk about their students. Green often teaches students who are coming back to finish a degree they may have started years ago, and he is aware of the emotions that brings up for some of his students.

“A lot of them have had academic disappointments in the past. And now they are wanting to complete something they’ve either failed at or dropped in the past,” he said.

They may arrive in his classroom anxious, or angry or ashamed that they never completed their college degrees. Some are at a turning point in their lives — perhaps recently divorced, just coming out of a period of depression or a time of making major changes in their lives.

Returning to school can be a time of growth and discovery. And Green takes great pleasure in seeing his students turn their anxiety into creative tension and use that energy to succeed.

“Sometimes people just didn’t have the chance to complete their education when they were younger, but in their gut they wanted to so badly and when they do get the chance, they just blossom,” he said.

They take pride in their students’ accomplishments and keep in touch with many of them after they complete their degrees. Green sometimes has lunch with former students. Guess’ former students sometimes stop by to show off their new babies, or if they’re passing through Austin for business or on vacation they will call her. “They are always welcome at my home,” Guess said. “If they have questions about certain parts of their work, they email me.”

“I like my students. They teach me a lot.”

Associate Professor Fran Ebbers leads an American Literature class of New College students.
Dr. Tony Fadale, ’61, is not your typical educator. He doesn’t teach at a high school or a college. He doesn’t give lectures on calculus, art history or biology. But this former member of the Brothers of Holy Cross has taught more than 18,000 people something equally important: tolerance.

As project manager at the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Fadale leads the Teaching Steps to Tolerance Program — and helps educators handle the challenges of a diverse society and serve as mentors to students amidst the growing tensions between social, cultural and religious groups.

Since joining the program in 1997, Fadale has worked with more than 18,000 public school teachers, librarians and administrators. Through presentations and extensive workshops, he helps educators explore diversity issues such as Internet hate sites, riots, and bigotry and to find ways to teach tolerance in their schools.

Although diversity issues differ across the nation, the effect of the program is the same. “Teachers talk to each other looking for solutions,” he said. “We try to make them the catalysts. So, when they go home, they start something happening in their school.”

Fadale, who earned a doctorate in education from Pepperdine University last year, attributes the effectiveness of his program to the use of technology, including multimedia equipment in the classroom and a follow-up virtual network. His experience with virtual networks as a tool for teachers became the subject of his dissertation after he began work with the museum. “Integrating technology in the classroom always piqued my interest.”

In fact, his affinity for using technology began in 1986 when personal computers were still in their infancy. “Apple was looking for a group of teachers with an interest in technology. They gave us a computer, printer and laser disk player to put in our classrooms, and then we turned around and started to teach other teachers how to use this technology,” he said.

Rising to challenges has been a common theme in Fadale’s life. He has participated in 17 marathons, including the Boston and New York marathons. But he says the bigger challenges in his life have been with moral lessons — questions he says his St. Edward’s education has helped him face.

When Fadale was a student in the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement and beginnings of integration in the schools had a dramatic impact on his ability to look at moral issues. “It was my experience with the life and mission of the Brothers and Holy Cross that you could be of service to your fellow man,” he said. “I remember all the one-on-one help of the Brothers. They were really good people who cared about your success and your life. The moral agency of being part of that community and trying to bring a life of prayer and dedication into the academic arena to prepare yourself as a teacher was quite stirring and challenging.”

After graduating from St. Edward’s, Fadale spent nine years as a Brother at Notre Dame and taught at both St. Francis and Holy Cross High Schools, before moving to a public school in Santa Clarita, Calif., where he raised two children with his wife, Lynn.

Today, Fadale says he continues to grapple with moral dilemmas. He finds his position at the museum an empowering way to combine his experience with teaching, technology, curriculum and staff development as well as the lessons he learned at St. Edward’s.

“I take a constructivist approach. It’s not a passive thing where you tell people what you want them to know. You let them build the knowledge. I act as a facilitator. I think I’ve been able to show people that it’s an effective way to learn, and I’ve been able to influence the program at the museum both in the tours that they offer and the Teaching Steps to Tolerance Program. That probably has been the most satisfying thing to me: Not just having people come in and sit in rows and tell them what to think, but having them think and make decisions about the concepts we bring to them. We can’t give them a cookie-cutter answer. That’s the most satisfying thing I’ve done since coming to the museum.”

Lisa Lynam is an Austin-based freelance writer and adjunct professor in the School of Business at St. Edward’s University.
50s

James G. Bauer, ’52, completed a tour of the Canadian Rockies, Alberta and British Columbia, a fall trip to the Smoky Mountains, Dollywood and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. He still hauls food from the Capital Area Food Bank to St. Louis Catholic Church food pantry to help families in need since he retired from Farmers Insurance Group in 1992. Mitchell A. Tomaszkiewicz, ’56, retired as a general agent from the Allstate Insurance Company after 39 years of service. He and his wife, Pat, have five grandchildren. He said, “I am looking forward to the next class reunion in 2001.”

60s

Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, ’61, has been working as director of drug/chemical dependency rehabilitation centers in Bangladesh for more than 13 years. He was honored for his work at a state banquet where he met President Bill Clinton and the president and prime minister of Bangladesh. The Rotary Club recently honored him with the Gold Medal for Community Service.

Father William Herman, CSC, ’61, was ordained as a priest in Detroit, Mich. Theodore A. Benton, ’65, will retire from teaching English at Winchester High School after 35 years. He continues to do medical hypnosis at Winchester Hospital in Winchester, Mass., as a staff hypnotist. His wife, Joanne, continues to travel to Europe every summer.

Michael L’Annuziata, ’65, published Handbook of Radioactivity Analysis, which will be given to the St. Edward’s library, where it will join his three other books.

Tom Uko, ’66, retired from the U.S. Department of Energy in December 1999 after 33 years of service. He is now employed as an independent management consultant. Tom and his wife, Betty, live in Overland Park, Kan., where they have been married for 34 years and have three grown sons, George and David in Phoenix, Ariz., and Steve in Overland Park. They would love to hear from classmates that didn’t make the last reunion at doetom@swbell.net.

John Wright, ’67, was awarded the distinguished alumnus award for his work at a state banquet celebrating the 30th anniversary of separation from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. John can reach him via email at salto@swbell.net.

70s

Salvador Castaneda, ’70, owns a hotel, Best Western Plaza Matamoros, in Matamoros, Mexico. He said, “If any alumni are traveling to Matamoros, please stop by and say hello.” Former classmates can reach him via email at salcas46@hotmail.com.

Tim Griffith, ’70, retired as director of special education from Kent City Schools in Kent, Ohio, in July 1998. He relocated to Battle Creek, Mich., where his wife, Pat Stemple, is manager of travel and meeting planning for Kellogg Company. Tim is director of special education for the Battle Creek Public Schools. His three sons, Kirk Griffith, ’93, Shaun Griffith, ’96, Kevin Griffith, ’00, and daughter-in-law, Amy Maynard, ’93, are St. Edward’s graduates. Another daughter-in-law, Kippi Griffith, is pursuing her master’s degree at St. Edward’s. He said, “We obviously like the education at St. Edward’s. I look forward to seeing my classmates at the 2001 Reunion.”

Ken Kimball, ’71, is the parish administrator for St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Eureka Springs, Ark. His wife, Meg Hennessy.
Kimball, '72, is a pre-school teacher in Eureka Springs.

Dr. Chris Plauche Johnson, '71, the Children's Association for Maximum Potential, Inc., a United Way agency founded by Chris, celebrated its 20th anniversary and moved to a brand new 20,000-square-foot facility funded by U.S. Congress and private foundations in March 1999. Chris received the Physician of the Year Award from Exceptional Parent Magazine and the Outstanding Professional Education Course from the American Academy of Pediatrics in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 12, 1999.

John H. Coffman III, '72, has left the hotel and food beverage industries after 25 years. Now he is employed in sales with Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages in Dallas. He remains active in theater and music in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolis and performs in one or two productions a year. John has had major roles with the Texas Gilbert & Sullivan Company in Dallas for the past seven years. He said, “My warmest regards to the university, its faculty and all of my long, lost friends from the wonderful time I spent at St. Edward’s. Thanks to St. Edward’s for making a difference in my life.”

Erin Hanna, '72, had a wonderful family vacation, which included 44 family members, in Estes Park, Calif., to celebrate her parents 50th wedding anniversary. October brought the birth of their fourth grandchild, Harley Vaughn, who joins siblings, Bryce, 6, Tessa, 5, and cousin Isaac, 3.

Robert Lucash, '72, is a counselor with Boerne Independent School District.

Lucy Vargas, '73, just attended her nephew’s, Mike Minuth, '00, graduation ceremony from St. Edward’s, which brought back many, many fond memories. She returned to work in 1997 with IBM as a senior consultant in the instructional technology architecture and infrastructure management national practice, IBM Global Services. In April, she celebrated her 21st anniversary with the company and continues to enjoy living in her home in Carrollton.

Robin Linden, '74, lives in Massachusetts with husband, Scott. She is into her 11th year of homeschooling her seven children. She said, “I sure miss Texas! It will always be home.”

Kenneth P. LaRonde, '74, is president of the Friends of the Austin Public Library, a non-profit service organization dedicated to the support of Austin libraries through volunteer time and funds.

Dolores (Lolly) Hatcher, '75, celebrated her 24th year of work for the IRS. She is a training advisor in the international arena. Although she resides in Alexandria, Va., she has worked in Brazil, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Taiwan and the Ukraine.

Kent F. Parks, '75, celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary to his wife, Norma L. Ramirez. They have two daughters, Rebecca, 19, and Linda, 17. Kent has been a senior operations compliance technician with Exxon Company U.S.A. for 20 years. He has been a girls soccer coach for nine years and former little league coach and president of San Isidro Little League. Kent is also board president for St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Edinburg. He said hello to, “Brothers Simon and Andrew, Dr. Hinke, Sister Agnes and Anne Crane.”

Rosalinda Garcia, '78, is co-owner of Castle Rock Mortuary in San Antonio. Although she lives in Corpus Christi, she plans to move to San Antonio to dedicate more time to the business.

Ann E. Wilbanks, '78, was appointed senior vice president of Electronic Closing Services, Inc., a Stewart Mortgage Information company.

Rick Butcher, '79, was promoted from area manager in Austin to manager of the western division of Binswanger Glass.

Sal Margin, '79, resides in Austin and is the clinical director of Austin Outpatient.

Michael Z. Moncada, '79, retired as an officer with the U.S. Navy and has returned to his old career as a sign language interpreter/teacher in Bozeman, Mont. He works for Belgrade High School, Montana State University and Montana Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Services as a free-lance interpreter. He is fulfilling his late hearing-impaired father’s dying wish that he uses his God-given talent to assist those who are hearing impaired.

Will Casey, '80, is playing the cab driver in Chicago’s long-running comedy “Hellcab.” Will is a member of the famous Door Theatre Company, as well as part-time faculty member of the Columbia College Theater Department. He is also an employee and soon-to-be owner of Act One Bookstore in Chicago, as well as a loyal husband and father of two.

Edith M. Robinson, '82, spent a week in Palm Beach, Fla. She went to Key Largo and swam with the dolphins, her daughter and four-year-old grandson, Harry.

Beth Hartman, '83, has been working with Lutheran Social Services since May and loves it. Her two sons, Jordan, 7, and Cameron, 2, are growing like weeds and love
spending time with Mimi and Pa in Austin.

Nora (Lumbrera) McCurley, ’83, is a teacher with Hays Independent School District. She said, “I enjoyed seeing friends at the St. Edward’s CAMP reunion.” For those special friends that couldn’t make it, they can email Nora at mccurleyen@hays-con.s.k12.tx.us.

Father Ray John Marek, ’83, completed his doctorate in ministry from Aquinas Institute of Technology in St. Louis, Mo., on April 3. His doctoral thesis was “Preaching in a Television-Saturated Culture.” Following graduation on May 10, he joined the faculty of Oblate School of Theology and the staff of Oblate Renewal Center, both in San Antonio.

Kevin T. Mullins, ’83, and wife, Sherry, are the proud parents of two boys, Chase Alexander, 3, and Tanner Edward, 6 months. Kevin transferred back to San Antonio from Laredo to take a position with International Bank of Commerce to run its internet banking division.

Ken Thomas, ’83, has a role in the latest Sandra Bullock movie that was filmed in Austin. He’s playing FBI Agent “Harris” and is his best role to date. It is a speaking role with six scenes with lines and quite a few scenes without lines. The movie is tentatively scheduled for a Christmas release. The movie also stars Benjamin Bratt, Ernie Hudson, William Shatner, Candice Bergen and Michael Caine. He said, “I think this is pretty good for my first film. Never give up, even when all seems lost. Keep trying.” Friends and former classmates can reach him via email at theanimal1@juno.com.

A. Beryl Brickman, ’85, is a retired RN since her husband’s death in January 1990. She has been busy taking care of her 94-year-old mother — a grandmother of three and the adopted neighborhood grandmother of 20. Beryl said, “I miss Texas and St. Edward’s. It was hard working full time and driving back and forth to attend classes, but well worth it.”

Janice L. Dowden, ’85, is serving on the board of directors for the Fort Worth Chapter of the Council of Petroleum Accountants Society.

Janice has more than 25 years of oil and gas accounting experience, and is employed with Burlington Resources, Inc., in Fort Worth.

Maggie Connelly, ’85, starred in episodes of the television series “Judging Amy” and “Angel.” She is co-owner of a business with Paul Contreras (Paulo Andres). You can view their web site at www.actingtowardsuccess.com.

Dean S. May, ’85, passed the Project Management Professional (PMP) exam administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI). He has been with IBM since 1968. He said, “My New College experience has been quite valuable to my career since graduation.”

John D. Walters, ’85, moved to Fort Worth in May 1999 where he has been the controller of the Fort Worth Metropolitan YMCA.

Tony Lawless, ’86, and Mary Kay Lawless, ’87, changed their last names from Lawless to Delmedico. Tony is vice president and regional manager for Wachovia Investments.

Joan M. Brinkman-Palmer, ’85, retired after 10 years with the State of Texas. She is enjoying traveling, tennis and golf. Joan has traveled to China, Greece, Russia, the Amazon, Alaska and Western Europe.

Joel Ysla, ’87, is entering his seventh year of teaching at American Youthworks (formerly American Institute for Learning) in Austin. He teaches both G.E.D. and diploma classes.

John D. Lichtler, ’88, is in his second year working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as an administrative contracting officer for the Defense Contract Management Agency of the U.S. Government. He is also supporting the forces performing duties in conjunction with Operation Southern Watch, monitoring the no-fly zone over Southern Iraq. He traveled to Kuwait City and Cairo, Egypt. He would appreciate hearing from anyone interested in learning about life in the Middle East and telling him about life back in the states. He can be reached at jdlichtler1952@hotmail.com.

Martin Martinez, ’88, is director of campus ministry at San Antonio College. He is finishing his master’s degree in theology at St. Mary’s University.

Tanouye (Toi) McNorton-Mitchell, ’88, and husband, Gerald, are enjoying their new home built last year in North Richland Hills outside of Fort Worth. They have no children yet. Tanouye is a tricare provider representing the Foundation Health Systems in Irving. She can be reached at carobupt_1@yahoo.com.

Mirella Nava, ’88, has been an FBI agent for the past nine years. She resides in the Rio Grande Valley.
80s cont.

Jaime (Jay) Garza, '89, and wife, Terri (Anspach) Garza, '90, have two children, Javier, 4, and Olivia, 1. Terri is busy working at home. Jaime is still in advertising, but is now on the corporate side for one of his former clients, World Duty Free/Southern Division, as their vice president and director of marketing.

Mark D. Johnson, '89, relocated from Austin to Dallas, where he is vice president of disbursements in the construction lending department at Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., the fourth largest mortgage bank in the United States.

Yolanda M. Peralta, '89, was reassigned from Matthews School to the new Rodriguez Elementary School in South Austin. She completed her master's degree at Southwest Texas University and is now beginning work on her doctoral degree.

90s

John Hofstetter, '90, was promoted to manager in the health and welfare benefits consulting practice for Arthur Andersen in Dallas.

Mike Jackson, '90, is athletic director and head football coach at Charlotte High School. He led his team to state semi-finals in the Astrodome in 1999. During his nine-year tenure as head coach, his teams have won state championships twice and advanced in the playoffs seven years. He is finishing his doctoral degree in administration this summer.

Gaynelle Caldwell Jr., '91, received her master's degree in psychology from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls in June 1994.

Cleto D. Chazares, '92, is an assistant principal at a Tampa Bay High School. He and his wife, Miryam, have moved into a new home.

Patrick Garcia, '92, completed his third year residency in internal medicine with the Central Texas Medical Foundation in 1999 and was chief resident/junior faculty in 2000. He will start a private practice in July in the Faculty Clinic in Austin, where he will spend 80 percent of his time in private practice.

Debbie (DeLuca) Moody, '91, will be teaching third grade at Mitchell Elementary in Plano Independent School District. She also will teach the gifted for her team.

David Roland Shelanskey, '91, received his master's degree in psychology from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls in June 1994.

Catherine Brands, '92, and husband, Joe, moved from Bremerton, Wash., to Corpus Christi for the next three years due to Joe's naval career. Together they have three children, Nathan, Aaron and Alana. Catherine said, “It’s wonderful to be home.”

Could this be you? This is one of the unidentified photographs housed in the University Archives. The photo, taken around 1943, comes from the scrapbook of William Halden, hs ‘43. If you have any information on this picture, contact Mia Allen, St. Edward’s University, University Relations, 3001 South Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78704 or email mias@admin.stedwards.edu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

One down, six to go: Thank you to alumnus Bill Gribbon, hs ‘49, for identifying one of the students pictured to the left. Agustin Villareal Elizondo, hs ’49, is the student in the white T-shirt on the far left. Although Grisham was not able to identify all the students, he has given us some helpful clues. The young men in the picture are from Mexico and attended St. Edward’s High School in the late 1940s.

If you have any further information on this picture, contact Mia Allen, St. Edward’s University, University Relations, 3001 South Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78704 or email mias@admin.stedwards.edu.
and 20 percent teaching resident physicians.

Jennifer Newman, '92, is a doctoral student at the University of California-Berkley in the School of Social Welfare. Her interest is still, as her St. Edward’s days, troubled youth involved in juvenile justice. She said, “I regard the undergraduate education I received at St. Edward’s very highly. Dr. David Horton played a major role.”

Lauren (Stout) Wickersham, '92, and husband, Nolan, celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary and purchased their first home. Nolan is still in the Air Force and doesn’t plan to leave Little Rock Air Force Base anytime soon. On Jan. 19, Lauren underwent a kidney transplant. Her youngest brother, Michael, was her donor. Both are well and Lauren’s prognosis is a long, normal life barring rejection. She would love to hear from friends via email at lauren_wickersham@yahoo.com.

Sharon Churchin, '93, is teaching English, religion and drama in grades six through eight. She is also the aquatics director at the Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club and coaches novice through national-level swimmers at Texas Gold Swimming to.

David Cotter, '93, and wife, Jeanette, reside in New Haven, Conn., where David is the assistant marketing director for the Legionaries of Christ and Jeanette is the advertising coordinator for the National Catholic Register. Please feel free to contact David at dcotter@conix.com.

Monte R. Czaplewski, '93, and wife, Nicole, have resided in Washington, D.C. for two years and have been married for three years. Monte is a special agent in charge with the U.S. Department of Transportation – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He said, “We, just as everyone who has left Austin, miss the area. We look forward to the day when we may be able to come back.”

Christopher Beckett, '93, and wife, Marisa (Guerra) Beckett, '93, are doing a great job raising their 2-year-old son, Alex. Marisa received her MBA in management from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin on May 13 and is district manager for a multi-million dollar internet company. Christopher is a multi-million dollar producer with Re/Max of Midland/Odessa.

Fred Goodwin, '93, was promoted to executive director-federal regulatory for SBC and relocated from Austin to Washington, D.C., with his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Adriene and Alex.

**Brother Cornelius Corcoran 1918-2000**

Brother Cornelius Corcoran, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, South-West Province, and professor emeritus at St. Edward’s University, died at St. Joseph’s Community Hospital, Mishawaka, Ind., on June 26 after a brief illness.

Born in Philadelphia in 1918, he was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, having served in the South Pacific Theater.

He professed his first vows as a Brother of Holy Cross on February 2, 1948. Brother Cornelius earned his bachelor’s degree in commerce from St. Edward’s University and his MBA in marketing from the University of Texas at Austin. After teaching at high schools in Indianapolis, New Orleans and Monroe, Mich., he joined the faculty at St. Edward’s University in 1958. Recognized with awards for teaching excellence, Brother Cornelius managed his classroom as a laboratory for the business world, maintaining professional standards for punctuality, dress, behavior and productivity. In 1996 he retired from his teaching career and was named professor emeritus of business at St. Edward’s.

A wake was held in Our Lady, Queen of Peace Chapel on the campus of St. Edward’s University on July 2. The Funeral Mass was held in the same chapel on July 3. Burial followed at Assumption Cemetery, Austin, Texas.

Memorial donations may be made to the Brothers of Holy Cross Education Fund 512-442-7856 or to the Brother Cornelius Corcoran Endowed Scholarship Fund at St. Edward’s University. Call 512-448-8412 or 800-964-7833 for more information.

Kathi Jackson, '93, has published a nonfiction book, They Called Them Angels: American Military Nurses of World War II.

Juli Kinslow, '93, and husband, Dr. Whit Kinslow, purchased LoneStar Chiropractic in Georgetown. Together they have three sons, Davis, Sutton and Hayden.

Lisa Lerner, '93, is employed with Keller Williams Realty-Katy at Cinco Ranch. Check out her website at www.usplash.com/lisalerner.

James Rosales, '93, left Electronic Data Systems in December and is now employed with the American Heart Association as a strategic consultant and project manager. He is responsible for the information technology direction of the department of science and finance.

Faye E. Cormier, '94, is still employed as a medical social worker for Hospice Austin. She said, “I love my career.”

Edith Hernandez, '94, received her master’s degree in counseling in November 1999. She is a counselor for perpetrators of domestic violence in the battering intervention and prevention program at Family Place in Dallas.

Sylvia Sepulveda Hook, '94, is a training/quality supervisor for...
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Merck-Medco Managed Care. She said, “I am enjoying the travel associated with the position. Merck-Medco is a great company to work for!”

Juliane Listl, ’94, resides in New Hampshire where she has one more year of her internal medicine residency. She is applying for a cardiology fellowship at Dartmouth for 2001 and will find out the results in late June. She said, “Since it isn’t as easy for me to hop in my car and drive to Austin, visiting the home page is my next best way of seeing the ‘big red door,’ remembering the past, and checking out what is ‘new and improved.’ It is amazing what has changed since 1994.”

Juli Martin, ’94, was confirmed and accepted into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday, April 29. She said, “I am extremely happy that I made this choice. I believe that my education at St. Edward’s was very influential in making this decision. I not only received an excellent education, but also learned how to improve myself spiritually. I have so many things to be grateful for because of my time at St. Edward’s.”

Bob Clymer, ’95, and his wife, Rachel Olivarez-Clymer, ’94, reside in Oklahoma City, Okla., where Bob is a statistical research specialist with the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center. Rachel received her master’s degree in public health.

Sharon Du Bois Colson, ’95, received her master’s degree in history from Southwest Texas State University as a James Madison Memorial Fellow in August 1999. She completed a year of teaching at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Austin and is enjoying a cool and relaxing summer in Alberta, Canada, before returning to St. Andrew’s to teach sixth and eighth grade social studies and language art classes.

Johnnie Mae Epperson, ’95, received her master’s degree in social work from Southwest Texas State University on May 12.

Oscar Guerrero-Kees, ’95, will begin working on his master’s degree in education at Bucknell University in the fall. He said, “I’m very thankful to St. Edward’s for the education and general information that I received.”

Ellen (Hestand) Henderson, ’95, and her husband, Travis, moved back to Dallas, where Ellen is editor-in-chief of GuideLive.com, the arts and entertainment web site of The Dallas Morning News.

Andrew Kaminsky, ’95, and wife, Kristie, purchased a new home.

Paul Leonardo, ’95, relocated to New York City, N.Y., where he is a registered investment advisor with Boston-based Fidelity Investments. He was awarded a position in its High Net Worth Division in the flagship office, located at Park Avenue and 52nd Street in midtown Manhattan. He would love a visit from any old friends and can be reached at 1-800-662-6008, ext. 3028.

Linda Noack Lockney, ’95, is director of development at The University of Texas Catholic Center, Capital Campaign for the Twenty-first Century.

Sandra Avila, ’96, graduated from Texas Tech School of Law in Lubbock in May 1999 and relocated to Chicago, Ill., where she is employed as an assistant state’s attorney for the Cook County State’s Attorney Office.

Alvaro Bermudez, ’96, finished his MBA and MIB at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He is planning to work in the United States for a couple of years and then return to his native Nicaragua. He said, “Hi to everyone!”

TimMarie C. Williams, ’96, is working on her master’s degree in gerontology at Baylor University. Following graduation, she will attend Texas Women’s University in Denton and begin working on her doctoral degree in public health administration.

Rachel Wilson, ’96, is a district representative counselor with the victim services division of the Austin Police Department.

Olzhas Zhumanov, ’96, is a project manager in the consumer banking department for ABN AMRO Bank Kazakhstan in Almaty, Kazakhstan. He said, “I miss those days at St. Edward’s and hope to visit Austin one day.”

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fwoodruff@finsvcs.com

IN MEMORIAM

Eddie A. Klein, ’35, of Seguin on April 16.
Robert Stradley Holman, hs ’44, on March 30.
Charles J. Bishop, ’60, of Las Vegas, Nev. on Jan. 17.
Ruth B. Jacobson, ’70, of Austin on Feb. 23.
Elliott Williams, ’73, on Jan. 26.
Moatle D. Woodcock, ’73, of Austin on April 19.
Virginia A. Best, ’89, of Austin on Jan. 2.
Steven Kilpatrick, ’99, of Round Rock on April 1.
Dr. George Dawkins

Dr. George Dawkins, 68, St. Edward’s University professor of business administration, and his 57-year-old wife, Carole, died in an automobile accident over Memorial Day weekend while vacationing in Spain. A friend, Inez Beckley, 80, who was traveling with the Dawkins, also died in the accident. News reports indicated that their car veered off a highway and struck a concrete embankment between Valencia and Barcelona.

As news of the Dawkins’ deaths spread through the community, colleagues and friends were stunned. “We are saddened by this tragedy. Nothing prepares us for occasions like this,” said Sister Donna Jurick, SND, executive vice president.

“Through his teaching in both the undergraduate and graduate business programs, George touched the lives of many students. He invested the past 20 years in St. Edward’s University and its students – quite a commitment. He will be greatly missed.”

A memorial service for George and Carole was held July 1 in the Jones Auditorium of the Ragsdale Center, where Dawkins family members accepted condolences.

George Dawkins graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor of science degree in 1953 and earned his doctorate from the University of Illinois in 1957. He began his faculty service at St. Edward’s University in business administration in 1980. He served as division chair of business from 1987 to 1990. At the time of his death, Dawkins taught classes in the undergraduate and graduate business programs, teaching business operations research and statistics.

In addition to his distinguished teaching career, Dawkins was a world-class bridge competitor, ranking among the top 100 contract players in the country.

A memorial fund in Dawkins’ honor has been established at St. Edward’s University. Contributions should be addressed: Attn.: Christina Collier, Office of University Relations, St. Edward’s University, 3001 S. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78704.
ALUMNI NOTES

Keep in touch with your friends and classmates. A fun vacation, a new hobby, volunteering, job changes — whatever your news, share it with friends and classmates via the St. Edward’s University Magazine. Submit your news by September 15, 2000, to be published in the next issue.

Name: ______________________________________________________________
Former Name: _________________________________ Class Year: _____________
Address: _____________________________________________________________
Your News: ___________________________________________________________
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3 easy ways to submit your alumni note

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EMAIL:
nias@admin.stedwards.edu.
Or send news via the St. Edward’s website at:
www.stedwards.edu/alumni/whatsnew.htm

FAX TO:
512-416-5845

MAIL:
Mia M. Allen, St. Edward’s
University, University Relations,
3001 South Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78704

When faxing or mailing your note, please photocopy the form to the right.

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technology from The University of Texas at Austin. Thus far she has a 4.0 grade point average.

Chad Skinner, ’97, is participating in a non-denominational worldwide Bible study group through www.bsinternational.org.

Jo Dale Bearden, ’98, is engaged to Jason Pavia. Both reside in Austin. Jo Dale is working on her master’s degree at Southwest Texas and Jason is employed in the City of San Marcos.

Viviana Ozuna, ’98, is an outreach specialist for South Texas Community College and working on her MBA at the University of Texas Pan American. She is also importing leather goods to the U.S. from Guanajuato, Mexico. Upon completion of her MBA, she plans to relocate to New York to start her fashion design business. She hopes to expand her designs to shoes and open a shoe store in McAllen.

Michelle Creasey, ’99, is engaged to Brad A. James. The wedding is set for October 21.

James Ragsdale, ’99, is a substitute teacher in central California and is involved with the Kings Players, a local community theater group. He would love to hear from anyone via email at ragsdalej@hotmail.com.

Jose L. Reyes, ’99, is a second lieutenant in the Army and received his aviator wings on May 2. He has been at Fort Rucker, Ala., since June 1999 undergoing rigorous helicopter training. Upon completion in August, Jose will be flying the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Nathan Sweat, ’99, and wife, Anna Belle Silvernail, ’99, have two daughters, Zoey and Evalyn. Nathan is employed with AIL Company in Houston.

Lori J. Swick, ’99, had an article accepted for publication in Today’s Catholic Teacher Magazine. The article, “Imaging God for Our Children,” spun out of research presented during a colloquium with Dr. Mary Catherine Hilbert at Notre Dame.

Celia Tapia, ’99, is working on her master’s degree in counseling at Sul Ross State University Graduate School. She will begin teaching at a local elementary school. She said, “I miss St. Edward’s so much.”

Angela Keller Duncanson, ’00, is a VISTA volunteer with AmeriCorp. Her project for the next year is working in agency services at the Capital Area Food Bank. She said, “Becoming a VISTA volunteer right after graduating was the best decision I ever made. It’s a great feeling coming home each day knowing that what I did during the day at work helped others in the community.”

Kelly Yarbrough, ’00, was the activity coordinator during the summer at the Pines Catholic Camp in Big Sandy. She plans to work for two years and then pursue her master’s degree in parks and recreation.

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Some things don’t change. Just as the St. Edward’s University campus has grown up around Main Building, so has it grown around Sorin Hall. Built in 1913, Sorin Hall was originally a convent for the Sisters of the Presentation who were exiled from Bordeaux, France, and welcomed into Holy Cross schools in the United States. The building was renamed Sorin Hall in the 1930s and turned into a dormitory for high school boys. Over the years, it has been occupied by Holy Cross scholastics, provincial administration and the IMH sisters. Today, the building houses numerous faculty offices and classrooms.