LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In an attempt to pretend I’m 18 years old instead of in my mid-30s, I read Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide this summer. All of the university’s incoming freshmen read the book, too.

Half the Sky (see page 3), a thoroughly researched and meticulously reported work, chronicles the harrowing conditions women around the world face because they’re, well, women. Since I finished the book, I’ve been telling everyone who will listen to read it. It’s powerful. It’s moving. It puts your bad day into perspective.

The book inspires action, even for those of us living worlds away from the problem. (I’m now an investor in a one-woman Philippine grocery market.) And it’s a powerful way to start off a school year: reading a book that illuminates solutions about an important human-rights issue.

As I reflected on both the book and the incoming freshmen who were reading it, I started imaging the change that these students might someday inspire. What nonprofits will they create? What diseases will they cure? What companies will they start? What solutions will they present to the world?

In this issue, we bring you a host of stories on alumni, students and faculty members who are changing the world in their own ways. Alumni who have started companies and nonprofits. Students who are searching for solutions to big problems. Faculty members who are inspiring young minds with powerful stories.

But back to the book. You should read it.

Frannie Schneider
Editor
22 LITERARY IBADAN
Assistant Professor of English Writing and Rhetoric Mary Helen Specht transports us to Ibadan, Nigeria, where she honed her writing craft while living among the shadows of African literary giants.

26 WHERE WE GATHER
It's not a grand cathedral or an architectural marvel. But Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel is one of the most beloved buildings on campus.

Back to School: Take a trip down memory lane with our video of the university's Move-in Weekend. There's food, fun and maybe a few tears (from mom and dad).

More than a Mentorship: When Anabel Rodriguez '14 walked into her Biology 1307 class, she had no idea how much the professor would shape her college experience.

Studying and Living in Chile: Students get a crash course in culture in coastal Chile. Plus, a 9-year-old Chilean student takes us inside her life with a video she created with the help of a new friend from St. Edward's.

Take on Your World: Watch how two alumni are making a living pursuing their dreams — one as a musician and the other as the owner of a gluten-free baking company.
The challenge: Create, develop and build an open-source application for improving K–12 education during the three-day inBloom Codeathon at SXSWedu in March.

The participants: Sergio Azua ’13 and Hunter Skrasek ’14, both Computer Science majors, and Hunter McLaughlin ’13, an Entrepreneurship major, versus eight professional teams. (That’s right: Students Azua, Skrasek and McLaughlin were competing against people who do this for a living.)

The impetus: Azua and Skrasek heard about the codeathon from Associate Professor of Computer Science James McGuffee. They casually kicked around the idea for a couple of weeks before deciding to enter the competition.

The prototype: inComm, a customizable app that tracks student progress at school and alerts parents to potential problems in their children’s performance or attendance.

The inspiration: Educators need a secure portal for streamlining parent–teacher communication and for tracking students’ achievements or struggles.

The results: After an exhausting 50 hours of brainstorming and development, the team from St. Edward’s won second place, which included $3,000 cash, $500 worth of Amazon Web Services (AWS) and four hours with an AWS solution architect.

The experience: “It was a confidence booster, for sure,” says Azua. “We proved to ourselves that we have what it takes to be successful in our future professions.”

The future: Azua, Skrasek and McLaughlin pocketed more than a cash prize; they also received valuable networking connections. Azua now works for Austin-based software company Neubus. Skrasek and McLaughlin landed positions with start-up companies. As for the app prototype, it is open to the public without restrictions.

The takeaway: “It was hands down one of the best experiences of my college career,” Azua says. —Lisa Thiegs
Do You Know What’s Wrong with Austin?

**Austin regularly tops** “best of” lists, with a reputation as a weird and wonderful place to live. It’s a beautiful city with lush parks, delicious food, friendly people and low unemployment.

But **Jay McCullar MLA ’12** argues that underneath that bright exterior, Austin’s less-privileged residents are slipping through the cracks. McCullar grew up in several inner-city environments around the country, and he knows firsthand what it’s like to go without. For his MLA special project, he identified some of the problems he saw in the poverty-stricken areas of Austin: poor education, limited community resources, dependence on government assistance and a lack of healthy-food options.

McCullar’s project highlighted the underperforming schools and food deserts in east and southeast Austin. (A food desert is an area with few grocery stores and an abundance of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.) Food deserts have been gaining national media attention, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released its Food Access Research Atlas, where policymakers and researchers can find out how far a person needs to go for green beans and spinach. For McCullar’s research, he interviewed inner-city residents, who spoke candidly about problems in their communities. Without vital resources like strong education and proper nutrition, those living in these areas have the cards stacked against them, says McCullar.

The goal of McCullar’s project was to raise awareness of these problems, and he’s been reaching out to local organizations and community leaders to present his findings. He wants to initiate conversations that will lead to solutions. In particular, he hopes to improve circumstances for at-risk youth. His positions as community engagement coordinator for the Austin Independent School District and coordinator of the Men of Distinction program with Austin Community College have long included outreach to young adults. For McCullar, the next step is starting a nonprofit organization that serves these kids and, hopefully, lets them break the cycle of poverty. —Lauren Liebowitz

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**Required Reading for Global Citizens**

If you’re looking to be challenged, inspired, shaken and moved, we have a book for you: *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Pulitzer Prize–winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, which is being read by this year’s incoming class. The book is connected to the annual university-wide exploration of a common theme. The topic for 2012–2013 is “expanding human rights.”

*Half the Sky* introduces readers to women and girls in the developing world who are facing horrendous circumstances — human trafficking, forced prostitution, gender-based violence and devastating injuries in childbirth. The book is a call to action about one of the greatest human-rights challenges facing our time.
**The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Tea Party**

An ancient Jewish community and the modern Tea Party may not seem related. But Richard Bautch, professor of Humanities and associate dean of the School of Humanities, sees a connection.

Bautch is a biblical studies scholar with an interest in the Dead Sea Scrolls, especially the text known as the Community Rule, a description of rules governing a particular religious community and one of the first scrolls to be discovered. “My research looks at how the community formed a group identity, established boundaries for inclusion and exclusion, and followed specific adherence to religious law,” Bautch says.

The group associated with the Community Rule established its own identity to separate itself from those in the mainstream — and its members believed that it would become dominant in the future.

“Here you have a minority group, in some senses a bit marginalized, with this internal narrative pointing forward to an ‘end time’ when their community expands and they become the Congregation of Israel, the majority in the Jewish faith,” Bautch says.

The group associated with the Community Rule did not survive beyond the first century of the common era. That’s where the Tea Party comes in. Like the Community Rule group, the Tea Party is a smaller subgroup in a larger political landscape, and it sees itself as the way of the future. Bautch finds that observing the Tea Party and its political dynamics can give scholars like himself insight into what might have happened more than 2,000 years ago.

—Lauren Liebowitz

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**Inspiring Minds**

Clare Healy ’13 remembers feeling scared when her first-grade teachers labeled her “at risk” because she couldn’t read. Her parents got her extra help in the classroom and a daily tutor, and it wasn’t long before Healy overcame the struggles she faced. Now, Healy, who graduated in August with a degree in Special Education, wants to help kids in similar situations.

“I don’t want others to feel the same resentment and fear for school I had just because they receive a diagnosis,” says Healy, who dealt with dyslexia growing up. “I hope that in my teaching career, I can provide the love and support these kids need to realize that they have just as bright of a future as anyone else.”

While working as a teacher’s aid one summer, Healy tutored a student who — like her 7-year-old self — had dyslexia. The student was embarrassed to read, much like Healy had been back in first grade. “I think it helps a student realize that having a learning disability isn’t a life sentence,” she says. “The struggles they face now will get easier if they keep working at it.”

This fall, Healy is completing her student teaching at Patton Elementary and Hill Country Middle School, both in Austin. “I’ve learned that I need to set high expectations for the kids I teach,” Healy says. “Regardless of where they come from or their diagnosis, they are often capable of achieving more in the classroom than some people would believe.” —Lisa Thiegs

St. Edward’s University launched its Special Education major in Fall 2012. Thirty-four students are currently enrolled in the program, and Healy was the first to graduate with the degree.

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**webextra**

**Back to School**

How do you welcome more than 770 new Hilltoppers to campus? It starts with getting the students into their residence halls and culminates with the Legacy Walk and Medallion Ceremony. Watch how this year’s Move-in Weekend unfolded at stedwards.edu/webextras.
When former high-school swimmer Curran Kelley ’14 discovered there wasn’t a club swim team at St. Edward’s, he took it upon himself to start one. There was just one problem: He was the only member. Fast forward a few years, and he’s not only built a 20-person team but also implemented a formal swimming league of six Texas schools that will compete (and crown a state champion) in 2013–2014.

Assistant Professor of Counseling Karen Chitwood was selected as one of the George W. Bush Presidential Center’s 19 mentors for the Women’s Initiative Fellowship program. During her one-year term, Chitwood is mentoring a woman in Cairo, Egypt, who is developing projects that empower female leadership in Egypt. Chitwood received training through the Bush Institute earlier this year and hosted her mentee for a week in March. Chitwood will meet her mentee in Jordan in October. In the meantime, they check in regularly through email.

St. Edward’s received a 2013 Educational Fundraising Award from CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The honor is given to superior fundraising programs at institutions across the country. The university saw a 50 percent increase in fundraising from 2012 to 2013. St. Edward’s may have won the award, but the credit really goes to our generous donors.

Six young alumni — Sierra Capiro ’13, D’Andre Jackson ’13, Matthew Perez ’13, Taelor Russell ’13, Marguerite Vichier-Guerre ’13 and Leigh Anne Winger ’13 — all secured Teach For America positions for the 2013–2014 academic year. Locations range from Texas to Colorado to Massachusetts. Since 1998, St. Edward’s has had 20 students participate in the program, including the six selected this year.

Three years ago professional actor and Assistant Professor of Theater Arts Richard Robichaux moved his family from Los Angeles to Austin. Six months later, he was sitting across from Richard Linklater, Shirley MacLaine and Jack Black, prepping for his role as Black’s nemesis in the widely lauded Texas-based movie Bernie. A bond was forged between the two Richards, and Linklater soon called again — this time to offer to write a role for Robichaux in a movie starring Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette. The movie, tentatively titled Boyhood, is set to make cinematic history as it follows the same actor from age six to 18 through his fictional parents’ divorce (filming began in 2002 and will likely wrap up next year). We’re looking forward to seeing the film, and we bet Robichaux’s students are, too. — Hannah M. Hepfer
St. Edward’s may not have a Music major — yet. But it should come as no surprise that music fills the air across campus, given the university’s home in the Live Music Capital of the World. The music program was started 40 years ago through the efforts of Brother Gerald Muller, CSC. Since then, it has expanded to include classical and jazz, big band and orchestra, pop hits and choral ensembles. Around 440 students take part in a range of musical groups each year. Here’s a rundown of what’s currently open to musically inclined Hilltoppers. —Lauren Liebowitz

Music Lessons

This November, members of various St. Edward’s University choirs will participate in recordings for the PBS and BBC miniseries The Negro Spiritual Project: A Lost Art. They’ll join more than 2,000 invited singers from around the world to perform in the final part of the documentary, “An Evening of Negro Spirituals.” The performances will be broadcast live by the BBC and PBS in November.
Images of Africa

Kate Murray ’13 has a question for you:
What’s the first word that comes to mind when you read the word “Africa”?

If you said “elephants,” “AIDS” or “famine,” you aren’t the only one. Murray posed this question to the university community last spring through an installation in Moody Hall’s International Lounge. With $900 she raised through the online fundraising site Kickstarter, she created a phone-booth–sized plexiglass room, surrounded it with white curtains and projected video clips outward onto the curtains. She wrote two questions — the one about Africa and a second about how participants felt they had been stereotyped — on the inner walls. As the number of responses grew, so did the amount of effort it took to see beyond all the stereotypes.

In its week on display, the installation garnered 244 responses and became “an interactive, symbolic and transitory piece of art” representing the subject of Murray’s senior thesis — how national identity, historical narratives and the media influence American perspectives of other cultures, groups or regions, particularly the African continent.

“With the interactive format, each participant’s perspective became the most important part of the process,” she says. “The ‘writings on the wall,’ in a literal sense, revealed a common thread about the American perspective and hopefully led people to ask whether their perspective matches the reality, a kind of questioning that seems to be so often in short supply.”

Murray will continue her search for answers next year when she moves to Gulu, Uganda, to work for the nonprofit Pangea Educational Development. It’s not her first trip to the dark Continent (one of many inaccurate descriptions that just won’t go away, says Murray). As an undergraduate, she spent summers in Rwanda and Uganda — and “didn’t fall off a map.”

“What has really captured my intellectual curiosity about Africa isn’t really in Africa. It’s what’s in the minds of so many people outside of it and what we’re trained to believe and expect,” she says. “I was no exception. I thought the negative aspects would dominate my experience. But those expectations weren’t met. Instead, I was accepted into loving home-stay families and shared experiences of genuine joy. I took advantage of opportunities for learning at every turn, and each one has changed my life.” — Stacia Hernstrom MLA ’05

Study Abroad Done Right

As professor of business communication, Catherine MacDermott has spent the past two years studying how a student’s global perspective changes over the course of a study-abroad program. Here’s some of what she discovered.

MacDermott looked at students who studied abroad for 10 days, four weeks and an entire semester. All experienced positive changes.
The Art of Healing

The Mobile Art Program, started by staff member Theresa Zelazny, provides a creative outlet for those facing Alzheimer’s or other mental challenges.

Last spring, Grace Wasson ’14 looked forward to her art class each Wednesday. She wasn’t there to learn techniques or refine her own skills; instead, she watched Dorothy Mayne paint images that reflected her life growing up in the country. Mayne is in the early stages of Alzheimer’s and had never thought of herself as an artist. It was through Theresa Zelazny, founder of the nonprofit organization Mobile Art Program and an office specialist in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, that Mayne discovered her passion for art.

Zelazny and her volunteers introduced a small group of senior citizens participating in the Austin Groups for the Elderly of Central Texas Early Memory Loss Support Program at Austin’s WellMed to several art mediums. They created collages, painted with watercolors and made ceramics. As Wasson sat by Mayne’s side, helping her with supplies and talking with her, she watched how the art transformed her.

“At the beginning, Dorothy told me she was out of her element and didn’t feel comfortable exploring new mediums of art,” Wasson says. “She turned out to be an amazing painter, and she really enjoyed it. At the end of the six weeks, we had an art show, and she was really happy with what she did.”

Wasson, a Psychology major and Art minor, had researched the benefits of art therapy for those with eating disorders but wasn’t aware of the benefits of art therapy for Alzheimer’s patients until she volunteered with the Mobile Art Program. “When you have Alzheimer’s, learning new material and creating art can help you keep your memory longer,” Wasson says. “The art was teaching them a new way of expressing themselves, while making a more lasting memory.”

While the attendees of the memory-loss program were expressing themselves on canvas, Wasson saw how they also became more expressive in their social interactions. The small group of participants fit around one table, and as they worked, they talked about why they had chosen to paint certain things.

“It wasn’t just about the art,” Wasson says. “It was social, and the art evoked other things.”

Zelazny has been witnessing the positive outcomes of art for years. When her mother battled cancer, Zelazny encouraged her to paint. “When she painted, it helped her relax and allowed her to focus on something positive,” she says. “During her long hospital stays, I would hang her artwork in her room to inspire her to get better. Plus, it would give the healthcare workers a subject of conversation beyond her illness.”

After her mother passed away from colon cancer, Zelazny finished a Studio Art degree from the University of Texas–Austin. After a few years working in the art world, she saw the impact of art on the elderly, the disabled and those with mental challenges. She wanted to bring art to those populations. She founded the Mobile Art Program in 2007, and she’s been bringing together different generations in a creative and nurturing environment ever since.

“The program started in nursing homes, but we are currently focusing our efforts on working with people who have dementia, Alzheimer’s and mental challenges,” says Zelazny. “Now we provide art activities for six different respite programs and two day programs that serve all ages of adults and a variety of disabilities.”

The Mobile Art Program, part of the National Guild for Community Arts Education, delivers its art programs free of charge, thanks to funding from grants. Two St. Edward’s University faculty members, Delia Paskos and Emma Lou Linn, are on the organization’s board of directors.

Wasson has seen just how valuable those services are, and she plans to volunteer again in the coming months. “I am hoping to be an art therapist,” Wasson says. “I’d always envisioned myself working with children, but the Mobile Art Program broadened my horizons. Now I’m considering working with Alzheimer’s patients.” —Lisa Thiegs
I spent the summer working for the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Department at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston. I researched tuberous sclerosis complex, a genetic disorder that causes overgrowth of tissues or tumors on the skin and internal organs, including the brain, kidneys and heart. I focused on the genes that influence it, treatment and its links to autism.

A significant advancement in medicine over the past few years has been the ability to tailor cancer treatments to certain patients based on their genetics. If someone has cancer, we can test for a few different genes and see if they are positive or negative for mutations. Based on that, we can identify what treatment the individual should get. It increases the success of those treatments.

HER2-positive breast cancer is a common example. It grows due to a gene mutation in which the protein HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2) promotes the multiplication of cancer cells. The protein receives signals that tell it to grow and divide. If we know a patient has a bunch of those receptors, we can use a specific drug that blocks those receptors completely. Another way to understand it is by thinking about lookout towers on a castle wall: If there are two lookouts, someone on the ground could sneak by unseen more easily than if there are 20 lookouts. The HER2 gene basically increases the number of receptors, or “lookouts,” that the cell has to respond to the growth factor.

Another big development is personalized medicine. For instance, we all digest and metabolize drugs differently. One person may take ibuprofen for a headache while another person prefers Tylenol because it works better for that individual. Those slight differences are not that big of a deal.

However, when it comes to certain drugs, the differences in how people metabolize them can be significant. If you wind up in the hospital and receive the set dose of morphine, it may be too much for your body and its specific enzyme combination. You could have a terrible reaction. The good news is that eventually we’ll be able to test an individual’s enzymes, tailor the drug or dosage to that person, and ultimately avoid or reduce potential side effects. The drug metabolism test, while possible, isn’t done normally yet because it’s too expensive right now.

It’s a controversial medical advancement, though. There are several drugs being developed for people with specific genetic makeups, but some drug companies don’t want to produce them. Developing these drugs requires the same amount of work but for a smaller consumer base. Overall, the drugs have a better success rate and will serve patients better.

I want to specialize in genetics, but I’m not sure what kind of genetics yet. I’m in the process of applying to medical school. Hopefully, I’ll begin Fall 2014. The University of Texas Medical School at Houston is my first choice. I’m also in the St. Edward’s University Orchestra, and I want to keep on playing as much as I can through medical school and beyond.

—As told to Hannah M. Hepler

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MORE THAN A MENTORSHIP
See the impact a faculty member has on a student’s life at stedwards.edu/webextras.
Students confront social-justice issues in the context of a worldwide infestation of the undead.

Illustration by Joshua Kemble

You’re the acting president of Ghana in the midst of a global pandemic. You’ve already lost the capital and relocated the government to a more fortified city. When refugees beg for help, you have two choices: Accept them, stretching your resources and risking exposure to the pandemic; or turn them away, keeping your city protected.

And one more thing: The infected turn into zombies.

Inspired by the book *World War Z* by Max Brooks, which tells the story of people around the world dealing with the zombie apocalypse, the university’s Cultural Foundations faculty members developed a series of global understanding workshops that put students in charge countries faced with just such a pandemic.

The workshops, which are held each semester, typically deal with a concrete real-world problem, such as the water crisis, global health or human trafficking. Last semester’s theme relied on animated corpses.

But *World War Z* isn’t a gore-fest horror story. It’s a way to examine real-world issues in a speculative environment, a long tradition in science-fiction literature and one used by corporate and government agencies. Other than the zombies, the issues students confronted while reading the book and attending the workshops were real, or at least realistic: resource management, international relations and crisis response.

Patrick Dunlap ’13 and Ashton Robison ’13, both Global Studies majors, served as two of the student leaders for the workshops. For Dunlap and Robison, veteran workshop leaders (four and five semesters, respectively), Ghana was a natural choice. Dunlap spent two weeks in Ghana between high school and college, and Robison’s studies focused on sub-Saharan Africa.

The first scenario they created described the initial outbreak in Ghana. The middle scenario, at the peak of the pandemic, concerned those refugees. Finally, after the zombie apocalypse ran its course, students had to decide whether to share excess oil with neighboring countries, sell it at a discount to another country or hold onto it until prices rose.

“Relatively speaking, Ghana fared well in our zombie apocalypse,” Dunlap says. Almost every workshop group shared the oil wealth with neighbors in the scenario, not only because it was an investment in regional security but also because it was the most socially just option. —Lauren Liebowitz

The Ghana Perspective

When Patrick Dunlap ’13 and Ashton Robison ’13 researched Ghana, they realized a number of important cultural elements that could affect how the nation responded to a hypothetical zombie apocalypse. For one thing, funerals traditionally run 40 days. In the midst of a major pandemic, those days add up. Additionally, Ghana has a history of taking in refugees, so as much as students might want to keep their borders closed during the crisis, they had to switch from an American to a Ghanaian perspective.

Lauren Liebowitz
LEARNING FROM THE NATURAL WORLD

DR. ALLAN W. HOOK ESTABLISHES AN ENDOWMENT TO CONNECT STUDENTS, CREATIVE RESEARCH AND NATURE.

One of the greatest threats to our environment and its conservation is apathy. Reversing this impassivity requires people to care about and to have a deep appreciation of nature. Allan W. Hook, professor of Biological Sciences, is striving to protect the unique ecosystem at the St. Edward's University Wild Basin Creative Research Center by creating a community of concerned students and faculty who, through research, emotionally connect with, learn from and relate to the wonderment and complexity of the natural world.

One way he is doing this is through The Dr. Allan W. Hook Endowed Wild Basin Creative Research Fund, which he established at St. Edward's with his wife, Rosemary, in May.

“I envisioned all of the schools getting involved to use Wild Basin because of what the natural world can teach us via creative research," Hook says. "When my wife and I decided how best to continue my lifelong work in biology, while supporting her interests in the humanities, we turned to Wild Basin because of its usefulness across all fields of study: science, humanities, education and business.”

Devin K. Gillen '16 is a Biology major and one of the many students who does research at Wild Basin. As a research intern this past summer, he studied how deer browsing affects Texas red oak seedlings in Wild Basin – an important endeavor because the endangered golden-cheeked warbler feeds on insects that live in Texas red oak trees. The project gave Gillen the opportunity to learn more about the complexity and interconnectedness of trees and the environment. “Wild Basin is a place where I can interact with nature. It also serves as an outdoor laboratory where I can learn more about the world,” he says.

Hook hopes Wild Basin scholars will develop a deeper understanding of their own creative research undertakings and how they relate to the natural world – thereby reducing the threat of apathy to the environment.

The Wild Basin Creative Research Center was acquired by St. Edward’s in 2009 to provide learning opportunities outside the classroom. Wild Basin is a multifaceted ecosystem that serves as a safe haven for eight endangered species and 27 species of concern, including the golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo.

“With the fund, we can now provide resources for students throughout the world to use Wild Basin as a research entity.”

—Dr. Allan W. Hook

The School of Natural Sciences received a three-year $200,000 grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation to develop a living database of the ecosystem at the St. Edward's University Wild Basin Creative Research Center. This interdisciplinary project involves the creation of a database to store research on the interaction of species at Wild Basin. Science students in the field will study the deer population and ecosystem; computer science students will be trained to build database infrastructure and handle incoming data. Once constructed, the database will be available to the public, K–12 schools and universities with the hope of reaching educational and scholarship programs across the globe, highlighting the unique ecosystem of the preserve within Central Texas.

If you would like to learn more about contributing to The Dr. Allan W. Hook Endowed Wild Basin Creative Research Fund or creating your own legacy, please contact Joe DeMedeiros, associate vice president of Development, at 512-233-1443 or joed@stedwards.edu.

Dr. Allan W. Hook passed away on Sept. 3. Please see “In Memoriam” on page 39.
When the kissing started, Sarah Cardona ’15 knew everything would be all right. The St. Edward’s University sophomore had arrived in Chile three days earlier, and she now found herself in the coastal city of Viña del Mar, with little more than a suitcase and some meager Spanish skills to depend on. How would she survive a few weeks’ immersion in a Chilean household? She began to worry as the car pulled up in front of her host family’s home.

¡Hola! ¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás? ¿Tienes hambre? As a half-dozen smiling people poured out of the house, peppering her with questions and kisses of greeting, Cardona knew she would be just fine. Her Spanish language skills might not be fluent, but people have always found ways to communicate even when there are barriers. In this case, Cardona knew enough Spanish to get by — and the welcoming embraces of her Chilean hosts were more than reassuring.

A Special Education major, Cardona was among 13 students who traveled to Chile last summer, accompanied by Todd Onderdonk, associate professor of University Programs; Cory Lyle, assistant professor of Spanish; and Grant Simpson, dean of the School of Education. From June 2 to June 29, the group immersed themselves in the culture, cuisine, language and lore of Chile, visiting museums and historic sites, as well as living in host homes and tutoring schoolchildren one-on-one.

International travel often has a way of accelerating language skills and fostering bonds among strangers. For Cardona and her fellow travelers, this trip would prove to be exactly that kind of journey.

As recently as last spring, however, Cardona had no plans to go abroad while in college. It seemed too expensive. “I thought a trip like that would be $20,000 or so out of pocket,” says the Austin native — who held down two jobs last summer, one as a cafe associate at Sam’s Club and another as an after-school counselor with the city’s Parks and Recreation Department — to keep up with tuition and other bills. “I thought there was no way I could afford to do it right now.”

Lyle, one of her Spanish professors, had a different view. For starters, the program was considerably more economical, roughly $6,000 total. Plus, Cardona wanted to use her degree to enter the field of special education. “I’m keenly aware of the advantages of getting bilingual certification if you’re going into the teaching profession,” Lyle says. “If you’re in Texas or any of the border states, bilingual [teachers are] often in very high demand.”

Lyle suggested that Cardona sign on to study in Chile. Cardona didn’t immediately take the hint, so Lyle pressed harder. When Cardona’s mother visited campus for an honors ceremony for Spanish-language students, he approached her and said he was surprised Cardona wasn’t considering the study-abroad opportunity. “Why not?” her mother asked, directing the question to her daughter. Shortly thereafter, Cardona’s family offered to cover part of the program cost. “Many [relatives] have lived in other countries for a short time and wanted to make that kind of experience possible for me,” Cardona says.

Sarah Cardona ’15 traveled to Chile last summer with 12 other students from St. Edward’s. They explored graffiti-lined streets and the beautiful contradictions of urban Chile.
With funding in hand, Cardona began to plan for the trip. She acquired a passport (she’d only traveled outside the country once, for a family wedding and vacation in Jamaica). She improved her Spanish skills. And along with her parents, she began researching the history and culture of Chile on the Internet. The web was filled with woeful tales of security risks and problems encountered by people traveling alone, but Cardona’s parents reiterated their confidence that she would be fine. “They were concerned: What parents wouldn’t be? But they trusted me to be careful,” she says.

“Driving around made you wonder how a place could be so beautiful and in so much trouble at the same time.”

On June 2, after a long overnight flight that left her red-eyed and bleary (“The guy next to me — he wasn’t a student — was snoring and leaning on me. I couldn’t sleep the entire night!”), Cardona and the St. Edward’s group arrived in Santiago, the capital of Chile. They spent three days exploring tourist sites and sampling the country’s food and drink, including an excursion to a local vineyard. They visited the presidential palace and watched the changing of the guard. They toured a museum dedicated to the history of the country under the rule of dictator Augusto Pinochet (“It was heartbreaking to realize what the Chilean people had been through,” Cardona says). And they climbed Cerro San Cristóbal, a hill that overlooks the city, with sweeping views of the wealthiest and poorest neighborhoods, as well as the majestic Andes Mountains in the distance.

“Driving around made you wonder how a place could be so beautiful and in so much trouble at the same time,” Cardona says. Rundown homes often stood alongside luxury high-rises.

After the three days, the group traveled by bus to their ultimate destination, Viña del Mar, a seaside town adjacent to Valparaíso. Host homes had been arranged, and Cardona was surprised not only by the affection that greeted her but also by the makeup of her hosts’ household. In addition to the parents and their three children — ages 12, 8 and 4 — there were three others in the house — two students from northern Chile, who were attending college in Valparaíso, and an American student named Mary. “My host mother assumed that because Mary was a vegetarian, all Americans must be vegetarians,” Cardona remembers with a laugh. “She was really surprised when I told her, ‘No, I actually do eat meat.’”

During the day, the St. Edward’s students took classes and worked on their Capstone projects, in which students choose a current social controversy, then research and analyze it. In the evenings, they returned to eat dinner with their host families and perhaps watch a movie or just relax. Some nights, the students went out on the town with other Chileans. “They loved meeting new people,” Cardona recalls. “The Chileans were very curious about Americans, and it also helped us practice our Spanish.”

Simpson arranged for the students to tutor elementary pupils at a local girls’ school. Cardona was paired with Constanza, a 9-year-old student from a poor neighborhood in Valparaíso. Together, the two created a video about Constanza’s life, with the young girl narrating in her best English and Cardona writing subtitles for the film. The completed videos were screened at a public presentation at the end of the program. Constanza and her fellow students introduced their films in English before a crowd of proud parents.

“As an Education major, I got so much joy out of being able to teach her English, as well as being able to connect with her on a personal level,” Cardona says. She was particularly touched when Constanza began referring to her as mi tía — “my aunt.”

Cardona also found the program connected her with other students from St. Edward’s. She had spent her freshman year at a college in Kansas, then transferred to St. Edward’s just before her sophomore year. “I really didn’t know that many kids from St. Edward’s before I went on this trip,” she says. But the intimacy bred by group travel can result in fast-track friendships. On a short overnight trip to a resort town in Chile, the college students got to know each other not only as students but as adventurers. They rappelled down waterfalls, went hiking, viewed volcanoes from afar, swam in some hot springs, experienced white-water rafting and sang karaoke in multiple restaurants.

Cardona says that while the trip to Chile boosted her interest in international travel, it also made her more excited about returning to campus this fall. She’s eager to reunite with her travel companions. “Almost from the start, I felt like our group became friends,” she says. “We definitely bonded. By the end of the trip, I couldn’t believe that I hadn’t known these people a month before.”

webextra

STUDYING AND LIVING IN CHILE
See how students from St. Edward’s get along with their host families and what happens when Capstone goes abroad. Plus, a 9-year-old Chilean student takes us inside her world. Watch the videos at stedwards.edu/webextras.
Thirteen students spent nearly a month in western Chile this summer. In addition to taking in the sights and soaking up the culture, they honed their Spanish skills and completed their Capstone projects.
Perhaps we’ve all got a million-dollar idea percolating in the backs of our minds that could change the world — or at least our bank accounts. For many of us, though, we’re forever pushing off the implementation of our visions to “someday.”

We talked to eight alumni who didn’t let their great ideas languish. Instead, they put their grand plans into action. Some hung out the proverbial shingle to start their own businesses, which they eventually turned into successful companies. Others became social entrepreneurs who started nonprofit organizations and expanded schools, all in an attempt to make the world a better place. Some took fledgling companies and transformed them into the big businesses they knew they could become. And for many of these innovators, St. Edward’s was the catalyst, providing the spark of inspiration that led to long-term success.

While their successes are notable, so, too, is their persistence in the face of significant obstacles. Here, we chronicle not only their accomplishments but also the often-challenging paths they took to achieve their dreams.

THE IDEA: Teach peaceful applications of powerful radioactive materials.

THE INSPIRATION: A fascination with radiation that began in the classroom

THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE: St. Edward’s, says Michael L’Annunziata ’65, gave him “all the ingredients that [he needed] to proceed with further studies in the field.”

For Michael L’Annunziata ’65, a lifetime of exploration was launched with simple physics experiments. Under the guidance of longtime St. Edward’s physics professor Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, L’Annunziata learned to measure radiation with a Geiger counter and see the tracks left by nuclear radiation in a cloud chamber. “These initial experiments captured my imagination,” he recalls.

He wasn’t the only one interested in nuclear radiation: Prior to earning a PhD, L’Annunziata landed a job that was financed by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. It was the height of the Cold War, and he was charged to find ways to decontaminate soil of strontium-90, which would have been present if there had been a nuclear attack.

He pursued research that helped unravel the pathways and mechanisms of biological reactions by using radioactive elements as “tracers,” including the metabolic pathways of pesticides. Eventually, he was awarded a post at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Austria, where he taught peaceful applications of nuclear energy in 50 countries on six continents. He extended his reach even further as an author of eight books, including Radioactivity: Introduction and History, which has been an academic bestseller.

For L’Annunziata, a lifetime of work has led to an even larger truth: Success comes not from the achievements themselves but from the passion that drives the discoveries. “Success and immense satisfaction from one’s line of work don’t come with the desire to accrue monetary wealth or material things,” he says. “Achievements in a profession for which one has a passion provide immense and lasting satisfaction.”
When Melissa Robinson MBA '11 agreed to buy a gluten-free flour company with a friend two years ago, she didn’t just take advantage of a business opportunity: She tapped into the dietary zeitgeist.

Gluten-free diets have long been common among those with celiac disease, but in recent years, going gluten-free has been something of a trend, with celebrities and daytime talk shows embracing the diet. So when the owner of the small gluten-free flour company Bona Dea (which refers to the “good goddess”) offered to sell her business, Robinson, a longtime health enthusiast who’d personally benefited from going gluten-free, saw more than just mixes for cookies and cupcakes: She saw opportunity. “I thought, ‘Let’s see if I can actually put this MBA to work,’” she recalls.

Thanks to her passion for the product and rock-solid business skills developed at St. Edward’s, she helped grow the business from three customers in 2011 to more than 50 today. Clients include Whole Foods Market, Hyatt and Hopdoddy Burger Bar, as well as wholesale distributor US Foods. Other deals are brewing that could significantly increase the company’s reach.

Better yet, she’s building a business she can be proud of. Unlike other gluten-free products that are loaded with sugar or have only moderately healthy ingredients, Bona Dea’s products use protein- and fiber-rich blends with millet, teff and sorghum. “We don’t think [gluten-free eaters] should have to eat starches and empty calories,” she says. “We want our products to be a nutritionally better choice.”

Robinson admits she’s sometimes astonished by how quickly the business has grown. “A year and a half ago, we were literally sitting on the floor trying to figure out how to open a bank account,” she says. “Fast forward to today, and it just feels like watching the pieces of a puzzle all come together. And that’s what’s really exciting.”

**THE IDEA:** Sell healthy, gluten-free flour and bakery-blend items for a growing market.

**THE INSPIRATION:** A longtime interest in health and fitness and a perfectly timed opportunity to buy a business

**THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE:** “Being able to call up my old professors to say, ‘Hey, am I crazy for doing this?’ gave me the confidence to move forward.”

**MAKING DOUGH**
BACKPACKING FOR KIDS

THE IDEA: Give backpacks filled with supplies to kids struggling with poverty.

THE INSPIRATION: Raising two kids adopted from the foster system and wanting to make a broader impact.

THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE: A perfect combination of teachers and guest speakers provided the practical wisdom and inspiration to pursue her goals wisely.

As a parent of two kids adopted through the foster system (as well as two biological children), Jessica Sjolseth ’08 and her husband understand that even the brightest kids can struggle as a result of homelessness and educational gaps. Sjolseth and her husband were eager to make a difference, but they also knew their limits. They wanted to create a project that was small enough and concrete enough to make a real difference.

That’s how Ordinary Acts of Kindness (OAK) Lifestyle was born. The company, which sells canvas backpacks, has a business model similar to TOMS shoes. For every backpack it sells, the organization provides a backpack and school supplies to homeless kids and orphans in the United States and Rwanda. “The organizations we partner with offer a lot of different services,” she says. “We take care of the backpack piece, so they can use their funds to serve more children.”

Sjolseth created detailed specifications for the backpack, sifted through samples and designed a bag similar to those offered at upscale retailers like J.Crew. Since officially launching the business in July 2012, they’ve sold hundreds of backpacks and delivered hundreds more to Austin’s CapCityKids and Rwanda-focused Africa New Life. Their efforts have been featured in dozens of media outlets, including GOOD and Parade.

For Sjolseth, the hybrid model of profit and philanthropy provides an interesting challenge. “With social businesses like ours, it’s not just about putting out something and hoping people will get behind the message,” she says. “The product has to stand on its own.”

Next up, says Sjolseth, is a new line of T-shirts that will have a similar one-for-one setup. For every T-shirt purchase, OAK Lifestyle will send a backpack to a partner organization. “There’s just so much need out there,” she says. “We’re excited to keep multiplying our efforts.”

TAKING TACOS BY STORM

THE IDEA: Create taco shops with great food and a warm, quirky Austin vibe.

THE INSPIRATION: A history in the restaurant business and a penchant for taking calculated risks.

THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE: Orlando ’89 and Yoli ’88 Arriaga met at the library at St. Edward’s — and they’ve been a powerhouse couple ever since.

Orlando Arriaga ’89 had long wanted to open up his own restaurant — he’d grown up in and around the restaurant business, he talked about it frequently, and he knew that Yoli Arriaga ’88, his wife, could contribute spectacular recipes to the menu.

But when Orlando signed a lease on a restaurant space in early 1996, Yoli admitted it was a surprise. Although she was busy with her job as a high-school biology teacher, the two worked furiously to get the new business — a Tex-Mex restaurant they dubbed Taco Shack — ready in time for Yoli’s spring break. “I decided that was the time to open, so I could help him get it going. Then I could finish the school year and decide whether to join him or continue teaching,” says Yoli.

Opening day provided the definitive answer: The restaurant was so busy that lines went out the door. The two were overwhelmed. “That was the day I resigned from my teaching job,” says Yoli. “It was the biggest decision of my life.”

They never looked back. In the 17 years since that first day, they’ve grown from a single location to nine and have 80 employees. And while Orlando says he never thought they’d grow beyond a single small restaurant, he’s now considering franchising the concept. “Creating these jobs and this infrastructure to support the American Dream, that’s what gives me the most pleasure,” he says. “And it all came from the Taco Shack idea.”
**THE IDEA:** Make a great public charter school bigger to give more students the opportunity to attend.  
**THE INSPIRATION:** Showing detractors that done right, a high-quality education is possible for all students  
**THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE:** “At St. Edward’s, I realized that going to school isn’t just about learning something. It’s about taking that knowledge and using it to give back to a community. We should expect to give as much as we get.”  

Like many teachers, Matt Abbott ’03 was frustrated by the negative rhetoric that surrounded teachers and students. But he never believed it. “I was so tired of people saying what students couldn’t do,” he says. “I don’t care if kids come from the worst educational background or lower on the socioeconomic [ladder]. I really believe if you give them the right tools, you show them that you care and you’re 100 percent dedicated, they will be successful.”  

He saw that truth when he stepped into his first classroom in 2005 as a high-school social studies teacher. A few years later, Abbott became the director of training services for the Texas Charter Schools Association. His experiences as a teacher and administrator made him believe he could do better by students — and he could do it bigger.  

He took note of the high test scores and parent-engagement level at Wayside Schools, formerly known as Eden Park Academy Charter School District, an elementary and middle school in South Austin. In Abbott’s eyes, the school was doing everything right, but he thought he could take the high-performing school to scale. “If we could serve 1,500 students and expand to serve high-school students, we could make a greater impact on the local community,” he says. When he and a colleague presented the idea to the school board, they loved it and eventually appointed Abbott as CEO to lead the transition.  

Since he took the helm at Wayside in June 2012, he’s added a second campus and tripled the student body to a total of 750 students. He achieved a big part of the growth by going door-to-door selling the school’s message and convincing parents to take a risk, albeit a calculated one, with his school. He’s sharpened the mission and its message, both of which excited him about the school in the first place. “Our goal is to create college-ready, community-engaged global citizens,” he says.  

In the next year, he’ll lead the continuing expansion of the district, which now consists of two elementary schools and one middle and high school. “It’s not just about taking the school to the next level,” he says. “It’s about taking students to the next level.”
THE IDEA: Combine scientific knowledge and leadership principles to build a successful testing company.

THE INSPIRATION: Studying leaders in his field — and realizing he had the kinds of traits that could take him to the same place

THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE: “At St. Edward’s, I learned how to work with people. I learned how to be a leader.”

Tom Berg ’61 knows that plenty of scientists could spend a lifetime working on their research and experiments with no regrets. “Many have the attitude of ‘Just leave me alone; let me work in my lab,’” he says. “They don’t have an interest in, or aspiration for, leadership.”

But when Berg arrived at Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories (MVTL) in New Ulm, Minn., in 1966, he immediately saw himself in one of the company’s partners. Berg, who earned a Chemistry degree at St. Edward’s, began at MVTL as a supervisor for an analytical chemistry lab, focusing on soil, water and food testing for private companies, cities and other groups.

When the Environmental Protection Agency was established in 1970 to create and enforce higher air, water and soil standards, business boomed. Today, MVTL does testing on an enormous range of items — the company can test food to see if it’s been contaminated with salmonella, for example, or test manure for farmers who may be considering it instead of commercial fertilizer.

As Berg climbed to progressively more responsible roles in the company, he adapted to work with not just scientific challenges but human ones. “A lot of people don’t want to deal with people and money and politics because they can be difficult,” he says. “But I also find it interesting — and the rewards can be pretty decent.”

In 1984, with a business partner, he bought out the company. In 2000, he bought out his business partner. The company has grown to employ 165 people working in four operating units including food science, environmental science, agriculture and energy technology.

For him, much of the success boils down to the guidelines set forth in his classes at St. Edward’s decades ago. “The university’s value system — of serving, of honesty, of fairness — is the one that I’ve used as I’ve managed the organization,” he says. “Whether they’re our employees, our vendors or our customers, we’ve been able to do a lot of people a lot of good.”

CRACKING THE CODE

THE IDEA: Add innovative technology and a new business paradigm to a beloved print magazine.

THE INSPIRATION: Applying the business savvy he’d developed in prior ventures to a new field

THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE: The flexibility of New College gave Rick Gross ’99 the opportunity to enhance his skills and complete his degree while holding down a demanding job.

All Rick Gross ’99 wanted was a side project.

Two years ago, when he bought Horns Illustrated, an independent magazine focused on University of Texas sports, he admits it wasn’t because he had a longtime love of magazines. “I didn’t know anything about the magazine business or publishing,” he acknowledges.

But he did know business. Years earlier, he’d bought, built and sold Vindicator, a high-end global-security technology company. When a friend asked him to partner on Horns Illustrated, he felt confident the knowledge he’d gained and career lessons he’d learned would apply. Gross went to work developing a new business approach, while his partner focused on the day-to-day operations.

The duo founded Texan Media, with the idea that Horns Illustrated might be just one part of a larger empire. Gross has his sights set on the digital piece of the puzzle. “Print is our anchor point, and while it isn’t going away immediately, it’s critical we embrace digital and learn to leverage and monetize social media as soon as possible,” he says.

Of course, Gross now realizes that problem is not a side project. “I have spent many hours visiting, discussing, evaluating and just thinking about the complex issues regarding monetizing social media. After all, if [Facebook’s Mark] Zuckerberg can’t figure it out, this can’t be easy.”

After some 18 months working on a solution, he thinks he may be starting to crack the code. In just a 90-day period, Horns Illustrated generated more than 20,000 “likes” on Facebook. Although he’s keeping the details under wraps for now, the company has started to roll out a graphical, content-based web platform that leverages social media and drives traffic to the website.

“You’ve got to embrace the challenge and attack it,” he says. “Every journey begins with the first step, and this is ours.”
THE IDEA: Help organizations share their best stories with the world through video and sound.

THE INSPIRATION: Seeing how the grind of daily news often left important stories untold

THE ST. EDWARD’S EDGE: “My English professor, Laurie Drummond [now at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.], taught me the importance of paying attention to detail in whatever you do. If there’s a mistake, you’ve got to make it right.”

In a peripatetic TV news career that took her from Beaumont to Las Vegas to San Antonio, Heather Angel Chandler ’98 loved the way she could use the elements of visuals and sound to tell compelling stories. But even after a decade of work, she admits that she never quite got used to some of the stories she had to tell. “I hated being in front of a murder scene every morning,” she says. “I really wanted to be able to do my own thing.”

So in 2007, a year before her contract was up with a San Antonio station, she started Innovative Multimedia Group, a company that would allow her to tell her clients’ most powerful stories, whether they were a 30-second commercial or a feature-length documentary.

Chandler’s well-known personality — combined with her incredible attention to detail — have earned her a steady stream of work and satisfied clients in the medical, nonprofit and public sectors. She’s particularly proud of an animated video she and her team designed for SA2020, an organization dedicated to transforming San Antonio into a world-class city through broad-scale improvements in everything from arts and culture to community safety. “It’s exciting to get people behind a movement to make San Antonio the city we want it to be,” she says.

As she looks ahead, her ambitions are even bigger. A future project could take her to Uganda, where she hopes to produce a mini-documentary for Hope for Humans, an organization that cares for kids with the rare but devastating nodding syndrome, a seizure disorder that affects children in a small area of East Africa. “My work isn’t just about paying the bills,” she says. “I really want to be telling meaningful stories.”

TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER
“AMERICAN WRITERS ARE OFTEN VERY INSULAR,” says Mary Helen Specht, assistant professor of English Writing and Rhetoric. African writers tend to reach outside of their own cultures, in terms of what influences them and what writers they study, while American writers tend to read and study within their own culture, she says.

Specht, a born-and-bred Texan, wanted to be different. After completing her MFA at Emerson College in Boston, she moved to Nigeria for 19 months on a Fulbright creative writing grant.

Specht emphasizes a global perspective in the fiction workshops she teaches. She starts by introducing her students to global writers. By the time they reach her advanced courses, she has them analyze the crafts of international writers, then incorporate the techniques into their own fiction.

Here, Specht transports us to Ibadan, Nigeria, where she honed her own craft while living among the shadows of African literary giants.

**Literary Ibadan**

By Mary Helen Specht

**Last fall,** when my friend Rotimi Babatunde won the prestigious Caine Prize for African Writing, the first things that came to mind were Star beer and a sacrificial goat. His work is dark, often political, though you might not even notice for the beauty of his language.

I met Rotimi in 2006 at a canteen called Flavours, where they served the best melt-your-mouth-off goat and fish pepper stews in Ibadan — the goat soup filled with juicy chunks of meat and the fish, enormous, laid across the bowl from eyeball to tail in triumph. This was one of the many cafes in which I came to know a circle of young Nigerian writers, editors and teachers.

One evening toward the end of the dry season, clouds flirted with the scorched earth, and as dusk fell on the canteen, we watched dozens of lightning flashes streak the sky at once, each a slightly different shade of white, blue-white, silver-white: the Yoruba sky god Sango’s fireworks extravaganza. We ordered Star beer or Guinness, pepper soup or *isi-ewu,* the flares of phosphorous lighting matches to Bensons or sometimes the menthols called White London.

Earlier that day Rotimi and I had been invited to speak to our friend Kunle’s students. I’d shown up at Kunle’s school in the Eleyele district of Ibadan to discover that by “his students” he hadn’t meant the students in his English class but the entire secondary school. There was no auditorium or microphone.

Two hundred teenagers lined up in a field with rows marked off by white stones, while we stood above them on a concrete slab. I yelled about what it was like growing up in West Texas, about writing what you know while also imagining yourself into the lives of others. Writers need empathy first and foremost, I remember saying, repeating what other writers had once taught me.

During the Q&A, the Ibadan kids were unforgiving. I’d figured they’d want to know about the United States, but they were more interested in stumpng me: What is the difference between prose and fiction?
IBADAN,
running splash of rust
and gold—flung and scattered
among seven hills like broken
china in the sun.
—J.P. CLARK
How many different types of poetic meter are there? Can you define hyperbole?

At Flavours that night, I asked Kunle what the students had said later about our “speeches.”

“They thought Rotimi was more arrogant than you,” he said. “And some people,” he laughed, “were confused as to how your parents could possibly be from Liberia.”

Despite my attempts to speak slowly and enunciate — I knew from experience my American accent would be difficult for the students to understand — I hadn’t anticipated the phrase “my parents are librarians” might cause such confusion.

“They thought Mary Helen was less arrogant than I was because they only understood every third word she said.”

Rotimi isn’t fat but spherical — round torso, round head, round nose — and he speaks quickly, with a slight stutter, frequently interspersing his words with laughter. He was the most successful of our literary circle back then, having already had several plays staged in London, as well as a number of international fellowships from places like the MacDowell Colony and the Rockefeller Foundation.

“Or maybe it’s because the superior can afford to be self-effacing,” I replied.

“See, the Liberian isn’t arrogant at all.”

The students at Kunle’s school never asked me why I’d come to Ibadan to immerse myself in African fiction, because they knew there was no city on the continent with the charmed literary history of their hometown. It’s a city that, while virtually unknown in the States, played such an important role in the emergence of English-language African literature that I was inspired to move there after graduate school in the same way writers used to swarm the quartiers of the Left Bank.

My first encounter with Nigerian fiction: Holed up in a bone-chilling Boston winter, I was drawn into Ben Okri’s The Famished Road, a frenetic, meandering novel of magical realism in which the “scumscapes,” where a boy named Azaro lives in abject poverty, are permeated by the dazzling images and machinations of the spirit world. I learned that the title The Famished Road alludes to a poem by Wole Soyinka (which is, in turn, indebted to a proverb): “The right foot for joy, the left, dread / And the mother prayed, Child / May you never walk / When the road waits, famished.” I had to find a way to get there.

In Robert M. Wren’s Those Magical Years: The Making of Nigerian Literature at Ibadan: 1948–1966, he avers that no other university town in the world has “produced a similar cluster of distinguished authors.” There are dozens of renowned writers (Flora Nwapa, Elechi Amadi, Femi Osofisan, Niyi Osundare, Remi Raji and many more) who at one time or another have made their way through Ibadan, but the four heavyweights to whom Wren alludes are Soyinka (playwright/poet/novelist/biographer — Nobel laureate), Chinua Achebe (whose Things Fall Apart adorns high school and university reading lists everywhere), Christopher Okigbo (the modernist poet who died tragically in the Nigerian civil war) and J. P. Clark (known primarily as a poet, though he wrote a number of plays, one of which was first directed by Soyinka and involved the live sacrifice of a goat). Even two of the biggest names in African literary criticism had come out of Ibadan: Harvard’s Biodun Jeyifo and Abiola Irele.

As an anthropologist passing through town on research told me once: “In the Ibadan of the ‘60s and ‘70s, everywhere you went, literature was in the air.”

The British established University College in Ibadan, or UCI, in 1948 as one of three full-scale institutions of higher education in Africa to confer degrees from the University of London. One purpose of this program was to educate an African civil service elite as part of Britain’s policy of “indirect rule.”

Books were valued in Ibadan, in the way one values something hovering on extinction.

UCI became the University of Ibadan (UI) after Nigeria’s independence from Britain in 1960 and attracted talent, regionally and globally. The city of Ibadan was also the hub of West African publishing, and it was there in the late ’50s that the German Uli Beier and South African exile Ezekiel Mphahlele started the literary magazine Black Orpheus, encouraging an African literature built on indigenous models, rather than British ones. And the publication’s list of authors now reads like a Who’s Who of anglophone African fiction and poetry.

In May 1967, months after a bloody coup led by a northern Nigerian military faction, the eastern part of the country, calling itself Biafra, seceded, igniting a civil war that lasted almost three years and left hundreds of thousands dead. The war scattered the Nigerian writers — Achebe, Okigbo and Gabriel Okara went east to support the breakaway state, while others, including Soyinka and Clark, remained on the federal side. Clark once remarked that the war dispersed “atoms that should have collided to make a nuclear charge.”

By the time I arrived at UI, extreme financial straits had led to perennial strikes, overcrowding of classes and residence halls, the almost total lack of laboratory equipment or texts, and the crumbling of infrastructure. From the moment I stepped on campus — via a back road because strikers had blocked the front gate — it seemed obvious that Ibadan’s “magical” years had long ago rung down the curtain.

The classrooms were stifling, despite the open windows flanked by frangipani trees; there was rarely electricity to run fans or computers. And there was no problem of books — where to find them, how to afford them. The collection in the library was old and most volumes devastated by the tropical heat. The selection at the two decent local bookstores (in a city of over a million people) was not much better: Who was going to spend the equivalent of two weeks’ worth of food on one novel? Most of the graduate students passed around photocopies and abandoned the idea of keeping up on the
latest scholarship. Even if they had the money, it was near impossible to order journals or books online without a credit card, or to convince international websites they were not just another Nigerian scammer/prince-in-distress.

During my first month in Nigeria, I arrived early for a seminar and pulled out a ratty paperback to read. Every head swung in my direction. Where did you get it? Can I borrow it? Can I make a copy of it? Books were valued in Ibadan, in the way one values something hovering on extinction.

And yet Ibadan’s important history of nurturing great authors still inspired younger Nigerians. There was still an echo of myth. Of barely lingering magic.

And that was why I’d moved there. Not to stand in the ruins and gawk, but to see what contemporary, aspiring writers like myself were doing with the hand they’d been dealt (and it was a tough one — just about the only Nigerian authors being published internationally lived or studied abroad) and to see how the history of such literary glory might transfer to the succeeding generations, those who Jeyifo called “the unfortunate children of fortunate parents.”

When I got together with my Ibadan literary crew, we shared works-in-progress and argued over politics; we told bad jokes and drank too much Star beer; we sometimes left the canteen with our arms flung over each other’s shoulders in affection.

I would tell Kunle I’d enjoyed his play about the pompous professor, but I thought the ending, where he threw a woman in a wheelchair up against the wall, might be taking things a little too far. They would critique my re-telling of the Handsome Man folktale, where a village woman follows a handsome stranger into the bush only to discover he’s a spirit who borrowed his human parts. In my version, the handsome man was a white woman.

“I think your dialogue in pidgin was okay,” said Rotimi. “But you need to make the bird a parrot. In Yoruba tradition, the parrot is always the gossip monger.”

In the fog of beer and conversation, we could almost forget that the world had changed; Nigeria had changed; literature had changed. My friends sitting across the table were the inheritors of Ibadan’s past. The next Wole Soyinka and Flora Nwapas, because why not?

On one of those nights, I tramped back behind the canteen to piss in the only bathroom available, the gully. There, tucked into the cuff of my jeans, was a lone firefly winking against the backdrop of denim. Not wanting to be anywhere else. And I remember thinking: These days, even in this decaying city during these decaying times, were sometimes magical, too.

In Rotimi’s “Bombay’s Republic,” which won the 2012 Caine Prize for African Writing, he tells the story of a Nigerian soldier fighting in the Burma campaign of World War II, convinced that otherwise he would be “roasted alive for consumption” by Hitler’s dogs. The writing manages to be deeply felt and vaguely distant at the same time, the tone and structure of myth. It is the story of struggle and endurance. The story of Rotimi and his circle of friends, and maybe of literary Ibadan itself.
It's not a grand cathedral or an architectural marvel. But Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel is one of the most beloved buildings on campus.

Just shy of its 117th birthday, Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel is slated for major renovations this year. Constructed during the 1896–1897 school year, the building served as an auditorium, a theater, a woodworking and blacksmith shop, and a shooting range before becoming a chapel in 1947.

At just 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and 20 feet high, the building holds special meaning for students, faculty, Holy Cross Brothers and Austinites alike. Despite a once-crumbling foundation, invasions by insects and a life in the shadow of architectural stalwarts like Main Building, the chapel continues to command our hearts. Here are six reasons why.


Ask anyone who knows Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel to describe the humble space that’s been the university’s worship center for more than 65 years, and these words are bound to come up.


Matthew Aragones ’14
STUDENT

The first time I saw Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, I was visiting campus while applying as a transfer student in 2011. It was one of the many spaces I imagined myself being in if I were accepted to St. Edward’s. It became a sign of hope for me, a looking-forward-to, if I was blessed enough to be able to attend the university.

Now I serve as the lector coordinator for the 9 p.m. Sunday Mass, which is the most popular for students, and I go there to pray, sing and seek quiet. Twice a month, I also attend the mostly silent Taizé prayer service — an important time for me to seek peace, discernment and clarity for the decisions and experiences in my life. Besides that, there have been many late nights of prayer where God has heard my cry, question or praise under the roof of that chapel.

Blessed Basil Moreau reminds us that “the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.” The chapel is a sign that, while we are at a university to cultivate the mind, there is a place to be faithful to the advancement of the heart. Somewhere, I read that intelligence plus character is the goal of a true education. Crossing the street from Trustee Hall to Queen of Peace, you see that there is a space on this campus to achieve just that.
Before dawn in the last days of April, 120 student-brothers — they called us “scholastics” back then — would process from our living quarters in the old Vincent Hall to Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. Whatever the weather, we would put on our habits and process across campus, chanting in Latin as part of the liturgy to bless the planting season.

When we would walk by Holy Cross Hall or the south side of Andre Hall, the lay students would take notice by yelling, “Be quiet! Go back to bed!” We may or may not have ramped up the volume as we passed to drown out the hecklers.

I also remember in 1973 when the name was changed from Our Lady of Victory to Our Lady Queen of Peace in the context of the Vietnam War. Students had been killed in the war, and the anti-war sentiment on campus was high. Some of our legendary faculty members — Claude Nolen; Brother William Dunn, CSC; Pete Pesoli, Jim Koch and former university president Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, ’62 — spearheaded the change.

That’s part of what makes the chapel such an important space for me. It’s a link to our past. Since the late 1940s, everyone has known that building as the chapel. That’s a lot of years, a lot of students going through St. Edward’s. Centrally located, it’s not a church or a cathedral or a basilica. It’s a chapel. It is quaint and unassuming. It has served the university community, while the Holy Cross Brothers and their lay colleagues built classrooms, libraries and other buildings with few available resources to serve the educational enterprise so dear to them.
The work of Mary House is to shelter dying and critically ill homeless people, a challenging and sometimes daunting task. Many times I have come to Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel exhausted from some medical crisis or death — and found the welcoming presence of Jesus, in both the quiet of the place and the devotion of the community to our loving God who Himself suffered. This feeds me in every way.

When our first hospice guest came to us in 2001, we were ill-prepared for the sheer physical labor, much less the emotional stress, of caring for a dying crack addict with schizophrenia. Only one of our community of two could come to Sunday Mass, while the other stayed with our guest. I specifically remember walking into the chapel and seeing the beautiful statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace when it was my turn.

As I began to prepare for Mass, I prayed, “Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us: for my colleague, for me, for our hospice guest, for her family who is so confused by her homelessness and addiction.” The priest came to check on me; various friends and colleagues asked how they could help. “Pray,” I begged. “Pray for a happy death for our sister.” Waves of exhaustion poured off me as I prayed for our friend and for our little community. I often reflect that my own life was renewed in every way that day as I found healing and restoration in community.

The Restoration

Come summer, Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel’s renovation will be complete. The exterior will receive a much-needed structural and architectural facelift, while the interior space will be redesigned to accommodate a growing body of worshippers. Additions include confessional space and a permanent tabernacle. Next door, a new 1,750-square-foot building will replace Mang House and provide more space for expanding the Campus Ministry offices. Connecting the chapel and the offices will be an all-faiths meditation garden designed to provide students a respite from the rigors of academic life and the ubiquity of technology.

The renovation is headed by Pollen Architecture & Design, an Austin-based firm specializing in buildings that “are a pleasure to inhabit, well-built, inventive and effective in terms of both energy use and budget.” Firm principal Elizabeth Alford, who designed the preliminary sketches for the chapel’s renovation, is an expert on the Italian churches of Francesco Borromini.

Groundbreaking is slated for this fall.
Honor Roll of **GIVING**

Fiscal Year 2012–2013

**IT STARTS AT HOME**

The faith and passion of 29 volunteers inspires a campus community to give.

Last March, 29 faculty and staff members volunteered to request charitable gifts from as many of their colleagues as possible. Because the campus community has such a natural affinity for St. Edward’s, what might otherwise have been a daunting task — asking colleagues for money — was instead a further expression of commitment, passion and devotion.

These 29 volunteers rose to the challenge and found most of their teammates eager and able to go above and beyond for students. The committee members’ passion for St. Edward’s and faith in its future resulted in commitments from 515 individuals, or 72 percent of eligible employees.

“It is easy for people to follow the lead of our passionate committee members, many of whom are alumni or who have been part of the St. Edward’s family for many years,” says **J. J. Riehl ’02, MAHS ’04**, a committee member and the women’s basketball coach. “Who wouldn’t follow a group of people who are so invested and who believe so wholeheartedly in the mission and values of St. Edward’s?”

The phenomenal participation rate at St. Edward’s, which has averaged better than 70 percent over the past three years, is a point of distinction for the university. By comparison, the University of Portland, a fellow Holy Cross institution, announced in spring 2012 that its faculty and staff campaign had reached a participation rate of 50 percent.

Outside funders, such as corporations, foundations and philanthropists, also take note of this achievement. “Our coaches understand the importance of being able to say, ‘I give to St. Edward’s,’ as they go out and ask parents and other organizations for donations,” says Riehl. After all, most benefactors are more willing to invest in a mission that has strong internal support.

This fact held true during the 2012–2013 fiscal year. The 515 faculty and staff members who donated through the 2012–2013 campaign were part of a larger group of some 2,500 benefactors who represent all categories of giving, including alumni, parents, trustees and more. This group committed a historically unmatched $25.6 million for capital priorities, endowment and annual programs at St. Edward’s.

While Riehl and her fellow committee members energized the hilltop spirit of family — emphasizing the act of giving above the amount given — friends from the extended St. Edward’s network revealed their own hilltop spirit. With a $20 million endowment gift, **Bill and Pat Munday** became the largest individual benefactors in the university’s history.

In addition, 419 donors committed $1,000 or more to become President’s Associates, leaders among annual supporters. This is the largest group of President’s Associates in the university’s history.

Every donor gave more than just money. Along with gifts, each donor provided inspiration. “Coming to work at St. Edward’s makes me want to be a better person,” says Riehl. “It motivates me to want to be more and do more with the opportunities I have been given.”

As the university takes full advantage of all the opportunities donors created in 2012–2013, we recognize and thank those leadership donors who provided significant support during the year in the honor roll listings on the following pages.
Faculty and Staff Campaign Committee Members

Laura Ater ’09
Instructional Technology and User Services

David Bernay
Admissions

John Camden
School of Natural Sciences

Danica Frampton ’86, MAHS ’94
Institutional Research

Lisa Goering
School of Natural Sciences

Andrew Harper ’03, MLA ’08
Career Planning and Placement

Kevin Hennessy ’01, MLA ’08
Auxiliary Services

Janet Kazmirski
Post Office

Marisa Lacey MSOLE ’06
Student Life

Randy Mauldin
Digital Infrastructure and Telecom

Gary Morton
Facilities

Lewis Myers
School of Management and Business

Melinda O’Cañas ’10
School of Education

Diana Benavidez Orta
Information Technology

Jennifer Parker
University Advancement

Jennifer Phlieger MAHS ’00
University Programs

Michelle Polgar
Mary Moody Northen Theatre

Marvela Pritchett ’02, MLA ’07
New College

James Puglisi
Campus Ministry

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Professional and Global Initiatives

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Georgia Seminet
School of Humanities

April Sullivan MLA ’08
Library

Lindsey Taucher ’94
School of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Darrel Teaver
Student Financial Services

Ricardo Vargas
Facilities — Housekeeping

Kathleen Wilburn
School of Management and Business
**PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL OF ADVISORS**

The President’s Council of Advisors is composed of benefactors who support President George E. Martin’s strategic priorities with an annual leadership commitment of $5,000 or more and actively engage in activities that positively impact students’ educational experiences.

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† = deceased, hs = high school, P = parent(s) or grandparent(s) of student or alumnus, F = faculty or staff member of St. Edward’s
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José Juárez ’57P  
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Carol and Michael Johnson P  
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Carol and Michael Johnson  
Stephen Johnson ’13  
José Juárez ’57  
Sister Donna Jurick, SND  
James Kallman  
Sue and Robert ’61 Kamm  
Janet Kazmirski  
Jane and Dennis Kearns  
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WELCOME TO YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

I am so pleased to announce that we did it! You answered our online survey and participated in focus groups and interviews. We took your feedback and came up with a comprehensive and ambitious plan to make the St. Edward’s University Alumni Association the very best we could imagine. The alumni association board of directors and the Alumni and Parent Programs Office can plan all we want, but it takes action and help from you to carry out this plan. In the coming months, we encourage you to jump in, be part of your alumni family and find a way to give back to the university that changed the lives of all of us.

Kay Arnold ’04, MLA ’06
President
St. Edward’s University Alumni Association

I am a proud graduate of St. Edward’s University, and I participated in the online survey because it is important to me to stay connected, get involved and give back after graduation. The survey feedback will assist with strategic planning for the future and strengthen the connections, services and support of the St. Edward’s alumni community locally and around the world.

—Melissa Aufmuth ’07, survey respondent

THE VISION

The St. Edward’s University Alumni Association will nurture a thriving network, fostering relationships between alumni and the university to help in personal, professional and spiritual growth. We will build on a sense of excitement in and gratitude for our shared Holy Cross experience to strengthen our university.

HOW WE’LL GET THERE

After more than a year of planning, the alumni association board of directors, along with staff members at the university, developed four strategic priorities to help achieve our vision.

1. Develop and sustain relationships in support of the university’s Holy Cross mission.
2. Create opportunities that nurture alumni by engaging, cultivating, stewarding and sustaining them at different life stages.
3. Provide support to our local alumni chapters and networks through training and the development of programs that focus on growth, volunteer retention and communications.
4. Raise the visibility and relevance of the alumni association.

HELP US REACH OUR VISION

1. Update your contact information. Email us at seualumni@stedwards.edu, visit stedwards.edu/alumni or call 512-448-8415. This keeps you in the loop about everything that is going on in the alumni association.
2. Attend a local chapter event or community service project.
3. Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/seualumni).

This is just the beginning. The strategic plan will guide us for the next four years. Watch for more information on improvements to services and opportunities to get involved in the next issue of St. Edward’s University Magazine.

MARRIAGES

Deni Hirsch ’78, of Cordova, Tenn., to Ronald W. South Jr. on July 5, 2012
Jonathan Powell ’06, of Austin, to Kate Kubena ’06 on June 8
Lech Kazmirski ’08, of Austin, to Catherine Range on Jan. 25
Ralph Wagner ’39, of Aledo, on Feb. 18
John Dueitt ’47, of Conroe, on Oct. 30, 2012
William Benson ’49, of Woodsboro, on Jan. 9, 2012

IN MEMORIAM

Our experiences at St. Edward’s helped shape our careers, our family lives and a lifelong commitment to community service. As graduates, we will always be connected — and should lend time as the alumni association lays plans for the future.

—Kevin Faherty hs ’71, ’75, focus group participant
INTRODUCING …
This fall, St. Edward’s University opened the doors of the Munday Library and the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South. Here are the top things to know about each of them.

MUNDAY LIBRARY
1. There’s something for everyone. There are places for quiet, concentrated study, and there are even places where students can be as loud as they want as they brainstorm, hold study groups and debate class topics.
2. It has 16 group study rooms, where up to six students can work on class projects.
3. The two-story commons area is home to a large computer lab, the offices of the reference librarians and an information desk, where librarians will direct students to the resources they need.
4. Two global digital classrooms connect students to the university’s international partner campuses.
5. It’s the new home of the Writing Center.
6. In the media center, students can produce videos and check out audiovisual equipment.
7. And, of course, there are books. In addition to 300,000 ebooks, there will be about 80,000 print books.
8. The $13 million building was funded by Bill and Pat Munday, the largest individual benefactors in university history.
1960s


John S. Ireland ’69, of New Castle, Del., was inducted into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 and the Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013 before his passing.

William Jackson ’69, of Miami, is a project coordinator for Allen & Shariff in Abu Dhabi. Previously, Jackson was the director of planning and design at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

1970s

Joe Goldblatt ’71, of Edinburgh, Scotland, has plans to turn death into the "ultimate event." Goldblatt was quoted in The Herald, the newspaper for Edinburgh, saying he plans to have his ashes turned into a giant firework. “People will be able to say, ‘There goes good old Joe,’ one last time,” he said.

1980s

Salam K. Fayyad MBA ’80, of Amman, Jordan, resigned his position as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority on April 13.

Dan Quedenfeld ’80, of Keenesburg, Colo., earned a master’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado–Denver. He was named Outstanding Graduate Student by faculty members in the Graduate School of Public Affairs at UCD.

Elizabeth W. McGrath ’83, of San Diego, was named the 2012 N1 Civilian of the Year by Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk. McGrath led and executed a yearlong Navy personnel systems evaluation with more than 750 sailors and 39 commanders.

1990s

Geronimo Rodriguez Jr. ’90, of Austin, took office as the chairman of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on April 6. He retains his position as the vice president of diversity and community outreach with Seton Healthcare Family in Austin.

W. Brock Hardaway ’91, of San Diego, is the CEO of Millennium Laboratories. Hardaway has two decades of leadership experience in healthcare and a strong track record of growth and performance.

Lawrence Taglieri ’91, of Braintree, Mass., was appointed principal of Quincy High School in Quincy, Mass.

2000s

Erik Schaeffer ’03, of San Jose, Calif., accepted a position with Apple. He and his wife, Allyson ’03, MBA ’10, look forward to meeting Bay area alumni.

Dahlia Campbell ’07, of West Lafayette, Ind., received a PhD from Purdue University in Chemistry in December 2012. She was the guest speaker at the annual McNair Scholars recognition reception on May 3 at St. Edward’s. Campbell is the first doctorate recipient from the university’s McNair Scholars program.

Philip Gamble ’08, of Lisle, Ill., recently joined Williams Chiropractic Center as a doctor of chiropractic medicine.

Rev. Jayme Mathias MSOLE ’08, of Austin, was elected secretary of the Austin ISD Board of Trustees. Mathias presented his research on the Spanish-speaking population of Central Texas at the 2012 conference of the International Leadership Association. He researches gentrification and displacement in East Austin for the Kellogg Foundation, and he serves as pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Austin, which is part of the American Catholic Church.

Lena Assaf ’09, of Mineola, is working on her master’s in Anesthesiology at Nova Southeastern University in Tampa, Fla.

Mary Gonzalez MLA ’09, of Austin, was honored with a Leader of Promise Award from the Greater Austin Young Women’s Christian Association.

2010s

Constance Carmona ’10, of Austin, published her book Constantly Constance. It is available as an ebook for the Kindle, iPad and Nook.
Tristan Hallman ’11, of Granbury, earned a master’s degree from the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism and is now a local news reporter for The Dallas Morning News. Contact him at thallman@dallasnews.com.

Matthew J. Jones ’11, of Stafford, founded the Field Tiger Press. Jones is a Truman Capote Fellow in Fiction at the University of Alabama’s MFA program in Creative Writing.

Ashley Marie Ferrel MAC ’12, of Austin, is an academic advisor with Southern Methodist University and is a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader.

Jennifer Hassin ’12, of Austin, was featured in the Austin Chronicle for her participation in the theatrical performance Telling: Austin.

Susan Hublein ’12, of Dallas, was featured in the Austin American-Statesman for her work in facilitating ClubGen, a girls club that can be found in 17 middle schools and seven elementary schools in the Austin area.

▲ SEND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES
Send your Class Note and wedding or birth announcement to the Alumni Office at seualumni@stedwards.edu.

Learn more about upcoming events with Hilltop.Connect stedwards.edu/hilltopconnect

In Memoriam

Allan W. Hook

Allan Hook, professor of Biological Sciences, passed away Sept. 3. Hook began teaching in the School of Natural Sciences in 1988, and he dedicated the next 25 years of his life to sharing his love of evolutionary biology with students. In his role as advisor for the St. Edward’s University chapter of the Academy of Science, Hook took extra time to mentor students in their research and organized trips for students to present their work at statewide meetings. Hook was the university’s second Lucian professor, and his research focused on the behavior and biodiversity of solitary wasps. In addition, Hook discovered three new species of insects, which now bear his name: a fly, Nemomydas hooki, and two solitary wasps, Solerella hooki and Pseudopolis hooki.

Deacon Dick Orton

Richard Earl Orton, deacon at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, passed away July 21 at the age of 88. Orton began his career at St. Edward’s in 1981 as an assistant professor of Public Administration and served as a faculty member for more than 20 years. During this time, he answered a call to become a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. After more than four years of training, he was ordained in 1998 and assigned as the first and only deacon of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. In addition to ministering to students at St. Edward’s, Orton served Hospice Austin, Del Valle Correctional Complex and numerous other organizations.

J.D. Lewis

J.D. Lewis, professor of Chemistry, passed away June 9. Lewis had a profound impact on the university from the day he began teaching in 1975. Over the years, he taught more than 50 courses in general education, computer science, mathematics and physics. He was influential in expanding the Chemistry program’s Senior Seminar and was known for incorporating his wry sense of humor into his courses. He regularly organized trips for students to present their research at national meetings of the American Chemical Society and was active in mentoring students in undergraduate research. His commitment to teaching was recognized in 1994 when he received the university’s Distinguished Teaching Award and again this year with the Distinguished Teaching Career Award.
**Alumni Notes**

**Dates to Remember**

**Oct. 17**
Washington, D.C., Presidential Reception

**Feb. 21–23, 2014**
Homecoming and Family Weekend

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**Chapter News**

The **Austin** chapter held its 13th annual Alumni Night at the Ballpark at Dell Diamond in Round Rock on Aug. 10. Alumni enjoyed food, drinks, the game vs. the Salt Lake Bees and a concert by the Spazmatics.

The **Dallas** chapter held its 2nd annual Alumni Night at the Ballpark on July 6, when the Texas Rangers took on the Houston Astros.

**New Orleans, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio** and the **Rio Grande Valley** chapters held Summer Send-offs to welcome incoming freshmen to St. Edward’s. **Yvette and Steve Pettus**, parents of **Kelley Pettus ’14**, hosted the New Orleans reception. **Amy and Douglas Turgeon**, parents of **Meigs Turgeon ’16**, hosted the reception in Dallas. **Margo and Ken Train** and **Jan and Bob Marbut**, parents of **Marcy Marbut ’15**, hosted the San Antonio reception. **Melanie Gray** and **Mark Wawro**, parents of **Christopher Wawro ’14**, hosted the reception in Houston. Thank you to all of the hosts for generously opening their homes and businesses to incoming freshmen and area alumni.

**Kirstin Anderson ’98**, of Austin, on Feb. 15, 2012

**Dominic Lozano ’99**, of Lockhart, on June 24, 2012

**Adam R. Pyles ’04**, of Austin, administrative assistant for the School of Humanities, on July 25

**Stephen Flusche ’10**, of Austin, on Feb. 18
Last spring, the St. Edward's University baseball team made its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II College World Series, held at the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary, N.C. The Hilltoppers earned the trip after winning the NCAA South Central Regional Tournament in Kingsville.

At the College World Series, the Hilltoppers rallied to the semifinals, beating Grand Canyon University twice. The team’s record-setting season came to a close May 30, with a 6-5 loss to Minnesota State University–Mankato. The Hilltoppers ended the year with a 44-18 record, a school record for number of wins.

“I couldn’t be prouder of my guys and the way they fought all year,” says Coach Rob Penders. “To get [to the tournament], and then to finish the way we did — one of the last four teams playing in the country — is remarkable for these guys, and it’s a lifetime memory that they’ll have forever.”

Above: Joe Pirozzolo ’13 had two hits during the May 29 game against Grand Canyon University. The Hilltoppers won the game 9-5 to advance to the semifinals.
Visit stedwards.edu/webextras to see more from Chile; plus, relive your college days with our recap of Move-in Weekend.