Up Close with the Natural Sciences

NEW MASCOT UNVEILED • CAMP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS
It’s hard to talk about the Natural Sciences at St. Edward’s University without mentioning the late Brother Daniel Lynch, CSC. A biology professor, Brother Daniel had a love of nature and a passion for understanding it. He shared that passion with his students, stimulated their curiosity and helped them see the wonders of living things.

Many of us on campus never met Brother Daniel, but we all benefit from his legacy. He was a model for the teacher-scientist who challenges students to conduct scientific research commonly reserved for graduate students. The scientist in him set the highest standards for research; the teacher in him made the research collaborative.

Many of us on campus never met Brother Daniel, but we all benefit from his legacy.

This combination allowed Brother Daniel to guide his students to success, and his approach still defines the experiences students have today in the university’s classrooms and laboratories.

Whether studying sea slugs or gaseous pollutants, computer programs or DNA, our students are recognized for their research accomplishments. This February, five of the six awards given to undergraduate students at the 105th Annual Meeting of the Texas Academy of Science were awarded to St. Edward’s University students. These award recipients included Adam Conley, ’02, Carla Corazon Mendoza, ’03, Shelly Sullivan, ’02, Bernardo Nino, ’03, and Nancy Macias, ’02.

In April, computer science majors Chris Herbig, ’02, Dory Paris, ’02, Jeffrey J. Schindler, ’02, Arnold Vento, ’02, Cindy Beltran, ’02, and Emi Taniuchi, ’02, presented papers at the 13th Annual South Central Conference of the Consortium of Computing in Small Colleges. Their papers also will be published later this year in the Journal of Computing in Small Colleges.

And finally, this spring, St. Edward’s University sent the largest contingent of undergraduate students to the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, the world’s largest and most prestigious scientific society. Presenting papers at the conference were Edward Hourani, ’02, Jessica Martinez, ’02, Jon Steuernagle, ’03, Kevin Condel, ’02, and Monique Nixon, ’02.

Dedicated and personal teaching by outstanding faculty is the foundation of the high-quality academic experience offered at St. Edward’s University. We are committed to preserving this distinguishing characteristic as we build for the future.
For undergraduate students, the School of Natural Sciences offers something even larger institutions can’t match: personal attention and the opportunity to engage in hands-on research. To learn more about the School of Natural Sciences, turn to page 17.
CAMPUS BEAT

MITTE FOUNDATION DONATES $1.5 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Edward’s University announced a $1.5 million gift from the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation for business scholarships April 3 at a public celebration in the Ragsdale Center’s Mabee Ballroom.

St. Edward’s University is the first private institution to be funded by the Mitte Foundation. The gift, which is among the largest in the university’s history, will provide fifteen $5,000 scholarships a year for the next 20 years. Twelve scholarships will go to undergraduate business students, and three will go to graduate business students.

Scott Mitte, Mitte Foundation executive director, as well as George Martin, St. Edward’s University president, were on hand to help celebrate the event, which was attended by approximately 100 faculty, staff, students and friends of the university.

The Mitte Scholars at St. Edward’s University will enjoy interacting with other scholarship winners from Mitte-funded institutions like Ohio State University, Penn State University, University of Arizona, Indiana University, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. They will also enjoy becoming part of a prestigious group of business professionals beyond their college years; by the year 2020, there will be more than 15,000 alumni of Mitte scholarship programs.

Mitte scholars are selected based on their excellence in academics and community leadership. “They are the top students in the nation, they are the torchbearers of excellence and they will be our future Nobel Prize winners, members of Congress, Pulitzer Prize winners and ambassadors of peace throughout the world,” said Mitte.

MITTE FOUNDATION DONATES $1.5 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

(left to right) Vice President of College of Professional and Graduate Studies John Houghton, Business major Melanie Martinez, ’02, and President George Martin listen as Mitte Foundation Executive Director Scott Mitte speaks in April.

Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte established the Mitte Foundation in 1997 to encourage students to accomplish great things in their personal, professional and community lives on behalf of humanity. The Mitte Foundation envisions its scholars becoming involved in social issues identified by the Mittes in order to create solutions to the problems that plague humanity.

THE MEDEA STORIES’ A GREAT SUCCESS

The St. Edward’s theater department garnered a great deal of acclaim this spring for its production of The Medea Stories, an experimental adaptation of the Greek play Medea by Euripides. The last play of the season, The Medea Stories was the result of student collaboration with guest artist J. Ed Araiza, of Saratoga International Theatre Institute (SITI).

In the beginning scene of The Medea Stories, Medea is tried in a modern-day courtroom for murdering her two children. The role of Medea was divided between Elizabeth Wakehouse, ’02, and Shannon Riley, ’02. Gina Houston, ’05, played the defense counsel who tries to convince the jury that there were reasons behind Medea’s crime. The prosecutor, played by Brent Werzner, ’03, portrays Medea as an angry, vengeful woman who has destroyed her only legacy by murdering her own children. By using the courtroom setting, the play attempted to show the audience that the issues of the ancient story are still relevant today.

In addition to working with Araiza, students were able to collaborate with other professionals from SITI Company, including attending a master class held by the company’s founder, Anne Bogart. The Medea Stories ran April 10-21, and the play was so successful that SITI members may be returning this fall to help with another production. The cast received an Austin Critics Table Award for Best Ensemble Cast. The theater department has planned an entertaining lineup for the fall season to follow the success of The Medea Stories, including performances of All My Sons by Arthur Miller Sept. 18-Oct. 6, and Araiza’s C/O The Grove, a play based on Anton Chekov’s The Cherry Orchard, Nov. 6-24.

THE MEDEA STORIES’ A GREAT SUCCESS

The Medea Stories highlighted the MMNT stage this spring.
THANK YOU, PROFESSOR PESOLI!

In April, the university community celebrated the 48-year teaching career of long-time professor Pete Pesoli at a year-end reception honoring retiring faculty and staff. Pesoli, who arrived at St. Edward’s University in 1954, was described as an “institution” and “an integral part of a long period of the university’s history.”

Pesoli came to St. Edward’s in 1954, joining eight other lay faculty members and 19 Brothers of Holy Cross serving the school. At the time, about 150,000 people called Austin home and tuition and fees for one semester at St. Edward’s cost approximately $195.

Pesoli attended Syracuse University for one semester before enlisting in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Stationed in England, he served in the 8th Air Force as a radio operator and gunner, flying B-17s on 35 missions over Germany and other parts of Europe. After the war, he attended the University of Notre Dame, where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. After graduation, he helped establish a Holy Cross high school for boys in Rome with Brother Edmund Hunt, former St. Edward’s University president.

Two years later, he accepted a position at St. Edward’s University teaching literature, for which he became known as a very popular and dynamic teacher. He helped to establish a chapter of the American Association of University Professors and served as president of the chapter for many years. He was also part of the Civil Rights movement in Austin, and at one point was invited to help put together a program to end poverty across the southern United States.

He received an Alumni Appreciation Award in 1970, and in 1971 received the Teaching Excellence Award from the Center for Teaching and Learning. He instilled a love of literature in many of his students, helping them to understand that important insights about real life can be found in well-written literature.

MAIN BUILDING IN STAINED GLASS

When Santa Cruz Catholic Church in Buda, Texas, decided to construct a new church building, they wanted to make sure that it represented the essence of their parish — a Catholic mission in the Texas Hill Country started by priests from the Congregation of Holy Cross.

“We wanted our church to illustrate both the Holy Cross tradition and the Catholic Church and their impact in central Texas,” said Paul Curtin, Santa Cruz building committee chair.

To represent the Congregation of Holy Cross, church members decided to include a stained glass window mosaic of the Very Reverend Father Edward Sorin, the superior general of the order; and Main Building of St. Edward’s University, which Father Sorin founded in 1885. “We felt like Father Sorin and St. Edward’s really symbolized all that the Congregation of Holy Cross has done for central Texas and for our church,” said Curtin.

The Holy Cross window is one of five on the north side of the church’s narthex. Stained glass designs of the original Santa Cruz Catholic Church, St. Mary’s Cathedral in Austin and Mission Concepción in San Antonio also represent Texas and its Catholic history.

A stained-glass of St. Edward’s University becomes part of the beauty of Santa Cruz Catholic Church.
With the support of alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff, St. Edward’s University celebrated the recently revived Homecoming week festivities for the second consecutive year. This year, Alumni Programs, the Office of Student Life and the Dean of Students Office united alumni celebrations, parents weekend and Homecoming festivities for a non-stop weekend of spirited fun.

Homecoming’s theme, “Thrill on the Hill,” took on a 1950s flair. Highlighting the weekend’s list of events was: the 8th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Awards, an impressive car show that revisited America’s favorite cars from the 1950s, a tailgate picnic complete with barbecue and a performance by the Omni Singers, a sock hop, a tour of the new Bob Bullock Museum, coffee tasting, a service project for students and parents and the “Thrill on the Hill” homecoming formal.

More than 100 alumni and 300 parents and students participated in the weekend activities, and more than 500 people participated in the tailgate picnic alone.

“This year we doubled the number of parents and students that attended Homecoming weekend as compared to last year,” said Assistant Dean of Students Nicole Guerrero, ’99. “It’s important that parents see what’s happening on campus. We want them to see the strong community our students are a part of at St. Edward’s.”

St. Edward’s University sophomore Luz Hinojosa, ’04, was featured in a national television commercial for Coca-Cola this spring. Hinojosa, the daughter of migrant farm workers and a former St. Edward’s College Assistance Migrant Program student, is able to attend St. Edward’s because of the Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship program.

The commercial, which portrays Hinojosa visiting with her family and friends on a farm in California, aired during telecasts of the Masters Golf Tournament. In the commercial, Hinojosa speaks about the value of a college education and, flanked by her mother and father, waves as she steps into a car bound for Austin. The car pulls away, with a St. Edward’s University sticker in the rear window.

The First Generation Scholarship program helps students who are the first in their families to go to college. The scholars attend more than 400 colleges and universities across the United States and China.

St. Edward’s University will launch a master’s degree in computer information systems (CIS) this fall. Like other master’s level programs offered at St. Edward’s, the new program is designed to provide an evening format that will equip working adults for managerial positions in information systems.

The program is based in classical information systems (systems analysis and design) and incorporates applications such as e-commerce and multimedia systems in addition to an introduction to new approaches such as business intelligence, knowledge management and data warehousing.

To find out more about the Master of Science in CIS, contact the Center for Academic Progress at 512-428-1050.
BIOINFORMATICS COMES TO SEU

St. Edward’s University will become one of only a handful of institutions in the state to offer undergraduates a major in bioinformatics, an emerging field in the state of Texas.

Bioinformatics is an growing area of study from the applications of computer science and mathematics. The field offers solutions to problems in the biological sciences and life sciences, especially those involving large data sets. The state of Texas has a $6.5 billion, 500-company biotechnology industry. Roger Yu, dean of the School of Natural Sciences, said that St. Edward’s University is well positioned to offer a degree in this emerging field. “It’s an interdisciplinary degree with a strong research component,” he said. “In that way, it fits well to the university’s mission statement. Students will receive an excellent professional preparation in a field that is, and will be, in extremely high demand.”

Coursework supporting this new major will draw from the fields of biology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science courses.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY HONORED

At Undergraduate Honors Night, students and faculty were honored for their contributions and accomplishments.

President George Martin presented nine graduating seniors with the prestigious Presidential Award. Recipients included: Jesus Alonso, ’01, Marili E. Cantu, ’02, Thomas C. Chenoweth, ’01, Mary Quinn Fassnacht, ’02, Kelle Odom, MBA, ’01, Ana Catalina Sanchez, ’02, Anna Marie Sanchez, ’02, Carmela Stearns, ’01, and Richard Ybarra, ’02.

Presidential Award winners pose with President George Martin at Undergraduate Honors Night.

Presidential Award winners are selected based on nominations and their qualities of leadership, scholarship and service. Students who graduated between August 2001 and May 2002 were eligible.

During Honors Night, outstanding faculty were also honored with awards for their teaching excellence. Laura Baker, associate professor of computer science; Anna Skinner, professor of English writing; and Faith Robin, adjunct professor in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, received 2002 Distinguished Teaching Awards. Professor Bill Zanardi was awarded the Distinguished Teaching Career Award.

FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF

Tears, laughter and inspiration filled the audience this spring during the student-produced play For Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is EnuF. This play, which conveyed the experiences of womanhood, was directed by Aries Sanders, ’03, and Andre Ford, ’03.

Ford, whose play Street Corners was recently produced at Houston’s Alley Theatre, envisioned directing this play since his freshman year. “I was concerned that people were not going to get the message,” Ford said. “But when people were touched, I was touched.”

The play depicts the struggles and life experiences of nine minority women through music and poetry. Sanders and Ford felt that their respect toward women helped them direct For Colored Girls… “As a son of a single black mother, I have witnessed the trials and tribulations of black women maintaining dignity in a world that expects so much of them,” Ford said. The success of For Colored Girls… has motivated Ford and Sanders to co-direct another play next October.

For Colored Girls… debuted during Black History Month at St. Edward’s, and an encore presentation was shown during the Multicultural Spring Fest. Other events during these celebrations included the Kumba House African dance group and the One Beat–One World drum circle.

May we email you?

If you would like to receive email updates on university news, please contact us! Just email your name, class year, home address and your preferred email address to cherih@admin.stedwards.edu.
SEU HONORS

- St. Edward’s University’s “Learn to Think” image advertising campaign received a Gold Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education’s Circle of Excellence Awards, the national awards for advertising in higher education circles.
- The university’s marketing staff was recognized at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education’s regional conference with three awards for their work in publications and event planning. The fall Big Can Do event won a Silver Award. The original photography used in the publications for The St. Edward’s Fund won a Bronze Award, and the St. Edward’s University Magazine July issue, Teaching Technology, won a Bronze Award.

USCC 2002 ROTARACT CONFERENCE

The Rotaract clubs of St. Edward’s University and San Jacinto College North host the United States, Canada and Caribbean (USCC) 2002 Rotaract Conference July 25-28 on the St. Edward’s campus.

Rotaract, an international service-based organization, is the first student organization to coordinate an international conference on campus. Plans began after Rotaract won the conference bid at USCC 2001 in Washington, D.C.

“This conference will be a bittersweet moment for our Rotaract members,” conference director Brandon Benavides, ’03, said. “We will have worked for more than a year planning this event from the bidding process in Washington, D.C., to the closing ceremonies.”

The conference objective is to form a Multi-district Information Organization (MDIO) that guarantees Rotaract contacts with other district clubs. The theme, “Make Contact,” will help students grow in their communities by developing personal, business and service opportunities.

The conference will include leadership workshops, a service project, panels, a banquet addressing hunger issues and a cruise on Town Lake.

Rotaract’s goal is to bring together young men and women to promote goodwill, peace and international understanding.

ATC PARTNERS WITH SEU

The Austin Technology Council (formerly called the Austin Software Council) has teamed up with St. Edward’s University to offer a series of workshops for the business community throughout the year.

ATC volunteer “deans,” who are experts in the high-tech realm, organize workshop content in everything from leadership and legalese to finance and fundraising. St. Edward’s University plans each event and provides continuing education units for workshop attendees who are looking to renew professional memberships or earn credits required by their employers.

“ATC looked to St. Edward’s because it was searching for a stable organization that could manage its ‘university’ events and make them happen,” said Lisa Schwarzwald, director of continuing education at St. Edward’s University. “It also wanted to introduce its programs to the general business community, which our MBA students are a part of.”

The year-long partnership, which began last December, shows great promise, says ATC “U” Chancellor Chris John. "ATC is the best ‘watering hole’ in central Texas for finding folks with can-do attitudes,” he said. “St. Edward’s is a strong, highly regarded partner who can help us deliver value to the high-tech community.”

The “Foundations for Growth in 2002” conference kicked off the year’s schedule in February, and a similar conference will wrap up the year’s programs in November. Smaller, more specialized workshops take place monthly throughout the year.

STUDENT ATHLETE HONORED WITH NCAA SCHOLARSHIP

Senior basketball player Tricia Johnson, ’02, has been a shooting star for St. Edward’s University both on and off the court, and recently received a prestigious Degree Completion Scholarship from the NCAA for her merits.

Awarded for the first time ever in 2001, the scholarship is given to talented senior student athletes who have completed their four years of eligibility, and therefore, no longer receive athletic scholarships from their university. Johnson is the first St. Edward’s University student to receive this award, which covered her tuition and fees up to $5,000 during her final year.

Johnson graduated this past May. But during her time at St. Edward’s, she studied kinesiology and mathematics and maintained a 3.3 GPA. She plans to teach high school math in the fall.

“At St. Edward’s, I have learned to think of creative ways to present math to students,” said Johnson. “Sometimes math can be a bit raw and finding alternate ways of presenting the material can be difficult. I hope to integrate a lot of hands-on activities into my lessons along with group work and projects.”

For the past five years, Johnson’s life has revolved around the university. She found her place at St. Edward’s and leaves the university cherishing the many rewarding experiences she had as a student.

“I have a lot of positive memories,” said Johnson. “Most of them involve basketball in some way, whether it was road trips, home games or the long and tough pre-season 6 a.m. workouts. I have loved every last minute of it.”

Summer Johnson has been a shooting star for St. Edward’s University both on and off the court, and recently received a prestigious Degree Completion Scholarship from the NCAA for her merits. Awarded for the first time ever in 2001, the scholarship is given to talented senior student athletes who have completed their four years of eligibility, and therefore, no longer receive athletic scholarships from their university. Johnson is the first St. Edward’s University student to receive this award, which covered her tuition and fees up to $5,000 during her final year. Johnson graduated this past May. But during her time at St. Edward’s, she studied kinesiology and mathematics and maintained a 3.3 GPA. She plans to teach high school math in the fall. “At St. Edward’s, I have learned to think of creative ways to present math to students,” said Johnson. “Sometimes math can be a bit raw and finding alternate ways of presenting the material can be difficult. I hope to integrate a lot of hands-on activities into my lessons along with group work and projects.” For the past five years, Johnson’s life has revolved around the university. She found her place at St. Edward’s and leaves the university cherishing the many rewarding experiences she had as a student. “I have a lot of positive memories,” said Johnson. “Most of them involve basketball in some way, whether it was road trips, home games or the long and tough pre-season 6 a.m. workouts. I have loved every last minute of it.”
FACULTY AND STAFF BATTLE FRESHMEN FOR SOFTBALL GLORY

Take me out to the ballgame...  
In early April, St. Edward's University enjoyed the Second Annual Faculty/Staff-Freshmen Softball Challenge, an end-of-semester ritual that pits the Freshman Outlawz against the Over the Hilltoppers. The two sides duked it out for seven innings in an exciting battle between youth and experience.

Take me out to the crowd...  
More than 200 faculty, staff, students and friends filled the stands to watch this growing rivalry. Many faculty and staff sought to lift their team to victory. They were prepared with pom-poms, baseball caps, team shirts and some well-organized cheers that got the entire crowd into the game.

Buy me some peanuts and Crackerjacks. I don’t care if I ever get back...  
Thanks to the Dean of Students Office, concessions were free for all those in attendance. Peanuts, compliments of Human Resources, popcorn, pickles, hot dogs and prizes were given to fans throughout the game.

Root, root, root for the home team. If they don’t win it’s a shame...  
Whether rooting for the freshmen or faculty/staff, by all accounts fans had a great time cheering in the bleachers and lounging on the hills that line the St. Edward’s softball field. After last year’s 8-8 tie between the freshmen and faculty/staff, everyone was excited to see who would get bragging rights until next year’s game.

For it’s one, two, three strikes you’re out at the old ballgame.  
After a well-played game full of great plays and clutch hitting from both teams, the Freshman Outlawz walked away with the win after beating the Over the Hilltoppers 10-6. The Freshman Outlawz are the 2002 Faculty Staff-Freshmen Softball Challenge champions!

SPORT SHORTS

The women’s basketball team, coached by Janice Wallace, finished the season with a 12-14 record, 6-4 in Heartland Conference play. With a home record of 9-2, the Lady Hilltoppers proved difficult to beat in the familiar St. Edward’s University RCC. Three Lady Hilltoppers were awarded All-Conference honors for the 2001-2002 season. Leading the Lady Hilltoppers in points per game (15.7), steals per game (1.9) and blocks per game (.9), Carol Hamilton, ’02, was named to the All-Conference First Team for the second consecutive year. Shaketha Ashley, ’02, and J.J. Riehl, ’02, were both named All-Conference Honorable Mention players.

The men’s basketball team, coached by Mike Jones, battled through the challenges of a tough schedule and finished the season at 4-23. Individual honors went to Brad Burdick, ’02, All-Conference Second Team; and Cyrus Russell, ’05, All-Conference Honorable Mention. Burdick led the Hilltoppers in nearly a dozen offensive categories including points per game (17.7), free throw percentage (.842) and steals per game (1.7).

Campus Beat was compiled by Stacia Hernstrom, Nancy Flores, ’03, Bhadri Verduzco, ’02, and Michelle Martinez, ’01.
Who supports the St. Edward’s Fund?

**Faculty and Staff**
St. Edward’s University has always been known for its dedicated, caring faculty and staff, and the annual Faculty and Staff Campaign shows just how committed they really are to the success of St. Edward’s. During this year’s appeal to raise funds for the university, 82 percent of faculty and staff gave a gift. Together their donations totaled more than $62,000. Seventeen departments on campus reached 100 percent participation in the campaign, including the University Police Department.

**Alumni**
Robert Ritchey, ’00, has become an expert at giving the gift of opportunity. A year ago, he established the Annie Weatherall Memorial Scholarship Fund to assist an outstanding undergraduate student in the School of Natural Sciences. This spring, Ritchey inspired hundreds of his fellow alumni to become donors to The St. Edward’s Fund by matching their gifts to the university. Thanks to his challenge, alumni participation in The St. Edward’s Fund has risen from 14 percent to 17 percent...and counting. “You don’t have to make a big gift to make a difference,” explains Ritchey. “Your participation in The St. Edward’s Fund is what counts.”

**St. Edward’s High School Alumni**
Graduates of St. Edward’s High School continue to be strong supporters of The St. Edward’s Fund. Former St. Edward’s High School football player, Austin business leader and 2001 Distinguished Alumni Recipient Maurice Quigley, hs ’50, is among the high school alumni who help give the gift of opportunity to current students. Quigley is a 46-year veteran of the insurance and investment business and currently serves as a vice chair of the Foundation for Religious Studies in Texas. “I believe that a St. Edward’s education is a foundation on which to build,” he said.

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**A ‘remarkable’ opportunity**

You can now support St. Edward’s University while doing your weekly shopping.

The next time you’re at Randalls, Tom Thumb or Simon David, remember to link your Remarkable Card to our Good Neighbor Program number, 10008. If you do, Randalls will donate one percent of your total purchases to St. Edward’s University as part of the Good Neighbor Program. Just ask your checker to link your Remarkable Card to this number. You only need to do it once, and your participation will make a difference in the lives of current and future students.

Clip out the card to the left and take it with you to the store as your reminder of our participation in the Good Neighbor Program.
The solid, white-stone stairs were both daunting and glorious as I stood at the base of the prominent red-tiled steeple on the hill. Main Building, an Austin landmark visible from most parts of the city, was a familiar part of my every day surroundings — from a distance. But today was different. I was up close and personal, about to enter through the stained glass doors on a quest.

For many years I dreamed of returning to school and finishing my degree, but it never seemed plausible. I was already balancing a full-time family and part-time employment. Add volunteering at my children’s school, church commitments as a pastoral council member and eucharistic minister to the sick, and my docket was full. I could imagine adapting my schedule to make time for studying, but finding a school that could accommodate my lifestyle seemed unlikely. The universities I remembered did not recruit people like me.

But then I heard promotion spots on the radio and noticed ads in the newspaper about New College at St. Edward’s. The program targeted adult students and seemed to understand our unique circumstances. Skeptical it would amount to anything, I attended an information session in Main Building.

The details of the New College program were as exhilarating as the restored gothic structure that played host to the information session. College credit for life experience, courses with less classroom hours, accelerated and online classes, as well as night and Saturday schedules are all a part of an innovative solution to assist adult students. St. Edward’s identified an entire class of people whose desire for continued education had been ignored and customized a program to include their needs.

In my first class, Critical Inquiry taught by Assistant Professor David Trott, I saw diverse faces just like mine, benefiting from the commitment St. Edward’s makes to the principles of adult education. Thrilled to be part of New College, no longer confined to a life formed more by circumstances than choices, I felt very much at home. I wondered, however, if New College was more of a “side interest” for the university and whether I would ever feel connected to the St. Edward’s community as a whole.

My concerns were soon dismissed when I learned not to walk on the seal (oops), and became on a first name basis with Fran Ebbers, a librarian at the Scarborough-Phillips Library. A day does not pass without an email inviting me to participate in a service project, spiritual gathering or social event sponsored by the university. I quickly felt that the entire university system was devoted to my success and believed my dream of obtaining a degree was within reach.

Today when I am going to Main Building for class, I usually skip the awesome flight toward the stained glass doors and enter the rear doors off the plaza. But occasionally, when papers are due, tests are looming and my family responsibilities are pressing down on me, I exit from the front door. I sit on those stairs and take a moment to remember what a gift New College is connected to the St. Edward’s community and look forward to the day when I can boast of being a St. Edward’s alumna.
There’s no like home
New residence hall to open in spring 2003

In order to support the university's thriving campus community and growing student population, a new residence hall will open on the west side of campus for the spring 2003 semester. Construction on the new facility, which will house approximately 180 students, began this fall.

“Community” best describes the philosophy of the new facility, located adjacent to the Ragsdale Center. Situated near the dining facilities, classes, athletic facilities and the library, the new hall will allow students to live in the center of the action on campus. The hall will boast one three-story wing and one four-story wing with a variety of floor plans. Each of the rooms will be approximately 300 square feet and will have nine-foot ceilings.

For upperclassmen seeking an alternative to residence hall living, two smaller buildings, called “Casitas,” will allow 40 students to enjoy house-style living. The two Casitas will share a common courtyard with the new residence hall.

Amenities for the new hall include:
- 60,000 square feet of living space
- Study rooms and lounges
- A community kitchen
- Two laundry rooms
- Card access
- Two elevators
- 24-hour reception desk
- Resident mailboxes
- Computer networking in each room
- TV cable in each room
- Local phone service in each room
- Full-building sprinkler system
place

Casita
Main Building
Holy Cross Hall
Fondren Hall
Carriage House
Residence Hall
Residence Hall
Casita
The following foundations and individuals support the Migrant Scholarship Endowment:

- Houston Endowment, Inc.
- Bank of America
- Barrow Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Orton
- Clayton Fund, Inc.
- H.E.B. Grocery Stores
- Union Pacific Foundation
Carlos Cortez, ‘75, arrived to start his freshman year at St. Edward’s with only $20 in his pocket and the clothes on his back. That was almost 30 years ago. Now a coordinator of special programs for the University of Texas at San Antonio, Cortez is one of many successful alumni of the St. Edward’s College Assistance Migrant Program. “CAMP was like an extension of my family,” Cortez said. “The people who run the program create a big brother, big sister atmosphere.”

CAMP began in 1972 and creates higher education opportunities for migrants and children of migrant parents. The program financially assists 40 students in their first year of college and provides academic and family-like support systems. So three decades and 2,300 students later, CAMP celebrates another anniversary.

Because the program values community, CAMP organizers see no better way to celebrate their 30th anniversary than as a community. Plans for a celebration are currently in progress, and representatives from every CAMP class are encouraged to participate.

The anniversary celebration is tentatively scheduled for April 2003 and will consist of a three-day gathering including alumni panels, seminars and speakers. CAMP hopes bringing 30 years of CAMP alumni together will result in forming a CAMP alumni association.

CAMP provides the sons and daughters of migrant workers with assistance for tuition, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and health insurance. The program also delivers support services to satisfy the educational and personal needs of each participant, including an orientation program, tutoring, career counseling sessions and regular academic counseling.

Although similar programs at other universities began in 1972, funding and program problems caused many of the CAMP programs across the United States to be discontinued. The St. Edward’s University CAMP program is the oldest continually operating program in the United States. It’s long-term success has made it a model for the five similar programs in Texas.

But it has not been an easy 30 years. Once in the 1980s, CAMP was in danger of losing its funding. Yet, St. Edward’s is committed to keeping CAMP and funded the program through university funds that year. CAMP’s impressive survival against obstacles leads many to wonder what makes the program successful. “We value the culture and provide the same type of support that students have at home,” said CAMP Director Esther Yacono, who has led the program for eight years.

Today, CAMP students and alumni agree that the family-like support provided was crucial to their personal successes.

Last December when CAMP student Jose Sustaita’s father passed away, Yacono was there to listen. “She encouraged me, and I’m grateful because the support is not just academic,” said Sustaita. Over the years, CAMP has embraced Sustaita and his five other brothers and sisters who have come in through the program. “It’s important for us to be like family because you know you can always count on your family,” Yacono said.

Sustaita knows that he can always go back to CAMP for advice even though he is close to graduation. “The support is maintained and goes beyond freshman year,” he said.

CAMP has even steered some alumni to pursue migrant education as a profession.

Alfredo Luna, ‘76, traveled all over the country with his family following migratory work. He attended 11 elementary schools and two middle schools. By the time he was 14, he had a full-time job. Luna remembers returning to school after a summer of picking cherries, watermelons or apples and not being able to join the other students. Luna was placed in a separate school just for migrant students.

“Migrant students didn’t get regular resources,” he said. “We weren’t considered regular students.” Luna currently works at Milwaukee Area Technical College coordinating bilingual programs for technology. “I wouldn’t be doing what I do now if I hadn’t gone through CAMP,” he said.

Although Luna had trouble adjusting to college life during his freshman year, he found the support that he needed through CAMP. “We were like family in a way,” he said. “When you leave your house, your support system is gone. That support was provided by CAMP to make us feel at home.”

This year CAMP celebrates 30 years of success with two anniversary gatherings. The program is seeking alumni from every CAMP class since 1972 to attend and help recruit members of their own class. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rosalinda Valdez at 512-448-8625 or rosalinv@admin.stedwards.edu.
Tech T

By Michelle Martinez, '01

(Above) BT3 Program Coordinator Allison McKissack, '98, and Dean of the School of Education Brother John Paige, CSC.
In fall 2000, Allison McKissack, '98, was beginning her first year of teaching. The presidential election was months away and McKissack decided to create a web site containing election data to help her students understand the facts about this historical event. “When I went to get the equipment I needed for my presentation, I was informed that the one data projector the school owned was in use, and therefore, I was unable to use my web site to teach my students about the election,” she said. “Honestly, the students would have learned more if I had been able to incorporate technology into the lesson.”

After this experience, McKissack realized that teachers needed to have the proper tools and training in order to use technology in their classrooms. She talked to Brother John Paige, CSC, the dean of the school of education, who agreed with her. “There were a number of problems with technology infusion in the classroom because there was a lack of equipment and facilities at the schools and student teachers did not have enough hands-on understanding of curriculum standards,” Brother Paige said.

As a result, Brother Paige answered a request for proposals from the U.S. Department of Education and was awarded a grant from the Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology program, a national initiative which gives schools funding to address the growing challenge of technology in education. Brother Paige then hired McKissack to act as coordinator of the new initiative called the Building Teams and Tools for Teaching (BT3) program. Funded through an $800,000 U.S. Department of Education grant, the three-year program is aimed at placing technological expertise in the hands of future educators. The ultimate goal of the BT3 project is to create and implement an effective model of teacher preparation that connects technology with education. The program asserts that if learning about technology is a benefit to students, then teachers need to be trained to incorporate technology into their curriculum.

As part of the BT3 program, student teachers attend a summer institute where they work in collaboration with mentor teachers to learn how to infuse technology into their lesson plans. The 60-hour long summer institute focuses on technology training by creating “cohort teams” consisting of two intern teachers, two K-12 mentor teachers and one university faculty mentor. The cohort teams learn how to design a technology-rich curriculum that will be implemented during the intern teacher’s student teaching semester. All those involved in the program are given a stipend for their participation.

Participation in the BT3 program is mandatory for education majors, and students must complete these extra requirements before graduating. Not only does the program train teachers to use technology in their classrooms, it also helps them prepare to take the teaching exam administered by the state of Texas. “The program will better prepare new teachers seeking certification to pass the teaching exam administered by the state of Texas,” said McKissack.

Each of the BT3 partners have made it a priority to support technology integration in the classroom. Ideally, this means that teachers like McKissack will no longer have to fight to secure the use of a data projector in order to give their classes a presentation, and this makes McKissack proud to be the coordinator of such an important program. “I believe it is absolutely essential that future teachers learn how to incorporate technology into the classroom in an effort to better prepare our students for the real world,” she said.

Who supports BT3?
Advanced Micro Devices
U.S. Department of Education
The Mascot Selection Committee has been key in discovering what the new mascot should look like. Their role was to discover the perceptions and wishes of the St. Edward’s community — to find an image that would strengthen school spirit across the ages and give students something to identify with. After much research via the Internet, archive material and community feedback, “the committee has successfully aligned its selection process with student desire and concerns to answer the call of the community,” said Williamson-Taylor.

The committee has found an image as identifiable and unique as the St. Edward’s community itself. The mountaintop-dwelling mountain goat, agile and quick-footed, fierce and strong with glaring eyes, has received overwhelming support by St. Edward’s University students and the rest of the community.

In a university community poll conducted by the committee, out of 439 total votes, 78 percent of voters said they could feel proud of and rally behind the mountain goat. One student voter said that the mountain goat, sitting upon the hilltop, symbolizes the university’s goal to climb to the top tiers of the college ranks in its effort to be recognized as one of the best small universities in the country.

The St. Edward’s community has communicated that they are enthused about the new mascot and what it will mean to the university. As St. Edward’s University looks to the future, the new mascot will be a foundation of strength, a source of pride and a symbol of tradition — an image that will represent the university for decades to come.
Up Close with the Natural Sciences

Story by Susan Wolf
Profiles by Stacia Hernstrom
Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, keeps a kitchen table in his office, and he has a good reason for it.

In the years since he first came to St. Edward’s in 1947, the physics and mathematics professor says one thing has been a constant: his ability to give students personal attention. “That’s why I have this kitchen table here — because it’s a wonderful thing to get the students around,” he said. “It’s a good place to work with my students, point out what they are doing wrong and suggest how to do it better.”

But this personalized approach to education isn’t limited to the students who gather around Brother Barthel’s table. In fact, the School of Natural Sciences’ long-held commitment to personal attention brings faculty and students together to engage in hands-on, collaborative research and projects in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, computer information systems and mathematics.

Problem: A salesman wants to visit 23 cities, taking the most direct route possible.
Problem: A traveler packs her suitcase, knowing that what she can pack is limited only by how much her suitcase can hold.
Problem: A robot moves through a room and must successfully navigate obstacles.
Solution: Chris Herbig, ’02.
As a computer science major and math minor, Herbig had studied a computer model called a greedy algorithm to solve dilemmas like these. “A greedy algorithm makes a series of decisions by using the best solution available at each moment, but each decision is made without considering the others.”
And the outcomes are impressive. Over the years, this small, private college has produced an army of successful scientists, technology leaders and health professionals. In the last 14 years, almost 70 percent of all St. Edward’s University students who applied to medical or dental school were accepted, according to Professor of Biology Jimmy Mills. And the acceptance rate for those applying to graduate school in areas like chemistry, biochemistry and biology over the last six years is almost 100 percent. Computer science faculty members estimate that almost 75 percent of computer science majors are working at least half time in Austin’s technology industry by their senior year; some have such valuable skills that they work full time before graduation.

“Our faculty-student collaborative research for undergraduate students, as well as internships and individual studies, promotes a unique bond between students and faculty,” said Dean of the School of Natural Sciences Roger Yu. “This personal and active learning process trains our students to be able to expand in their careers and in their lives.”

The formula

The School of Natural Sciences works from one basic premise: Research and hands-on projects are a valuable and effective way to educate students in the sciences. “We see undergraduate research as a valuable means of instruction,” said Professor of Chemistry Henry Altmiller. “It’s a means of making the student learn on their own in a very practical sense.”

While this “hands-on” idea isn’t a new one, it is rare at the undergraduate level. At larger universities that focus on research, very few undergraduates get the opportunity to participate in research; the majority of research is explained Herbig. “The algorithm assumes that isolating every choice will always produce the best solution.”

Herbig knew, however, that an alternative to the greedy algorithm had emerged, a simulation modeling genetic principles. “Genetic algorithms examine multiple solutions at a glance to find the optimal one,” he said. “What we didn’t know was which algorithm solved problems faster.” And Herbig wanted to find out.

He reworked the problem to represent an issue closer to home, producing a university course schedule that matches professors with available time slots and classrooms. After conferring with Professor of Biology Bill Quinn, Herbig crafted two genetic algorithms and ran his scheduling program using his genetic algorithms and a standard greedy algorithm. Because of the different genetic processes each algorithm was based on, one outperformed its greedy counterpart and one did not. “My hypothesis was partially supported, but that doesn’t mean it’s true,” said Herbig, whose work earned him third prize at the regional conference of the Consortium of Computing in Small Colleges in April.

“The problem Chris was looking at was room scheduling, but he wasn’t really trying to schedule rooms for somebody,” said Assistant Professor of Computer Science James McGuffee, Herbig’s research advisor. “The point was to discover the fitness of genetic algorithms to approaching this type of problem — let’s say feeding everybody in a country. If you have agricultural centers in one area and you need to move that food to the population, you have a problem to solve. How’s the best way to do that?”

“The breadth of information Chris covered and the depth of research that he looked at made his work outstanding,” agreed Associate Professor of Mathematics Cynthia Naples, who assisted Herbig with his statistical analysis. “You don’t often see that level of detail and organization.” — S.H.
The small class sizes also allow for students to enjoy valuable collaboration with faculty members as they research. “Students have ready access to faculty, and students are taught by faculty, as opposed to teaching assistants,” said Associate Professor of Biology Fidelma O’Leary. “The class size, and more importantly lab size, is small so that there is ample opportunity for interaction and discussion.” The program also allows students to work as assistants to professors in lab settings — another opportunity usually reserved for graduate students.

The science curriculum also ensures students have the breadth of knowledge to be well-rounded and adaptable members of their fields. In addition to the St. Edward’s core curriculum, which requires exposure to the humanities, social sciences and more, science majors are required to take a course in the history and philosophy of science. Yu said the broad-based educational approach offered at St. Edward’s is particularly significant to students in the natural sciences. “As the world becomes more and more complex, the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge is even more critical,” said Yu. “The boundaries among all disciplines have become obscured. So it is more important than ever to have programs that are cross-disciplinary.”

The results

Faculty members say students are empowered by their hands-on experience, and make better scientists and professionals in the long run. “Having successfully completed a research project gives the student a wonderful topic for discussion in job and graduate school applications and interviews,” O’Leary said. “Sometimes this can make the difference when competitive programs are selecting from a pool of well-qualified applicants.”

“Did you know” that 71 students delivered presentations in April at the 10th Annual Senior Seminar Symposium on campus? At St. Edward’s, science students must not only execute research-oriented senior projects, but they must also reveal their findings in a professional seminar setting.

reserved for graduate students. Small class sizes, coupled with the absence of graduate students, enables professors at St. Edward’s to require more of undergraduates. Every student in the natural sciences participates in research, or in the case of computer science students, a hands-on project that solves a real problem for the university or an Austin non-profit organization.

“I love these guys,” exclaims biology major Shelly Sullivan, ’02, pointing to a slide of a purple animal with a tiny shell. “They’ve only got 20,000 neurons, but they can learn.”

And teaching Aplysia Californica, commonly called the sea slug, is Sullivan’s job. As an undergraduate researcher in Associate Professor of Biology Fidelma O’Leary’s neuroscience lab, Sullivan conducted an experiment to examine the effects of stress on a sea slug’s long-term memory.

To initiate the learning process, she subjected the sea slugs to an uncomfortable stimulus, a tail pinch, to monitor their reactions. In response, the slugs tucked in their tails to withdraw from the source of the stimulus. Next Sullivan exposed the animals to a harsher tail pinch to train them to hold in their tails longer. During this time she also placed half of the sea slugs into saltier water to mildly stress their systems and left the remaining half in the original environment. After waiting a day to allow the learned response to become part of the animals’ long-term memories, Sullivan again pinched the tails of all the organisms to measure their responses.

“The stressed animals did not withdraw their tails for nearly as long as the unstressed group,” remembered Sullivan. “We conclusively demonstrated that stress has an effect on acquisition of long-term memory. The stressed animals could not reproduce the learned behavior to the extent that the unstressed group could.”

But Sullivan, who took second prize in the Collegiate Academy Best Paper Competition at the Texas Academy of Science conference in March, sees much more in her research than sea slugs and tail responses. “Neuroscience is so interesting because it’s about us — about humans,” said Sullivan. “I may be conducting an experiment on sea slugs, but what I find out might have consequences for
In the area of computer science, students get a clear sense of accomplishment before they graduate through real-world projects and internships. Associate Professor of Computer Science Laura Baker, who has taught computer science for 13 years, says that is by design. “By junior year, we’re telling students that they need a job on campus so that by their senior year, they can go off campus to work,” Baker said. “By their senior year, they are usually working half time for a company off campus. Usually the companies find out how wonderful they are and offer them a job. When these students come in as freshmen, you just can’t imagine them doing something like that. But they go out there and get a part-time job, and it builds their confidence. Then they get a lot more confident, and they become real members of their field. They transform into these people who really do have the skills that are needed in the workforce.”

humans. What I am doing matters.”

“Shelly is very engaged in her research,” agreed O’Leary, Sullivan’s research advisor. “When she leaves the lab, she thinks about the experimental findings, their significance and ways to make the experiment better, which is exactly what you want in a scientist.”

And Sullivan is thankful for the chance to be involved. “The relationships you develop with peers and professors at a small university like St. Edward’s are unmatchable,” she said. “My research is hands-on, and it makes so much more sense when it’s real.” — S.H.

Profile: Shelly Sullivan, ’02

Who supports our Natural Sciences?
Monsanto Fund
National Science Foundation
SACHEM, Inc.
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Education
W. M. Keck Foundation
The Welch Foundation
Students in the “wet” sciences of biology and chemistry get the satisfaction of presenting their research findings the way most scientists do: at conferences and meetings on and off campus. Faculty members say this, too, is a rare opportunity for undergraduate students. In chemistry, students are required to present their research results at the American Chemical Society before they graduate — a requirement that is almost unheard of in the academic community. “When we made this goal, we were told by our peers that it couldn’t be done — that logistics and time would make an idea like that impossible,” said Professor of Chemistry Eamonn Healy. “Last year, we had a large group of graduating seniors and all 13 of them presented at an ACS meeting. These students were in the same hallways with students from schools like Brown, Dartmouth, Williams and Oberlin, and larger institutions like Michigan, Cal-Berkeley and UCLA.”

Biology students also have the opportunity to gain experience presenting their work. At the 2002 Texas Academy of Science meeting, every St. Edward’s University biology student who participated won an award — and the five in attendance received five of the six prizes awarded in the Collegiate Academy’s Best Paper Competition.

The benefits of presenting research findings go beyond resume building. O’Leary said the opportunity to present papers can be critical to a student’s development as a scientist. “I had a student a couple of years ago who worked on a research project with me. Let’s call her ‘Jane,’” said O’Leary. “Jane was extremely productive in the lab, exhibited wonderful intellectual curiosity, analytical thinking and made a very significant finding. However, when it came to presenting her work, Jane was extremely stressed. The very first poster session [a formal presentation of research findings] had her in anxious tears, followed

Profile: Saul Alanis, ’02

At age 28, Saul Alanis, ’02, had saved enough money to attend school full-time. Alanis had been working as a respiratory therapist and clinical instructor, teaching others how to care for patients on ventilators, and wanted to complete his bachelor’s degree.

“I knew I wanted to be a physician, teach at a medical school and be involved in clinical research,” said Alanis, a biology student who founded the Academic Society for the Advancement of Minorities in Medicine at St. Edward’s. “I also knew that the first step was getting my bachelor’s degree, and I wanted to attend an institution that knew how to serve nontraditional students.”
by rebellious tears, to the point where she was refusing to present at all.” But with counsel and encouragement of O’Leary, “Jane” did excel in the end. “She got through her first presentation, and she even claimed to enjoy it!” said O’Leary. “She followed this up with another amazing presentation at a regional meeting, and finally an award-winning slide presentation. With the right nurturing and encouragement, Jane found that she could excel at presentations, just as she had in the lab.”

And it’s this kind of hands-on experience, supervised by caring faculty and grounded in the scientific method, that allows St. Edward’s University students to win awards and hold their own in the scientific community. “The more faculty members that students have the opportunity to work with, the more likely students are to be successful in their field,” said Brother Barthel. ■

**22: The number of McNair Scholars at St. Edward’s University**

Named after Challenger astronaut Ronald McNair, the national McNair Scholars Program serves undergraduate students interested in pursuing doctoral degrees but who are in minority groups typically underrepresented in such programs. Many McNair Scholars are low-income students who are the first in their families to attend college. Accepted students receive guidance from a faculty mentor and participate in extraordinary research projects at universities across the country.

**4: The number of universities selected by the University of Notre Dame to participate in its CANDAX-ME McNair Scholars Program**

Selected McNair Scholars from St. Edward’s University, Clark Atlanta University, Xavier University and St. Mary’s University come together on the Notre Dame campus each summer to participate in research guided by accomplished Notre Dame professors. Students present their graduate-level work at an end-of-summer symposium and at the national McNair Scholars conference.

As an undergraduate at St. Edward’s, he became part of the CANDAX-ME McNair Scholars Program, which aims to bolster representation of minorities in graduate programs through mentoring programs for undergraduates. “As a McNair Scholar, I got to participate in research at the University of Notre Dame and the Indiana University School of Medicine,” said Alanis. “I was right there in the research and also supervised a project of my own.”

Alanis spent 10 weeks measuring the effects of certain drugs on oxygen-deprived smooth muscle in an eel-like fish called a sea lamprey. “Low oxygen in tissues is a condition very familiar to me from my work as a respiratory therapist,” said Alanis. “I treated human patients suffering from similar conditions. Even though I was studying an animal model at Notre Dame, I could immediately see medicinal applications for humans.”

Alanis’ research is unique for more than its widespread applications, said St. Edward’s University Professor of Biology Bill Quinn, who advised Alanis’ senior seminar presentation. “At Notre Dame, Saul was brought in as a full-fledged member of the team and had input on what they were going to do and how they were going to do it,” said Quinn. “I could take anybody and say, ‘Punch these buttons, and when we’re through, we’ll say you did research.’ But Saul wasn’t just a button-pusher. He has a phenomenal ability to put everything together, and he thoroughly understood what was going on.”

Alanis has since presented his research at Notre Dame, the national McNair Scholars conference and the SOURCE symposium at St. Edward’s.

“My time at St. Edward’s was instrumental in helping me fuse my interest in research with my passion for medicine,” said Alanis. “The excitement is catching.” — S.H.
Trying to turn a glass beaker into the human body is not easy. Despite the obvious difficulties, biochemistry student Monique Nixon, ’02, was up to the challenge.

Nixon wanted to find out exactly how xanthine oxidase, an enzyme that aids in the creation of uric acid, worked. The enzyme contains the metal molybdenum at its core, or active site, and Nixon wanted to isolate the active site to study the metal’s role. To do that, she had to create a solution to make the enzyme think it was functioning in its natural environment — the human body.

“We had to control two critical factors,” said Nixon. “We had to keep the pH level constant and make sure that the enzyme could oxidize, or react with oxygen, correctly. But that proved to be very difficult.”

Nixon struggled to find substitutes for substances that were not for sale commercially. She could never quite recreate the work of scientists before her because of frequent ingredient substitutions and could never make the enzyme react as if it was in its element.

Despite these difficulties, Nixon kept trying. She created a solution to house the enzyme in and began studying its behavior by sending light waves through it using two types of spectrometers, one using ultraviolet and visible light and another using infrared light. The spectra generated by the instruments kept her motivated.

“The difficulties of the project would frustrate me, but we were getting better results each time,” said Nixon. “I felt like I was improving. I was always learning something new.”

And learning something most undergraduate science students never experience. “Raman spectroscopy, which exposes the molecule to light in the infrared range, is a more difficult technique and one rarely found in the undergraduate environment,” said Professor of Chemistry Eamonn Healy, who supervised Nixon’s research. “We are blessed here at St. Edward’s with sophisticated instrumentation that is totally accessible to undergraduates, which will be very useful in terms of preparing Monique for graduate school.”

Coupled with what she learned through her research, Nixon’s “dogged perseverance” sets her work apart. “Monique always had a willingness and a desire to look at other approaches, to keep working and moving ahead,” said Healy. “She has a degree of persistence critical to research success.”
The School of Natural Sciences at St. Edward's sets a high standard when it comes to preparing students for careers and graduate school. Here's a look at what it takes to educate a student in the sciences — St. Edward's style.

**What it takes to educate a student in the Natural Sciences**

By Susan Wolf

Facilities

Some physicists say space is infinite, but they would never make such a claim about classroom and laboratory space. The amount and kind of space students and faculty members have to teach, learn and collaborate in is critical to success of every program. At St. Edward's, plans are currently underway for new science facilities which will further enhance the school’s tradition of collaboration and bring the university’s instruction and laboratory space from 50 square-feet per student to the national average of 130-square-feet per student.

Funding

In the sciences, finding financial support is an important activity for faculty and students. The School of Natural Sciences has a successful history of obtaining funding from such organizations as National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Defense and The Welch Foundation. These organizations help purchase equipment, fund programs and fuel student scholarship and internship opportunities. While faculty members in the School of Natural Sciences are proud of their past success, they say there is always a need for more financial support in these areas.

Technology

It’s not surprising that computers, and space to work with them, is essential to students studying everything from biology and chemistry to mathematics and computer science. Computers are used in almost every laboratory and classroom, and students in some labs even have computers on moveable carts that help them work collaboratively with faculty and one another. In addition, the School of Natural Sciences actually has its own server, which support the department and serves as a teaching tool for students studying computer science.

Equipment & Instrumentation

You need more than beakers and slide rules to educate a student in the sciences today, and our scientific equipment and instrumentation is key to the success of our students. Want to examine a specimen at the atomic, or “nano” level? You need an Atomic Force Microscope. Want to look inside something, literally? You need Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Equipment. The price tag on such items can be steep. In fact, such high-end equipment ranges in price from $40,000-$100,000.

Faculty

When it comes to supervising student research, good faculty members are key to the success of students. At larger institutions, undergraduates rarely have the opportunity to work closely with Ph.D.-holding faculty; at St. Edward's, this kind of interaction is the norm, not the exception. Almost every full-time natural sciences faculty member at St. Edward's holds a doctoral degree, a background that helps these professors be the best scientific mentors and advisors possible.
On Thursday afternoons during the summer, St. Edward’s Professor of Mathematics Jean McKemie sells tomatoes. She packs cartons of the ripe, red fruits from her Dale, Texas, farm and drives to the Georgetown farmers’ market to peddle her perishable wares. Unlike many of her fellow vendors, though, McKemie relishes the slow days.

On slow days, she can concentrate on the piles of scratch paper she has brought with her to the market. “I get to a point in my work where I need some uninterrupted time,” she said. “I’ll sit there on the courthouse lawn and work on my problem, and that gives me a couple of hours to work.”

McKemie studies geometric function theory. “Imagine you have an airplane that you’re designing,” she explained. “What shape should your wing surface be to minimize friction? If you don’t have a particularly nice shape to work with, like an awkward airplane wing, you might apply one of the functions I study, and it transforms the entire geometry of the problem. You take the awkward geometry, transform it to the easy geometry, solve the problem and then carry your answer back.”

McKemie makes her work sound simple, but the types of problems she tackles can take years to solve. Once she solves a problem, she has no idea how or when other researchers might use it. “I solve problems because they interest me,” she said simply.

As a graduate student, McKemie toyed with working in a more applied field but realized that theory was what she enjoyed most. After earning a dual bachelor’s degree in math and physics, she worked at a research laboratory studying underwater acoustics and earned her master’s degree in mechanical engineering. “I spent a long time trying to end up in the applied world, but it just didn’t fit,” said McKemie, who went on to earn her doctorate in mathematics.

Teaching her students to enjoy theory is often as difficult as solving a problem. “When students get to college, they’re convinced that there is a method of solution for every problem and that they just haven’t taken the right course yet where a teacher is going to stand up and say, ‘Here’s how you do it,’ ” she said. “There are a huge number of questions that people don’t know the answers to. There’s a constant battle with research students to think, ‘If I were really good I could solve this instantly.’ I tell my students, ‘Everybody feels like this. You’ve been working for two months and you can’t do it. I’ve had this one I’ve been working on for four years, and I can’t solve it.’ A lot of my job as a teacher is cheerleading.”

As the university’s Lucian Blersch Professor, McKemie cheerleads out of the classroom, too. Since taking the job two years ago, she has worked with library staff to gain access to an online database of mathematics journals so that students have the best resources available. She has established research stipends with Lucian funds for students conducting summer research. Each spring, she organizes an annual symposium on campus that brings in a renowned scholar in the natural sciences.

Like Brother Daniel Lynch, CSC, the university’s first Lucian professor, McKemie actively cares about her students and their education. “I think mathematicians at every level get frustrated along the way,” she said. “The most rewarding part is just to see my students make progress.”
The Task at Hand  A father of three with a fondness for golf, a former deputy sheriff, a soccer player from Colombia and an ex–student government vice president with a green thumb. Four St. Edward’s alumni, four unique individuals, who share a common goal — serving the world through science.
Barbara Foreman, ’96

She may not run faster than a speeding bullet or leap tall buildings in a single bound, but when it comes to environmental crime, Barbara Foreman, ’96, is definitely a super hero. As the manager of special investigations for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and the commander of the Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force, Foreman spent the past eight years keeping Texas clean by putting polluters behind bars. Her program is a model for other states, and her hard work has won the praise and respect of environmental leaders across the country.

It also caught the attention of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where Foreman was recently appointed to the role of special assistant for state and local program development in the Office of Compliance, Enforcement, Forensics and Training in Washington, D.C. While similar to her Texas post — though on a much larger scale — her new job will allow Foreman to consult with cities and states to establish and improve environmental crime programs nationwide.

“People tend to think of environmental crime as a civil matter, but we send people to jail,” she said. “Environmental crime affects our air and water quality and eventually impacts our wallets, because taxpayers end up paying to clean it up.”

With more than 20 years experience and the distinction as the first African American woman deputy sheriff in Travis county, Foreman was already successful, but felt there was something missing. “I looked around the room one day and realized I was the only one without at least a bachelor’s degree,” she said. “That was the turning point.”

She enrolled in St. Edward’s University New College and graduated with a degree in public administration. While her chosen degree did not prepare her for the scientific elements of her job, it taught her something much more valuable. “I learned how to think critically, creatively and to find solutions, as well as learning how to conduct effective research. Each of these skills can be applied to help me solve the real-world problems I encounter every day.”

Foreman says being innovative and creative in her approach to catching environmental criminals is what has set her apart and made her successful. With her new position at the EPA, she hopes to put her critical thinking skills to work improving national environmental programs. Meanwhile, with her goal of earning her bachelor’s degree achieved, she continues working toward a Master of Liberal Arts degree from St. Edward’s. — Stephanie Elsea

Nelson Arboleda, ’94

Nelson Arboleda, ’94, came to St. Edward’s from Colombia on a soccer scholarship. Dividing his time between corner kicks and textbooks, Arboleda studied hard. He majored in biology and knew he one day wanted to return home as a doctor, treating innocent victims of the guerilla warfare that has plagued his country for decades.

After graduation, Arboleda attended medical school in Cali, Colombia, and worked at the Universidad del Valle trauma center treating child victims of gunshot wounds, burns, stabblings, kidnappings and landmines. Without wanting to, he became an expert in civil war, the disruption it causes to families and its devastating impact on children. In fact, it is the hope of making a difference that keeps Arboleda committed to his work.

“There are times when you can’t reach children, can’t get to them, can’t find them,” he said. “But there is nothing like seeing the smile on a child’s face when you’ve been able to help.”

Currently a specialist at the Partnership for the Study and Prevention of Violence in Miami, Fla., Arboleda travels to Colombia frequently to investigate for Cisalva, the center for health and violence at the Universidad del Valle that looks into kidnappings, forced displacement, civil violence and child exploitation by guerilla groups.

When not investigating for Cisalva, Arboleda educates his peers. He frequently travels across the globe — most recently to Finland, Yugoslavia and Canada — presenting to doctors, medical students, non-profit groups and international consortiums about war and children and, more importantly, about how to treat and prevent violence against them. He has also lectured at universities in the United States including Harvard, Yale and Georgetown and worked with the United Nations’ charity UNICEF.

While nothing could have prepared him for the violence he witnesses, Arboleda is thankful for his time at St. Edward’s. “As an undergraduate I got the chance to relate to individuals with diverse backgrounds and from different communities, which has been invaluable,” he said. “St. Edward’s taught me how to interact with other cultures, and I do that with my work every day.”

— Stacia Hernstrom
Bill Rueb, ’63

When Bill Rueb, ’63, sits down at his desk, he might take a call from the Department of Defense. He might phone Moscow or review his notes on weapons-grade plutonium before catching the morning flight to Washington, D.C. But what he is ultimately doing is making the world a safer place.

Rueb crafts strategies to dismantle weapons of mass destruction remaining in the former Soviet Union from the era of Cold War arms proliferation. Working closely with the U.S. government through the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, he submits proposals about abolishing stockpiles of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and the missiles that carry them.

“The Nunn-Lugar Act, which is now the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, began in 1991 as a way to help the former Soviet republics dismantle their weapons of mass destruction,” said Rueb, who works for Washington Group International, one of five companies that vie for contracts to reduce such arsenals. “Every project is different, but our goal is to eradicate those chemical, biological and nuclear agents.”

Take an average month for Rueb: attending the U.S.-Russia Business Council meeting to find out about upcoming projects, working to eliminate intercontinental ballistic missiles in the Ukraine and developing a plan to dispose of plutonium in Russia.

“The best part of my job is working to advance society, to advance the policies of the United States,” said Rueb, who has worked with the federal government in some capacity for almost three decades. “When I started my career, I was doing fuze design for rockets and then I was at the Department of Energy, which was actually constructing nuclear weapons. Now, I am in the business of destroying weapons. My career has gone through the whole cycle, from designing to building to destroying.”

As a physics major at St. Edward’s in the early 1960s, Rueb didn’t know where he might end up, but he knew he would be prepared. “My undergraduate degree prepared me in every way,” said Rueb, who went on to earn two master's degrees, one in physics and one in business administration. “It allowed me to get into the projects I work on today and to really understand them. Without what I learned from St. Edward's, I wouldn’t have gotten through the door.” — Stacia Hernstrom

Monica Flores, ’01

Monica Flores’ voice perks up at the mention of research, labs and genes. As a research assistant at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Monica Flores, ’01, conducts research in hopes of locating a gene that is more susceptible to cancerous tumors. “The beginning work of research is very hard because it’s repetitive. The impact of the results will happen later, but I can’t give up,” Flores said.

After comparing two strains of mice, researchers discovered that tumors appeared more rapidly in some mice than in others. What caused this? Flores is determined to find out. The project is new, revealing something every day.

“I love the lab. I’m looking for the gene, and I’m hopeful. I want to find it,” Flores said. If the research shows that there is a correlation between human and mice genes, the findings could possibly prevent human tumors, she said.

Flores was the first biology major from St. Edward’s to be selected for the CANDAX-ME McNair Scholars Summer Research Program at the University of Notre Dame. No one expected that after her internship she would pave the way for the more than 20 science majors who have since participated in the program.

“When she was a freshman, I thought she was very shy and quiet,” Esther Yacono, College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) director said. “But she’s transformed and becomes a different person when presenting her research. I’m very impressed.”

Flores’ experience at St. Edward’s helped her realize that research was one of her passions. “I had the support of both the CAMP program and Professor William Quinn,” Flores said. “He encouraged me, and I owe him a lot.”

At the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Flores continues to pave the way for science majors by supervising St. Edward’s interns conducting research. “Monica is my role model,” biochemistry intern Anita Ramos, ’03, said, who works under Flores’ supervision. “She has a lot of patience and never gives up. She shares her knowledge with others, and she’s taught me to trust myself to persevere.”

Flores plans to start her doctoral studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in the graduate school of biomedical studies. “Once I get something going, it gives me more of a drive. I see where my research can go, and I want to take it there.” — Nancy Flores, ’03
Class ring returned after 25 years

Five years ago, computer engineer Charlie Cox stepped out of his Ford Taurus wagon in a San Diego, Calif., parking lot and nearly stepped on something shiny. He knelt down and picked up a gold class ring lying on the pavement. Dated 1969, it had come from St. Edward's University and bore an unmistakable relief of Main Building. The engraved name on the inside of the ring was rubbing away, and Cox could not read it.

“I wanted to return the ring to its owner, so I took it home and watched the lost and found ads in the newspaper but found nothing,” he said. “I kept the ring in a drawer and stumbled across it again about a year ago. I looked up the university on the Internet and sent an email asking about the ring.”

After corresponding with University Relations, Cox mailed the ring to the university. Research and records staff members searched the university database for bachelor of arts candidates from the class of 1969, the only characteristics legible on the ring. Finding little to go on, they contacted University Archives.

University Archives matched the few letters they could decipher from the inscription with archived documents and determined that the ring belonged to Paul Jeffrey Donalson, ’69. A navy officer who flew 179 successful missions in Vietnam, Donalson passed away in 1976 when his plane crashed during a routine training mission in California — two decades before Cox found the ring in San Diego.

University Relations contacted Donalson’s family, and soon after, his parents came to campus to claim the ring. Neither Cox nor Donalson’s parents know where the ring had been between Donalson’s death and the day Cox found it. “I still wonder who it was in San Diego that lost the ring in the parking lot only five years ago,” said Cox.

“Someone had been carrying it since 1976 until then.”

Donalson twice lost his high school class ring in Austin, but had it returned to him on both occasions. “Paul’s rings do seem to travel,” said Donalson’s mother. But they always find their way home.

George G. Hutzler, ’38, is recovering from a stroke.

J. Pete Parsons, ’54, spent 20 days in Kyrgyzstan, Asia, as a volunteer with the nonprofit organization Winrock International. He gave consultation to several newly organized credit unions and presented a three-day seminar on improving loan policies, credit evaluations and establishing loan loss reserves for 35 credit union leaders from that area.

LeRoy A. Spangler Jr., ’57, wants to share that the 1957 class reunion is scheduled for Nov. 7-10.

John S. Holm, ’60, lives in Danville, Calif., and retired on Dec. 14. He is pleased to announce the birth of his first grandson on June 30.

Joseph T. Jordan, ’61, celebrated his 41st anniversary of teaching. The last 35 years have been as an associate professor of mathematics at John Tyler Community College in Chester, Va.

Jon Hilsabeck, ’64, MBA ’72, has served on the adjunct faculty at St. Edward’s since 1995 teaching business ethics, strategic management, finance and health care management. He completed his term as regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives and now serves as the senior vice president of the Texas Hospital Association in Austin.

Jack Frels, ’68, was named chief of the criminal division for the U.S. Attorney’s Office Southern District of Texas in January.

Danny J. DeGuire, ’69, is proud to announce that his daughters both received their degrees from St. Edward’s University. Laura received her master’s degree in counseling in December, and his youngest daughter, Lani, received her bachelor’s degree in mass communications in May 2000.

Robert A. Fogliano, ’69, is senior vice president and complex manager of Advest, Inc., for New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

Paul Frederick Jubenville, ’69, is a retired teacher in Manchester, Conn.

Alton H. Hillis, ’70, is the chief financial officer of the Delaware Transit Corp. He is an adjunct professor for Wilmington College, where he has taught for the past eight years. He and his wife, Trish, are enjoying the empty nest and hope to put St. Edward’s in their travel plans next year.

Joseph B. Smith Jr., ’70, and his wife, Jennie, are having fun with their three children, ages 12, 9 and 4. Joseph has been with DuPont for 31 years and counting.

Mary T. Tovar, ’70, is proud to announce that two of her daughters, Roxanne and Natalie, are pursuing their degrees at St. Edward’s with no coaxing from mom. Mary is a library assistant at Pleasant Hill Branch Library and celebrated 26 years of service with the Austin Public Library.

Ellen W. Gutierrez, ’71, traveled to Arizona and Schiffweiler, Germany.

James A. Wade, ’71, is president of the 2002 Indianapolis-Scarborough Peace Games Executive Board. The city will host the 30th anniversary celebration of the Peace Games, an athletic and cultural exchange program, the weekend of July 27-28.

Frank Leonard, ’73, was promoted to director of the Department of Corrections Training and Development Center. He is responsible for all new training programs, providing the basic recruit academy for correctional and probation offi-
emerging theater composers.

Joseph J. Malleske, ’73, celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary. He is pleased to announce the birth of his granddaughter, Courtney.

Barbara Irvine, MBA ’74, a New York-based music director/pianist, is project director and pianist for The Other Side of Broadway, a project dedicated to the performance and preservation of the classical music of established and emerging theater composers.

Vincent J. Tramonte, ’75, was re-elected chairman of the City of Galveston Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Father George Henniger, ’76, completed his residency at Indiana University. He is licensed mental health counselor, priest and chaplain at Riley Hospital for Children.

Jennifer M. Stansbury, graduated from St. Edward’s in December. She is a self-employed lawyer and mediator.

Salvador Hector Ochoa, ’82, received the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award — University Level in Teaching from the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University. This $4,000 cash award, the most prestigious teaching award at Texas A&M University, is given to a limited number of faculty members.

Debra G. Smith, ’77, is pleased to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Rebecca, on June 21.

Joe Camacho, ’78, started a new career as a long-term care administrator at La Bahia Health Care Center in Goliad. He is also vice president of the school board for the Luling Independent School District. His first son, Joe III, age 20, is attending ITT Technical Institute in Austin. His second son, Dexter, age 17, graduated from Luling High School. His daughter, Bianca, age 16, is a sophomore at Luling High School and his youngest son, Dominic, age 14, is a freshman at Luling High School.

David K. Darnell, ’79, is proud to announce that his daughter, Jennifer M. Stansbury, graduated from St. Edward’s in December.

John R. Sisario, ’79, retired as a major from the U.S. Army in October. He is employed as an instructor by Texas Engineering Extension Service of Texas A&M University, where he conducts weapons of mass destruction training for first responders nationwide.

Hugo D. Martinez, ’81, is a self-employed lawyer and mediator.

Carol Elizabeth Pool, ’81, is teaching nursing at South Texas Community College in McAllen. She has three children, ages 19, 17 and 13.

Jeff Lee, ’82, has created a new law firm, Lee Freeman & Well, P.C., specializing in labor and employment law and civil rights.

Salvador Hector Ochoa, ’82, earned degree in 1982.

Edie Robison, ’82, MAHS ’85, spent 40 years trying to graduate from college. She enrolled as an undergraduate student at Southeast Missouri State Teachers College in Cape Girardeau, Mo., in 1943 but soon decided to join the navy as a member of WAVES, Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, as World War II escalated.

During the war Robison worked as a navy pharmacist mate in Corpus Christi, Texas; New Orleans, La.; and Atlanta, Ga.

“The hardest part of the job was the hours,” she said. “We worked 70 hours a week and were surrounded by sickness. But we played hard, too. It was wartime, and people were living hard because they weren’t sure they were going to make it.”

Robison returned to Missouri after the war and enrolled at Washington University. Soon after, she met her husband, an air force officer, and moved to Hamilton Air Force Base in California. For 35 years, she traveled the country as an air force wife, living in Okinawa, Turkey and Germany.

Between overseas tours when she and her family were stationed in the United States, Robison would attend local community colleges and even earned a two-year associate’s degree from Marin College in California.

Not until she moved to Austin did she finally earn her elusive bachelor’s degree from St. Edward’s University in 1982, using both her and her husband’s GI bills to pay for her classes. “I think I took psychology 101 at four different colleges!” said Robison. “Getting my degree was the greatest day of my life.” Robison returned to St. Edward’s the next year to start work on her master’s degree in human services, which she completed in 1985. “I love St. Edward’s,” she said. “They care about you, and they really understand the needs of older students.”

These days, 79-year-old Robison has taken up woodworking and travels around the state in her Honda CRV attending woodworking conventions. “I make everything fun,” she said. “Isn’t that the way it’s supposed to be? I’ve had hard times, naturally, but I’ve really lived my life to the fullest.”

# ALUMNI NOTES

## 70s cont.

## 80s

## Degree in the making

# ALUMNI NOTES
When he retired in 1999, Wendell W. Mayes Jr. was at the envious point in his life where he could truly do almost anything. He had worked hard for more than 50 years, running the family’s broadcasting business and had devoted countless hours volunteering for diabetes education and outreach. At an age when many of his contemporaries were retiring to the golf course or the rocking chair, Mayes dusted off his books and enrolled in St. Edward’s University New College.

“People always ask me why I decided to go back to school,” he said. “The honest answer is that I just want to learn some more things. I didn’t want to sit around and do nothing all day, and there are an awful lot of things I don’t know that I would like to learn.”

So at age 78 — 50 years after earning his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Texas Tech University — Mayes once again donned the cap and gown for commencement, graduating summa cum laude this May with a Bachelor of Arts in computer science. But, he is still not finished.

“I was talking with English professor Tim Green, and I told him I was thinking about enrolling in the Masters of Business Administration program. He suggested I look into the Masters of Liberal Arts program instead, because it was quite different from what I had studied in the past. It was good advice, so I did.” Not one to waste time, Mayes immediately enrolled and began taking classes toward the Master in Liberal Arts (MLA) degree while simultaneously earning his computer science degree.

With one degree under his belt, Mayes knew he would have some extra time. “I kept thinking about the MBA program and wanted to take some finance classes. I figured now was as good a time as any, so I applied and will begin taking MBA classes in the fall,” he said.

Why do it? “I think it’s important to stay curious and to keep learning, no matter how old you are. The most important thing about college isn’t the grades or even the social part, it is simply to learn.”

Good advice from a man whose middle name is, appropriately enough, Wise.

Salomon Torres, ’87, is economic development director in San Benito. His responsibility is to manage an economic and business development strategy to generate economic opportunities for a city of 24,000 in a fast-growing region. Kathy Backus, ’88, received the Vision Award from the Austin Groups for the Elderly in May for her work in founding the South Austin Caregivers, which she did while she was completing a senior internship for her gerontology degree through New College.

Rebecca L. (Davis) Ramirez, ’89, and her husband are stationed in Bosnia where they work for the International Catholic Migration Commission.

Gail A. Xandy, ’89, and Nikki Nichols, ’89, purchased a new manufactured home and live on a mountain ridge with their three adopted grandchildren. Nikki works for Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Gail has opened Kingsland Nursery, working with her daughter to restore the nursery to its former glory.

Marie (Arnold) Mendoza, ’90, and her husband, Francisco, have two children, Maya, 2, and Matthew, 1. Marie has been an educational specialist (teacher staff development in the areas of reading and writing) for more than five years. She is also pursuing her doctorate degree in reading.

Marco A. Acevedo, ’91, is a Chicago police academy instructor in control tactics and physical training. He received his master’s degree in public administration in June 2001 from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Ill. Marco has been a police officer since 1994. He is also a member of Chicago’s Finest, a Chicago police baseball team, which will play in professional ballparks across the country this summer. He played baseball while attending St. Edward’s.
Laura (Ham) Griebel, ’91, is an adjunct instructor at St. Edward’s teaching a new class, Introduction to Disabilities.

David Kampert, ’91, became a State Farm insurance agent in Noblesville, Ind., a suburb of Indianapolis, on Dec. 1, 2001. He had a herniated disc removed on Dec. 26, 2001, and praises God that he is recovering extremely well. David is also an assistant varsity basketball coach for Noblesville High School, which is ranked in the top 10 in the state. It’s a volunteer position but he gets lots of free stuff. He can be reached via email at david.kampert.jxc3@statefarm.com.

Anna Maria G. Saenz, ’91, is an operations/human resource clerk at Southwestern Bell Telephone in Austin. Her son, Jose, graduated from Phillips Academy in 1995, Stanford University in 1999 and works as a mechanical engineer at the Fraunhoffer Institute in Magdeburg, Germany. Anna’s family traveled to Germany for Jose’s wedding in June of 2001.

Michelle (Campbell) Babb, ’92, has relocated to the greater Washington, D.C., area working for Kaiser Permanente as a call center system administrator.

Angie Castilleja, ’92, is a juvenile probation officer in Austin and moonlights as an actor. She worked on a Southwest Airlines commercial and is on the packaging of Pampers Pull-Ups across the country. She can be reached via email at castilleja_a@hotmail.com.

Regan Wayne Giese, ’92, was promoted to vice president of CH2M Hill, the world’s largest environmental engineering firm celebrating 35 years of service.

Lynn Maley, ’92, is pleased to announce her engagement to Paul Kessman in August. Lynn is a chief of staff at First Data Corp. in Littleton, Colo., and Paul is a product development director for Medtronic Surgical Navigation Technologies. The wedding party will include two fellow St. Edward’s graduates Shannon (Malarky) Abin, ’92, and Kenneth Hilbig, ’92. Lynn’s new email address is maley_kessman@excite.com.

Celia Rodriguez-Collard, ’92, and her husband, Shawn, live in Austin where she is the high school guidance program specialist for the Austin Independent School District. Shawn is the owner and director of Renaissance Consulting.

Debra (Rosa) Guillot, ’92, is a stay-at-home mom in Katy with her husband and four children (two boys and two girls). She would love to hear from old classmates via email at debra_guillot@hotmail.com.

Antonio Ballesteros, ’93, received his master’s degree in education from Texas A&M University in 2001 and is teaching physics in Edinburg.

David Cotter, ’93, is a vocational rehab counselor for the Via Christi Charitable Foundation, which was incorporated in 1997 to advance the mission of Via Christi Oklahoma Regional Medical Center by raising funds for support of programs, project and services operated by the medical center.

Michele (Guerrero) Reisinger, ’93, has relocated to Atlanta, Ga., where she is an import coordinator for steamship line Hapag Lloyd. She would love to hear from old classmates via email at mikeandmicheler@cs.com.

James E. Koch, ’93, is a physician assistant in a busy family practice with a great doctor in Lockhart. He is also working part-time in the emergency department at Central Texas Medical Center in San Marcos. He is still married with four wonderful children. James can be reached via email at gonnabeapa@aol.com.

Matthew G. Moisan, ’93, is a staff accountant with Complink, Inc., a COBRA benefits administrator. He is also pursuing his master’s degree in accounting.

Francisco “Frank” A. Nieto Jr., ’93, is a vocational rehab coun-
Calling all St. Edward’s Alumni

Soon, locating fellow alumni will be as easy as turning a page with the St. Edward’s University Alumni Directory.

Beginning July 22, representatives of Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc., will start phoning alumni for the verification phase of our St. Edward’s University Alumni Directory project. Much of the information to be verified on each individual’s listing will be going into the directory, including current name, academic data, residence address and phone number, career information and preferred email address. The scope of this information is an indication of the comprehensive quality of the entire volume. Alumni will be able to sort this data by name in the alphabetical division, and by class year and geographical location in separate sections of the book. There will also be a special message from the Office of Alumni Programs as well as photos and information about the school.

You may reserve your personal copy when your Harris representative phones, but don’t delay because only pre-publication orders received at that time will be guaranteed.

90s Cont.

selor for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. In March, he was elected as the Karnes County Democratic Chairman. He began his term in June.

Jennifer O’Quinn, ’93, has been a teacher at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, N.C., for the past six years.

Michelle Wadino, ’93, is an account manager at Harte-Hanks in Dallas.

Heather Roal Hirshorn, ’94, is a marketing manager for an investment firm in New York City, N.Y.

Yolanda Cecilia Peca, ’94, received her master’s degree in education from Texas Wesleyan University in December 2001.

Lorri Vogel, ’94, her husband, Chris, and the kids relocated to Allen, just north of Dallas. They would love to hear from anyone in the area or old friends via email at candlvogel@yahoo.com.

Christopher Neal Gustafson, ’95, is employed with Spring PCS in Dallas where he recruits sales people for a six-state territory across the southeast United States. He can be reached via email at cgusta01@sprintspectrum.com.

Eileen McConnell, ’95, received her doctorate in sociology from the University of Notre Dame in May 2001. She is a professor with the Latino Studies Department at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Jose Manuel Ponce Navarrete, ’95, lives in beautiful, colonial Guanajuato, Mexico. He organized the first annual Jeep Jamboree Bash Trail Ride for his offroad club in March. He will compete in the Serial Ramsey Cup 2003, Cup 180 GPS race and the Baja 500 next June 2003. Jose also started a new ecological project (Solar powered) at their family ranch in Guanajuato, which will consist of building a guest ranch resort on their lake. He sends his greetings to the groovers and classes of ’95 and ’96, especially the international business majors.

Baron Tyrone Nickleberry, ’95, received his doctorate in chiropractic medicine from Texas Chiropractic College in April.

Alvaro Bermudez, ’96, received his master’s degree in business from the University of St. Thomas in Houston in 2000. He is employed with Duke Energy.

Christina Gindratt, ’96, has passed the Texas Bar exam.

Katie Michele (Hutchens) Davis, ’96, and her husband, Chris, have relocated to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Sandra Rankin, MAHS ’96, started an online business providing continuing education courses for Texas licensed professional counselors and social workers in March. The web site allows counselors to register, pay through a

IN MEMORIAM

James Julius, '29, of San Antonio on Dec. 6, 1993.
William P. Angrick, '37, of La Porte, Ind.
John A. Young, '38, of Corpus Christi on Jan. 22.
Mark M. Wagner, '41, of San Antonio on Jan. 16.
Manuel T. “Meme” Longoria, '45, on March 17.
John Gorman, '48, of Athens, Ga., on June 1, 2001.
Edward Louis Neu, '52, of Indianapolis, Ind., on March 14.
Barry Linda, '57, of Flower Mound on March 6.
James P. Hahl, '64, on Sept. 19, 1996.
Edward Overstreet, '67, of Dearborn, Mich., on Feb. 3.
T. Richard Handler, '68, of Dallas.
Andrew V. Page, '71, of Northport, N.Y., on March 20.
Ken E. Loomis, '72, on Nov. 16, 1994.
James F. Pendery, '72, of Dallas.
Robert J. Hudspeth, '73, on July 2, 1998.
MaryJane Cashman, '77, of Scottsdale, Ariz., in March.
Lily M. Green, '80, of Indianapolis, Ind., on Sept. 12, 1997.
Eloise S. Myers, '85, in February of 2000.
Shari Sherman, '85, of San Antonio on March 27.
secure site, instantly obtain pass-
words and complete required con-
tinuing education units online 24
hours a day. The site,
www.exgc.com, is expanding into
other states with a goal of being
national by the end of 2002.

Noemi “Mimi” (Villarreal)
Madrid, ’96, her husband and
two daughters moved to Olmsted
Falls, Ohio, a suburb outside of
Cleveland. They are doing well, but
miss the Southwest.

TimMarie C. Williams, ’96, is
pursuing her doctorate in public
health, along with a doctorate of
osteopathic medicine at the
University of North Texas Health
Science Center at Fort Worth. After
receiving her master’s degree in
clinical gerontology from Baylor
University in 2000, TimMarie ful-
filled the roles of an associate
researcher at the University of
Texas at Austin School of Nursing,
as well as grant coordinator and
executive director of a Health and
Wellness Center in North Carolina.

Christopher A. Fredrickson,
’97, and his wife, Michaela, live in
Staten Island, N.Y. Chris is a system
analyst for the New York Stock
Exchange, and Michaela is a
kindergarten teacher.

Michael Lucas, ’97, received an
award for Outstanding Public
Service for People with Disabilities
from the United Cerebral Palsy of
Texas at their annual state meeting.
He was recognized for his extraor-
dinary efforts in helping to enact
legislation for individuals and fami-
dies touched by cerebral palsy.

Heather McCaa, ’97, is pursu-
ing her doctorate in criminal jus-
tice at American University in
Washington, D.C. She also con-
ducts juvenile justice–related
research for a nonprofit organiza-
tion on Capitol Hill.

Rebecca Benavides, ’98, is a
lawyer in the litigation department
of Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. in
Houston.

Jack Gaden, ’98, was promoted
to general manager of the Los
Angeles Customer Relationship
Management Services facility of
Harte-Hanks, Inc. The 225-seat
call and contact center in subur-
burn Valencia serves several con-
sumer and business-to-business
marketing clients of the worldwide
firm.

Tim “Sam” Sprokel, ’98, trav-
elled the Himalayas. He received his
graduate degree from Rice
University. He will embark on his
first try up Mount Everest.

Jesse Butler, ’99, is pleased to
announce his engagement to
Sona Gonzales, ’99. They plan
to wed on Feb. 8, 2003, at Our
Lady Queen of Peace Chapel on the
St. Edward’s campus. Jesse is pur-
suing his law degree from
Southern Methodist University, and
Sona is a first grade teacher for
the Plano Independent School
District.

Katherine (Heyne) Traminte,
’99, lives in Houston, where she is
still painting. She said, “I miss
Austin.”

Esmeralda Lozano, ’99, is
pleased to announce her engage-
ment to Thuy Hoang, ’99.

David Sanchez, ’99, has been
with the University of Southern
California Athletic Department in
Los Angeles, Calif., since May
2001. He was promoted to account
executive in corporate partnerships
in December 2001. Friends may
reach him via email at
DBS@usc.edu.

Tshepang (Selekanyo) Mothibi,
’99, is attending medical school at

Maureen Dugan, ’81

For the past 18 years
Maureen Dugan, ’81, has
served the U.S. government as
a foreign service officer. She
spent most of that time over-
seas and has lived in
Botswana, Costa Rica, Egypt,
Israel and the West Bank and
Gaza Strip. Dugan currently
works in Washington, D.C., as the senior advisor to the
head of the U.S. Agency for International Development
(USAID), which annually provides more than $8 billion in
aid to nearly 100 countries. USAID is currently in charge of
the humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan.

“Last fall, we focused heavily on getting food, blankets and
medicine to Afghans to avoid a major catastrophe before
winter set in,” said Dugan. “Now we’re focusing on rebuild-
ing Afghanistan. The recent reopening of schools was a
very important step. We printed 10 million textbooks in a
few months time to help that process.” Providing more
than $500 million in assistance, the United States is the
biggest bilateral donor helping Afghanistan.

Although Dugan is a world away from Austin, she still
holds St. Edward’s University close to her heart and cred-
its the university with much of her success. “St. Edward’s
instilled a real sense of community and service in me,” she
said. Dugan regularly deals with people from all social and
economic backgrounds — from humble villagers to heads
of state — and her strong liberal arts background is a
foundation to her efforts.

It was at St. Edward’s that Dugan decided she would like to
work in international programs as a career. Through the
global studies program and internships in both the United
States and foreign countries, Dugan was able to gain valu-
able experience that would eventually propel her into a
successful and highly gratifying career.

Dugan fondly remembers the inspiration and support that
professors William Zanardi and Don Post and her class-
mates provided her. Dugan’s selfless attitude is summed
up by a quote she lives by: “You have the opportunity to
make a difference in someone’s life every single day. Don’t
squander it.”
Dear Alumni Community:

Growth and change are a constant in our lives. At St. Edward’s, growth and change have been happening in many ways: over 4,200 students enrolled, a new academic building opening in the fall, new student residences opening in 2003, and a vision for the university that ensures the quality and personalized education we have each experienced.

As I begin my term of leadership on the alumni board I invite each of you to join in the excitement of what is happening on campus. I am proud that the plans for the future will ensure the deep sense of community that we have experienced.

Alumni Community

As St. Edward’s grows, not surprisingly so does our alumni community. Within our community, there are tremendous opportunities for socializing and networking, be it on personal or professional levels. The alumni board plans to strengthen the ties of our community through local educational, professional, social and service-oriented activities. The calendar of activities in this issue of the magazine shows some of the many ways you can be connected with the St. Edward’s alumni community.

Alumni Reunion February 14-16, 2003

Reunion is a very special part of our alumni community. Within our community, there are tremendous opportunities for socializing and networking, be it on personal or professional levels. The alumni board plans to strengthen the ties of our community through local educational, professional, social and service-oriented activities. The calendar of activities in this issue of the magazine shows some of the many ways you can be connected with the St. Edward’s alumni community.

Alumni Reunion February 14-16, 2003

Reunion is a very special part of our alumni community. There are some changes you have probably noticed already: it is scheduled in February. The change was made to coordinate reunion with Homecoming and Parents Weekend. In the past, alumni came back to an empty campus in the summer. The alumni board decided that we want alumni to experience an active and vibrant campus life. We want current students to meet an alumni community celebrating the past and excited about the future of St. Edward’s. I am depending on your understanding support of this change. Beginning with Reunion 2003, we will hold Reunion every year.

Your St. Edward’s experience need not have ended the moment you left campus. As local alumni chapters develop and plan events or activities, your experience can continue.

YOU make the difference!

Please contact me any time at ptramonte@reliant.com.

— Paul Tramonte, ’91
Chair, Alumni Board

Julie Shamburger, ’98

If someone had told Julie Shamburger, ’98, that she would live in and experience the cultures of seven countries by her mid-twenties, she wouldn’t have believed him. But that’s exactly what she did.

“While attending St. Edward’s, I met people from all over the world and these experiences made other cultures and countries real for me,” said Shamburger. “After meeting people from so many different places and learning about their homelands, I was able to, and wanted to, relate more to these unfamiliar and far-away lands.”

Her curiosity stirred, Shamburger lived in Spain and Germany teaching English for a year following graduation. The taste of travelling abroad only whetted her palate for more. After moving back to Austin for a short period of time, she accepted a Rotary Foundation Scholarship to go to Australia, where she earned her master’s degree from Bond University in corporate communication management through an accelerated program.

As a Rotary scholar, Shamburger’s goal was to further international friendship and foster cultural understanding. While abroad, she visited Rotary clubs making presentations about life in the United States. And now that she is back in Texas, she travels to Rotary clubs sharing information about her experiences in other parts of the world.

Her most recent European adventure landed her a position that Shamburger found impossible to pass up. She accepted a job offer in Romania as editor for a publishing company. There she worked three months publishing magazines and a major book on Bucharest and Romania. “These months in Romania, although difficult, were three of the more interesting and enriching months of my life,” she said.

“I am not sure I really would have thought about exploring other lands had it not been for the diverse student body of St. Edward’s,” said Shamburger. “Now I fully understand the importance and value of having students from all over the world sitting together in one classroom. The faculty was able to fulfill the university’s mission statement of honoring and promoting diversity so completely and gracefully. They taught me the value of truly living and loving the world we live in.”
ALUMNI NOTES

the Medical University of Southern Africa, with a completion date in 2004. She is also the proud aunt of two nephews.

Connie Torres Bergara, ’99, has been a volunteer for the Round Rock Police Department’s Victim’s Assistance Program for more than a year. As a volunteer, she provides support and information regarding victim’s compensation, as well as referrals to community agencies for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or other crimes. She said, “It is a rewarding experience that has allowed me to utilize my degree from St. Edward’s.”

Leah Baird, ’00, is pursuing her master’s degree in physician assistant studies at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Summer Hill, ’00, is obtaining her elementary school teaching certification.

Marilyn Michelle LaRue, ’00, is a teacher at Mount Carmel High School in Houston.

Kelly (Schroller) Toney, ’00, and her husband, Ryan, live in Austin where Kelly is a sixth grade history, science and Bible teacher at Hill Country Christian School. Ryan is applying for medical school.

Gethsemani Palacios, ’01, is a computer specialist for the Veterans Affairs Austin Automation Center. He is also part of the student career program committee, which promotes the hiring of interns, especially from St. Edward’s.

90s cont.

FUTURE HILLTOPPERS

To Michelle ( Huff) Beck, ’86, and Doug Beck, ’88, of Sugar Land, son Carson Louis on Jan. 23.

To Kathleen (Spethman) Pallesen, ’88, and Mike Pallesen of Omaha, Neb., twin girls, Elizabeth Marie and Margaret Rose on March 3.

To Angie Castilleja, ’92, and Jason E. Crouch of Austin, son Isaac on Sept. 11, 2001.


To Debra (Rosa) Guilot, ’92, of Katy, son Jacob on Jan. 10.


To Antonio Ballesteros, ’93, and Mayani M. Ballesteros of Edinburg, son Antonio III on Feb. 13.

To Manuel Lozano Jr., ’93, and Debbie Lozano of Pearland, daughter Hannah Michelle on Feb. 25.


To Stephanie (Spradlin) Eiting, ’97, of Brandon, Fla., son Cameron Jacob on Jan. 10.

To Erin (Cannon) Oehler, ’00, and Brian Oehler of Austin, son Jacob Christopher on Jan. 5.

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Your News: __________________________________________________________

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summerhill@stedwards.edu.

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futurehilltoppers

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Construction on a new academic/business building draws closer to completion as St. Edward’s University looks forwards to it’s opening this fall. The new structure will add 12 teaching classrooms to campus as well as a computer “tower” boasting a 24-hour computer lab and three computer classrooms.

The three high-tech classrooms will be situated above the lab and will have 25-27 computer stations in them. Because this electronic equipment will generate a significant amount of heat, this state-of-the-art tower will be equipped with a separate air-conditioning system that will increase the building’s overall energy efficiency.

Architecturally, the building is designed to fit in with the spirit of the rest of campus. It embraces the blend of historic and modern, and is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. The architect, Arthur W. Andersson of Andersson•Wise Architects of Austin, said that while the new building is not being designed to compete with the most recognizable building on campus, it does have many features that have been inspired by Main Building. The new academic building will have a red, pitched roof, and the computer tower will be reminiscent of the bell tower that plays such a prominent role in the St. Edward’s identity. The physical layout of the building will be very similar to Holy Cross Hall.

“This architect is very creative,” said Dave Dickson, vice president for financial affairs. “The architects studied Main Building and Holy Cross Hall and from that have developed proportions for the new building.”

Construction on the academic building began in July 2001. The new academic building will mark the first step of the campus Master Plan, which will eventually include an additional academic building, natural sciences facilities, four new residence halls, a new theater, a parking garage, a new chapel, several new athletic fields, a new administration building and a redesigned road system. Existing buildings, including the Scarborough-Phillips Library, will also receive a face-lift and expansion.