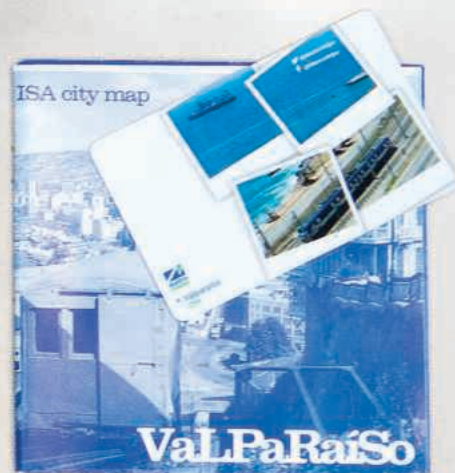
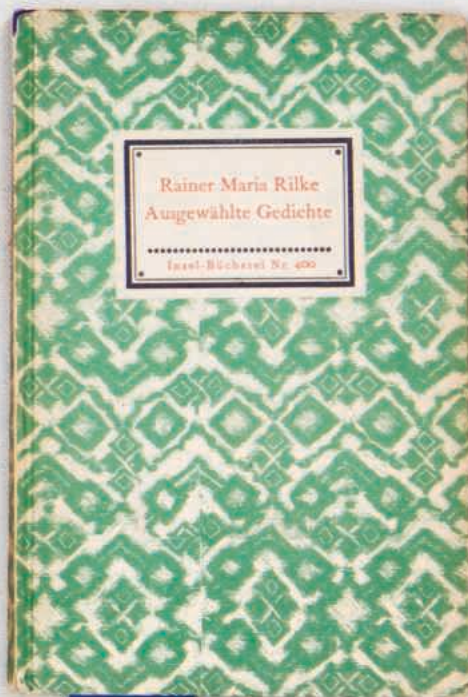
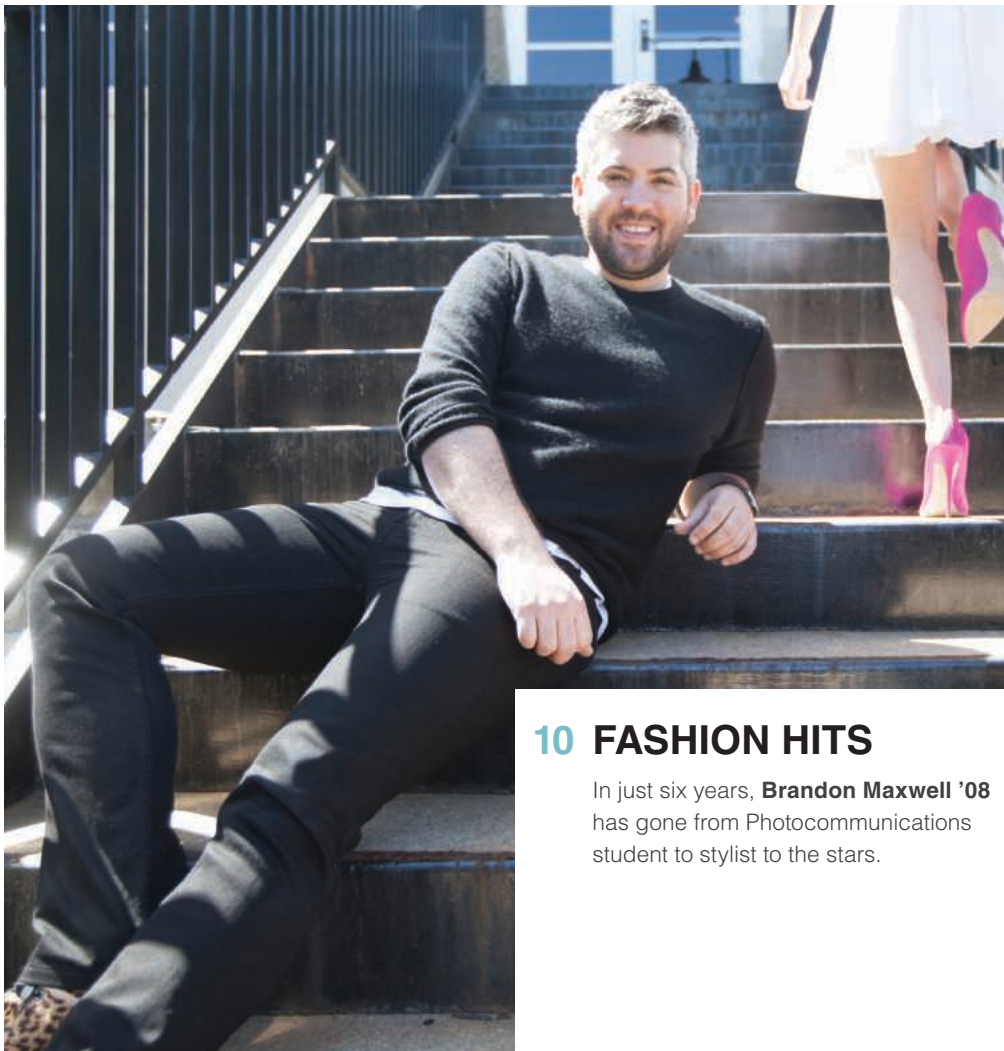


St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2014 VOLUME 14 ISSUE 3





10 FASHION HITS

In just six years, **Brandon Maxwell '08** has gone from Photocommunications student to stylist to the stars.



16 OH, THE PLACES THEY'LL GO

Just a few short months ago, members of the Class of 2014 were toting heavy backpacks across campus, gazing out the Munday Library windows and ordering pizza past midnight. Now, we've got them waxing nostalgic about life on the hilltop and telling us about the real world.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As I sipped my coffee and enjoyed a rare moment of quiet this morning, an Associated Press news article about a tribunal in a far-flung place caught my attention: "They were leaders of Cambodia's infamous Khmer Rouge, the fanatical Communist movement behind a 1970s reign of terror that transformed this entire Southeast Asian nation into a ruthless slave state. ... When the nightmare ended, in 1979, close to 2 million people were dead — a quarter of Cambodia's population at the time."

Over the past few months, we've been working with **Shannon Ung '15**, who traveled to Cambodia this summer to retrace her parents' steps during the late 1970s. She wanted to learn more about the struggle her family faced under the Khmer Rouge regime and how her parents' experiences shaped her life growing up in Houston.

I've read the story over and over, and every time I do, I'm struck by another passage, turn of phrase or detail. I think about Shannon, about what it takes for a 21-year-old to have this kind of courage. To ask the kinds of questions she's asking. To grow up knowing and imagining what your parents lived through. To finally begin to understand what they experienced.

I hope you'll read the story, which begins on page 22, and then go listen to Shannon talk about the experience in her own words at stedwards.edu/webextras.

Shannon was one of 14 students who received 2014 Summer Academic Excellence Awards from St. Edward's. Many traveled globally, others stayed local — but all did something incredible. Their unique experiences are represented on our cover (for more on the images, see page 44). And over the next year, we'll be bringing you more of their stories in the magazine and at stedwards.edu/webextras.

We hope you'll join us on the journey.

Frannie Schneider
Editor



22 AMID BEAUTY & SADNESS

Shannon Ung '15 spent three weeks in Cambodia this summer exploring the genocide that indelibly changed the country and her family 39 years ago.



28 QUIET ZEAL

White limestone, red doors, Holy Cross Brothers. What happens when one of the university's iconic symbols starts to disappear?

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stedwards.edu/webextras

Meet the Freshmen: We asked members of the Class of 2018 a few telling questions: How would your friends describe you? What's on your playlist? What can't you live without? Here's a peek inside the minds of the incoming freshman class.

A Professor's Tough Love: As a new transfer student, **Brandon Maxwell '08** thought he knew everything, but he was going nowhere fast. Enter Professor of Photocommunications **Bill Kennedy**. Hear them talk about a mentorship that changed their lives.

Summer Scholars: **Shannon Ung '15** talks about her journey to her parents' homeland of Cambodia — and why she wants to return in a year. **William Haynes '15** researches transnational Muslims in Toronto.

Memoirs of the Brothers: Hear two Holy Cross Brothers share their stories of a life as educators in the faith.

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President's Letter

There are times in life that situations challenge our fundamental values and require an intentional effort and some sacrifice to recommit to those values. These situations confront institutions as well as individuals.

In June of this year, St. Edward's was notified that the United States Department of Education declined to renew funding for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). We weren't alone. Of the four Texas programs that sought funding, only the UT-Pan American program was re-funded.

This reduction in the number of programs appears to be part of a pattern, as each year since 2009 the number of funded programs has declined.

The Department of Education's decision left St. Edward's in a difficult position. We could not abandon the students we have served so faithfully and so well for so long. Yet, how could we find the money to continue the program?

Almost 42 years ago, St. Edward's made a long-term, generous and successful commitment to CAMP. The only ongoing program of the original four programs started in 1972, St. Edward's has served more than 2,800 students. These students have gone on to become the first Hispanic woman in Texas to earn a Ph.D. in Chemistry, doctors, lawyers, professors at leading American universities, elementary and secondary school principals, teachers who have won state and national awards, and community leaders who have served in offices as prestigious as the White House.

While most CAMP programs provide financial aid and programmatic support for students only in their first year, St. Edward's assists students through to graduation. Admission to college and completion of freshman year are only the first steps toward the ultimate goals of success, graduation and a baccalaureate degree. Such goals require a greater financial commitment to each student, and for St. Edward's that amounts to a total annual budget of \$3.7 million. Federal funding covered only \$425,000 of the annual costs.

Finding an additional \$425,000 for ongoing annual costs is always difficult. In these times of ever-rising costs and decreasing state and federal funding, it presented an enormous challenge. St. Edward's, moreover, is an institution of limited resources.

Yet to abandon CAMP would be to compromise the university's mission of providing access to higher education for all deserving students, no matter their financial circumstances. Access supports another fundamental university commitment — to maintain a diverse community of students from multiple racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds. Diversity enriches an educational environment with a variety of perspectives contributed by students who come from disparate cultural and experiential backgrounds.

I am happy to report that, even before we recovered from our disappointment about the Department of Education's decision, and before we had the opportunity to identify where the funds would come from, St. Edward's decided to continue CAMP using university funds. The decision was almost instinctive and intuitive. How could we remain true to our mission if we did not do everything to continue the program which more than any other program at the university symbolizes our historical, Holy Cross mission and its commitment to access, diversity and social justice?

St. Edward's welcomed 35 CAMP students in August as members of the Class of 2018. And CAMP students will continue to be part of each entering class for many years to come.

—President George E. Martin

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Our greatest need for CAMP is support for scholarships and operating expenses for program activities. If you would like to make a gift, go to stedwards.edu/support/waystogive, select "Donate Now," and designate your gift to "CAMP Area of Greatest Need."

TRAIL TESTED

Over the summer, visitors to the Wild Basin Creative Research Center might have encountered a St. Edward's student collecting ants from a trap in the ground. Rogue hikers who left the trail were caught on film by another student's "trail cam." The students were conducting research at the center, part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system that the university has managed since 2009. Biology, Bioinformatics and Forensic Science majors documented the species there, and Computer Science students created a database of those plants, animals and microbes and how they relate to one another.

The students' research is particularly significant, says Wild Basin director **John Abbott**, because there aren't many places like the preserve. A large parcel of undeveloped land that can be studied over many years is relatively rare, and it offers a chance for St. Edward's to create a valuable long-term data set. Having 20 years of data lets researchers see how species at Wild Basin might be adapting and responding to external influences like nearby construction projects and even climate change. —*Robyn Ross*



1

One student is comparing ant communities in two sections of the preserve: one that used to be a dumpsite and one that is considered more "pristine." Ants are a good indicator species and can serve as a proxy for how other organisms are reacting to their habitats.

2

Another team is cataloging the microbes, such as bacteria and fungi, in the soil around different groups of plants. They're studying how the microbial population varies based on the plants and type of soil in a site.

3

One student who plans to become a medical examiner is comparing decomposition rates across leaf species and identifying the microbes involved. Her research about the effect of the environment on leaf decomposition may have applications to forensic investigations of human bodies.

4

When visitors leave the trails, they may destroy valuable habitat. A Psychology major is testing the efficacy of different signs urging hikers to stay on the trails. By watching trail-cam footage recorded while different signs were displayed, she can determine which signs were obeyed and which were ignored.



JESSICA ATTIE '04

Internship Score

For six weeks this summer, Hilltopper women's basketball player **Tomorrow Huff '15** put her Communication major to work as an intern with the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers. As an operations assistant for Sixers Basketball and Dance Camps, she handled logistics for the teen and preteen campers, while immersed in a professional sports environment. From the time campers arrived each Sunday until they left on Friday, she made sure the facility was in top condition.

Huff, who has also worked as a student orientation coordinator and has an ongoing internship with a sports-marketing company, wants to pursue a career in athletic special events. "This internship is morphing together my communication background and my sports background," she says.

With days sometimes lasting from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., Huff didn't have much time to rest, but she did get to meet 76ers point guard Michael Carter-Williams, the 2014 NBA Rookie of the Year, and 76ers retiree Allen Iverson. She also took advantage of every opportunity to introduce herself to 76ers administrative staff, hoping that her unusual name would trigger their memory during her job search next year.

—Robyn Ross

The Little Chapel that Stood

From the rubble of Mang House and the construction dust surrounding Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, something beautiful has taken shape.

First constructed in 1897, the building has served many roles over the years before being transformed by the Congregation of Holy Cross into a chapel in 1947. Its exterior was renovated several years ago, but the interior was unable to accommodate the growing university community. It was time for a refresh. Now, the original oak floors are restored with newly installed wood-panel walls, resulting in an elegant, sacred space full of natural light. St. Edward's partnered with a local woodworker to design the altar, tabernacle and crucifix, and a local glass blower made the baptismal font.

Connected to the chapel is the new home of Campus Ministry. In addition to offices, it features a glass-walled community room. Students can use this room casually — there's a kitchen nearby to bake cookies during finals week — or for Bible study or interfaith discussion groups. Both the chapel and this room are accessible via card swipe, 24 hours a day.

Outside, a wooden deck — perfect for parties and Campus Ministry programming — leads down to the Claire Kolodzey Memorial Garden. Hedges separate the garden from the outside world, creating a deliberately private, introspective space.

Father Peter Walsh, CSC, director of Campus Ministry, wants students of all faiths — or no faith — to find peace and contemplation here. "As a Catholic university, we want spirituality to be a component of every student's life," Walsh says. "This new space makes a very strong statement about our spirituality — it's simple, not flashy, and welcoming to all." —Lauren Liebowitz

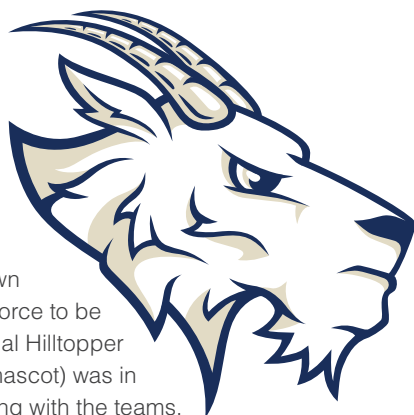


MORGAN PRINTY

When the renovation of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel is complete, several new religious symbols will be placed inside. The corpus is being carved by Austin-based artist Rebecca Cantos-Busch from poplar.

Things We Love: *Back to School*

Topper's New Look



Hilltopper Athletics has become known regionally — and nationally! — as a force to be reckoned with. But the official Hilltopper identity (the picture of our mascot) was in need of a facelift. After talking with the teams, their coaches and members of the university community, Athletics and the university's Marketing Office partnered with local designer Matt Brown to develop a fiercer, more contemporary look for everybody's favorite mountain goat. You'll see the new Hilltopper identity at games and around campus. **Fear the Goat!**

Big Winners

Four St. Edward's alumnae headed back to school this year funded by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Three graduates won English Teaching Assistant grants, which they'll pursue in Germany and Brazil, and **Elvia Valle '14** won the university's

2 first Fulbright full grant in political science research, which she will complete in Austria. Other prestigious fellowships secured by students include a U.S.

Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, an Erasmus Mundus scholarship, a scholarship to the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission's Summer Institute and the Davies-Jackson Scholarship to the University of Cambridge.

The Voice

Even professors sometimes get after-school jobs.

Deliverance Creek, a two-hour movie that aired Sept. 13 on the Lifetime channel, features the dialect coaching of Associate Professor of Acting and Voice **Sheila Gordon**.

The Civil War drama stars Lauren Ambrose (of *Six Feet Under* and *Can't Hardly Wait*). Gordon's main goal was to help the actors — who came from many different regions — sound like they were all from the same world: specifically southwest Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas, circa 1865.



Troubled Minds

Freshmen kicked off their year with discussions of journalist Susannah Cahalan's *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness*, an I-can't-put-it-down memoir of a psychotic break the author experienced in her early 20s, per the Class of 2018 Facebook page. The book is part of this year's common theme, Hearts and Minds: Changing the Conversation on Mental Health. The author will visit campus in October.

3

Making Headlines

5 If you search for **Shelby Sementelli '15** on Google, you'll find the blog she's writing for the student news site *Hilltop Views* about her experience in Quito, Ecuador, this fall. But you'll find more — articles she wrote for *Hilltop Views*, starting her freshman year and continuing through her junior year as co-news editor. Stories about Texas politics and policy for the *Texas Tribune*, where she interned in the spring. And articles in the *Washington Post* to which she contributed reporting about the April shootings at Fort Hood, as well as a piece in *The New York Times*. Last spring, the Austin Community Foundation awarded her the Stuart Long Memorial Journalism Scholarship. It's typically a \$3,000 award, but the foundation was so impressed with Sementelli that it awarded her \$5,000, the largest amount in the scholarship's history.

 **webextra**
.....
Meet the Freshmen

Take a peek inside the minds of the university's newest students at stedwards.edu/webextras.

Class of 2018

The first lesson for more than a quarter of this year's freshman class is the proper use of "y'all": the Class of 2018 boasts the largest number of out-of-state and international students in recent history.

6 More than 25 percent of the class comes from states other than Texas or from abroad. The freshman class is once again the largest in history, with 810 students. And it has strong Holy Cross ties: 32 students come from Holy Cross high schools around the globe. —Robyn Ross



Austin...with Kids!

Annette Lucksinger, an adjunct faculty member who teaches writing courses, published *Exploring Austin with Kids* in March. The guidebook includes 100 family-friendly destinations and 25 annual events — and she and her children, ages 10 and 8, have personally tested and approved all of the book's entries.

"Some of my favorite places are those where college students' and kids' interests intersect," she says. "If those two groups can have fun at the same place, you know it possesses something intrinsically wonder-filled and fun." In her own words, Lucksinger tells us her three favorite places to visit near campus. For more, visit exploringaustinwithkids.com.



Annette Lucksinger with her daughter at the Thinkery, Austin's new children's museum

- ★ **Big Top Candy Shop:** With its circus-themed, steampunk décor, this small slip of a shop packs candy of all kinds and eras in bins, barrels, bags and bars. The soda jerk whips up a pretty mean milkshake, too.
- ★ **Alamo Drafthouse:** Cleverly selected previews, real butter on the popcorn and movie-themed entrees make going to the movies an experience. I've been to Baby Days and free kid movies, on date nights to satirical special events, and on a field trip with my Freshman Studies class. It's always fun.
- ★ **Bat Watching:** Stake out a spot on the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge or, even better, watch from the water. Despite being locals, my family and I love the boat rides with captain commentary, where we learn just as much about Austin as we do about bats. —*Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05*

SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A MEMOIR

Everybody has a story. That's the premise of **Paula Marks** and **Tim Green's** "Write Your Life" workshop, which they presented to alumni in August as part of the 2014 Summer Scholar Series hosted by New College and the Master of Liberal Arts program.

Marks and Green, both longtime MLA and New College professors, helped participants identify their reasons for writing and the best formats for their stories. Those who attended also worked from a list of prompts and writing exercises and critiqued excerpts of memoirs by the likes of Anne Lamott, David Sedaris and James Baldwin.

If you want to pen your own history, here are some exercises to get you started, straight from Marks and Green's "Write Your Life" workbook:

MAP OR CLUSTER. Break away from the linear, chronological perspective. Use a blank page to list events or people and link them to details, other people or other events.

DO A SENSE INVENTORY. For every scene and experience that you want to include, do a "sense inventory" as a prelude to the actual writing. List all you remember about smells, tastes, sounds, textures and images associated with the event or scene.

FREWRITE. After selecting a particular event or person, freewrite. Do not stop. Do not edit. Get it all down. Then review and revise.

REVERSE STORY. Start with recent events and work backward.

USE AN ALTERNATIVE VIEWPOINT.

Write about a memorable event from someone else's perspective. —*Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05*

Reading the Leaves

Assistant Professor Michael Wasserman's research with primates may explain how human diets have evolved.

Pesticides and BPA make headlines for their negative effects on human health. Yet these endocrine disruptors — chemicals that interfere with the body's hormones — also occur naturally in plants. Most scientific research on natural endocrine disruptors has focused on soy and the effects of its phytoestrogens (plant-produced estrogens) on humans. But Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Policy **Michael Wasserman** wanted to know about wild animals. Do they eat estrogenic plants? And if so, what are the effects on their hormone levels and their behavior?

To find out, he spent almost a year studying the red colobus monkeys in Kibale National Park in Uganda. By analyzing samples of the plants they ate and comparing that data with their hormone levels (as measured in fecal samples) and their behavior (as cataloged in his notes), he determined that the monkeys were indeed consuming phytoestrogens in their diet of leaves. What's more, these meals correlated with an increase in steroid hormones and a higher level of aggression and mating in the males. Wasserman is still determining the significance of the monkeys' leaf consumption — whether, for instance, it's a form of self-medication.

Wasserman's research, which also includes black-and-white colobus monkeys and mountain gorillas in Uganda and other primates in Latin America and Southeast Asia, may provide insight into human diets. Soy has only been consumed by humans for about 3,000 years. Did humans consume estrogenic wild plants before that, or is consumption of plant-based estrogens — such as soy — a relatively new phenomenon?

"We know that our biology has changed very little from the time we were living as hunter-gatherers," Wasserman says. "Even though we're eating very differently now, our biology hasn't changed this much to adapt to that new nutritional environment." By pinpointing the evolutionary moment when humans began to eat estrogenic plants, Wasserman's research could provide context for medical research about the effects of consuming soy.

"The more we understand the ecological and evolutionary context of our biology and our interaction with the environment," he says, "the more we're going to be able to make wiser decisions about our health." —*Robyn Ross*



Make Room for Campus Rec



The Alumni Gym has seen its share of pickup basketball games, yoga classes and university events since it was built in 1950. In recent years, it's been dressed to the nines for Homecoming to host Casino Night, and it houses a growing number of GroupX exercise classes each year. But as more and more students get involved in Campus Recreation, the existing spaces have had a hard time keeping up with the university's growth. Thanks to a \$1.7 million donation from University Federal Credit Union, the newly renovated UFCU Alumni Gym opened its doors to the campus community at the start of the semester. At right are just a few of the amenities students have been using.

But perhaps the most anticipated upgrade is the air conditioning. While this may seem obvious (we're in Texas!), the gym has actually never had central A/C before. "We were running 20 group fitness classes a week without air conditioning. It was very challenging," says **Andy Lemons**, director of Campus Recreation.

—Lauren Liebowitz

- A 1,000-square-foot multipurpose fitness studio, complete with stationary bikes for spin classes, a ballet barre and an area for functional training, a form of exercise that simulates natural human movement
- A 250-square-foot private fitness assessment room
- Offices for Campus Recreation, including space for club-sports-team officers
- Regularly scheduled open recreation hours (since the UFCU Alumni Gym will not need to accommodate varsity sports practice) for pickup games
- A primary gym floor (7,890 square feet) that can accommodate two volleyball courts or an NCAA-sized basketball court
- An advanced sound system in the gym and multipurpose fitness studio

Drama High



☆ HEY, HEY, WHAT DO YOU SAY? HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL EN ANGLAIS! ☆

SUSAN LOUGHRAN

Everyone was talking about how the Bulldogs had won the state football championship — especially when they found out the principal had bribed the referee.

Thus unfolded *Jefferson High, Small Town, USA*, Chair of University Studies **Susan Loughran's** original play about a football-focused Texas school. Loughran wrote and directed the play last fall at Lycée Saint-Martin in Angers, France, with a cast of teenage actors who had never attended a high-school football game.

Loughran was teaching Cultural Foundations and Capstone classes at the university's partner institution in Angers, Université Catholique de l'Ouest, when she was contacted by Françoise Placé, a teacher at local high school Lycée Saint-Martin, who wanted help developing her nine students' English through drama. But they needed a play.

"I thought, where am I going to find a play for two guys and seven girls?" Loughran remembers. "I said, 'Well, I'll just write one.'"

She decided to introduce the French students, whose schools don't

offer extracurricular activities, to American high-school culture. This meant finding a balance between deconstructing and reinforcing stereotypes. The roles in *Jefferson High* — the headstrong star quarterback, his cheerleader girlfriend, the book-club president — and the football-crazed school itself were stock characters. And yet, Loughran explained to her French students, the play was based on elements of reality. Many of the students had seen the movie *High School Musical*, but they assumed it was an exaggeration. "They were quite surprised to learn how much people care about sports, especially in Texas," Loughran says.

After just 10 hours of rehearsal, the Lycée Saint-Martin students performed the 40-minute play for the school community. "It was a lot of pressure," Loughran says, "and it went perfectly."

There's even a moral at the end of the story. After the principal's dishonesty is revealed, she's replaced by one who establishes a new focus for *Jefferson High*: academics. —*Robyn Ross*



Emma Lou Linn Day

Professor of Psychology **Emma Lou Linn** saved Sixth Street. In the 1970s, the former city councilwoman embarked on a door-to-door campaign to galvanize support for the street to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She ultimately succeeded, and in the process, she co-founded the Old Pecan Street Festival, a twice-yearly arts festival held in the Sixth Street Historic District. The city of Austin proclaimed June 26, 2014, Emma Lou Linn Day in recognition of her contributions.

Professor Emma Lou Linn on Sixth Street

FACS





ALON

In just six years,
Brandon Maxwell '08
has gone from
Photocommunications
student to stylist
to the stars.

By Joel Hoekstra | Photos by Jessica Attie '04

TS

As a student at St. Edward's University, Brandon Maxwell '08 would scour Austin's vintage clothing stores and style classmates for his Photocommunications assignments. Now, he styles celebrities for photo shoots in magazines like *Elle* and *Harper's Bazaar* and gets the clothes from a mix of up-and-coming designers and renowned fashion houses.

he sky over downtown Austin is cloudy this morning, yet **Brandon Maxwell '08** is wearing sunglasses. Unshaven and dressed in a gray hoodie and black Nikes, he sits at a cafe table outside Jo's Coffee, dissecting a breakfast taco and ignoring a steady stream of text messages. He's short on sleep, having spent last night out with a friend as part of the city's annual SXSW music festival.

Another text: *What happened last night?*

This message, he explains, is from his co-conspirator the previous evening. The pair ended the night at a venue that Maxwell frequented while he lived in Austin. The place was pretty much empty when they arrived — a Monday night — but by the time they departed, it had filled to capacity with gawkers, paparazzi and news crews, all hoping to snap a pic of Maxwell's companion, Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta. Or as she is known throughout the world, Lady Gaga.

"I forget that she's a famous person," Maxwell says, taking a moment to reply to the text. "We can't just go out."

Gaga isn't just Maxwell's friend, of course. She's a pop star capable of filling auditoriums and even stadiums with thousands and thousands of screaming "Little Monsters," as she calls her fans. She's a polarizing provocateur who once wore a "meat dress" to the MTV Video Music Awards. She's a five-time Grammy winner and an inspiration to girls, gays and outcasts everywhere.

She's also one of Maxwell's clients. For the past five years, Maxwell has helped shape Gaga's brand: her hair, her makeup and her sense of fashion. In 2009, he became an assistant to her personal stylist, Nicola Formichetti. When Formichetti quit the job last year, Maxwell moved into the role.

Gaga's SXSW appearance brought him to town this time, but Maxwell, a native of Longview, has made a point of returning to Austin whenever he has a chance. His time in the city and on the hilltop shaped him, he notes, helping him connect with lifelong friends, giving him the skills to make his way in a cutthroat industry, and instilling him with the confidence it takes to work with Gaga and his other clients.

It's been a wild ride, Maxwell admits, living in the orbit of celebrities. The schedule is grueling (he's rarely in New York City, where he rents an apartment). The expectations are ever-escalating (what's more outrageous than a meat dress?). But his work with Gaga and other stars — he's styled Orlando Bloom, Charlize Theron and Yoko Ono, among others, for fashion magazines — has brought the kind of opportunities and privileges most people only dream of.

A few days before landing in Austin for SXSW, for example, Maxwell found himself sitting next to Gaga at the Academy Awards. It suddenly hit him how lucky they both

were: "We're like two kids [who] should never have had any success in life at all, and we're sitting in the second row at the Oscars. We looked at each other and both thought, 'What is happening?'"

--*

Maxwell grew up in a town of 80,000 people roughly two hours' drive east of Dallas. His father was a businessman in the liquor industry, while his mother always had a strong interest in fashion. His grandmother ran a clothing store in town.

"I remember going in with my mom when she and my dad were going to a charity event or something," Maxwell recalls. "They would just lay out every dress option, every shoe option and every bag, and she would just go into the dressing room and come out in a full outfit. She was so beautiful."

Maxwell's appreciation for fashion quickly became an obsession. He began reading *Vogue* and other fashion magazines. He learned the names of iconic couturiers. And he experimented on friends: "When I was 13 or 14, I would go to Walgreens with all the money I had and buy disposable cameras, hairspray and bobby pins. I would make my friends sit for five hours while I glued in extensions that I'd bought at the Chinese beauty store, and then I'd make them pose for photos. It was just something I really thoroughly enjoyed."

Perhaps not surprisingly, the job of a professional stylist is similar. But it involves an additional element, Maxwell says: trust. He learned early on during his time at St. Edward's that a photo shoot is a collaborative effort, and without rapport between the subject, the stylist and the photographer, things are likely to go badly. It's Maxwell's job to navigate the aesthetic, technical and emotional shoals that potentially threaten any photo shoot. Just like the student models he once persuaded to pose for his Photocommunications class shoots, the celebrity he's working with has to be relaxed, comfortable and maybe even happy: "You have to build a relationship," Maxwell says. "I just try to make a connection." He listens, he jokes, he cajoles. Then he gets to work, doing the same thing, albeit on a much higher level, that he started doing as a student at St. Edward's.

"He obviously has great taste and a sense of style," says St. Edward's University Professor of Photocommunications **Bill Kennedy**, who mentored Maxwell as a student. But Maxwell's success has required many more skills, of course, like time management, organization, focus and discipline — all of which Kennedy and his fellow Photocommunications instructors try to instill in students like Maxwell, whose



"We're like two kids [who] should never have had any success in life at all, and we're sitting in the second row at the Oscars. We looked at each other and both thought, 'What is happening?'"

raw talent often needs channeling. "They learn a process by studying photography that they can apply throughout their lives — no matter what they do, in photography, law, medicine, whatever their profession," Kennedy says.

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"What day is it today?" asks Maxwell.

He is ensconced in an overstuffed chair in the lobby of the W Austin Hotel. The place is brimming with SXSW attendees, many of them talking about the hottest ticket in town: Lady Gaga's appearance at Stubb's BBQ. The performance is on Thursday, and the stylist hasn't yet decided what Gaga will be wearing for the concert.

Leaving such decisions to the last minute might seem reckless (the concert is two days away), but Maxwell says he rarely plans much in advance. It's difficult to accurately predict the proper approach before a concert or photo shoot, he explains, because so much depends on the mood of the subject, the set, the lighting, the props and other factors. In addition, advance planning tends to preclude spontaneity and the kind of collaborative chemistry that comes with working in the moment. "I'm always saying, 'If you let people collaborate and make something, it will be better than what

you have imagined,'" Maxwell says. "I just don't think there's enough of that in the world."

"Being a stylist is about being able to make decisions," says Kennedy. "Brandon knows. He's able to make decisions — and he makes them fast."

But Maxwell's path to pursue a career as a professional stylist wasn't so obvious. At age 16, he knew he wanted to leave Longview. He also knew that his parents would insist that he attend college, despite the teen's lack of interest in academic studies. So he bought a plane ticket to New York City, booked a room at the Radisson and began contacting kids enrolled at schools in Manhattan. "I just wanted to meet people," he says. "I thought maybe I wanted to do theater or something in the arts, mostly because I was so terrible at everything else." He ultimately settled on Marymount Manhattan College, a liberal-arts institution on the Upper East Side.

But the city proved overwhelming. Loyal friends were hard to find. It was easy to get lost. Two years after moving to New York, Maxwell moved back to Texas to attend St. Edward's.

"I remember driving up to campus the first day of school and sitting in the car with my mom and just having a complete meltdown for 30 minutes," Maxwell remembers. "I was like, 'I've made the worst decision of my life. Why am I going to school here? I used to live in New York City. What?!' But it was the best decision I ever made."

At St. Edward's, Maxwell says, he discovered a sense of community that he'd never found in New York. He was surprised when a professor called him after a class to see how he was faring. And he was surprised at his own response when Kennedy called him out as a student who wasn't living up to his potential. "I was skipping class and not doing the work, and Bill took me aside and said, 'You're talented, but you're never going to make it here if you don't change,'" so Maxwell did an about-face, improving his grades and making the dean's list by graduation.

Through his major in Photocommunications, he learned all the camerawork, technical skills and artistry necessary to the profession. That side of his education comes in handy, even today: He can speak the language of photography with precision, discussing the nuances of exposure, f-stops, vignettes, strobes and more when he's on a shoot. But he also falls back on what he learned during the many required group projects: how to work with anyone, solve problems creatively and adapt quickly.

"My parents always said, 'College is going to be the best time in your life,' and I was like, 'I'm sure it's not,'" Maxwell recalls. "Actually, though, it was."

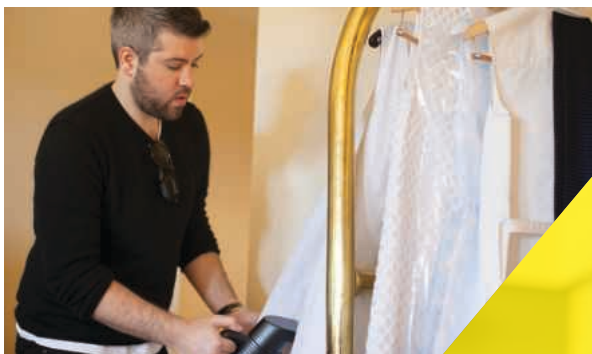
School never came easy for him. But at St. Edward's, he found professors who supported and helped him. And he met people who showed him how he could be successful in the arts and put his creativity to good use. "I learned that the possibilities are endless," Maxwell says.

In many ways, the Photocommunications program was an ideal fit for his creativity. "We teach students how to think critically and communicate about images and how they work," says Kennedy. "It's the difference, for example, between having an opinion about something, which anyone can have, and being a connoisseur. We want every graduate of the program to commit to the process of becoming a connoisseur, which can be applied throughout their lives."

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Maxwell is in a hotel room at the Omni Barton Creek Resort and Spa, due west of downtown Austin, where Gaga and her entourage have landed for the week. (When visiting Austin, though, Maxwell prefers to forgo the fancy suites and instead stays with both his sister and best friend.) It's Wednesday, the day before her Stubb's concert, and the room is loaded with boxes and racks of clothes and shoes: bubble-gum-pink pumps, sleeveless white blouses with studded collars and other couture that will instantly become sought-after items if Gaga decides to wear them onstage at SXSW.

Maxwell's assistant has volunteered to be part of an impromptu photo shoot. Petite and dark-haired, she's wearing a white smock and, at the stylist's insistence, has donned a pair of white knee-high open-toed boot-sandals festooned with yellow flowers. He isn't pleased.



Having a creative vision when it comes to fashion is only part of Maxwell's job as a stylist. In working with his clients, Maxwell tries to put the celebrities at ease during photo shoots by building a relationship and gaining their trust.



"My parents always said, 'College is going to be the best part of your life,' and I was like, 'I'm sure it's not.' Actually, though, it was."

“Not good,” Maxwell says. “Do we have any Manolos?”

The line between cutting-edge and crazy is thin in couture. And, as Maxwell quickly learned after graduating college and returning to New York City with a cadre of St. Edward’s alumni — all seeking to fulfill their dreams in the Big Apple — it’s the professional stylist’s job to know the difference. Just knowing the difference may not be enough, however: First, you’ve got to land a gig that allows you to articulate your vision.

Without experience, Maxwell found himself at a disadvantage in applying for work. “Every day I would just email [my résumé] to a million people and ask them to give me a job. Finally, someone called me and said, ‘I need an assistant for tomorrow. It’s really last minute. Are you available?’” he says. Maxwell claims he made it through the shoot by repeatedly ducking into the bathroom and Googling terms he didn’t understand and techniques he didn’t know how to execute.

In fact, the voice on the other end of the phone was Deborah Afshani, a stylist with connections at *W*, *Harper’s Bazaar* and other fashion publications. Afshani clearly saw promise in her hire. Ultimately, her endorsements and his skills propelled him into positions assisting Edward Enninful, now the fashion director at *W* magazine, and other fashion luminaries. Landing a position with Formichetti meant spending countless hours at magazine shoots with celebrities — as well as an introduction to Gaga. Work, and money, began to flow his way.

Talent helped him succeed, but Maxwell says tenacity and work ethic were equally important. “I thought, ‘Maybe I’m not going to be the greatest at this, but I’m going to come in two hours early and I’m going to stay three hours late and I’m going to do everything that I need to do to succeed in this because if I don’t succeed in this, I’m going back to Longview and there just aren’t opportunities for me there,’” Maxwell recalls. “It wasn’t an option to fail.”

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It’s shortly before noon on the day of Gaga’s debut at SXSW. The waiter has just delivered chips and guacamole to our table. Quesadillas will be arriving shortly. But Maxwell mostly ignores the food. He seems tired and distracted after weeks of crisscrossing the globe for photo and video shoots and various events.

Working with Gaga has brought unexpected opportunities: He is increasingly sought out to direct fashion shoots for magazines like *V*, *Elle* and *Harper’s Bazaar*, and clothing retailers ranging from Barneys to Uniqlo have hired him to style advertising campaigns.

But his success has cost him, and the hectic pace also makes it difficult to sustain friendships and relationships.

“I don’t really see the world,” Maxwell says. “The majority of my work is in a dark studio. When I’m done with the shoot, I take a car to the airport alone. I sit on a plane alone, and when I arrive at the destination, I go to a hotel to sleep alone.

Then I’m back in a car at 6 o’clock in the morning to go to a studio. It can be tiring and stressful, but I wouldn’t change it.”

Maxwell stays grounded in part by checking in with friends and family. He moved to New York with a small circle of classmates from the Photocommunications program, and they remain among his closest pals. “Our class was unusually tight,” Maxwell says. His alumni friends — now successful producers, photographers, editors and stylists — often gather at his apartment when he is in town. “Because I travel so much, they are very sweet and usually come to me and hang out on the couch,” Maxwell says. “We talk, catch up. It keeps me connected, and I appreciate it.”

“I think getting together with friends from St. Edward’s is important for Brandon because he’s always traveling,” says fellow Photocommunications major **Jessy Price ’08**. “Plus, New York is not an easy place to make friends. It’s hard to find people who are coming from a genuine place of interest. It helps to have people who know you for something other than what you do.”

Maxwell also makes time to meet with young graduates from St. Edward’s who’ve found their way to New York and need advice on how to get started in fashion, photography or styling. “I think that everybody who graduated from our program has helped out another person from St. Edward’s in some sort of way,” Maxwell says. “We’ve all been so blessed. We have something to give back.”

On the cusp of his 30s, Maxwell has also begun to ponder what’s next: Will he attempt something entrepreneurial — a clothing or cosmetics line? Probably, he says. He’s toyed with the idea of launching a women’s-wear line, something that pushes buttons in the way that Gaga does. “People want a fantasy!” he says.

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Gaga is scheduled to appear later in the night on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, which is broadcasting this week from Austin.

The singer wears a dress, cape and enormous hat made of coffee filters — an ensemble that will lend her a white, ruffled, Alice in Wonderland look. But for the concert at Stubb’s, the stylist and singer have decided to forego the usual pageantry: “We want the focus to be on the music,” he says. She’ll probably just wear a T-shirt.

In some ways, Maxwell’s choice not to dress the star in an elaborate costume is the most stunning part of the performance: leaving behind the costumes and jewelry and dazzle allows the music to speak for itself. “She’s playing at Stubb’s in the dirt in the backyard. It’s not the place for Versace or a costume with a lobster on the head,” Maxwell explains. “Yes, it’s a T-shirt; it doesn’t mean the idea isn’t equally thought out.”

In many ways, it’s the boldest statement a stylist can make.

 **webextra**
A Professor’s
Tough Love

Hear how the right words spoken at the right time helped **Brandon Maxwell ’08** find his way. Watch the video at stedwards.edu/webextras.

Oh, The Places THEY'LL GO

Just a few short months ago, members of the Class of 2014 were gazing out the Munday Library windows as they studied for finals, rubbing Father Foik's nose one last time and snapping celebratory photos in front of the red doors. Now, we've got them waxing nostalgic about life on the hilltop and telling us about their time in the real world.

By Lauren Liebowitz | Photos by Jessica Attie '04



* The Class of 2014 includes graduates in December 2013 and May 2014, as well as candidates for August 2014 graduation.

Trevor Adair

HISTORY

Plans: Full-scholarship student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln College of Law in Lincoln, Neb.

What I learned at St. Edward's: "How interconnected our world is. It was enlightening to learn about the ways in which events all across the globe and in distant places affect us here in the United States and vice versa."

1 David Alegria

DIGITAL MEDIA

Plans: DMBA student at St. Edward's University

Best day on campus: "Looking up at the skyline during the Hilltop Send-Off ceremony as I exited the red doors made me realize even more what a great school St. Edward's is. It was an honor to celebrate that with family and friends after the Legacy Walk."

2 Mallory Ashwander

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Plans: Art instructor for KidzArt Austin

What life's been like after graduation: "As a graduate, I'm much more focused on me. I love the free time I have after work that isn't being filled up with homework and school projects. I have much more time for personal design projects and exploring things through a creative lens."

3 Eric Boshart

ECONOMICS

Plans: MFA student in the UCLA Producers Program in Los Angeles

Best day on campus: "It was my freshman year, and my friend was a teaching assistant for a German class, so he had 24-hour access to Sorin Hall. While he was grading papers, I was shooting a horror movie. The place was dimly lit and totally silent. I think the moodiness of that building gave me such inspiration for wanting to pursue a career in film. It was a night of shenanigans, and one I'll surely not forget."

4 Jonathan Canales

KINESIOLOGY

Plans: Sales consultant at YellowBlue Eco Tech in Jacksonville, Fla.

Best day on campus: "One of my main goals this year was to create a community among the intramural sports officials. After a long week, I remember ending one night with everyone hanging around to talk, joke and reflect on the training. It was the first time that I felt like the work I was doing was making a difference."

5 Jennie Cassady

BIOLOGY

Plans: Student at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston

What I learned at St. Edward's:

"I think that college is a great place to look at the world in a protected bubble and decide where you fit in best. That was an experience St. Edward's integrated into every class I took, and I think it's unique to the university."

6 Harrison Cummins

MARKETING

Plans: Events coordinator at the Austin Film Festival

Life skills I learned at St. Edward's: "The importance of networking professionally. 'The earlier, the better,' one professor told me. We have so many resources to utilize on campus; it would be a waste if we didn't take advantage of them."

Denae Dibrell

ENGLISH WRITING AND RHETORIC

Plans: High-school English teacher through Teach for America in San Juan, Texas

Best day on campus: "All of Homecoming Weekend 2012. I love the sense of community on campus during Homecoming because alumni, family and students are all celebrating the university together on the hilltop."

7 Alyssa Dillard

THEATER ARTS

Plans: Intern with composer Graham Reynolds in Austin

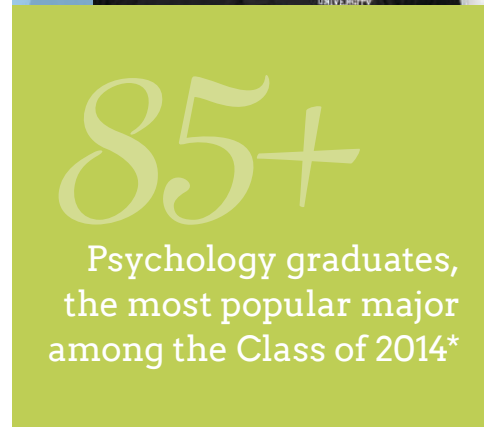
Best day on campus: "I think my best days were my last days. It's strange; I remember specific things from all of my years at St. Edward's, but those last few weeks really provided a clarity that allowed me to appreciate [my experience] in a way I never could before."

8 Alex Duran

HISTORY EDUCATION, GRADES 8-12

Plans: Pursuing employment with the Austin Independent School District; presently working at St. Edward's as a special projects coordinator

What I learned at St. Edward's: "I'm proud to prove to the younger members of my family that attaining a college education is not only possible, but a realistic goal."





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12



15

783

Undergraduate
degrees conferred on
the Class of 2014*



13



16



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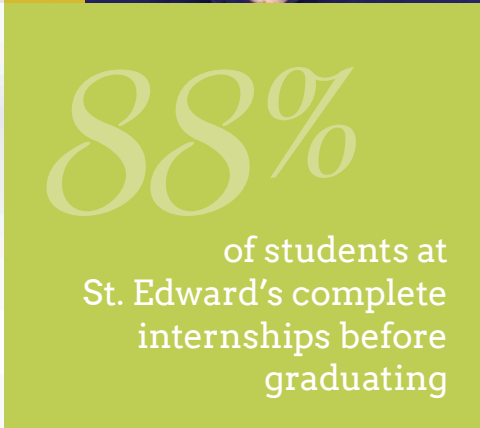
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17



11



88%

of students at
St. Edward's complete
internships before
graduating



18

“Say yes to study abroad, to internships, to volunteer opportunities, to Student Life organizations. You never know how one experience may impact your life.”

— *Stephanie Keinz '14*

9 Anita Granados

MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT

Plans: Yearlong volunteer with L'Arche London in the United Kingdom

How St. Edward's changed me: “As a freshman, I was super shy. Throughout my time at St. Edward's, I was able to travel the world, participate in all of the hilltop tradition activities, make the Senior Homecoming Court, serve in the community and meet so many amazing people. The hilltop will always be my home, wherever my life leads me.”

10 Spencer Hall

DIGITAL MEDIA

Plans: Junior online media account manager at Spiceworks in Austin

How St. Edward's changed me: “I made friends who encouraged me to get out and do things I might have otherwise overlooked, like Alternative Spring Break. I was able to connect with students and now co-workers who were my cheerleaders to get me an internship at Spiceworks. Everything has really fallen into place for me here, and I'm incredibly grateful to St. Edward's for that.”

11 Jacqueline Hopper

MASTER OF ACCOUNTING

Plans: Tax associate at BDO USA, LLP in Austin

My favorite thing about St. Edward's: “I received my undergraduate degree from a large university where it was easy to stay somewhat anonymous and slip through the cracks. I've really appreciated St. Edward's, for both its smaller class sizes and its smaller faculty group. The professors know us, and they hold us accountable. They push us, but they're also supportive.”

12 Josh Hunter

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Plans: Race-car company entrepreneur and aspiring road racer in Austin

What I learned at St. Edward's: “I didn't have enough time to finish a class project, so I met with the professor to discuss presenting a scaled-down version of the software. He said that he would consider it, but he wanted me to think about the product I would present. Years later, would I be happy if I had scaled it down? So for the remaining week I got no sleep. Years from now, I will be proud of the project, though I will show that pride through a few crow's feet.”

13 Stephanie Keinz

GLOBAL STUDIES

Plans: Program manager for International Studies Abroad in Austin

What I learned at St. Edward's: “Only you can define and control your future. Take opportunities as well as risks to live a truly fulfilled life; so say yes to study abroad, to internships, to volunteer opportunities, to Student Life organizations. You never know how one experience may impact your life.”

14 Curran Kelley

DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

Plans: Postgraduate online marketing intern at Silicon Labs in Austin

Best experience on campus: “My best day was probably the night of the first Hilltop Send-Off, which I helped organize, and getting to see all of that hard work come together into such a cool event.”

15 Brittany Laurent

PHOTOCOMMUNICATIONS

Plans: Freelance photographer and assistant to a local filmmaker in Austin

Looking to the future: “I've built a personally meaningful, cohesive and valid body of work over the last four years alongside some incredibly individualistic and creative talents. Right now I think it's important to use this intermission, of sorts, to consider what's been dormant in all of it, however idealistic or impractical that may be.”

16 Kristen Laurent

GLOBAL STUDIES

Plans: English language facilitator with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia

Best experience on campus: “In Global Studies, we focused a great deal on international conflict and what's wrong in the world, which could get somewhat disheartening. While this didn't surprise me much, what did come to surprise me is that I still see so many people who have managed to keep hold of their passion for humanity, the good in the world and their desire to effect positive change in our global community.”

17 America Martinez

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS/READING EARLY CHILDHOOD—GRADE 6

Plans: Student teacher at the Cathedral School of Saint Mary in Austin

Why I'm looking forward to the next step:

“My time at St. Edward's helped me realize ways that I can help children growing up in poverty or facing injustice. I take with me a newfound knowledge, an improved passion and a new set of social-justice skills to make this world a much better place. St. Edward's helped expand my interests and has given me a passion to always work for social justice every moment that I can.”

18 Grace Maverick

PSYCHOLOGY

Plans: Peer advocate at LovelsRespect, a dating-abuse and relationship helpline, in Austin

What I'm most proud of: “I marched in the Austin Pride Parade three years in a row, helped pass the LGBTQIA Diversity Initiative through the Student Government Association, presented on LGBTQ issues through Multicultural Leadership Board events twice and in class for different professors, and helped increase the open dialogue on campus about sexuality and gender identity. There have been a lot of changes both on campus, and in PRIDE, and I am so proud to see how far we've come.”

19 Melissa Mendoza

ENGLISH WRITING AND RHETORIC

Plans: Law student at Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock

Favorite thing about St. Edward's: "I learned things in the classroom and could apply them in real-life situations, even if it was just being able to add to a conversation by discussing history-related events that I learned from my Cultural Foundations courses. Not many people from other schools are able to apply what they've learned in the classroom to their jobs and internships, whereas I feel like St. Edward's has given me the ability to do that."



20 C.J. Menge

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (NEW COLLEGE)

Plans: Founder of the Austin nonprofit Inside Out Steelband, which builds community through music partnerships with local schools

Best day on campus: "The evening I presented my steelband, a group that I founded in 2000 and continue to direct, as a part of the St. Edward's Music Festival in Jones Auditorium. This concert was the first step that led to a collaboration with the St. Edward's choir on their concert tour to Scotland and symbolized the merging of my academic studies with my work as a musician and teacher."

21 Ismael Moreno

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Plans: Billing operations consultant at HP Helion (working remotely) and graduate student at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia

How St. Edward's changed me: "I learned the importance of giving back to the community. All of the help that I received from my professors and advisors has taught me how important it is to give my time and attention to others without expecting anything in return."



22 Rebeca Murguia

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Plans: Associate marketing specialist at Target Corp. in Minneapolis, Minn.

What I'm most looking forward to: "Seeing the rest of the world. I spent this past summer traveling around Europe with some friends and learning about cultures I had yet to encounter."

23 Leslie Nix

BIOLOGY

Plans: Molecular Biophysics PhD student at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif.

What St. Edward's taught me: "At least in my case, my education has put me on par with students from huge, well-known schools. St. Edward's doesn't only offer a quality education but also a competitive one."

24 Cody Ramirez

BIOINFORMATICS

Plans: Applying to PhD programs in Bioinformatics and pursuing a research job

How St. Edward's changed me: "I am a first-generation college student, and it is a huge deal for me to earn my degree in a field that I have grown to love so passionately. I know that walking across the stage might not be a big deal to a lot of people, but for me, it felt like the beginning of my life. I had dreamed of the day I would graduate from college since I was in kindergarten."

James Roberts

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Plans: Sourcing director for OnCore Manufacturing, LLC, in Austin

What St. Edward's taught me: "I've learned a lot about people. I think that the coursework has given me insight on how to read people better as well as look at issues from a high-level viewpoint, which has empowered me in my current position."

25 Amanda Rochford

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (NEW COLLEGE)

Plans: Branch manager for A+ Federal Credit Union

Most memorable experience on campus:

"The night we did our in-class exercise in Global Business Responsibility and Ethics. We each were assigned a role in the Blood Bananas case, a controversy involving Chiquita in Colombia, and we had to defend our position. It was eye-opening to see the various points of view and ethical dilemmas involved. I left class feeling enlightened and inspired."



26 Anabel Rodriguez

BIOLOGY

Plans: Microbiology laboratory technician at Quanta Lab in San Antonio and Master of Public Health in Epidemiology student at the University of Texas School of Public Health at San Antonio

How St. Edward's changed me: "I learned so much about myself — and I thought I already knew a lot. I can truly say that I grew into the woman I never thought I'd be. St. Edward's taught me so much about cultures and religions I had not been exposed to."

27 Madison Shaft

BIOLOGY EDUCATION, GRADES 8–12

Plans: Student teacher in a biology class at Del Valle High School in Austin

Most memorable experience on campus: "The BIG Event service project. I got to volunteer with all my friends. After a day of laughter and hard work, we came back and had a picnic. This day encompasses all my favorite aspects of my four years in Austin and at St. Edward's: service, friendship and good food."

28 Stefanie Smith

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND FRENCH

Plans: Small enterprise development volunteer with the Peace Corps in Senegal

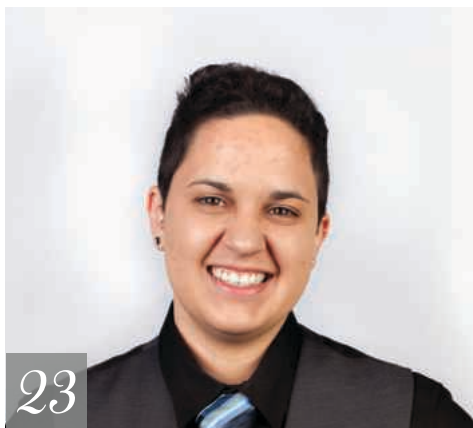
Most memorable experience on campus: "I studied abroad for a little over two years total (in Mexico, Senegal, Spain, Japan and Germany) and every time I came back to St. Edward's, it felt like the first day of college again. To come back home was always a new and refreshing experience. Here, I learned two really important things: Life is full of possibilities, and don't undersell yourself."

29 Nikki Stinnette

MASTER OF ARTS IN COLLEGE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Plans: Graduate assistant in the St. Edward's University Retention Programs Office

Most memorable experience on campus: "The first day of my program. I was so excited to finally start my graduate degree. My professors were easygoing and passionate about their fields of study; they made my first day worth waiting the more than 20 years it took to resume my education. I recall leaving campus that day feeling personally gratified, full of nervous energy and as if I had just received a gift."





AMID BEAUTY & SADNESS

Shannon Ung '15 spent three weeks in Cambodia this summer exploring the genocide that indelibly changed the country and her family 39 years ago.

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05 | Photos by Nick Sells

Shannon Ung '15 walks along the streets of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's largest city. Ung also spent time in Angkor Wat and Kampot as part of her Summer Academic Excellence Award.

SHANNON UNG '15 clicks through the family photos she's scanned and loaded on her Mac — her mom as a teenager visiting Pikes Peak, her dad at the Golden Gate Bridge, her parents' Hong Kong honeymoon. She stops at an old black-and-white photo.

Ung's dad, about 8 years old, stands with hunched shoulders and curious eyes next to a young cousin in a striped sun hat. Another cousin, a teenager in flip-flops, poses with his hands on his hips. On the right the family matriarch stares ahead, her scarf as steadfast as she is. Twenty-three relatives and friends in all gather for the souvenir snapshot in front of the ancient Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia.

The photo was taken in 1968, just seven years before Communist dictator Pol Pot took control of the country and began a genocide campaign that would ultimately claim the lives of 1.7 million people — immigrants, intellectuals, anyone who spoke a foreign language or wore glasses, anyone who might disagree with Pot's ideology. No one in Ung's family picture had any idea that within a decade of the shutter clicking, two would be executed, two would die from starvation and the rest would be driven from their homes into labor camps in the Cambodian countryside.

Ung's mother's family also suffered under Pot's regime. Khmer Rouge soldiers marched her maternal grandfather out of his house



at nightfall. Presumably shot and buried in a mass grave at one of Cambodia's notorious "killing fields," he was never seen again. Because they wanted his bicycle, soldiers strung her uncle to a post overlooking a dam where he died from dehydration. And when her mom was only 13 and her dad was 17, they were forced into the labor camps, where they did brutal work with few breaks, survived on meager bowls of soup and rice, and faced daily threats of execution for the slightest infraction.

Ung's family rarely talks about its horrific past, but that makes it all the more palpable, she says. "Ever since I remember having a memory, I have known about what happened."

And in recent years, she has yearned to know more — about her family, Cambodia, and the random luck that saved her parents from the killing fields and eventually led them to Houston, where she was born. "I can't help but think that if anything at any point in time had been different, I could be living in Cambodia," she says. "Or be living in poverty, or be working in the rice fields, or never have been born. It's just a matter of circumstance."



Ung explored the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh, which is at the site of the former security prison known as S-21. Every prisoner was required to have his or her photo and history taken upon arrival. Of the estimated 17,000 prisoners at Tuol Sleng, only 12 are known to have survived. "Everyone in this photo was most likely executed at Tuol Sleng or shipped to the killing fields to die," says Ung.

PROCESSING THE CONTRASTS

Ung traveled to Cambodia for the first time in June, thanks to a Summer Academic Excellence Award from St. Edward's University. The awards — 14 were given this year — are designed to encourage in-depth independent research and make the university's top students even more competitive for graduate-school scholarships and fellowships. With a stipend to cover travel, board and other expenses, Ung spent three weeks meeting and interviewing extended family members who had survived Pol Pot's regime, visiting execution sites and former prisons, and experiencing firsthand the country her parents fled some 30 years ago.

Ung, a Global Studies major, had taken Politics and Governments of Asia, a class on Asian countries and their intricate and fraught relationship with each other and the United States. She had written papers and given presentations on Asian literature, film and society. Her work caught the attention of Assistant Professor of Global Studies **Jooyoun Lee**, who served as a reference for Ung's Summer Academic Excellence Award application. "Shannon's academic passion has been so clearly influenced by her family background," says Lee. "Having a personal interest in a subject is a great way to make connections to the world, to get mobilized and motivated."

But little of Ung's academic success prepared her for walking the streets of the capital city of Phnom Penh, where naked children beg on dusty street corners and vendors hawk everything from pig heads to miniature Buddhas. She also wasn't prepared for the beauty — carts stacked with ripe mangoes and rambutans, the brilliant gold and red spires of Buddhist temples, bright white lotus flowers, and deep green sugar palms.

That juxtaposition kept her up at night. "The most emotional times were before bed, when I was trying to fall asleep," she says. "I couldn't stop thinking about what I had seen that day, the beauty and poverty and sadness that is everywhere."

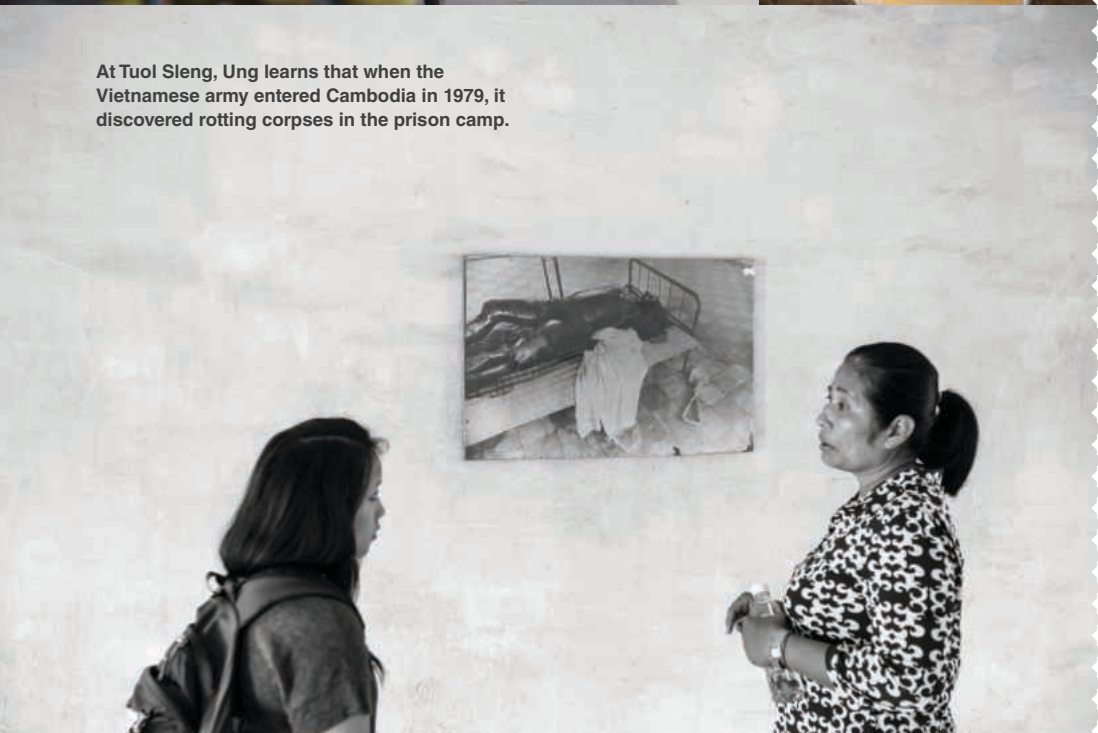
Caroline Morris, director of the Fellowship Office at St. Edward's, had counseled Ung on what she might experience




Left: Ung and Stagg stroll through the Russian marketplace in Phnom Penh.
Right: Ung walks through the cells at Tuol Sleng.



At Tuol Sleng, Ung learns that when the Vietnamese army entered Cambodia in 1979, it discovered rotting corpses in the prison camp.





“I find it nearly impossible to comprehend such a crazy time when such crazy people were put in power,” Ung says. “People were brainwashed and scared. Life was reduced to nothing.”

and how to cope with it. She encouraged her to have a friend accompany her (Ung’s roommate **Jackie Stagg ’15** traveled with her) and to gather raw material while she was there instead of focusing on a polished product like a blog or essay. “Shannon is very academically strong and emotionally brave, but I knew she would need time to absorb and reflect,” she says. “During her trip, I found myself sitting up at night and wondering if she was doing okay.”

AFTER THE RAIN

Ung handled the gut-wrenching three weeks by writing, taking pictures and crying when things got overwhelming, like when she saw the 9,000 skulls on display at the Choeung Ek Genocidal Center. Each has a brightly colored sticker on it that corresponds to a particular cause of death — machete, hammer, bamboo spear and, occasionally, bullets, which were expensive and rarely used by Khmer Rouge soldiers.

“Even having seen Choeung Ek with my own eyes, I find it nearly impossible to comprehend such a crazy time when such crazy people were put in power,” Ung says. “People were brainwashed and scared. Life was reduced to nothing.”

As Ung wandered the Choeung Ek compound and listened to the audio tour, she tried to reconcile the lush and tranquil grounds with the atrocities that had taken place there under Pol Pot. At the height of his despotism in the late 1970s, some 300 prisoners arrived each night at the killing field for execution. Under fluorescent lights and with patriotic music blaring to cover

the sounds of screams, soldiers hacked the prisoners to death or near-death, dumped the bodies into giant pits, and covered them with DDT powder to finish off any survivors. Then, the Khmer Rouge guards shoveled dirt and grass over the bodies and prepared a new pit for the next truckload of prisoners. Still today, heavy rains unearth bone fragments and scraps of clothing.

“You take this tour, you go to a monument or figurine with a number, and you push that number to listen to this unreal and horrific narration,” she recalls. “Putting those stories together with my parents’ stories was really overwhelming.”

Before she visited Choeung Ek, Ung traveled to Kampong Chhnang in central Cambodia to interview her great aunt, who lost her husband and two children to sickness during Pol Pot’s tyranny. She expected the language barrier to be difficult — Ung’s family members are Chinese emigrants who settled in Cambodia and speak a different dialect than the Mandarin she learned at Chinese school in Houston. What she didn’t anticipate was her own guilt for bringing up such terrible memories.

“Asking questions was really difficult. It seemed invasive, almost,” says Ung, who also spoke with her great uncle, aunt and second cousin. “Most of my family would rather not talk about it at all than remember and be sad.” But coupling the stories her relatives did share with what she saw at museums like Choeung Ek helped her put the pieces together.

Morris is not surprised. “Shannon completely understands the interaction between larger historical forces and

individual personal stories. That's rare in anyone, but it's really, really rare in someone so young," she says. "Shannon sees how things like genocide and survival and resilience and family are universal qualities, as opposed to something that happened 'over there.'"

REBELLION AND NEW BEGINNINGS

And for Ung, what happened in Cambodia has shaped every moment of her life "over here" in the United States. "My ancestors are Chinese. My parents are Chinese-Cambodian. I'm Chinese-Cambodian-American. Growing up, I always felt like I had to change my story or hold things back," she says. "There was never a place constructed for me."

After Pol Pot was overthrown in 1979, Ung's family moved from the labor camp to refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines, where her parents first met. Eventually, they were granted asylum in the United States and connected with other relatives who had already resettled stateside — her mother's family moved to Denver, Colo., and her father's side resettled in Houston. Her father soon moved west and found work washing dishes in San Francisco's Chinatown district; Ung's mother joined him there and they married in 1989. After the Loma Prieta earthquake that fall, they moved to Houston and opened a restaurant. Ung's brother was born in 1990, and she was born in 1993.

Raised Buddhist like her parents, Ung and her brother attended academically rigorous Catholic schools, where her mother met personally with administrators to tell the family's story and arrange scholarships. Ung also attended Chinese school, took piano lessons, ran cross country, and played volleyball and softball. She did homework in a booth at her aunt's donut shop and in the backseat of the car on delivery runs for her dad's restaurant. And she heard her mom's stories day in and day out — "little stories, never a big reveal and always with a moral, like respect your elders, work hard in school and take advantage of these opportunities you've been given."

Ung responded to the pressure by disobeying and fighting with her parents. "I resented the fact that everything about my mom and dad's life was so different from my life. I felt a lot of pressure to do my part to be their successful daughter but also to fit in with my school friends and my neighborhood friends," she says. "All I wanted to do was wake up and watch one cartoon on Saturday morning, but the answer was always no — I had to go to lessons or study."

Enrolling at St. Edward's changed all that for Ung. "I didn't do well in high school — I was my own deterrent. But once I got to college, I felt like that pressure to succeed was not all-encompassing anymore," she says. "I took a step back and realized the work ethic I had gotten from my parents."

That ability and desire to work hard has led Ung to achieve a 3.8 GPA — and a very good shot at a graduate fellowship or scholarship in public policy or international relations. "Shannon's academic interest in Asia stems from trying to understand her parents' experiences and how different they are from her experience and that of her brother," Morris says. "She is incredibly open to differences of all kinds — partly because she has lived on the borders of these two cultures for so long."

Understanding more about those boundaries and learning to negotiate them more effectively was a big reason for Ung's trip to Cambodia. "Shannon knew she wasn't really going to be able to bridge that divide until she went there," says Morris.

Lee agrees. "I don't think this trip is the endpoint of her academic passion. It has simply given her more thoughts on what can be done and what role she can play."

Since her return, Ung has put together a slideshow of photographs she took on the trip. She's editing the journal entries she kept and hoping to expand them into something bigger, like a memoir or thesis. And she's applying for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant — to Cambodia. "I feel a lot more complete and whole knowing about my family and how that time played a role in all of our lives," she says. "My hope is that I can continue getting to know Cambodia in ways that transcend the trauma."

Left: Visitors to the Choeung Ek Genocidal Center leave bracelets as a memorial to the victims.

Center: The skulls Ung looks at were recovered from the killing fields and are marked and color coded according to the trauma the victim experienced.

Right: Ung spent time reading in cafés as a way to process what she was experiencing.





The memorial at the Choeung Ek killing fields was completed in 1988. "Inside, thousands of skulls fill every level," says Ung.



"My ancestors are Chinese. My parents are Chinese-Cambodian. I'm Chinese-Cambodian-American. Growing up, I always felt like I had to change my story or hold things back," Ung says. "There was never a place constructed for me."

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**Summer
Scholars**

Travel to Cambodia with **Shannon Ung '15** and to Toronto with **William Haynes '15** as they share stories and photos from their academic explorations. Watch the videos at stedwards.edu/webextras.



QUIET

ZEAL

WHITE LIMESTONE, RED DOORS,
HOLY CROSS BROTHERS.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE OF THE
UNIVERSITY'S ICONIC SYMBOLS STARTS TO
DISAPPEAR?

BY
STACIA HERNSTROM
MLA '05

PHOTOS BY
JESSICA ATTIE '04

When Jesus Alonso was lying facedown on the floor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, he wasn't thinking about his uncomfortable black loafers. Or the cells mutating back in his microbiology lab. Or what to get his nephew for Christmas.

He wasn't thinking at all, really. He was listening — to the voices echoing off the wooden rafters, to the prayer of thanksgiving in his own heart, to the call from God he was about to accept.

On Oct. 25, 2009, Alonso lay prostrate in the chapel to symbolically demonstrate his complete dependence on God as his family, friends and colleagues offered their blessings around him. A few minutes later, he stood up and professed his final vows as a Holy Cross Brother.

Since that Mass celebrating his vows five years ago on the St. Edward's University campus, **Brother Jesus "Chuy" Alonso, CSC, '01** finished his PhD in Microbiology and Immunology at the UT–Health Science Center in San Antonio. He joined the faculty at Holy Cross College in South Bend, Ind., and this fall, he took over as chair of the sciences division.

Also in that five years? Just one other man in the United States has professed the same vows as Alonso and become a Holy Cross Brother.

A DOWNWARD TREND

The decline in the number of American men and women who decide to join religious orders is not unique to Holy Cross, says **Brother Richard Daly, CSC, '61**.

"This all became pretty clear in the 1970s," says Daly, former director of the Texas Catholic Conference who now teaches religious studies and political science classes at St. Edward's. "The bell-shaped curve of religious vocations peaked in '68. Then, the decline started. It wasn't rapid at first, but you could chart it."

Today, while the number of Holy Cross Brothers in Africa, Asia and Latin America is growing, there are only about 300 in the two American provinces. And that figure includes brothers in Brazil, East Africa and Ghana, making the number of active brothers in the United States even smaller. At St. Edward's, only six brothers still have official university roles. The oldest is 82, and the youngest is 65. When they retire, there will likely not be younger brothers to replace them.

That's unfortunate, says Daly, but it's not the end of the Holy Cross Brothers — or St. Edward's — as we know it. "Would it be better if there were more Holy Cross religious? Yes," he says. "But some lay members of the university community seem to be just as imbued with the charisms as the brothers. That's why it's so important that we continue to articulate our mission and foster the talents we see in the laity."

Father Peter Walsh, CSC, director of Campus Ministry, agrees. "Even if recruitment starts to improve, we would never be able to staff a university like St. Edward's or a secondary school as we once did," he says. "It's imperative that we impart the Holy Cross mission to lay people — we must share the characteristics that make us distinctive and attract students to our institutions."



Brother Johnny Juno, CSC, served in the Air Force before becoming a brother. He has spent most of his career with Holy Cross schools in Brazil. He currently manages the brothers' investment portfolio.

THE TORCHBEARERS

Walsh is part of the Holy Cross Initiative Team at St. Edward's. A partnership between Campus Ministry and Student Affairs, the team offers training, workshops and orientation sessions for employees from the two offices. The team also publishes and distributes a glossary of Holy Cross and Catholic terminology to all freshmen living on campus and new staff and faculty members hired by the university. The goal is to "help people take ownership of who we are as Holy Cross and how that impacts our values and the care we take in serving students," says Walsh.

It's a goal that extends far beyond the hilltop to the 15 secondary schools and five other universities run by the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States. And it's something the brothers have been planning for — in their quiet, humble way — for decades.

Years ago, congregation leaders implemented a philosophical shift in the way they run schools. Rather than staffing them, they aim to sponsor them, with Holy Cross Brothers taking key positions as trustees and advisors instead of principals and teachers. Second, they began a national discussion about what it means to be a Holy Cross school and how that should play out in students' lives. Leading that discussion is the Holy Cross Institute, which was founded in 2005 and is housed at St. Edward's.

Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, directs the institute. "What impresses me most is that [as long as] brothers are present in an institution, people often back off and say, 'Oh, that's the brothers' responsibility'" to carry out the mission, says Blauvelt. "When there are fewer brothers or none at all, people step forward and say, 'Well, this has to continue, and I need to play a part in that.' They understand that we can't control what God does in an institution, but we can control our mission and how we share it."

To guide them, Blauvelt organizes regional conferences each year for Holy Cross faculty, staff and students from across the country and an annual convocation that brings Holy Cross leaders to the St. Edward's campus for two packed days of workshops and presentations. He regularly visits Holy Cross schools in 14 states to review how each school is carrying out its mission — and how it can improve.

"I've found that people are very attached to the vision of Father Moreau and what he has called us to do — educate the heart and the mind," says Blauvelt. "So when a new teacher, staff member or

student comes to a place like St. Edward's, there are already people there who have a firm understanding and belief in Holy Cross values."

HEARTS, MINDS & A SHARED EXPERIENCE

Jezreel Asare '14 discovered that to be true when he came to campus for an overnight stay organized by the Admission Office during his senior year at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Conn. "I got to campus, and it clicked immediately. It didn't even take 15 minutes to make a decision" about what college to attend, he says. "I knew exactly what the next four years would be about."

Asare accepted a Moreau Scholarship, a full-tuition award that St. Edward's gives to top students from Holy Cross high schools. The summer after his sophomore year, he spent three months in Brazil serving alongside Holy Cross Brothers in an after-school program for underprivileged kids and volunteering at a local Holy Cross high school. The following summer, he lived on campus in Moreau House, a community of Holy Cross Brothers and young men at St. Edward's who share a commitment to spirituality and service. His senior year, he spoke about his experiences with the brothers at the Holy Cross Institute's annual convocation on campus.

"I've gained a whole new perspective on my own life and where I want to go," says Asare, who graduated with a BA in Political Science in May and now lobbies for historically underutilized businesses in Texas. "I've learned the importance of giving, serving and becoming a person who reflects and embodies the ideals of Holy Cross. I'm a Holy Cross man."

Asare is a Holy Cross man in every way but one — he doesn't plan to become a brother. That's the modern-day paradox that is exacerbating the decline in religious numbers, says Daly. Ever since

the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, "the role of the laity has been significantly enhanced," he says. "You no longer have to be a priest, brother or sister to make a meaningful impact."

MEN WITH HOPE TO BRING

As a result, "there's less of an understanding today of what brothers are and what they do," says Walsh. The congregation has worked hard to change that through initiatives like the Year of the Brother, a series of communications efforts in 2012 including workshops, speakers, blogs and YouTube videos. In April, Holy Cross College premiered a documentary called *Bro: Men with Hope to Bring*, which was written and directed by the congregation's newest member, Brother Nich Perez, CSC. The film opens with a young male student asking, "So who are the brothers? What are they? Why the heck do they do what they do? Why are they so unknown to the world, despite their awesome contributions to the church, to the world, to me?"

For students seeking more answers than the 104-minute film can provide, Holy Cross has also consolidated its vocation programs under the leadership of **Brother Jonathan Beebe, CSC**, who moved to the St. Edward's campus this fall. Beebe's job is to recruit young men interested in joining Holy Cross and guide them through their spiritual journey. "My experience is that younger people today are very serious about their religious identity and what they're called to do in the world," says Beebe. "There is a segment of young people who are looking for a way to live out that spiritual identity in the world."

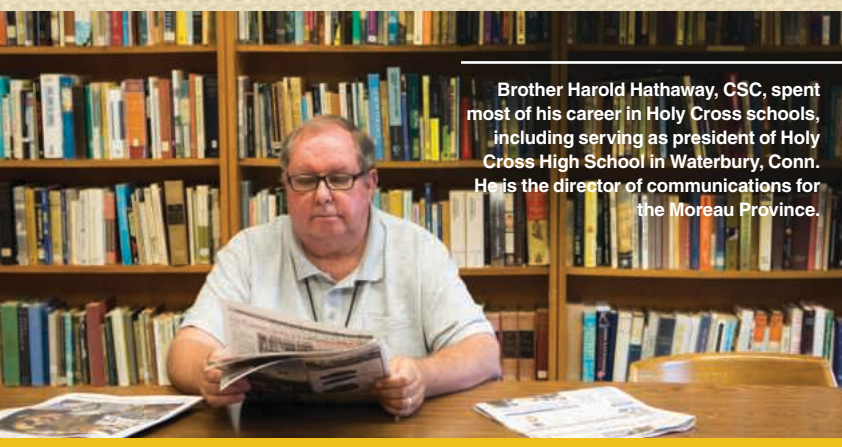
A crucial part of that process is on-campus living communities like the one Asare experienced in Moreau House at St. Edward's. Over the next year, Beebe plans to restructure the Moreau House program so that the young men selected to live there have all expressed an interest in learning more about the life of a brother — and contemplating their own journey of becoming one.

Contemplation done while living with and learning from Holy Cross Brothers is often life-changing, Beebe says. "The most fundamental element of vocation is relationships. What draws someone to a religious life is that they already know someone who is a part of Holy Cross. We can put out compelling ads or beautiful websites, but really, it's the connection, the personal relationship, that draws them in."

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Six weeks of living, serving and praying with the brothers in Moreau House when he was an undergraduate is exactly what drew Alonso to dedicate his life to Holy Cross. Now, he guides students as part of a similar program at Holy Cross College. "We're very intentional about it being a house of discernment. It's an opportunity for these young men to learn who we are and how we serve, as well as reflect on their own journeys, whether they ultimately choose religious life or not," says Alonso.

It's too early to see the impact of external public relations efforts like *Bro* and internal communities like Moreau House on the



Brother Harold Hathaway, CSC, spent most of his career in Holy Cross schools, including serving as president of Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, Conn. He is the director of communications for the Moreau Province.


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**Memoirs of
the Brothers**

Two Holy Cross Brothers share their stories of life in Holy Cross — and their hopes for the congregation's future. Watch the videos at stedwards.edu/webextras.

number of Holy Cross Brothers. And it's almost beside the point, says Alonso. "If that's the view I take, it can be overwhelming. It requires a lot of time, energy and people to maintain our work, and all of those resources are limited," he says. "Instead, I think about how we can work with what we have to continue inviting young people to consider religious life."

Beyond that, Alonso — along with Beebe, Blauvelt and Daly — takes comfort in knowing that even those who decide against a vocation are forever transformed by their experiences with Holy Cross. For his part, Asare understands how vital it is for students like himself to carry on that Holy Cross tradition of service. "How will it be if the brothers are gone?" he asks. "If we have students on campus who are dedicated to keeping the mission of service alive, who want to go out and serve their communities and abroad, Holy Cross will never go away. It will always be here."

AT A HISTORICAL CROSSROADS

Kate Axelsson '18, a freshman Communication major and graduate of the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, Md., agrees. Axelsson is one of this year's 18 Moreau Scholars. Though she is still figuring out her place on campus, one thing she's completely clear on is what she wants out of her four years at St. Edward's.

"I always felt welcome at my Holy Cross high school and never felt like a number; I knew each teacher very well, they knew me, and I was very close with my classmates," says Axelsson. "I chose St. Edward's because I knew I could continue to have those close relationships."

With four years of experience volunteering at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, nursing homes and tutoring programs through her high school theology classes, she also wants to continue to serve.



St. Joseph Hall, which sits just north of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, is home to 16 Holy Cross Brothers.

"My Holy Cross education has made me feel like a different person in every way. I have a greater appreciation for how big the world is," she says. "And I see just how much love needs to be spread out there."

Exactly, says Beebe. "There is a very strong sense of community in Holy Cross, not just amongst ourselves, though that is primary. In a very conscious way, we extend that community into whatever we're doing," he says. "And collaborating with lay people on a challenging project — like being an educator in the faith — gives all of us a certain zeal and commitment for what we're doing."

Those partnerships — with alumni like Asare, freshmen like Axelsson and countless others who have seen Holy Cross at work in their own lives — are the key to the congregation's future at St. Edward's University and institutions just like it across the country.

"While we are around, we can provide support and resources, but what happens in the long run depends on them, not us," says Blauvelt. "At this point in history, they are called to step forward and take this mission on."

MEET THE MOREAU SCHOLARS

Among the record number of freshmen this fall are 17 recipients of the university's prestigious Moreau Scholarship, a full-tuition award for students from Holy Cross high schools. All of the students initially chosen for the award enrolled, but one student had to withdraw for personal reasons. "To be 17 for 18 with a selective group of students like this," says Director of Admission Partnerships **Dinah Sbelgio Kinard**, "is unprecedented for us." Three of this year's Moreau Scholars share what drew them to St. Edward's — and what Holy Cross means to them.

"I chose to continue my education at a Holy Cross university to better educate my heart. My high school has taught me how to become a better person, and I want to continue that. I also like that my high school encourages helping others in need, and I want to attend a college that does the same."

KURTERRY SINGLETON '18
HOLY TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
CHICAGO, ILL.

"I wanted to continue on to college with Holy Cross because of its great sense of being one family. Connecting with others in the world has contributed to who I have become, and being a part of this Holy Cross family has given me the opportunity to reach out and do service for the community."

EMILY TRUONG '18
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF.

"Holy Cross has taught me the core values of integrity and zeal. As a scholar, not only has my mind been challenged, but my heart has also been cultivated as my faith has developed. As a citizen, I've learned the value of hope. I am not just responsible for myself; I am also here to care and help those who are in need."

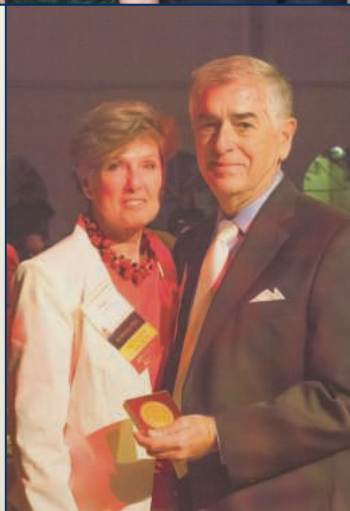
BEN COOK '18
ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL
AKRON, OHIO

Honor Roll of **GIVING**

Fiscal Year 2013–2014



With **\$26 million** still to be raised in the campaign, “we’ve got a long way to go,” says **Bob Wilems ’63**. “Let’s get to it!”



OPENING DOORS

The Campaign for St. Edward’s University is about a lot more than raising \$100 million. It’s about giving students access to an education that empowers them to take on their world.

2,154 Turn the page and that’s what you’ll see: the names of some of the 2,154 people, from alumni and parents to faculty and friends, who supported St. Edward’s University during the fiscal year that ended in June. Their generosity has helped the university raise more than \$74 million for The Campaign for St. Edward’s University: Opening Doors to Their World, which launched publicly in February with the goal of raising \$60 million for endowment growth, \$25 million for capital priorities and \$15 million for annual operating support.

In total, the campaign’s \$100 million goal will prepare students for personal and professional success, today and for generations to come, says **Michael Larkin**, who leads the fundraising effort as vice president for University Advancement. “If we provide students access to a St. Edward’s education and ensure their success, we’ve opened the door,” he says. “Then, they can walk through and take on their world.”

Some of the doors opened by the campaign so far include the state-of-the-art Munday Library that opened last year thanks to a gift of \$13 million from longtime St. Edward’s friends **Pat and Bill Munday**. The Mundays also donated \$20 million in February 2013 to provide scholarships for up to 150 students per year. The late **Alex ’63 and Nancy Marusak** provided a seven-figure gift through their estate to support the Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, ’47 Endowed Scholarship, a fundraising effort spearheaded by Alex’s classmate, **Bob Wilems ’63**, and his wife, **Nela**. Wilems is also leading the effort to endow the Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, ’47 Student/Faculty Summer Research Fund. The late Professor of Biology **Al Hook** and his wife **Rosemary Guzman Hook** funded the Dr. Allan Hook Endowed Wild Basin Creative Research Fund for student research across disciplines.



The Campaign for St. Edward's University

10,510

Total campaign contributors including alumni, parents, faculty, friends, foundations, corporations and students

\$100 million goal



\$74 million raised

Donors and volunteers open doors for students through their commitments of time and resources, whether it's by funding a scholarship, hosting an event or mentoring a student in their same field.

Endowment Growth

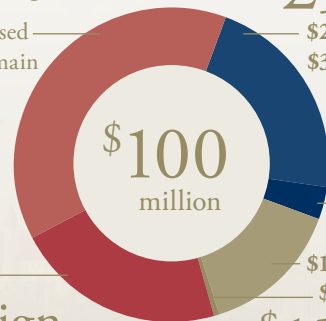
\$60 million goal

\$38.4 million raised
\$21.6 million remain

Capital Priorities

\$25 million goal

\$21.5 million raised
\$3.5 million remain



Campaign Breakdown

Annual Operating Support

70%

FACULTY AND STAFF AT ST. EDWARD'S DEMONSTRATE THEIR BELIEF IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION BY CONSISTENTLY EXCEEDING 70% PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL FACULTY AND STAFF CAMPAIGN.

Through the university's Facebook pages and Twitter accounts, more than 346 people contributed to the Love Blue, Give Gold campaign.



"If we provide students access to a St. Edward's education and ensure their success, we've opened the door. Then, they can walk through and take on their world."

—Michael Larkin

Most recently, **Luci Baines Johnson '97** and trustee **Ian Turpin** contributed \$1.1 million to establish an endowment to support undergraduates from migrant farmworker families who are part of CAMP, the university's College Assistance Migrant Program. The Johnson-Turpin CAMP Enrichment Endowment will fund career mentoring, financial literacy education, internships, research opportunities, study abroad and postgraduate preparation.

Major gifts like these drive every campaign toward success, says Larkin, but all donors — regardless of how much they are able to give — can play an important role. "An important measure of success for us is also generosity with time and commitment. Everyone can make an impact, whether it's providing access by helping fund a scholarship or ensuring success by serving as a mentor. Everyone can open a door for someone else in one way or another."

That's why the university ran the Love Blue, Give Gold campaign on social media June 22–25. Through the university's Facebook pages and Twitter accounts, more than 346 people contributed to the campaign. Couple that with successful regional campaigns and faculty and staff whose fundraising participation consistently exceeds 70 percent, and the reason the St. Edward's community continues to give is clear, says Larkin. "Each of these initiatives is a microcosm of the larger campaign — people participating in whatever way they can to honor a part of St. Edward's that has touched their lives and paved the way for their own successes."

With \$26 million still to be raised in the campaign, "we've got a long way to go," says Wilems. "Let's get to it!"

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When **Meredith Montgomery '12** moved from Austin to Chicago after graduation, she missed her friends from the Theater Arts program. But in the Windy City, she's found a cast of superheroes. Her Chicago network offered advice, support and hands-on volunteerism when she formed She Crew, a nonprofit that helps young women.

She Crew's roots lie in Montgomery's Brown Scholarship project, which she began as a junior at St. Edward's. She brought together a group, both theater and nontheater students, to discuss important themes in the community. They spent time talking and writing about their perspectives. Then Montgomery helped them turn their musings and reflections into poetry, monologues and scenes, which eventually came together as performance art. The following year, her concept was turned into a Freshman Studies course, for which Montgomery became a teaching assistant.

When she moved to Chicago, Montgomery replicated the idea with high-school students at an alternative Puerto Rican high school in the Humboldt Park neighborhood and for the Chicago organization After School Matters, which offers free programming for inner-city kids.

She Crew, which she co-founded with Jessica London-Shields, takes all of her previous work to the next level. It offers summer and after-school programs that help girls ages 12 to 14 use writing to explore issues that affect them. The experience culminates in a theatrical performance created by the participants. "She Crew gives



them a safe place to talk about these topics, to create something positive and to meet other girls who may be different from them," Montgomery says.

She Crew is free to participants, who are also provided with free meals and transportation. The donation-based model for the program was familiar to Montgomery; she ran the Transit Theatre Troupe at St. Edward's, which donated its earnings to nonprofit organizations. She Crew has already received grants from the Pollination Project and Chicago Community Trust, and it partners with several local organizations that value collaborative education. "A lot of people were passionate about the mission," Montgomery says. "It's a great community of artists who are multitalented and eager to help." —*Lisa Thiels*

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Send your Class Notes and wedding or birth announcements to the Alumni Office at bit.ly/AlumniUpdateForm (address is case sensitive).

1960s

Michael Sherman '63, of Half Moon Bay, Calif., retired in 2007 after serving in the Navy and working as the head of international sports marketing and public relations for Visa. He is the membership chair for the local Porsche club in San Francisco.

James Plutte '68, of Darien, Conn., retired after a 30-year career in education as a teacher and administrator, which included 12 years on the Darien Board of Education.

1970s

J. Scott Beaty '74, of Palm Springs, Calif., presented the program "Music from the Heart" with piano and vocals at the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts in Palm Desert, Calif., on April 6.

Barbara Irvine MBA '74, of Hagerstown, Md., conceived of the format, wrote the introduction and wrote the commentary for *Alfred's Singer's Library of Musical Theatre, Volume 1*, a set of four Broadway songbooks. The books can be purchased at barbarairvinemusic.com.

Rick Ratcliffe '74, of Tampa, Fla., received the John Lechner Award of Excellence from the American Water Works Association for his exemplary service to the drinking water community and the association's mission and goals.

David Schmotzer '74, of Hartsville, S.C., earned his 600th victory at Coker College as its head baseball coach. He ranks among the NCAA's winningest coaches of all time.

Timothy Russ '77, of West Hollywood, Calif., was the featured guest at StarFest, Colorado's largest science fiction convention, in May.

Maria Bribriesco '79, of Bettendorf, Iowa, is running for an Iowa Senate seat in the Nov. 4 election.

1980s

Douglas Brookshire '80, of Austin, retired from teaching in 2008. Following his retirement, he worked as a park ranger with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Chincoteague, Va. He and his wife moved to Austin in 2009.

Nick Dayton '80, of Lake Forest, Ill., is serving a five-year term as a Fulbright Scholar Specialist in social science and organizational development.

Terry Mitchell MBA '80, of Austin, has been named to the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority board.

James Clemons '81, of Searcy, Ark., is semiretired after 34 years in food-service management. He is a certified executive chef with the American Culinary Federation and holds a certification from the Culinary Institute of America.

Walid Salim '84, of Ajax, Ontario, has relocated from Venezuela to Canada.

Simeon Nwosu '85, MAHS '87, of Austin, is married with seven children and practices law.

1990s

Kevin Karo '91, of Hingham, Mass., has been credited by the *Enterprise*, the daily newspaper in Brockton, Mass., with improving South Middle School, where he is principal.

Sandra Fults '92, of Cedar Park, received a master's degree in Systematic Theology in 2000 from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She is also a published writer.

Arthur Haas '93, of Corpus Christi, is a broker in the property and casualty insurance practice of Higginbotham/Swanter and Gordon.

Marisela Velasquez '93, of Chapel Hill, N.C., and her husband founded a nongovernmental organization, True to Tanzania (truetotanzania.org), to help uneducated Tanzanians develop skills and find employment.

Dominic Craig '95, of Austin, has two children, Evan and Kayson, and works for the Texas Legislative Budget Board as a senior system analyst.

Jose DeRomana '96, of Monterrico, Lima, Peru, has been appointed to the Medinah Minerals board of directors.

Matthew Oglesby '97, of Katy, has joined Adams and Reese as a litigation associate in the firm's Houston office.

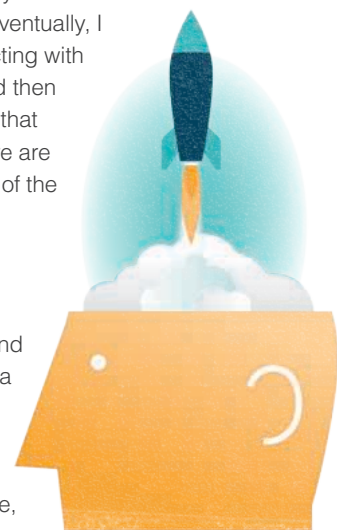
ASK THE EXPERT

The IT Guy

He's worked in Austin. He's worked on both coasts. Now, he's a web developer for YouTube. We asked **Jon Herman '05** to share what it takes to land the job of your dreams in Silicon Valley.

Be a jack (or jill) of many trades.

I'm a web developer for the desktop portion of YouTube.com. But I was not a superstar programmer; it took a long time to get a job I really liked. When I first came to the Bay Area, I mostly had contract jobs because people told me that was the best way to learn. You get put in all sorts of scenarios, so you learn a lot about different technologies. Eventually, I got some credibility by contracting with big companies, like Yahoo, and then I was able to get more traction that led to other opportunities. There are plenty of opportunities outside of the big-name players, too.



But also know how to do a few things really well.

You need a set of hard skills, and grow outward from there. Find a skill set that has broad appeal, like web development or mobile app development. Learn a programming language, and learn a platform. Go deep, and get as much aptitude as you can. There's a serious lack of talent in the software world, and nearly every company is hiring.

Weigh the pros and cons of start-ups and big players.

Both kinds of companies have perks. They work really hard to make you happy because there is a lot of competition. At YouTube, we have nice office spaces, the food is better than you'd get at home or at a restaurant, and we take group vacations at the end of big projects. On the other hand, I work with a team of 20 other people. At a start-up, you have more ownership over the product and get to be in charge of a lot more.

Never give up.

Keep working at it. Keep learning. Software is hard, and it takes a lot of time to get good at it, but if you enjoy learning how it works, then don't stop. —*Lisa Thiegs*

5 Reasons I Attend

Homecoming



1. Homecoming reminds me how great my time at St. Edward's was.

"I had a moment this year where I was in between two events, so I decided to walk across campus from the theater to Fleck Hall in front of Main Building. As I admired the beauty of the campus and its history, I actually called my father and thanked him for encouraging me to go to St. Edward's and for supporting my education." —**Alicia Barron '03**

2. It connects me to the future of St. Edward's.

"For me, Homecoming is a time to celebrate our university, students and alumni. Together, we sustain a strong educational community that prepares students for their futures with a sense of responsibility, not just for themselves but for others as well." —**Betty Reichel '88**

3. Homecoming makes me feel like I never left.

"It's been 10 years since I was a student at St. Edward's, but every time I come back to the hilltop, I feel like I'm back home. My St. Edward's experience was so formative for me, and it's heartwarming to go back to a place where I was inspired, challenged and genuinely supported. Despite the growth of St. Edward's, those feelings of being home never go away." —**Bianca Aguilar '04**

4. No matter how long I've been away, the memories come flooding back when I return.

"Visiting the rooms we lived in and the cafeteria where we ate every meal is a trip everyone makes. Getting to see special places like the gym or the baseball and intramural fields on campus — where our greatness is still hallowed by the ghosts of St. Edward's past — is a trip worth the time." —**Tom Ryan '63**

5. I remember the impact St. Edward's had on me.

"Homecoming is a time of renewal and reconnecting with old friends. You immerse yourself in memories of the past as well as look at the university today. Most importantly, you are reminded of the significant role St. Edward's University and the Holy Cross Brothers, religious sisters and faculty members played in your life." —**Fred Estrello '77**

Homecoming and
Family Weekend 2015 is
right around the corner.



Mark your calendar for
Feb. 27–March 1, 2015!

CLASS NOTES

Jessica Duffy '99, of Galway, Ireland, is a project administrator in the College of Tourism and Arts at GMIT in Galway. She is also working on her master's degree in Work and Organizational Psychology at the University of Limerick.

Crystal O'Brien '99, of Navasota, was inducted into the St. Edward's University Athletics Hall of Fame.

2000s

Elaine Vitone '00, of Pittsburgh, Pa., won the 2014 Science Communicator Award from the Carnegie Science Center. She is a staff writer for *Pitt Med* magazine and has launched an audio series to complement the print publication.

Leslie Ward '01, of Austin, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to be the chair of the Texas Economic Development Corporation.

Gabriela (Torres) Mora '02, of Kyle, earned a master's degree in Counseling from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is a licensed professional counseling intern.

John Carlsen '03, of Palm Springs, Calif., has taught game development and created a portable PlayStation system for Sony. He was a guest panel speaker at the 2013 ScrewAttack gaming convention in Dallas and is now developing casino game systems.

Sandra Rector '03, of Austin, was named the 2014 VIP Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women.

Cory L'Heureux MLA '05, of Spring, an IRS-CI special agent, was recognized for his outstanding performance and contribution in the U.S. v. Garcia investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Annie Mancha '05, of San Antonio, is a PhD candidate at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Peter Mena MLA '05, of Los Angeles, Calif., completed a PhD in Religious Studies from Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Amanda Byrom '07, of Midland, is the board president of Keep Midland Beautiful, a Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate. She also serves on the boards of the Midland Festival Ballet and Leadership Midland and started her own public relations and marketing consulting business in 2013.

Tammy Kamrud '07, of Leander, opened an insurance agency after 30 years of working in the corporate world.

Brien Silver '07, of Austin, has been traveling and teaching throughout Asia for the past four years. He has been to more than 15 countries.

Dianne Arnett MAC '08, of Austin, co-authored *Sudden Wealth: Blessing or Burden*. She served on the board of directors for the Settlement Home for Children and is a current member of the Gift Planning Advisory Council at St. Edward's University.

Howard Davis MAT '08, of Georgetown, expanded his business, Paradise Web Design, to include web hosting. He is teaching computer science at Chaparral Star Academy.

Peary Perry '08, of Richmond, started a program that donates bikes to children. Perry works with inmates at the Carol S. Vance Unit in Richmond, who restore the bikes. Perry delivers them to local children each Christmas.

Theresa Provencio '08, of Dallas, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a master's degree in Systems Engineering. She works at the AT&T corporate office in Dallas.

Theresa Russo '08, of Lockhart, earned a master's degree in History from Texas State University.

Ricardo Avila '09, of Lockhart, acted in the short film *How Vinny Almost Got 40% of his Groove Back*, a comedy-romance that won third place in the 48-Hour Film Festival.

Alberto Guzman '09, of Bastrop, completed a master's degree in Education at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene and served as a graduate assistant for the school's football team. He teaches and coaches football and baseball at Bastrop High School.

2010s

Marina Nino '10, of Wimberley, was first runner-up for the Troy University Staff Spirit Award for her customer service, positive attitude, initiative, dedication and motivation. She is also working on a master's degree in Public Administration at Troy University and is expected to graduate in 2017.

Lisa Reese '10, of Japan, is on active duty with the U.S. Navy as a mass communications specialist.

Chelsea Elliott '12, of Austin, started a nonprofit organization, the Half-Helen Foundation (half-helen.org), to provide vision and hearing screening services to medically underserved communities.

Wesley Gardner '12, of Austin, is a reporter for the *Bastrop Advertiser*.

Clint McManus '12, of Liberty, is a master's degree candidate in City and Regional Planning at Cornell University and is expected to graduate in 2015.

Stephen Mills '12, of Austin, has created a new ballet set to Philip Glass' score for Jean Cocteau's groundbreaking surrealist-infused 1946 film *La Belle et la Bête*.

Karla Braun '13, of Sartell, Minn., is head of production planning and logistics at Geringhoff.

Troy Harris '13, of Austin, is working toward a master's degree in Creative Writing at the University of Denver.

Florian LeGouriellec '13, of London, England, is a business analyst with the London branch of Laing O'Rourke.

IN MEMORIAM

Rudolph Schindler Jr. '42, of Morrison, Colo., on Jan. 1, 2011

Milton Laurent Jr. '44, of Livingston, on Sept. 24, 2013

Desiderio Cruz '50, of Pensacola, Fla., on Feb. 17

Hart Dunbar hs '51, of Baton Rouge, La., on Oct. 22, 2013

Samuel Johnson Jr. '51, of Laredo, on Feb. 28

Carlos Tamayo '56, of San Diego, Calif., on March 18

Benjamin Gabbard '65, of Dade City, Fla., on April 3

Freddie Mueller Jr. '72, of Richmond, on May 24

Ethelyn Rutledge '78, of Austin, on April 6

Sheila Johnson '79, of Forest Hill, on April 12

Charlotte Badgett '80, of Dallas, on April 5

Mary Dyer '86, of Austin, on Feb. 18

Mary Lang MAHS '90, of Austin, on Feb. 28

Donnie Spradley '97, MAHS '00, of Austin, on May 10

Nancy Tuck '98, of Austin, on Feb. 25

Genevieve Hirsch MAC '04, of Austin, on March 27

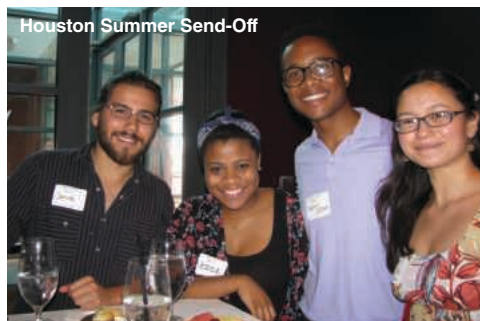
CHAPTER NEWS

Get involved with the alumni chapter near you. Visit bit.ly/SEUAlumniCal for information on upcoming events.

Summer Send-Offs



Rio Grande Valley Summer Send-Off



Houston Summer Send-Off

Alumni gathered throughout Texas and across the country to welcome the St. Edward's University Class of 2018 to the Hilltopper family. Incoming freshmen and their families met alumni and current students in their hometowns before making the move to Austin. Events were held in the Bay Area on July 27, the Rio Grande Valley on Aug. 6, Houston on Aug. 10, Dallas on Aug. 12 and San Antonio on Aug. 14.

**From the Bay Area**

Alumni in the San Francisco Bay Area gathered at Mayfield Bakery and Cafe on May 17 to kick off the university's newest alumni chapter.

**From Washington, D.C.**

Alumni spent an afternoon at the Smithsonian's National Zoo followed by a happy hour at the Zoo Bar Cafe on June 28. The panda exhibit was a crowd favorite.

From Austin

Alumni and their families gathered at Wild Basin Creative Research Center for a tour of the night sky led by volunteers from the Austin Astronomical Society on June 27. It was a beautiful night and a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with old classmates and meet new friends from the hilltop.

From Houston

Alumni kicked off the summer with old and new friends at the Karbach Brewing Co. on May 31. They sampled brews in the beer garden and toured the brewery.

From Austin

More than 180 alumni and their families attended the 14th annual Alumni Night at the Ballpark on Aug. 2. The Round Rock Express played the Memphis Redbirds at the Dell Diamond. St. Edward's University alumni took over the stadium and everyone had a blast.

From Dallas-Fort Worth

Alumni from across the metroplex gathered for a happy hour at J. Gilligan's and watched the Texas Rangers take on the Oakland A's at Globe Life Park in Arlington on July 26.



ALUMNI VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mynor E. Alvarado '07

International Business

*Co-owner and general manager of
Alva Property Services Companies
Austin, Texas*



JESSICA ATTIE '04

>> I've volunteered by hosting alumni events in Dallas, speaking on an Academic Planning and Support Services panel, representing St. Edward's at local college fairs and donating to the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center-South.

>> I found donating to the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center-South the most rewarding because it gave me a chance to give back and honor my parents for their tremendous support during my time at St. Edward's.

>> I have to admit, giving money to St. Edward's was not necessarily a priority after graduating. However, as I began volunteering, I began to better understand and appreciate the school's vision and goals. More importantly, I began to recognize the importance of becoming part of that growth.

>> My favorite place on campus is East Hall, my freshman dorm. It's not the most glamorous building at St. Edward's, but you can't argue with its rugged character. It's where I made some of my earliest and fondest memories at St. Edward's. I also credit East Hall with keeping me under the notorious "Freshman 15" pounds with the brutal hike up the hill to class every day.

>> Giving back and volunteering with the university helps build something beyond myself, something that can be present and continue to grow past my time.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Sonia Bellah '04: IRS-CI Special Agent

When Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) Special Agent **Mary Trevino '79** walked into a high-school accounting class, **Sonia Bellah '04** couldn't take her eyes off of her. "She was a short Hispanic female wearing a business suit, heels, a gun and a badge," Bellah says. "When I saw her, I saw myself."

Bellah, the daughter of migrant farmworkers, asked Trevino for advice: She told her to get a bachelor's degree and take courses in accounting and business. In 1999, Bellah enrolled at St. Edward's through the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), majoring in Accounting.

During her Business Communication class, one of Bellah's assignments

was to reach out to the community and find a mentor in her chosen career field. Bellah used the opportunity to reconnect with Trevino.

A few months later, Bellah was accepted for an internship with IRS-CI. After nine months of shadowing special agents, participating in interviews, and analyzing financial records and other evidence, she was offered a permanent special agent position after her graduation.

"Getting the CAMP scholarship allowed me to attend a prestigious university with high-quality professors," Bellah reflects. "They equipped us with the intellect and the skills necessary to handle the real world."



MARRIAGES

Lea Reimer '08, of Anthony, N.M., to Isaiah Ulmer on July 6, 2013

BIRTHS

To **Jennifer Cervantes '97** and Bryan Zumwalt, a son, Colton Lee, on April 19, 2013

To **Gabriela (Torres) Mora '02** and James Mora, a son, Santiago, on June 28, 2013

To **Amanda Green '03** and Matt Green, a daughter, Katherine (Kate) Michelle, on July 24

To **B.D. Amend '07** and Jaclyn Amend, a son, William McKinney "Mack," on April 19

To **Stephanie (Martin) Nelson '07** and Christopher Nelson, a daughter, Ainsley Faye, on Jan. 11, 2013

WHAT'S IN MY BAG

THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF THE SUMMER SCHOLARS

We asked each of the recipients of the university's Summer Academic Excellence Awards what one object they couldn't have lived without as they immersed themselves in academic research.



KATERINA BARTON '15

Interned at an English-language newspaper in Prague, Czech Republic

"After work and on the weekends, I would pick a new area of Prague to wander around. I got to know the city better this summer and improved my Czech language skills."

WILLIAM MILLER HAYNES III '15

Researched transnational Muslims in Toronto, Canada, at Ryerson University

"Canada is more of a cash-based society than the United States, and I was always asking for change so I could take the TTC [public transport]. I wasn't aware that the Canadian one-dollar coin is called a loonie, nicknamed for the loon on the coin, and the two-dollar coin is called a toonie. At one point, I was asked if I wanted loonies and toonies back. I had no idea what she was asking me."



MARY COUNTS '17

Photographed car shows throughout Texas and designed postcards for their marketing

"My project was based on driving to car shows. I went to Round Rock, to Georgetown, all the way to Lakeway, and to Austin shows. So every time I was working on the project, I had my keys and lanyard with me."



GRACE MAKUCH '16

Enrolled in the Art of Observation, a summer course at the Paris College of Art

"Usually, I don't take my film camera on big trips because it's a 30-year-old camera that technically belongs to my mother. My natural inclination to accidentally break things makes me really nervous to use it. However, I ended up patting myself on the back for bringing it when my phone broke. Total lifesaver."



ALLISON GARCIA '15

Studied the relationship between the press and President John F. Kennedy's administration in Boston, Mass.

"This blue card proved that I was trained and cleared to handle archival documents and information. It was required to get into the research room of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library."

CAITLIN MAPLES '15

Participated in a German-language immersion program at Die Deutsche Sommerschule in Taos Ski Valley, N.M.

"Every time I read a poem from the book by Rainer Maria Rilke, I would understand more than the last time. It wasn't anything monumental, but I felt that the poetry became more beautiful each time I came back to it. Rilke really breathed life into the language."



The objects they named were as diverse as the experiences they had, but we somehow managed to group them into the contents of one giant, world-traveling-worthy bag. Here, these academic all-stars tell us how this collection of seemingly random things helped them find their way, make connections and more.



SAMANTHA MENDOZA '15

Studied peace and conflict with the School for International Training in Kigali, Rwanda, and Gulu, Uganda

"This dress was given to me as a gift by my host family in Gulu. In both Rwanda and Uganda, patterned fabrics were a source of bonding for me, my group and our host families."



JACQUES MERCIER DES ROCHETTES '16

Worked on a farm in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, to improve his German language skills

"We would only pick the berries when they were ripe, so we would only have the good ones. Like most fresh foods, they are better than what you can find in the supermarkets."



REBEKAH MORTON '15

Volunteered with middle-school girls and worked on creative nonfiction pieces in Valparaíso, Chile

"Traveling throughout the city on the metro was central to my writing because it allowed me to sink deeper into the city's culture and energy by observing the many people who commute. I often jotted down notes and recorded interesting interactions I overheard while on my way to volunteer or interview someone for my project."



JACKIE SCHICKER '15

Writing intern and artist assistant at Jenn Hassin Studios in Austin

"The pieces of rolled paper represent everything I love about being a writer, rolled up into the embrace of an art piece. I cannot imagine a world where writing is not central to my life, and the spiral design is representative of growth for me."



HANNAH THORNBY '15

Walked and researched the ancient pilgrimage route of El Camino de Santiago in Spain

"People come from all over to share the experience of walking an ancient way across Spain. While everyone walks their own trail, there comes a time when everyone needs chocolate and a person to talk to. I bought chocolate every time I could, not just for myself but to share with people. Word to the wise: Monasteries make the best chocolate."

ELISSA STANTON '15

Researched the religious background and trends among university students in Turkey

"The coin purse was made out of an old Turkish rug. Rugs are a very traditional part of Turkish culture, and the patterns, colors and techniques usually represent specific regions or villages. The couple that owns the shop where I got the coin purse gathers old rugs from all over Turkey and makes them into smaller rugs, purses, pillows and all kinds of things."



SHANNON UNG '15

Researched her family's history in Cambodia

"I actually bought this elephant from a Burmese market in Thailand right before I left for Cambodia, but I had it with me through my entire journey. Elephants have a beautiful and terrible history in southeast Asia."





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Q. Would you say what the reaction was on Cuba, was the President criticised or applauded?



RESEARCHER IDENTIFICATION

This researcher has been approved to use materials in the John F. Kennedy Library Collection. Columbia Point, Boston, Massachusetts 02145.

NAME Allison Garcia

DATE 7/8/2015

BY [Signature]

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