first look
A New Day Begins

The morning light first streams through the east-facing windows of the campus apartments. It spills into the Residential Village, where the illuminated walls glow like a crimson geode.

It’s a new day for St. Edward’s University Magazine, too. We spent the summer creating a new evolution of the magazine: one that reflects the curiosity and ambitions of our students in a more immediate, unfiltered way ... one that captures more of the personality you’d experience on a campus visit. You’ll see a fresh design that’s defined by bigger photography and new typefaces. You’ll find reimagined departments and richer storytelling.

The magazine may look and feel different, but its goals are the same. With St. Ed’s, we seek to honor our defining heritage, while incorporating new ideas and new ways of seeing the world. Thank you for coming with us on the journey.
From Drugs to Drug Policy
Just over a decade ago, Jonathan Stoughton ’18 took a hard look at his life and decided he needed a new path. At St. Edward’s he’s grown from mediocre student to national scholar.

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA
THE TUCSON NATIVE had always been a mediocre student. “Basically, school wasn’t what I was interested in doing,” he says. He stopped caring in the fifth grade and dropped out entirely at age 16. He developed a drug problem and went in and out of several rehab and recovery programs: “It was pretty much anything goes,” Stoughton recalls. “There was a lot of illicit drug use — marijuana, cocaine, heroin, pharmaceuticals, psychedelics, you name it.”

Not everything was bad. He earned his GED. He managed to get work in coffee shops and food service. But turning 18 made him think about what he wanted from life. He longed to get out of Tucson. He wanted to shake free of substance abuse. He joined the Army, a path that promised discipline, escape and adventure.

REDISCOVERING EDUCATION

What Stoughton didn’t anticipate was that his life as an infantryman would reinvigorate his interest in education. His seven years of active duty included assignments in Georgia, Virginia and Hawaii, as well as missions in Kuwait, South Korea and Australia. The culture and people of each place fascinated him. While preparing for a deployment in Afghanistan (that was ultimately cancelled), Stoughton was asked to learn about the Kandahar region, including its history, politics and opium trade.

“Opium production is an important part of the local economy, which presents the Army with challenges. On the one hand, you don’t want the production and export of heroin to be encouraged. On the other hand, you want people to have work that supports them so they don’t decide to join the Taliban,” he says.

The Afghanistan assignment and resulting research made him want to learn more and more — and his commanding officers encouraged him to delve deeper. “Contrary to what many people think, the Army is a very socially progressive organization,” Stoughton says. “And one thing that they really emphasize is continuing education.” He enrolled in online classes, using his free time to take college-level courses.

LANDING AT ST. EDWARD’S

In 2014, after completing his Army service, Stoughton settled in Austin, where he planned to attend The University of Texas at Austin. But his social circles brought him into contact with several St. Edward’s students, and Stoughton started to think that a small school with a liberal arts approach would be a better match for his interests: He wanted to study the languages, history, politics and cultures of the Middle East and was drawn to the Global Studies major.

Stoughton enrolled at St. Edward’s, but it wasn’t always easy being an older student. He sometimes seemed to have more in common with his instructors than with his fellow students, most of whom were freshly out of high school. His professors, including writing instructor Chris Tarbell, helped him stay on track. Stoughton says, “Chris always reminded me to stay focused on why I am in school now and on the learning opportunities.”

He leveraged those faculty connections when applying for scholarships to study overseas. Feedback from the Office of Fellowships, he says, helped him craft essays that won him a Boren Scholarship, offered by the National Security Education Program, and a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, from the U.S. Department of State, which allowed him to spend nine months studying Arabic at institutions in Jordan and Oman.

DEFINING HIS DIRECTION

Stoughton also benefited from a faculty member’s nudge in a global public health course. A professor’s support led him to take a close look at the work of the Austin Harm Reduction Coalition, which aims to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. Ride-alongs with staff members gave Stoughton a firsthand view of how policy and reality may not always align. Stoughton observes: “The stigmatization of drug addiction … has caused policies to be implemented that exacerbate some of the most dangerous issues related to drug use.” Those policies, he says, have led to increased injury and death from diseases like HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C and from overdose.

Connecting the dots between the production of drugs in places like Afghanistan and the use of those same drugs in places like Austin, Stoughton has begun to envision a career in drug policy. “I never had any aspirations of being a counselor, psychologist or social worker,” he says. “But I can see myself going to law school and working on policy related to drug offenses.”

This past year he used a Summer Academic Excellence Award to fund work at RecoveryATX, a nonprofit organization that focuses on community education, outreach programs, community building and addiction treatment services case management. “I haven’t always been open about my own struggles with addiction,” Stoughton says. “But as I’ve learned more about drugs, addiction, treatment and policy, I’ve become more willing to talk about it — and see how the patterns I developed fit into a larger system. Now, because of my experience, I think I can play a role in making things change.”
IT’S A JUNGLE out there — an urban jungle. And the proof is in the pictures, thanks to the Wild Basin Creative Research Center at St. Edward’s University.

Wild Basin is leading Austin Wildlife Watch, the city’s biodiversity monitoring initiative, by installing 26 motion-sensitive cameras in green spaces across the city, from Emma Long Metropolitan Park to the Onion Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Students in the Environmental Science and Policy major and the Professional Science Master’s in Environmental Management and Sustainability program put the cameras in place each season and have helped identify the species photographed in more than 10,000 images — foxes, coyotes, deer, bobcats, armadillos and even a ringtail cat. The cameras will gather data in four months each year: January, April, July and October.

Austin and seven other U.S. cities are partners in the project, which is led by Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo. Called the Urban Wildlife Information Network, it’s designed to help communities “understand what urban areas across the country have in common, in terms of their wildlife populations, and what factors influence these local species,” says Barbara Dugelby, director of Wild Basin. Wild Basin coordinates efforts among the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and Texas A&M University and will develop a website for the public to help identify species from the photos. The gathered information goes into a national wildlife database.

“The ultimate goal is to use our discoveries to inform local planning and land management efforts about how to make cities more wildlife friendly,” Dugelby says. A crucial step is involving the next generation of scientists and urban planners, like Aya Abdulqader ’18, an Environmental Science and Policy major who is minoring in Sociology. “Understanding nature is the most important thing — the more you discover, the more adventure and knowledge there is to gain,” she says. “You have to dig in!”
Movers and Shakers

Take on your world. That’s the challenge we issue to our students — and one they wholeheartedly embrace.

Amarie Gipson ’18
Liberal Studies

Why she is a student to watch: Gipson has a talent for seizing opportunities, and she says St. Edward’s has given her the environment and support to do it. As a freshman, she created her own internship with Pump Project, an Austin art gallery run by a St. Edward’s alumna, and curated an exhibition there. For the past two years, she traveled solo to Miami to network her way through Art Basel, the world’s largest international art fair for artists and dealers. And last year, she became editor-in-chief of MUD Magazine, a regional arts and culture publication that documents stories and hosts events focused on Southern artists and change makers.

What she is doing: Gipson was chosen to attend the Andrew W. Mellon Summer Academy through the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. From there, she was selected to receive the Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship, which enables her to spend one day a month, as well as 10 weeks for two summers, undertaking various curatorial activities at the museum.

What’s next: “I know that the harder I work now, the more freedom I’ll have, once I graduate, to branch off and do my own thing,” she says.

Jonathan Jarjour ’18
Finance and Economics

Why he is a student to watch: Jarjour is a rising star in business with a heart for helping people achieve their goals and a mind for reaching his own. In a microeconomics class, Associate Professor of Economics Hilal Yilmaz recognized his solid work ethic, drive and keen interest in the subject, so she offered him a job as her teaching assistant.

He has been a peer tutor for Academic Counseling and Support Programs and is president of the campus Financial Management Association International chapter. Last year, he completed his first finance internship at Vida Capital, and he recently wrapped up a second in J.P. Morgan’s Private Banking division.

“The more questions you ask, the more people are going to help you, the more they’re going to teach you, and the more value you’re going to get out of an experience.”

Jonathan Jarjour ’18

Timothy Briones ’18
Communication

Why he is a student to watch: Briones is combining his experiences in the classroom with his passion for golf.

What he is doing: He has his sights set on joining our Division II golf team as a walk-on before he graduates. (He turned down athletic scholarships from other universities because he fell in love with St. Edward’s.) He’s also had two golf-focused internships, one with NBCUniversal’s Golf Channel in Florida and a second with The Antigua Group sports apparel company in Arizona.

How faith is part of his story: Briones lived with the Holy Cross Brothers in Moreau House for two years. Every Tuesday night, he made sandwiches to deliver to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless the next morning. He has also found a home in Campus Ministry as leader of a coed Bible study group and a participant in faith retreats.
The Second Time Is the Charm

We spent a (very busy) summer day with the university’s student body president.

BY ERICA QUIROZ

It took Ben Griffith ’18 transferring to St. Edward’s to figure out how to get the most out of his college experience.

During his second week of school, he attended an Involvement Fair and met Jonathan Edwards ’17, who suggested he apply for a vacant Student Government Association (SGA) senate seat. The next year, Griffith set his sights on the vice presidency.

He lost.

“I knew I was still going to be involved on campus and that I could run again and be successful,” says Griffith. “I wanted to give back to the St. Edward’s community that has given me so much.”

During the spring of his junior year, Griffith ran for student body president — and won. He says his experiences running a campaign taught him patience and how to be comfortable with being uncomfortable.

“If you don’t get involved, you’re not getting the full college experience,” Griffith says. “The university’s mission encourages us to take risks. It may be awkward the first couple of times, but it can turn into one of the best experiences of your life.”

The Communication major spent his summer telling incoming freshmen and transfer students how to get involved (as part of the Campus Involvement Team during Orientation) and about traditions and Hilltopper spirit (as a Herd Leader during Anchors, a weekend of activities before the fall semester for freshmen). He also works part time for Campus Recreation and at Snarf’s Sandwiches in South Austin.

“Coming here and being a part of different student organizations has helped me build skills as a person and a leader,” Griffith says. “I’m excited about the year ahead and can’t wait to see what happens next.”

Watch the video www.stedwards.edu/myhilltop

Suggestions from students for campus improvements cover a bulletin board inside the Student Government Association office.
Scrolling through his schedule for the day, he relaxes at Seventh Flag Coffee. Griffith’s shifts for Orientation and Campus Recreation mean he’ll be gone for most of the day.

Henry Andrastek ‘17 asks Griffith about amenities offered inside the Recreation and Convocation Center.

After checking the mail for Campus Recreation, Griffith and Sabrina Latigo ‘18 cut across Ragsdale Plaza.

As the student body president, Griffith plans initiatives for the academic year.

Griffith catches up with a fellow Campus Involvement Team leader before heading to Jones Auditorium to meet his group of freshman students.
ARE TAXES FAIR?

Accounting professor Louise Single’s new tax policy course addresses families, fairness and financial well-being.

BY SAMANTHA MENDOZA ’15

EVERY TIME PROFESSOR of Accounting Louise Single enters her classroom, she asks herself one question: How can I arm my students with the knowledge to be better citizens? It’s a question that often doesn’t have a simple answer, especially when Single is teaching students in The Bill Munday School of Business the complex theoretical framework of U.S. tax policy. But last spring, Single found a way to show students from across disciplines how tax policy affects low-income Americans — and how understanding this dynamic can empower individuals, even those without a business background, to work for social justice.

NEW COURSE, NEW PERSPECTIVES

Single developed a course, Income Inequality and Tax Policy, through which seven Honors Program students helped fill out tax-return forms for low-income families living in affordable housing developments in Austin. Collectively, the class volunteered more than 240 hours with the local nonprofit Foundation Communities, filing tax returns that made a significant impact on families’ financial well-being.

“I saw the course as a way to engage students in the mission of social justice by exposing them to individuals who were in financial need,” Single says. “Volunteering was gratifying for the students because they could really see how huge a tax refund was for people living paycheck to paycheck.”

THE FAIRNESS PRINCIPLE

To Single, this kind of community engagement can encourage not only students but also the general public to understand where tax policy and income inequality intersect. As a professor, she knows how daunting the subject can be, but even those who have never studied a single piece of economics literature can determine what makes a good tax policy: It all comes down to fairness, she says.

“If you hold any proposed change in tax policy up to the standard of fairness, you can make sense of whether or not it holds up by considering who would benefit from the policy, who would be hurt, and whether or not that seems fair.”

Single says that examining issues in one’s local community and speaking with stakeholders who would be affected by policy proposals are powerful ways to see policy at work.

“Learning about taxes is important and practical — it’s something that affects everyone in their daily lives, and it’s something that we have to deal with no matter what kind of work we end up doing,” Single says. “Ultimately, understanding taxes is a powerful tool.”

\[\text{Equal vs. Fair} \]

Vertical equity taxes citizens according to their ability to pay.

Horizontal equity taxes those with equal incomes at identical rates.

When the class volunteered with single mothers working multiple jobs to support their children, students could see how some taxes that seem equal may not always be fair. Students witnessed firsthand what an enormous burden a flat sales tax of 8.25 percent can be for low-income families.

\[\text{THINKING BIG} \]

Equal vs. Fair

Vertical equity taxes citizens according to their ability to pay.

Horizontal equity taxes those with equal incomes at identical rates.

When the class volunteered with single mothers working multiple jobs to support their children, students could see how some taxes that seem equal may not always be fair. Students witnessed firsthand what an enormous burden a flat sales tax of 8.25 percent can be for low-income families.
NEED FOR SPEED

Forget speed dating. The Bill Munday School of Business turned that concept on its head this fall with a speed-mentoring event. In partnership with co-working organization Impact Hub Austin, the school connected students with local alumni, who offered career insights in 5- to 10-minute one-on-one sessions.

“Résumé, set, go!”

CHRISTIE SAMPLE WILSON
Associate Professor of History

PAST PERFECTED

St. Edward’s is making history this fall — literally — with the debut of a revamped History major. The overhauled curriculum gives students a look at more focused topics with new classes like Civil Rights and Social Wrongs, and China and Globalization.

The focus on depth over breadth reflects a national shift in higher-education history programs. It also emphasizes research, writing and critical thinking — skills that prepare students for careers beyond the field of history.

ART SMART

The School of Humanities officially became the School of Arts and Humanities in May. The name change helps prospective students better understand which majors and minors the school offers, particularly in the performing and visual arts. These programs have long played a prominent role at St. Edward’s, says Dean Sharon Nell, and “the more inclusive title best reflects who we are and how we want to be perceived.”

THE NAME GAME

What’s in a name? A lot, it turns out. Your first name influences how others perceive your personality and appearance, even before they’ve met you, according to research presented at the Southwest Psychological Association annual conference in April by Assistant Professor of Biology Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Meggan Archey ’16, Nicole Kunkel ’17, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience Katy Goldey, and colleague Jennifer Penner from Hendrix College.

The team interviewed 104 undergraduates and found that “common” and “biblical” names rated higher for appeal and attractiveness, while names associated with “strippers” and “villains” rated lower. In addition, “durative” names — traditional names that have been used for a long time but never become overly common — rated higher than unique or trendy names.

“The opportunity for such a deep exploration of the human condition has really resonated with students and faculty alike.”

CHRISTIE SAMPLE WILSON
Associate Professor of History

A LA CART

If you catch Associate Professor of Education David Hollier wheeling a cart around Fleck Hall, you’ll probably want to stop and see what he’s got — bottles of bubbles, a bag of crinkly leaves, a slew of recorders.

His “basket of goodies,” as he calls it, includes materials for his classes in math methodology and elementary arts. His learning-by-doing philosophy helps future teachers realize that each student will have “real needs, with real excitements, and real approaches that work best. First, we teach the child,” he says. “Then, we teach the subject.”
“Varanasi is one of the most complex and overwhelming places right at the center of religious and spiritual life in India. I observed the beautiful rituals and sensual experiences of Hinduism and got an insider’s experience from an outsider’s perspective.”

BAILEY ALLEGRO ’18
Religious Studies
In Varanasi, India: Independent research

“I want to be a medical laboratory scientist and ensure patients receive the best diagnosis and treatment. This program is the very first step – I’m getting hands-on practice in the lab while gaining knowledge about real-world clinical cases that will help me help others.”

HONG LY ’18
Biology
In Galveston, Texas: First participant in our dual-degree partnership with The University of Texas Medical Branch, in which students earn a bachelor’s in Biology from St. Edward’s and a master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Texas Medical Branch.

“I’m inspired by performers who can effectively incorporate activism into their comedy. By this, I mean those who use their comedy platform to point out the flaws in society and seek change to the problems in our world.”

KATE AXELSSON ’18
Communication
In Chicago, Illinois: Online courses in writing satire and writing a themed show via The Second City.

“What excited me most about my internship was the opportunity for new experiences. After studying abroad in Madrid last spring, I developed a love for traveling on my own and making the best of where I go. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I couldn’t wait to see it for myself.”

KEILA MARTINEZ ’18
Finance

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA ’05

The Cross-Continental Really, Really Impressive Summer Adventures of Hilltoppers

How I spent my summer vacation ... We’ve all written this essay once upon a time, haven’t we?

But let’s forget about the ho-hum car trips or hours spent by the pool. How about helping refugees in Greece? Researching Hinduism in the spiritual capital of India? Those are just some of our students’ summer stories. Their adventures had them crisscrossing the globe as they explored science and ethics, politics and justice, religion and culture.

“Varanasi is one of the most complex and overwhelming places right at the center of religious and spiritual life in India. I observed the beautiful rituals and sensual experiences of Hinduism and got an insider’s experience from an outsider’s perspective.”

BAILEY ALLEGRO ’18
Religious Studies
In Varanasi, India: Independent research

“I want to be a medical laboratory scientist and ensure patients receive the best diagnosis and treatment. This program is the very first step – I’m getting hands-on practice in the lab while gaining knowledge about real-world clinical cases that will help me help others.”

HONG LY ’18
Biology
In Galveston, Texas: First participant in our dual-degree partnership with The University of Texas Medical Branch, in which students earn a bachelor’s in Biology from St. Edward’s and a master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Texas Medical Branch.

“I’m inspired by performers who can effectively incorporate activism into their comedy. By this, I mean those who use their comedy platform to point out the flaws in society and seek change to the problems in our world.”

KATE AXELSSON ’18
Communication
In Chicago, Illinois: Online courses in writing satire and writing a themed show via The Second City.

“What excited me most about my internship was the opportunity for new experiences. After studying abroad in Madrid last spring, I developed a love for traveling on my own and making the best of where I go. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I couldn’t wait to see it for myself.”

KEILA MARTINEZ ’18
Finance

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA ’05

The Cross-Continental Really, Really Impressive Summer Adventures of Hilltoppers

How I spent my summer vacation ... We’ve all written this essay once upon a time, haven’t we?

But let’s forget about the ho-hum car trips or hours spent by the pool. How about helping refugees in Greece? Researching Hinduism in the spiritual capital of India? Those are just some of our students’ summer stories. Their adventures had them crisscrossing the globe as they explored science and ethics, politics and justice, religion and culture.

“Varanasi is one of the most complex and overwhelming places right at the center of religious and spiritual life in India. I observed the beautiful rituals and sensual experiences of Hinduism and got an insider’s experience from an outsider’s perspective.”

BAILEY ALLEGRO ’18
Religious Studies
In Varanasi, India: Independent research

“I want to be a medical laboratory scientist and ensure patients receive the best diagnosis and treatment. This program is the very first step – I’m getting hands-on practice in the lab while gaining knowledge about real-world clinical cases that will help me help others.”

HONG LY ’18
Biology
In Galveston, Texas: First participant in our dual-degree partnership with The University of Texas Medical Branch, in which students earn a bachelor’s in Biology from St. Edward’s and a master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Texas Medical Branch.

“I’m inspired by performers who can effectively incorporate activism into their comedy. By this, I mean those who use their comedy platform to point out the flaws in society and seek change to the problems in our world.”

KATE AXELSSON ’18
Communication
In Chicago, Illinois: Online courses in writing satire and writing a themed show via The Second City.

“What excited me most about my internship was the opportunity for new experiences. After studying abroad in Madrid last spring, I developed a love for traveling on my own and making the best of where I go. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I couldn’t wait to see it for myself.”

KEILA MARTINEZ ’18
Finance

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA ’05

The Cross-Continental Really, Really Impressive Summer Adventures of Hilltoppers

How I spent my summer vacation ... We’ve all written this essay once upon a time, haven’t we?

But let’s forget about the ho-hum car trips or hours spent by the pool. How about helping refugees in Greece? Researching Hinduism in the spiritual capital of India? Those are just some of our students’ summer stories. Their adventures had them crisscrossing the globe as they explored science and ethics, politics and justice, religion and culture.

“Varanasi is one of the most complex and overwhelming places right at the center of religious and spiritual life in India. I observed the beautiful rituals and sensual experiences of Hinduism and got an insider’s experience from an outsider’s perspective.”

BAILEY ALLEGRO ’18
Religious Studies
In Varanasi, India: Independent research

“I want to be a medical laboratory scientist and ensure patients receive the best diagnosis and treatment. This program is the very first step – I’m getting hands-on practice in the lab while gaining knowledge about real-world clinical cases that will help me help others.”

HONG LY ’18
Biology
In Galveston, Texas: First participant in our dual-degree partnership with The University of Texas Medical Branch, in which students earn a bachelor’s in Biology from St. Edward’s and a master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Texas Medical Branch.

“I’m inspired by performers who can effectively incorporate activism into their comedy. By this, I mean those who use their comedy platform to point out the flaws in society and seek change to the problems in our world.”

KATE AXELSSON ’18
Communication
In Chicago, Illinois: Online courses in writing satire and writing a themed show via The Second City.

“What excited me most about my internship was the opportunity for new experiences. After studying abroad in Madrid last spring, I developed a love for traveling on my own and making the best of where I go. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I couldn’t wait to see it for myself.”

KEILA MARTINEZ ’18
Finance

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA ’05

The Cross-Continental Really, Really Impressive Summer Adventures of Hilltoppers

How I spent my summer vacation ... We’ve all written this essay once upon a time, haven’t we?

But let’s forget about the ho-hum car trips or hours spent by the pool. How about helping refugees in Greece? Researching Hinduism in the spiritual capital of India? Those are just some of our students’ summer stories. Their adventures had them crisscrossing the globe as they explored science and ethics, politics and justice, religion and culture.

“Varanasi is one of the most complex and overwhelming places right at the center of religious and spiritual life in India. I observed the beautiful rituals and sensual experiences of Hinduism and got an insider’s experience from an outsider’s perspective.”

BAILEY ALLEGRO ’18
Religious Studies
In Varanasi, India: Independent research

“I want to be a medical laboratory scientist and ensure patients receive the best diagnosis and treatment. This program is the very first step – I’m getting hands-on practice in the lab while gaining knowledge about real-world clinical cases that will help me help others.”

HONG LY ’18
Biology
In Galveston, Texas: First participant in our dual-degree partnership with The University of Texas Medical Branch, in which students earn a bachelor’s in Biology from St. Edward’s and a master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Texas Medical Branch.

“I’m inspired by performers who can effectively incorporate activism into their comedy. By this, I mean those who use their comedy platform to point out the flaws in society and seek change to the problems in our world.”

KATE AXELSSON ’18
Communication
In Chicago, Illinois: Online courses in writing satire and writing a themed show via The Second City.

“What excited me most about my internship was the opportunity for new experiences. After studying abroad in Madrid last spring, I developed a love for traveling on my own and making the best of where I go. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I couldn’t wait to see it for myself.”

KEILA MARTINEZ ’18
Finance

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA ’05

The Cross-Continental Really, Really Impressive Summer Adventures of Hilltoppers

How I spent my summer vacation ... We’ve all written this essay once upon a time, haven’t we?

But let’s forget about the ho-hum car trips or hours spent by the pool. How about helping refugees in Greece? Researching Hinduism in the spiritual capital of India? Those are just some of our students’ summer stories. Their adventures had them crisscrossing the globe as they explored science and ethics, politics and justice, religion and culture.

“Varanasi is one of the most complex and overwhelming places right at the center of religious and spiritual life in India. I observed the beautiful rituals and sensual experiences of Hinduism and got an insider’s experience from an outsider’s perspective.”

BAILEY ALLEGRO ’18
Religious Studies
In Varanasi, India: Independent research

“I want to be a medical laboratory scientist and ensure patients receive the best diagnosis and treatment. This program is the very first step – I’m getting hands-on practice in the lab while gaining knowledge about real-world clinical cases that will help me help others.”

HONG LY ’18
Biology
In Galveston, Texas: First participant in our dual-degree partnership with The University of Texas Medical Branch, in which students earn a bachelor’s in Biology from St. Edward’s and a master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Texas Medical Branch.

“I’m inspired by performers who can effectively incorporate activism into their comedy. By this, I mean those who use their comedy platform to point out the flaws in society and seek change to the problems in our world.”

KATE AXELSSON ’18
Communication
In Chicago, Illinois: Online courses in writing satire and writing a themed show via The Second City.

“What excited me most about my internship was the opportunity for new experiences. After studying abroad in Madrid last spring, I developed a love for traveling on my own and making the best of where I go. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I couldn’t wait to see it for myself.”

KEILA MARTINEZ ’18
Finance
WHAT’S THE REAL VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

We returned to a new school year disoriented and uneasy. White supremacists and neo-Nazis invaded a fellow university in Charlottesville. Two hurricanes pummeled the United States and Caribbean. Policy announcements regarding the DACA program gave rise to uncertainty and fear. The major news of the past few weeks are our events — stories directly impacting the university and the people within our community. And this is to say nothing of national and world reports chorusing in the background — a dictator’s developing nuclear capability, devastating climate and geological events across the globe, and a national state of political disruption and alarm. By the time you read this, the news cycle will have changed over many times, possibly in more remarkable and disquieting ways.

Yet before we think in apocalyptic terms, we are reminded of other times in our history — the escalating Vietnam War and assassinations of 1968 come to mind — when our country and the world seemed tenuous and off-balance. The problems are not the same, yet they are.

So what is to be done? It will take knowledge of our history, as well as a critical understanding of culture, economics, politics, religion and science. We need an empathy for and awareness of the human condition, honed through the study of art, language, literature and philosophy. To some, these may seem outmoded and irrelevant, seemingly removed from our present quagmire. But this is the path to our deliverance.

Consider what a liberal arts education can do: develop critical thinkers, strong communicators and thoughtful problem-solvers. It expands creativity and cultural nimbleness. Its application is vast and recyclable — not a finite skillset applied to a narrow job or profession, but a way of being — lifelong — as a successful professional, effective parent, democratic voter, compassionate neighbor and global citizen. It is a flight vest for a future where unprecedented things, both good and bad, will happen.

At St. Edward’s University, we deliver education in this grand liberal arts tradition with a bonus. Our Holy Cross heritage serves as light and compass, grounding us in ethics and guiding our understanding of this challenging world. We do so in the arms of a sustaining, generous community of scholars and mentors. And the greater Austin eco-system becomes our expansive professional and entrepreneurial playground. This is the ideal setting to prepare students for their futures, professionally and personally. Right now, there is nothing more important or critical to the future of our world.

How fortunate are we to be a part of it.

Dean of Admission Tracy Manier reflects on how liberal arts universities are uniquely positioned to deliver us from our present quagmire.
The Buzz on the Hilltop

What’s brewing in the lives of today’s students? Spend a day in the campus coffee shop to find out.

BY ROBYN ROSS / PHOTOGRAPHS BY MORGAN PRINTY AND WHITNEY DEVIN ‘10
VERY COFFEE SHOP has its own culture, and Meadows Coffeehouse in the Robert and Pearle Ragsdale Center is no exception. It’s where students get their caffeine fix, study before class, hammer out group projects, and meet friends old and new. But every student’s visit to the coffee shop is part of a larger story. It’s a glimpse into the ideas students are wrestling with, the ambitions that drive them and the relationships they’ve built on the hilltop. We spent one day at Meadows to find out what (other than coffee) was brewing in their lives.

7:30 A.M. LIGHTS ON
Manager Dave Rathbun has been at work since 6 a.m., brewing coffee, setting out 300 pastries and receiving the first of two daily deliveries of breakfast tacos from neighborhood restaurant El Borrego de Oro. The first customers usually fall into two categories, he says: “athletes who just got out of practice, and a few headstrong, go-getter students.”

7:40 A.M. FIRST CUPS
In the space of a minute, Rathbun grinds the coffee, tamps it down, pulls the shot, steams and pours the milk, and wipes everything clean. He pulls a stir stick through the steamed milk to draw a series of hearts in the foam, then sets the cup on the pickup counter. “Hazelnut latte for Isabel!”

A few feet away, K.C. Hurley ’19, a Communication major, adds sugar to the coffee in his to-go cup. He’s on his way to his Presentational Speaking class, where he’ll give a speech about Caritas, a nonprofit that helps the homeless in downtown Austin. “I’ve been working with them all semester because my American Dilemmas class requires everyone to do service and civic engagement in the community,” he explains, stirring and sipping. “I went in every Wednesday for the past two months to help them organize their office. I’m a little nervous about my speech, but I’m feeling good because I’ve practiced a lot.” Then he’s out the door.

7:52 A.M. SLEEP SUBSTITUTIONS
As the line for coffee grows, Ashley Nassy ’20 and Sara Machado ’20 are the first to sit down at a table. The two Hilltopper softball players arrived back on campus at 1 a.m. after a game in San Angelo. They leave tonight at 6 for another game in Wichita, Kansas. “This is what helps us,” Nassy says, gesturing to the tacos and iced coffee on the table. She and Machado are headed to a management class, where the syllabus says a lecture is scheduled, but other teammates have presentations to make or exams to take today.

“We’re thankful we don’t have to do that,” Machado says. “Away games are hard. The good thing is we’re ranked pretty high in our conference right now.”

8:15 A.M. WAKE-UP CALL
Kaylee Delgado ’20 sits drinking a chai and paging through Give Me Liberty! An American History Textbook. As she reads, she takes notes to make a study guide for the exam she has later today in her American
Experience class. "In high school I was one of those people who didn't study for exams and still got As," she says. "My first semester of college was a big wake-up call. The second semester was more manageable because St. Edward's offers a lot of ways to get help if you need it, like peer tutoring, which is how I learned about making study guides. And this semester is better — so far I have a 3.45 GPA."

9:15 A.M. BREAKFAST CLUB
Mallory Hicks '19 and David Weier '19 claim the long table at the back of the room and look around for their friends. Every Tuesday and Thursday the group meets for breakfast before their morning classes. Hicks, a Writing and Rhetoric major, is headed to Revising and Editing; Weier, a Biology major, has General Biology.

"We met in a mutual friend's room freshman year," Weier explains. "We lived in Teresa Hall."

"I lived in East Hall," Hicks says.

Weier grins. "We talked about how I knew everyone in Teresa, and you knew everyone in East. We were both like, 'We should combine forces so we know everybody.'"

10:15 A.M. BEYOND THE HILLTOP
Computer Science majors Scott Wolf '17 and Maria Bisaga '17 stare intently at Bisaga's laptop as they sip their black coffee. On the screen is the job description for a software engineer position Wolf hopes to land, similar to the two Bisaga has already been offered.

"Maria applied for something like 30 jobs a week for months on end," Wolf says. "She's amazing, and she got a really good job, so I asked her to help me with the whole process."

"I've been through so many interviews at this point, so I decided to take Scott under my wing," Bisaga says. "In the first interview, which is a phone screen, you need to present yourself well so that the company will request a second interview. So I'm helping Scott with those skills now."

11:30 A.M. CONSCIOUS CONSUMERS
Tristan Sandoval '20 and Reilly Cardillo '19 grab a table outside. The two met at Meadows through a group of mutual friends.

Sandoval takes a sip of black coffee from her mug. Both she, an Environmental Science and Policy major, and Cardillo, a Writing and Rhetoric major, bring their own cups whenever possible. "We try to be as sustainable as we can," Cardillo explains.

"I actually haven't had my mug for a while because my friend had it, and then I ran into him and he was drinking coffee with it," Sandoval adds. "I was like, 'That's my mug!' And he said, 'Actually, I was bringing it so I could give it back to you,' so I'm just drinking the coffee he had left in here."

11:46 A.M. SONG BREAK
The baristas play an upbeat version of "That's Amore" very loudly and sing along.

When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie
That's amore
When the world seems to shine
like you've had too much wine
That's amore

1:03 P.M. THE ENGLISH TEACHER
Monica Woods '19 is working on a presentation about Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson for her Children's Literature class. Later she'll read selections from Virginia Woolf's works for her British Literature course. "English was always my favorite subject growing up, and I had a great teacher my junior year of high school," she says. "That's when I decided I wanted to be an English teacher."

1:45 P.M. FREQUENT CUSTOMER
"I come to the coffee shop almost every day: in the morning and then again at night before I go to the library to study," says Manny Nava '19. "I'm pre-med and a Behavioral Neuroscience major, which makes me happy because I can take more psychology courses and still prepare for med school. And then I decided to pick up minors in Digital Marketing and Spanish. When I need a break, I check Twitter. I catch up on news that way, and I follow a lot of fashion bloggers and some makeup artists and musicians."
Faces in the Crowd

Beyond a good cup of coffee, you’ll find interesting and passionate students inside Meadows Coffeehouse.

1. Montana Marie Hermes ’18, Communication
   “I’m using the Duolingo program to learn the basics of Italian, because I’m going there next week for a family event. My mom lives in Singapore, and my grandmother lives in Germany and is turning 70, so we decided to meet in Italy to celebrate her birthday. I’m half Danish and half Lebanese, and I grew up in Singapore and Houston. The connection to Singapore is that maritime shipping is a big industry in Denmark, and my grandfather moved from Denmark to Singapore to start a shipping company. My mom eventually moved there, too. The Houston connection is that my dad, and other Lebanese family members, live there. And I studied abroad in France last semester. My life is spread across the whole world.”

2. Alanoud Almatar ’20, Biology
   “I come here a lot to study and read because being surrounded by the smell of coffee makes me happy. My goal is to become a doctor — not just to help people and save lives, but to be close to my patients and let them feel how beautiful life is. That’s my dream. I’ve always thought people should do what they really love, not just what other people want them to do. Sometimes we look at people who have achieved a lot and are living their dreams and we think they’re geniuses. We think they’re different from us, but that’s not true. We can all reach our dreams as long as we work hard for it. Basically, when you become what you really dreamed about, other people will be drawn to you because you’re following your passion.”

3. Lesley Martinez-Silva ’20, Bilingual Education
   “I’m here to meet Ben Griffith ’18 for a ‘buddy date’ because we’re both on the Hilltop Welcome Team. We lead Orientation and other activities for incoming students over the summer. There are 50 of us, so we’re supposed to meet up and get to know each other. That way we can function as a team by the time we start working with new students. I know freshmen who took some time to figure out their place at St. Edward’s, so I want to inform new students, “Hey, you can figure it out, and there are resources to help you.”

4. Victoire Vaille ’18, Global Studies and Spanish
   “I’m reading a book for my Spanish Literature class — I love traveling and languages, and I would like to be a diplomat or perhaps an ambassador. I’ve been a French teaching assistant, and next semester I’ll be a Spanish teaching assistant; plus, I’m going to learn German. I’m from Paris and this summer I went to Malta (the little island between Sicily and Africa) to work for an organization that promotes French language and culture around the world. Last summer I worked at a hostel in Santiago, Chile, for several months to get to know the culture and language, and then I studied there for a semester. Plus, my best friend at St. Edward’s is Chilean, so he was already in Santiago, and he introduced me to the city.”

5. Noah Dimas ’20, Biology
   “My crucifix was given to me by my home parish in Corpus Christi at the start of my high school years. I was an altar server there for 10 years. I got the bumper sticker on my computer [which says “Love is the only solution!”] from volunteering at Mary House Catholic Worker during a S.E.R.V.E. 1 Day experience [through the Office of Community Engagement on campus]. That organization helps homeless people who have terminal illnesses and need a place to stay while they get medical care.”
2:23 P.M. ADVENTURES ABROAD
Steven Severance ’17 sits in the courtyard outside the Ragsdale Center and is joined by Fiona Boutarige ’18 and Montana Hermes ’18.

“I just got accepted to a study abroad program to go to Bilbao, Spain, and I’m pretty excited,” Severance says. “I’m taking Spanish, surfing and Basque cuisine courses.”

“A surfing course?” Hermes is incredulous.

“Yeah, it’s awesome. And a survey of western European art. And a marketing course, and a leadership course.”

“That’s a lot of classes.”

Severance nods. “But surfing and Basque cuisine are just one-hour classes. Really the focus is on Spanish fluency. That’s one reason I picked Bilbao — it’s up in the northeast in the Basque region, and nobody speaks English there. Hopefully by going there I’ll be forced into learning Spanish well.”

3 P.M. CLASS RECAPS
Rosemond Crown ’17, Aissata N’Diaye ’18 and Marie Kassi ’19 claim an outdoor table after their Literature of the Black Freedom Struggle class. The three debrief about today’s discussion of Malcolm X and his conversion to Islam, while Kassi finishes some work for her upcoming International Business class.

“We’re all from Africa, so we gravitate to one another here,” Crown says. Her family is from Sierra Leone, N’Diaye is from Mali, and Kassi is from Ivory Coast. “This is my favorite spot on campus. People at St. Edward’s sometimes dress up for class, so this walkway feels like a runway to me. And then when people come through walking their dogs, the dogs stop the show.”

3:20 P.M. THE COUCH SLEEPER
Jared Fellows ’18, a Digital Media Management major, wakes up from a nap on the couch. Wednesdays and Thursdays are his longest days; he has two classes on Wednesdays and then works until 10 p.m. at a tennis center near downtown. Thursdays are packed with three classes, beginning at 8 a.m.

Fellows rubs his eyes, grateful for his brief nap. “I saw the couch, and it was really quiet, and they were playing some nice music — I thought, this would be a great place to chill out for a couple hours,” he says. “Generally I go home between classes on Thursdays, but some days, like today, I have to stay on campus for extracurricular activities. Earlier this semester I was on campus a lot for iChallenge on the Hilltop, the pitch and business plan competition, because I hope to start my own business someday. I was a finalist, and it was a great learning experience.”

5:35 P.M. THE DIFFERENCE MAKER
Time to make the Turbo. Mallory Koch ’17, a Communication major and coffeehouse employee, mixes the caffeine-and-sugar bomb that’s one of the shop’s most popular drinks. She pours hazelnut syrup, chocolate syrup, milk, cream and espresso into a pitcher, stirs, and refrigerates; later, it will be poured, a glass at a time, over ice.

Koch was a regular at Meadows before she started working here at the start of her senior year. “I loved the atmosphere when I was a customer, because the baristas were so personable — they start to learn your order and engage you in conversation, and now that I work here, I love getting to know everyone who comes in. The job involves a lot of little tasks, and making someone’s coffee seems like such a small task. But you’re not just making their coffee, you’re also building a relationship with the customer.”

Koch says such small tasks are an exercise in hospitality and “finding meaning in the menial,” concepts she internalized from four years of participation in Service Break Experiences through Campus Ministry. Her freshman year, for example, she spent a week working with other students from St. Edward’s at André House, a resource center for the homeless in Phoenix.

“Sometimes you feel like, ‘I’m not doing enough: I’m just cleaning a shower,’” Koch says. “But for someone experiencing homelessness, that’s a shower they probably haven’t had in a long time, so it really is a big deal. In the same way, making someone’s coffee doesn’t seem like a big deal, but it’s so much bigger than just the coffee.”

7:30 P.M. TALENT SHOW
Communication majors Val Vial ’19 and Kamryn Bryce ’19 grab seats in the back row for Open Mic Night, sponsored and organized by the University Programming Board. “One of my best friends performs at Open Mic Night pretty often, but it’s also exciting to see people perform that you didn’t know had this talent,” Bryce says. “Like Jaywon [Jackson ’20] here [sitting in front of them] — he performed one of Kendrick Lamar’s songs.”

“He’s a very talented rapper,” Vial agrees. “And I have other friends who are really good at the guitar.”

8:35 P.M. BRAVE SOULS
Tim Lopez ’19 and Ellie Fishbourne ’19 perform an acoustic version of Ed Sheeran’s “Castle on the Hill” and a mashup of several Shawn Mendes songs. During the choruses, the audience — now standing room only — sings along, and when the performers finish, they’re rewarded with hearty applause.

Lopez and Fishbourne attended the same high school and started performing together when they got to St. Edward’s.

“I still get nervous, but less than I used to because Tim and I have performed together so many times,” Fishbourne says afterward. Lopez agrees, “I feel confident working with Ellie, so even if we do mess up, we know how to get back on track. Right before the performance I’m not nervous because I’m just excited to share what we’ve made, like our mashups that people haven’t heard before.”

9:15 P.M. NIGHT OWLS
After the last performance, the audience begins to dissipate as students head back to their residences or stop in the courtyard to chat. University Programming Board volunteers and a couple of baristas start moving some of the chairs back to their regular positions.

MIDNIGHT. LIGHTS OUT
The baristas lock the doors for the night. In half an hour, everything will be wiped down and secured. And in less than 8 hours, another day will begin.
Conscious Consumer
Writing and Rhetoric major
Reilly Cardillo ’19 always brings her reusable mug.
Shooting Stars

Nine Photocommunications alumni are making it — apart and together — in New York’s massively competitive art and photography world.

BY JULIE H. CASE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MONIKA KRATOCHVIL ’08
I
t’s a hot New York summer night, and Brandon Maxwell ’08, fashion designer and celebrity stylist, is casting his eye across a bruising Brooklyn sky. Across the room, a flash stutters above one of his best friends as she works the camera. The room thrums. Music plays in the background while a group of Austin transplants shout advice and pose for pictures. They rearrange one another, boss one another around and see things through one another’s lenses.

A producer for Condé Nast cues up a personal project he has been working on for creative input. A visual storyteller for VICE Media lingers over the shoulder of the shoot’s photographer, trying not to offer too much advice. In college, these friends formed a tightknit group. As adults, they’re making it in New York City. The threads of hard work, art and friendship have tied them together. They ground one another — and serve as one another’s ladders.

Ryan Slack ’08 and Christian DeVoe ’10 have a rhythm. Shoot, rearrange the product, upload. While the two were roommates years back, today it’s mostly business: Slack shoots and DeVoe and his team begin the detailed and highly technical post-production process. Together they’ve worked for companies such as Amazon, Barneys, Bonobos and Loeffler Randall.

Slack moved to New York in September 2009, around the same time as Monika Kratochvil ’08 and Matt Ellis ’07, with the intention of becoming a professional photographer. In Texas, he was assisting a photographer and shooting on his own for clients such as Red Bull, for which he’d capture extreme skateboarders and the like. In New York, he was often on set with 30 other people. “It really opened my eyes to the scope and gravity of the commercial photography industry,” says Slack.

He took an internship with celebrity photographer Ben Baker, known for his portraits of presidents and politicians, and eventually became his assistant. When Slack began assisting a commercial photographer, he had an epiphany: Celebrity photography might be a labor of love, but shooting for catalogs and e-commerce was far more profitable.

If the work seemed unromantic, the opportunity was not. E-commerce was just taking off. Today the work he does alternates between high-fashion campaigns and the practical — photography that makes clients long for a look, plus pictures of the front and back of the shirt so they know what they’re buying.

Slack attributes much of his success and willingness to take risks to how the Photocommunications program at St. Edward’s integrates art with real-world knowledge — and especially to Professor of Photocommunications Bill Kennedy’s Professional Practices course, which taught him business skills. “I can open that notebook now, and everything makes more sense than ever,” he says. “It’s the class I use every day in my real life.”

When he reflects on how he made it, Slack can’t help but think of Kennedy telling him that if he wanted to stay in Austin and be “that guy,” it would be possible, but he’d have to work to times harder than the guy in New York — and the guy in New York is the hardest-working guy there is.

Back in Austin, DeVoe met John Clendenen ’08, who was retouching images from an award-winning underwater fine art photographer at the time. The two worked well together and kept in touch after Clendenen left for New York. When DeVoe was ready to move, Clendenen helped him secure an internship at a photo-retouching studio, where DeVoe ascended to production manager during the three years he was there.

In 2014, DeVoe launched his company, Local Color, a creative studio that offers retouching services, as well as e-commerce photography solutions for clients such as Nike, Tory Burch, Aesop and Swarovski, among others. While Slack used to feed jobs to DeVoe while he was working elsewhere, today they work together on numerous projects throughout the month. The two just collaborated on a web campaign for Barneys New York, for example.

When Clendenen arrived in New York, he accepted an internship at Bespoke Digital, a retouching and digital post-production studio, which he found through a friend of Slack’s. He worked his way up to retouching and digital tech, and today, he’s a senior retoucher at the advertising agency Droga5, where he works alongside Michelle Leedy ’08.

The type of retouching Clendenen does is the painstaking type: color correcting, fine-tuning minute details or assembling dozens of nearly identical pictures to create one perfect high-resolution image. And while retouching can reinforce unrealistic impressions of women in the fashion world, in advertising, it’s more about technicalities — as with a campaign for a device launch they worked on recently. “We’ve done a good job when you can’t tell we did anything at all,” says Clendenen.

Leedy came to New York for an MFA, which she earned from Bard College’s International Center of Photography in 2011. After working for photographer David LaChapelle for two years, she moved to Bespoke, where she worked with DeVoe and Clendenen before joining Droga5 in 2015. As Droga5’s retouching studio manager (she oversees Clendenen and four other retouchers), she’s one step removed from the day-to-day details of the retouching business, which gives her breathing room to make art on her own.

For her, art spills across mediums. She has performed improv, is working on a project that centers on the physical and emotional concept of “boxing out” (like in basketball), and, every Saturday morning, makes a short video she calls “maintenance” for her Instagram account.

She says she “found [her] brain” at St. Edward’s. “It gave me the hunger to get my MFA. I wanted to go out and make other things and to look at things critically,” she notes. And, while she credits her work ethic to her family, she attributes her drive to her professors, who pushed her harder the more they saw her trying.

Her informal degree in friendship has also served her well. “I like to think that that school and that program gave me the tools to help figure things out,” she says. “And if not all the tools, then definitely the friends to help me figure it out.”

Among those friends, Leedy and DeVoe have breakfast regularly, and she’s close to Maxwell, Kratochvil and Jaime Alexis ’07 (daily texts keep them in touch).

Maxwell says: “Jaime is always good for setting it straight. You can talk to her, and she’ll be like, ‘No, this isn’t what you deserve. You shouldn’t accept it, and you should move on.’ And to have that sort of group around you that is realistic and builds you up — well, I could go on for days.”
Alexis began her production career in the gear room at VICE Media, checking out equipment for production teams. These days, she’s a staff shooter and associate producer at VICE, where she wears many hats. She shoots, directs and oversees projects from inception to airdate. Most recently, she’s been working on a 10-part documentary series on modern etiquette, which will explore the concept through the lens of visual storytelling.

“I think what interests me most about my job is that, at least for a short time, I get to be part of people’s lives,” says Alexis.

Like Leedy and Alexis, the audaciously ambitious Kratochvil is also at every show of Maxwell’s eponymous fashion brand, albeit in a different capacity. She shoots all of Maxwell’s behind-the-scenes footage.

Until recently, Kratochvil was a fashion and photography director for an e-commerce apparel company. When she first arrived in New York, she worked as a nanny until she landed a job in a PR agency with Maxwell’s help.

Kratochvil says the hours upon hours spent in the Photocommunications lab at St. Edward’s prepared her for the long days, constant deadlines and nonstop multi-tasking required in New York’s cutthroat creative industries.

Her degree, combined with her on-the-job experiences, served her well when **Jessy Price ’08** connected her with a position on the night crew at the prestigious Milk Studios. She handled props, managed equipment, and supported requests from photographers, models and the creative team.

“That’s really a show-up, work-long-hours, kill-yourself kind of job,” interjects Alexis, who started off in an equipment room herself.

Before long, Kratochvil moved on to a stylist-assistant position at Bonobos, where Slack worked as an assistant to a photographer at the time. After demonstrating her skills for getting a studio organized and making the company money, she became studio manager. Eventually, she became a fashion and photography director and was Slack’s boss for three years.

“Monika is a legend. She basically started as the clothing steamer, and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>worked with</th>
<th>Former roommates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jessy Price ’08</strong></td>
<td>Producer at 23 Stories, Condé Nast’s ad agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monika Kratochvil ’08</strong></td>
<td>Freelance photographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ryan Slack ’08</strong></td>
<td>Freelance photographer and owner of Mediumplex Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christian DeVoe ’10</strong></td>
<td>Owner of Local Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michelle Leedy ’08</strong></td>
<td>Retouching studio manager at Droga5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jaime Alexis ’07</strong></td>
<td>Staff shooter and associate producer at VICE Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matt Ellis ’07</strong></td>
<td>Digital tech for Guy Aroch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brandon Maxwell ’08</strong></td>
<td>Fashion director for Lady Gaga and founder and owner of Brandon Maxwell Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>John Clendenen ’08</strong></td>
<td>Senior retoucher at Droga5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“When you get to New York, you realize you need people that you trust. ... I think because we figured that out in college, it allowed us to have a better working relationship now,” says Jessy Price ’08.
she ended as the queen of the photo department, hiring and firing photographers, plus telling people how to pose,” says Slack.

After six years, though, Kratochvil seemed to hit a ceiling. She felt her growth was at a standstill. At St. Edward’s, social justice themes were woven throughout her coursework. She reflects on how some of her communication courses addressed equal rights and “how much work women had to do to be heard in a society that doesn’t project that voice.” When Kratochvil’s boss told her to be more “rainbows and roses,” it all came back to her. She gathered her courage and took a leap. She quit the job and launched her own freelance photography business last January. She shoots everything from courthouse weddings to magazine profiles, and she’s the force responsible for the behind-the-scenes photos that populate Maxwell’s social feed and website.

Ellis, Kratochvil’s boyfriend, is fiercely proud of her and her work, and he knows good photography when he sees it.

In 2010, less than a year after arriving in New York, Ellis won Photo District News’ Billboard Ultimate Music Moment Photo Contest with a picture of The Black Keys onstage in Chicago. He was working with magazines like *Spin* and *Rolling Stone* and assisting on productions with people like Annie Leibovitz and Steven Meisel when he met fashion and celebrity photographer Guy Aroch.

Today, as Aroch’s first assistant and technician — Ellis not only shoots but is also the digital tech and handles lighting — he spends more time traveling than at home. But it’s worth it: He is especially proud of the work the Aroch team did on Coca-Cola’s recent rebranding. “It’s cool to drive down the road and see a picture, billboard size, and know it’s something you worked on,” he says. He went headlong into print for a long time, and about, “ he says. He went headlong into print for a long time, and

Price arrived in New York in October 2008 and got his first break because he listed a summer job processing film at CVS on his résumé. The digital director of Milk Studios loved it, and said Price was clearly a go-getter. He was offered an internship on the spot, which turned into a full-time job four months later.

Price knew he needed to stand out from photography graduates from schools across the country. He realized his education in print and inkjet printing at St. Edward’s was that differentiation, and that Milk wasn’t doing enough of it. “I pushed that [inkjet printing] and owned it, and I think they started to see I knew what I was talking about,” he says. He was headlong into print for a long time, and ended up as a retouching producer at Milk for three years.

Meanwhile, he was nursing a dream of becoming a fashion magazine photo editor, which he achieved in 2014 when he became associate photo editor at W. Now a producer at 23 Stories at Condé Nast, he does all the sorts of things he did at W — hiring photographers, going on set, keeping shoots on schedule — for video for Condé Nast’s branded content business.

On the side, Price began making his own short films and posting them on social media. His first boss at Milk Studios was watching. Impressed, he texted Price an offer: anything you need — equipment to behind-camera talent — for an entire day, so long as you make something with it.

Price knew what that something was: Maxwell needed an advertising campaign, and Price wanted to produce it. The two, who worked together constantly at St. Edward’s and had occasionally collaborated in New York, produced a nearly three-minute video that featured models dressed in Maxwell’s designs, lounging in bed, staring piercingly at the camera. The soundtrack was snippets of messages Maxwell’s family had left him during the grueling months he’d been launching his fashion line.

The video landed them the opportunity to produce Apple Music’s commercial for Lady Gaga’s song “A-Yo” in 2016, which funded the next campaign for Maxwell and was shot on the sidewalks of Detroit and in model Riley Montana’s childhood home. This past summer, Maxwell and Price — who are also now engaged — released a multi-video campaign for Maxwell’s 2017 Fall/Winter collection.

If they work together intuitively, they admit it wasn’t always easy. The joint work in college — projects, shoots, even sharing a large-format camera for a semester — helped them figure out how to get the best out of one another. “When you get to New York, you realize you need people that you trust. You need collaborators, and people who are going to tell you the truth, and who know your ups and downs. I think because we figured that out in college, it allowed us to have a better working relationship now,” says Price of his partnership with Maxwell.

Today, the two are back to working together, but initially Price came to New York with no expectations Maxwell, his best friend in college, would follow suit. Even now their professional lives exist in separate spheres. Maxwell began his stint in New York in 2009 as an assistant to fashion stylists (the people who select the clothing and accessories for magazine features, television, advertising campaigns and more). By 2010, he was assisting creative director Nicola Formichetti and helping dress Lady Gaga. Since 2012, Maxwell has served as her fashion director.

In 2015, Maxwell launched his own line of womenswear: Everyone from Zendaya to Karlie Kloss to Oprah has worn his designs. In 2016, Michelle Obama wore one of his gowns to a state dinner in honor of Singapore’s prime minister.

“Well, he’s a fashion designer, but I think he would probably fit more into the league of designers who are creative directors, like Karl Lagerfeld — people who really take control over the visual aspect as well as the design aspect, as well as the overall voice of a company,” says Price. “I think as time goes, he’ll probably be seen in that light, not only as a creator of clothes but also of many other things — video and photography and whatever else he should decide to do.”

As Maxwell evolves creatively and professionally (he’s rumored to be launching a handbag line soon), he has relied on his St. Edward’s cohort. Once a career goes skyward, as Maxwell’s has, everyone wants to hitch a wagon to that star — or try to control its trajectory. With so many of his creative and visual choices subjected to business and financial concerns, he says he sometimes needs to put his ambitions in front of those who matter most to him creatively. “Ultimately, I don’t want to look back and have lost every bit of myself and what I stand for,” he says, which is why he’ll grab Kratochvil in the middle of a shoot, close the office door and get perspective.

But there’s also pride for what the group as a whole has accomplished.

“When I walk down the street and I see a billboard that Michelle Leedy did, or turn on the TV and see something that Jaime did, or go to Barneys and see something that Ryan did, I feel a joy and a pride, but in my mind, I don’t think about them being 32. I think about them being 19. I don’t see them any different, and that’s a really humbling experience that not many people have,” says Maxwell.

As the years since college have passed and their professional lives consume more and more of their time, the group as a whole gathers a little less frequently. Yet when they do, they fall into familiar St. Edward’s patterns — sharing creative critiques, pushing one another toward stronger work, and bolstering one another’s resolve for the kind of risk-taking that has raised each so high already.
17 in 2017

Among the hundreds of graduates who earned their diplomas this year, these 17 took advantage of every opportunity — or created their own. These pages celebrate their accomplishments of conducting research, landing internships, pursuing the creative arts, traveling the world and developing as leaders.

1

Ellen Pace MAC ’17
Pace created Zambia’s first equine-assisted therapy program, which helps orphans in Lusaka recover from trauma.
GILBERT RIVERA ’17, MATHEMATICS
Rivera has conducted three major research projects during his time at St. Edward’s. His neuroscience project mapped out the chronological relationship between pathologies associated with Alzheimer’s disease, such as the formation of amyloid beta plaques, cognitive deficits and the presence of cell-damaging reactive oxygen species. In his astrophysics project, he studied dark energy — the force that causes the universe to expand. His last semester at St. Edward’s, Cruz student-taught in a Life Skills class at Cowan Elementary in South Austin. He helped students who have disabilities with academic subjects like math and language arts, and with skills like eating independently and washing their own hands after using the bathroom. “We wanted to give them confidence and independence to do that outside of the classroom,” he says. “The students loved having someone be so supportive.”

NICK STILES ’17, PSYCHOLOGY
A McNair Scholar, Stiles is interested in investigating questions of morality and values from a psychological perspective.

HUFSA ALI ’17, BIOLOGY
Ali plans to become a doctor who helps patients overcome chronic diseases.

ALFONSO LUCIO ’17, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
A College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) student, Lucio was a featured speaker at Austin’s annual César Chávez march.
Karen Scobey
MBA ’17
Scobey served as vice president of the Graduate Business Student Association (GBSA), a networking and support group. During her tenure, the GBSA hosted some of Austin’s biggest names in business, including Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Texas Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Lani Rosales, who founded the online networking group Austin Digital Jobs. Scobey has since contacted Rosales with professional questions. “Because of that established relationship, there’s a door that’s already open,” she says. While earning her MBA, Scobey worked full time at Whole Foods as an infrastructure business analyst and project manager. Time management was critical for all the students in her program, she says, and the classes’ emphasis on group work taught everyone to respect one another’s schedules — and opinions.

“I’ve always considered myself open-minded, but being surrounded by so many people with different viewpoints — and working with them on group projects — has taught me to listen more,” she says. “I’ve become close friends with people who have very different personalities and interests from me, and who are at the opposite end of the political spectrum. We’ve all grown from navigating this very contested political period together, and I’m proud of the fact that those of us who have very different beliefs can speak to each other without fear of reprimand.”

Dominick Namis ’17, Digital Media Management
Namis interned with Mozilla, maker of the Firefox browser, and after graduation started a full-time position as an account manager at Facebook.
ALICIA OLIVIER ‘17, FINANCE

Olivier landed a coveted Goldman Sachs internship (which is statistically harder to get than admission to Harvard) as a junior, then turned it into a full-time job after graduation.

JONATHAN EDWARDS ’17, GLOBAL STUDIES

Edwards was the first student from the university, and one of 15 students nationwide, to be selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program. For six weeks one summer he was immersed in the world of public policy and international relations in Washington, D.C. He took classes at Howard University, learned about nongovernmental organizations like the National Democratic Institute, visited the Pentagon, and talked with members of Congress and the U.S. Department of State. Edwards also exercised political leadership on the St. Edward’s campus, serving as a Student Government Association senator and working his way up to vice president and, later, elections commissioner. He served as the Second State Vice President of the NAACP Texas State Conference Youth and College Division, a role that required him to oversee nearly 100 units across the state. His achievements were recognized on campus when he received a Presidential Award, and statewide when he was named a Texas NAACP Torchbearer.

JIMMY STEWART ’17, BIOINFORMATICS

Stewart spent a summer working in the horticulture department at Michigan State University as part of a National Science Foundation–funded Research Experience for Undergraduates.

LESLEI CHAVEZ ’17, PHOTOCOMMUNICATIONS

Chavez was included in an NPR project called “Finding Words in Paint: How Artists See Dyslexia.” The story’s coordinator invited artists with dyslexia to submit work that reflects how their dyslexia shapes their identity or makes them feel. Chavez’s work, called “Fit In,” uses multiple digital images to create a disorienting, gloomy portrait indicative of the stress her dyslexia causes. Chavez was initially diagnosed with dyslexia in fifth grade, but it wasn’t until she got to St. Edward’s that she understood how to work with — and not against — the condition.

15. Hannah Wilson ’17, Theater Arts

In addition to serving as production stage manager of Cabaret at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre, Wilson worked with the Austin Opera and Ballet Austin.

17. Hannah Wilson ’17, Theater Arts

In addition to serving as production stage manager of Cabaret at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre, Wilson worked with the Austin Opera and Ballet Austin.
TOP OF THEIR GAME

Arguing for Justice

Raising hell for the right side of history.

BY ROBYN ROSS

When Steve Shadowen ’80 and Bob Hilliard ’80 learned about the case of Sergio Hernandez, they immediately thought: That’s not right.

On June 7, 2010, Hernandez, a 15-year-old Mexican citizen, was playing a game with his friends on the international border outside El Paso: running across the barely flowing Rio Grande to touch the border fence on the north side. A U.S. Border Patrol agent collared one of the boys and shot into the group on the Mexico side of the river, killing Hernandez.

Had the incident occurred in the United States, Hernandez’s parents could sue. But the U.S. government maintained that, because Hernandez was in Mexico when he was killed, the rule of law did not apply.

Hilliard and Shadowen took the case, which they presented to the U.S. Supreme Court in February.

“I think Bob and I both came out of the university with a real appreciation for the ability to write and to think critically, and together with a passion for social justice, that’s the anchor of a Holy Cross education,” says Shadowen.

“When you’re in your late 50s you call it a passion for social justice, but when you’re in your early 20s, you call it a passion for raising hell,” Hilliard quips. “Our education at St. Edward’s gave us permission to learn who we were and what was important to us.”

In June, the Supreme Court sent the case back to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, asking it to reconsider the case but stating that the Border Patrol agent did not have qualified immunity from being sued.

“Our job is to do to the best of our ability what we think is right, and in the end history will be the judge of who was right,” says Shadowen.

Hilliard and Shadowen have invested in the next generation of social justice advocates by creating two scholarships: one for CAMP students majoring in disciplines from the humanities, and one for student-athletes.
AN AMERICAN IN MALAYSIA
BY HANNAH THORNBY ’15

The training I received before beginning my Fulbright grant year in Malaysia — stock phrases to help me politely decline sour pureed fish soup and a reminder to use my right hand — helped me bypass a few cultural hurdles, but fitting in and feeling accepted took time.

I had to overcome limited English, often crippling shyness, and a lack of trust from those who didn’t understand what an American was doing in their rural Malaysian town.

For months, my role in the community seemed restricted to “selfie prop” and test rat for spicy foods (to prove that Americans, too, can eat spicy food).

I knew I was beginning to be accepted when the questions finally changed from why I liked oatmeal for breakfast (instead of whole fried fish) to why there is so much violence in America.

“Miss, who are you going to vote for?”
“Miss, what’s a ‘Muslim ban’?”
“Miss, do you believe in God?”

These conversations were hardly ever easy; I felt nauseated explaining to a 13-year-old Malaysian Muslim girl why there are some Americans who equate terrorism with Islam and fear the hijab she wears.

In the end, though, my community opened up to me after recognizing my efforts to be honest. I learned and shared twice as much in my last three months as I did during my first six.

I returned to my school for a visit six months after my Fulbright ended. I was afraid that I had lost whatever trust I earned during my grant. It’s odd — and perhaps unfair — to have a foreigner wedged so tightly into your community for a year, only for her to leave.

My unease subsided when a former coworker did two things: First, she described my visit as a balik kampung trip, a deeply important phrase in Bahasa Melayu that means to return to one’s roots. And then, she asked me about the recent women’s march in America.

My unlikely friendships halfway across the world remained.

Hannah Thornby ’15

After graduating from St. Edward’s University in 2015, Hannah Thornby worked at the Austin American-Statesman and served as a Fulbright grantee in Malaysia before accepting her current position as an ESL teacher in Vietnam.
Hilltopper Connection

WHY ATTEND OUR 100+ EVENTS?
You'll connect with smart, engaged alumni
like Alicia Barron ’03, president of the Alumni
Association Board of Directors. “The alumni
association helps us all get back to the
St. Edward’s experience so we can keep learn-
ing and building community together. It’s life-
long growth with people who understand the
university’s mission, and it’s also lots of fun.”

“The alumni office
should be your first
stop anytime you’re
on campus,” says
Erica Zamora ’11, vice
president of the Alumni Association
Board of Directors. “Visit Main Building,
Room 303. Just tell them you’re an alum,
or email ahead of time to let them know
your plans. They’ll probably get you an
alumni shirt!”

Alumni who
invest in today’s
students. Last
year, 1,247 made
gifts in support of
current Hilltop-
pers and the Holy
Cross mission.

PERCENT

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY
23–25
HOMECOMING &
FAMILY WEEKEND

Big changes are coming to
Homecoming & Family Weekend.
We want everyone to have fun.

Will you be there? We’ll have new
events and completely revamped
classics — save the date!

visit stedwards.edu/
alumni for a complete calendar.

Email seu alumni@stedwards.edu anytime you plan
to visit campus, and you’ll receive
a small gift.

VISIT CAMPUS

LET’S CATCH UP

GIVE BACK
Regional Founders Day
service projects

CULTURE
Anon(ymous) opens at Mary
Moody Northen Theatre

’TIS THE SEASON
Festival of Lights on
Main Building lawn

OCT. 21
NOV. 9
DEC. 4
REASONS TO FOLLOW THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON SOCIAL

1. Be Nostalgic
   Relive all the good times (and learn about others) through historic and alumni-submitted photos and stories.

2. Share in the Success
   We’re proud of our Hilltoppers! If we hear about alumni doing great things, we’ll tweet. Let us know if you have a note to share or use #seualumni when you post.

3. Pretend You’re Still in College
   Who doesn’t want to go back to that time? We share unusual sightings (like a kangaroo on campus) and activities you’ll appreciate (like career fairs).

4. Get Smart
   We record and share select events hosted by the Kozmetsky Center of Excellence, the Center for Ethics and Leadership, and more.

5. Win Swag
   You’ll have access to semi-monthly contests and promos for alumni swag or early tickets to campus and chapter events.

GET SOCIAL
Visit stedwards.edu/socialmedia to connect with the Alumni Association on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat and YouTube.
moments

Brandon Paz '19
Communication
Ambassador of Caring

"When I was a freshman, I saw people grow and felt myself grow, too. I’m a Resident Assistant because I want to be a catalyst for people to become the best versions of themselves. I feel like it’s my calling to bring positivity and care to those around me.

You can’t be an RA if you don’t care about the people you’re looking out for."
OF INTEGRITY

“Learning about American politics and the lack of representation of diversity is why I devote myself to causes that will make a difference in the world. The emphasis on social justice and diversity at St. Edward’s helped me realize I should do something I can feel good about. Politics can often be seen as a slimy business, but at the end of the day, I know I could be a force for good and have a positive impact.”
Get the Buzz

What draws students to the campus coffeehouse? It’s more than just class projects and caffeine cravings.
Spend a day with the scientists, singers, taco maniacs, baristas and athletes who hang out there.

Page 12

“This is my favorite spot on campus. People at St. Edward’s sometimes dress up for class, so this walkway feels like a runway to me. And then when people come through walking their dogs, the dogs stop the show.”

ROSEMOND CROWN ’17