

St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2016 VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3



HOW TO GO FOR PLAN A

If students can dream it, Caroline Morris can help them make it a reality

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

10 accomplished alumni, who all graduated in the last 10 years

BREAKING OUT

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The Class of 2019 arrived at St. Edward's asking big questions about justice and mercy and how those issues relate to race. After a year of exploring those themes, 28 newly minted sophomores traveled to South Africa for two weeks that juxtaposed beauty and tragedy, violence and forgiveness.



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Caroline Morris doesn't give up, at least not when it comes to getting what she really wants out of her career and life. She blends pragmatism with imagination, which is the same approach she uses when she's coaching students applying for prestigious fellowships.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Before Magna Carda was recognized by critics as one of the hottest up-and-coming hip-hop bands in Austin, its members couldn't get a call back from downtown clubs. More than once, they split a \$35 check for the evening's performance five ways.

The band's first tour was in a minivan barely big enough to hold five people. But they persisted, adapting their sound, making room for music around their day jobs and, most importantly, pursuing their dream even when it looked unlikely.

Just a few years after graduation, **Megan Tillman '14** and **Chris Beale '12** are following that dream — their calling — the same way we hope all graduates of St. Edward's University are: Exploring unexpected paths. Investing in their passions. Saying yes to that tiny voice inside them that tells them they should try something new, even if it's a little bit crazy.

This issue tells the stories of students and alumni who are taking bold steps toward living out their purpose, even when it may not seem practical. And what the people featured in these pages have found, whether they're playing music or confronting injustice in South Africa,

is that courage — and perseverance — can pay off. When it comes to finding what we are meant to do, it's listening to that voice, defining the dream, then figuring out a way to make it a reality.

Caroline Morris, the director of Fellowships at St. Edward's, spends her days helping students connect their passions to what they're learning in a liberal arts education. She empowers them to imagine the most daring, soul-satisfying lives they can live after graduation, then map out a course to get there.

"If you can imagine the wild thing, you can construct the pragmatic bridge to that wild thing," Morris says. "And I actually don't think there is much we imagine that is completely out of our reach."

Enjoy this issue, and maybe you'll be inspired to find your wild thing.

Frannie Schneider
Editor

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We selected these 10 alumni — all of whom have graduated since 2007 — because of their drive, their vision and their deep humanity. While our list is admittedly subjective, these alumni embody what makes Hilltoppers such a force for change.



28 MAKING IT AS A HIP-HOP BAND

Megan Tillman '14 and **Chris Beale '12** came to Austin for St. Edward's University, but they stayed to break into the city's music scene.

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And another year is off! St. Edward's University students celebrated their return to campus with the 15th-annual Hillfest on September 9.

St. Edward's

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President's Letter

What should St. Edward's look like in 2022? That's the question the university community will address throughout this academic year. The answer will be articulated in a new strategic plan to be approved by the Board of Trustees in September 2017.

The planning process was formally launched during a day-long interactive retreat that the board conducted on September 8, at which trustees discussed the university's readiness — including financial assets, organizational structure and campus facilities — to meet the formidable challenges that the next six years will present.

A strategic planning steering committee will continue the board's conversation across the university. The steering committee will lead a thorough and inclusive process in which all university perspectives will be considered before a plan is submitted for approval by the board.

The last 15 years have been the most challenging time for American higher education since the Depression and World War II. The dot-com bust of 2000–2002 was followed by the Great Recession of 2008, eroding the ability of many families to finance college tuition. State aid for education declined (and still has not fully recovered), while federal regulations increased. Family income stagnated while the cost of living rose. And stories in the media raised doubts about the value of a college education.

Yet through it all, St. Edward's has remained faithful to its mission of providing opportunity to all deserving students. We've also become a stronger institution by growing enrollment annually; building new academic, recreational and residential facilities; and improving our academic reputation and financial ratings from Moody's and Standard and Poor's.

While we are confident about our future, we realize that the past will not necessarily be prologue as we encounter the new, daunting challenges that are now developing in the higher education environment. That means facing higher operational costs, accelerating changes in technology, more government regulations, and the growing percentages of students who will need more financial aid and health services.

Our optimism is bolstered by our ability to develop a strategic plan that will anticipate change and enable innovation, nimbleness and flexibility. Most of all, we are encouraged by the increasing recognition of the excellence of our academic programs and the achievements of our students. Since 2008, students have won 108 prestigious national and international academic awards, including 44 Fulbright grants. Year after year, they are accepted into the world's most prestigious graduate and professional schools. And graduates who move directly into their careers see high job placement within a year after graduation. Finally, the resonance of our Holy Cross mission with prospective students and families acts as a magnet to draw them to our university community.

In future issues of this magazine, I will keep you informed about our strategic planning processes and developments. Meanwhile, I welcome any observations or suggestions you might want to send along.

—President George E. Martin

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Urban **Refuge**

WHEN WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE was established in the 1970s, it wasn't really considered urban. But now the 227 acres, which are home to endangered species like the golden-cheeked warbler, bump up to commercial and residential areas.

Assistant Professor of Biology **Teresa Bilinski** knew of ongoing issues with sediment from commercial development ending up in area streams and rivers. She wanted to see how the growing city was affecting other parts of nature, so she initiated a research opportunity for her students last spring: examining the effects of urbanization (a relatively new — and rapidly growing — area in ecology) in Wild Basin Creative Research Center, which is co-owned by the university and Travis County. Students took water and soil samples, and they studied the patterns of plants and wildlife.

While the research is ongoing, the initial results were unexpected: The students predicted there might be water and soil alterations,

invasive plant species, and changes to wildlife. While they did find that water quality was poorer closer to urban spaces, it improved quickly after flowing onto Wild Basin property. When it came to the other areas of their research, there didn't appear to be strong signs of urbanization.

Bilinski says it can be disappointing to have to reject a hypothesis when the research doesn't support it, but in this case, it's a positive outcome. "It's really good that urbanization isn't having a negative effect on soil, plants and wildlife," she says. "It speaks to the value of Wild Basin as a habitat."

The other positive outcome? Students get to study ecology in their own backyard. "It's thrilling, as a young scientist, to be part of an emerging area of research," says **Amy Ontai '17**. "Hopefully, we'll be able to provide a framework for how people can continue to thrive in harmony with the wildlife that surrounds us." —*Lisa Thiegs*



The Fulbright Class of 2016 has been selected, and it includes seven St. Edward's University graduates. Six will be completing English Teaching Assistantships, and one received a research grant. As they pack their bags to go overseas, we caught up with them and asked about their preparations and motivations.

—Joel Hoekstra



What She Hopes to See Firsthand

Name: Anna Davies '16
Hometown: McKinney, Texas
Major: Marketing
Destination: Malaysia

As a sophomore, Davies took a global business course in Japan and became fascinated with the country's aesthetics and design. And her junior year, Davies traveled to South Africa as part of the university's Service Break Experience to work in a children's home, where she often communicated with kids by drawing, storytelling and singing. "I realized I can use my eye for design to communicate in other cultures," she says. Now she's excited to travel to Malaysia, an opportunity that will test her communication skills while also immersing her in the colors, textures and visual stimulation of Southeast Asian culture.



What She Said When the News Arrived

Name: Dominique Martinez '16
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas
Major: Kinesiology
Destination: Malaysia

In the middle of her physics class, Martinez took a quick break to check email on her phone. Clicking through, Martinez discovered an invitation from the Fulbright Program to teach English to middle-school kids in Malaysia. "OMG!" she mumbled. Her lab partner instantly knew the source of her surprise: "Did you get it?!" he asked. Martinez realized she couldn't focus anymore and politely asked the professor if she could step out for a minute. "I was in absolute shock," Martinez says. "I still can't believe I'm going."



When New Friends Become Sisters

Name: Shelby Evans '16
Hometown: Plano, Texas
Major: Communication
Destination: Laos

The country of Laos is often overlooked, says Evans: "I can't count the number of people who have asked me what continent it's on." But she looks forward to teaching English at a teacher training college in Ban Keun, a small community two hours from the capital, Vientiane. Evans says she's been told that the locals she gets to know will appreciate it if she calls them "mother" or "sister" and asks them for help — and that relying on one another is encouraged. "I think this is sweet, and certainly different from the more individualized culture of the States," she says.



Why Teaching English Was a Natural Fit

Name: Kate Barton '15
Hometown: Santa Fe, New Mexico
Major: Global Studies
Destination: Indonesia

A few years ago, Barton traveled to Bali, where she fell in love with the beaches and the Indonesian people. "It was amazing," she says, noting that she and her traveling companions extended their time in the country to spend some extra days basking in the sun and absorbing the culture. What's more, she's looking forward to testing her skills teaching English to kids: "My mom is Czech, and my dad is Texan," Barton says. "They met while my father was teaching English in the Czech Republic."



When Culture Is the Main Attraction

Name: Megan Scribner '16
Hometown: College Park, Maryland
Major: Social Work
Destination: Indonesia

"I'm interested in places that allow you to explore different perspectives," Scribner says. A few years ago, she spent two months in an ashram in Peru, examining her spirituality. On recent trips to Italy and India, Scribner often went out of her way to visit cathedrals, shrines and temples. Now, as she sets her sights on Indonesia, she hopes to immerse herself in the region's diverse religions and spiritual practices.



How Her New-World Roots Led to the Old World

Name: Elena Herrera '16
Hometown: Missouri City, Texas
Major: Global Studies
Destination: Spain

Herrera's father is Mexican-American, and the family can trace its lineage to Spain. But while Herrera has traveled to Europe many times, it wasn't until recently that she began to develop an interest in the land of her forebears: "People look at Europe as a single entity," Herrera says. "But I'm curious to see how traditional European and Latin cultures collide in Spain."



How a Class Inspired His Application

Name: William Haynes '15
Hometown: Tarkington, Texas
Major: Global Studies
Destination: Kosovo

Haynes received a Fulbright research grant as a graduate student at Georgetown University. During his senior year at St. Edward's, Haynes took a seminar course that focused on democracy. The establishment of a new democratic government in Kosovo was one of the topics covered — and it caught Haynes' interest. "I'm most excited about experiencing life in a Muslim country outside of the Middle East," says Haynes, who studied in Morocco and the United Arab Emirates during his time at St. Edward's. "I think it will be particularly interesting to see the nuances in religion, culture and life between Eastern European and Middle Eastern Muslims."

THE WORLD TAKES NOTE

While professors at St. Edward's are beloved for their teaching, they also earn accolades for their research, creative work and leadership. The following faculty members have recently been recognized locally and abroad.

—Robyn Ross

"Motherhood can make you feel like you've got a leak in your beanbag," says **Beth Eakman**, instructor of English Writing and Rhetoric, in an essay published in *Brain, Child* magazine. Eakman is also working on her own book, which will be a humorous memoir about parenthood in the style of Erma Bombeck or Anne Lamott.



Professor of English **Catherine Rainwater's** new book, *Leslie Marmon Silko's Storyteller: New Perspectives*, was released in September. The volume is a collection of eight original essays about *Storyteller*, plus Rainwater's introduction, which reviews more than three decades of scholarship about the text. First published in 1981, *Storyteller* is mixed genre and is considered a canonical work in American Indian literature.

Assistant Professor of Graphic Design **Jimmy Van Luu** was named the artist-in-residence for the city of Austin's Betty Dunkerley Campus, which includes the Austin Animal Center and the Health and Human Services Department. As part of the residency, Luu received a \$55,700 budget from the City of Austin's Art in Public Places program to construct a permanent outdoor artwork at the site.

In May, Professor of Philosophy **Mark Cherry** was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa, an honorary doctorate, from the 1 Decembrie 1918 University in Alba Iulia, Romania. (The university's unusual name comes from Romania's national holiday, which commemorates the unification of the Romanian kingdom.) The honor recognizes Cherry's work in the field of Christian bioethics.



Of the 16,000 Texas children in foster care, those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) are more likely to be placed in group homes and treatment centers than with foster families, Assistant Professor of Social Work **Adam McCormick** told the *Texas Standard* public radio program in March. "The state has failed to do what it's intended to do — to protect youth, as well as to establish some sense of permanency," McCormick says.

Writer-in-Residence **Carrie Fountain's** debut novel for young adults, *I'm Not Missing*, has been acquired by Flatiron Books, a subsidiary of Macmillan. The novel tells the story of Miranda, who is forced out of her best friend Frankie's shadow when Frankie runs away their senior year. The tale ends on prom night, and the book will be released in early 2018 to coincide with prom season.



YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SEE IT FROM THE GROUND, but there's something exciting happening on the roof of the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South building.

Gary A. Morris, professor of Physics and dean of the School of Natural Sciences, has received grants that support a system that helps him — and students and colleagues — monitor air quality in Austin.

The system includes two weather cameras positioned on the roof of the science building; the footage can be viewed in real time online. The cameras record the passage of weather systems and the intrusion of smoke from biomass burning events, both of which impact local air quality. In addition to the cameras, a weather station and ozone monitor are deployed by Morris and his team on campus. Meteorological data are shared with Weather Underground, an Internet weather service, and that data along with the ozone monitor data are shared with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which monitors air quality across Texas. The new monitor at St. Edward's adds to TCEQ's coverage in southeast Austin, a location typically upwind of the city's center and next to the busy intersection of Interstate 35 and Highway 71.

The final element in the air quality suite on campus is the ozone garden between the science buildings. This demonstration plot contains plant species that have both a normal and ozone-tolerant variety; planted next to each other, the different species visibly reveal the impact of ozone pollution on plant health.

In addition to classes and student researchers, members of the broader St. Edward's community are welcome to study the data — most of it is freely accessible to the public online. —*Lauren Liebowitz*

Follow the weather at St. Edward's and see more photos from the fisheye lens at
ir.stedwards.edu/camera/.





hope takes *flight*

Something beautiful trapped by forces beyond its control is the basis for the *Butterfly Project*, a mixed-media art installation on view at the Bullock Texas State History Museum through January 2017. It's a companion piece to *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda*, a special exhibit created by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that explores how the Nazis convinced people in Germany to support their extremist messages through propaganda.

Alexandra Robinson, associate professor of Art, tapped students in her spring Visual Studies class to collaborate on the installation.

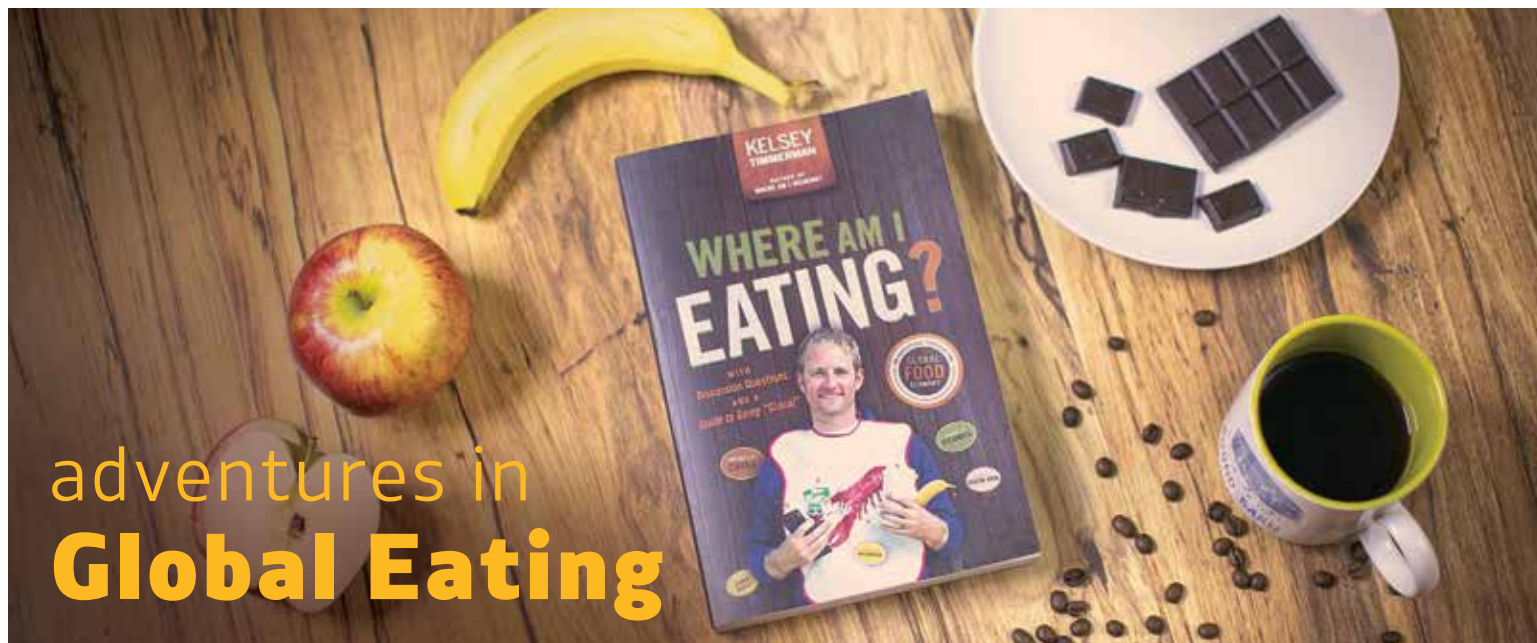
For the exhibit, six 40-foot fabric panels painted with a navy blue gradient hang in a circle inside the rotunda of the museum. The exterior of each panel is embellished with yellow butterflies printed with the Mourner's Kaddish (a Jewish prayer of mourning) in gold ink and representing the power and hope of those who stand against hate. On the inside of the panels, about 5,000 paper butterflies decorated by children throughout Texas are attached. The children's butterflies represent their pledge to be a voice against intolerance.

Kate Betz, associate director of Education at the Bullock Texas State History Museum, says that one of the goals of the exhibit is to provide children with the tools to foster tolerance. "The *Butterfly Project* hopes to show it is possible to create a world in which hate cannot flourish," she says. "Students and children who created butterflies will see how their small piece became part of a bigger whole and how a single action can be a part of something greater."

Chloe Curiel '19 helped with the project's design. "I want people to see how we turned a tragedy into something creative and visually beautiful," she says. "Being a part of this project gave me a glimpse of how artists are able to channel their emotions into something others can find meaning and hope in."

—Erica Quiroz





KELSEY TIMMERMAN'S JOURNEY — the one documented in his book *Where Am I Eating?* — began with a cup of Starbucks coffee. Curious where the beans came from and who had handled them, he decided to find answers, embarking on a journey that ultimately led him to a farmer in Colombia. His quest continued with trips to the source of other foods including chocolate, bananas, lobster and apple juice. What he found made him think — and will make readers think — about how the food Americans eat affects the lives of people around the globe.

The book is the Common Text for the Class of 2020, who are spending their freshman year investigating the theme of food justice. It's a broad topic that includes sustainability, nutrition, corporate responsibility, globalization, food insecurity, farmworkers' rights and a host of other issues. In addition to reading the book and hearing Timmerman speak on campus, freshmen will watch food-related documentaries, meet organic farmers, and volunteer at local farms or food banks. In the spring, a small group will make its own investigative journey to banana plantations in Costa Rica as the culmination of a course focusing specifically on food justice.

We asked a few of the professors who are teaching the text in their writing classes this fall what they appreciated about the book and what they hope students will learn.

CHRIS MICKLETHWAIT

Visiting Assistant Professor of English Writing and Rhetoric and Associate Director of First-Year Writing

I'm intrigued by how the author reconciles himself to that combination of feeling guilty about knowing where some of these things come from while continuing to consume them. Chocolate and coffee are very simple human pleasures that are hard to give up, despite what you know about them. How do you go on enjoying the things in your life when you have a more comprehensive understanding of the justice implications behind them?

ALEX BARRON

Director of Freshman Studies and Associate Professor of University Studies

Almost everyone has had the experience of drinking Starbucks coffee, so it's particularly interesting when Timmerman traces it back to the source. He takes a very basic product and then asks you to question: Is fair trade the answer? Is free trade the answer? Is Starbucks' ethical sourcing really ethical?

CORY LOCK

Associate Professor of University Studies

We try to help our students move from thinking of things in binary terms — it's good or it's bad, buy bananas or don't — and think in more complicated ways. To fulfill our mission of seeking justice and peace and changing the world, we have to move away from the idea that there's a quick solution and instead see the complexity of the situation, and this book does a good job of fleshing out those complexities.

BETH EAKMAN

Instructor of English Writing and Rhetoric

We want to teach incoming freshmen how to question ideas that they've always just accepted. One of the things that most people don't think about is where their food comes from, and that's a good entry point to this practice of questioning — and not just questioning, but actively pursuing answers.

MARY REILLY

Adjunct Professor of University Studies

Millennials are very passionate about social justice, and like most of us, they also are big consumers. Often they don't see where something they got at the store comes from or the human cost of getting these products to them. Books like this help them make the connection.

—Robyn Ross

NONSTOP

These St. Edward's students did not rest over the summer. And something tells us they're probably not taking it easy this fall, either. —Lisa Thiegs

Environmental Science and Policy major **Andrea Calderon '19** conducted field research surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in the United States. Her research sites included Big Sur, the Sierra Nevada, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park, all part of an internship with the University of California, Santa Cruz, during which she studied forests and analyzed water quality to assess the impact of humans on the landscape. This winter, she'll meet with the program's leaders, who will help her pinpoint an environmental organization for her internship next summer.



Neal Whetstone '18 is giving a voice to the economic disparities and inequalities he sees based on race. He's co-created a five-song project called *Paperweight* and a six-song project, *Blackenomics*, for which he used his hip-hop and rap talents to explore the economic obstacles the black community faces. Whetstone gained new perspectives this summer while studying marriage equality, diversity and civic education at Princeton University's Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

After a seven-year Army stint at posts throughout the United States, **Jonathan Stoughton '18** enrolled at St. Edward's as a Global Studies major. For the next academic year, he is studying at the University of Jordan and the School for International Training Study Abroad, both in Amman, on the Boren Scholarship, funded by the National Security Education Program. In addition to learning Arabic, he's studying the impact of Syrian refugees on the Jordanian healthcare system. His summer prep? Working at the Wright House Wellness Center, a case-management organization that helps people with HIV, AIDS or hepatitis C get the care they need.



James McConville '17 worked on military helicopters while in the Army; now he's using his technical skills to pursue a Computer Science degree. Student Veterans of America and Google recognized his potential and awarded him a \$10,000 scholarship, along with a trip to Google's global headquarters in Mountain View, California, in June, to network with the company's engineers. McConville spent the rest of his summer at Samsung Austin Semiconductor, where he worked on streamlining organization processes for multiple departments.

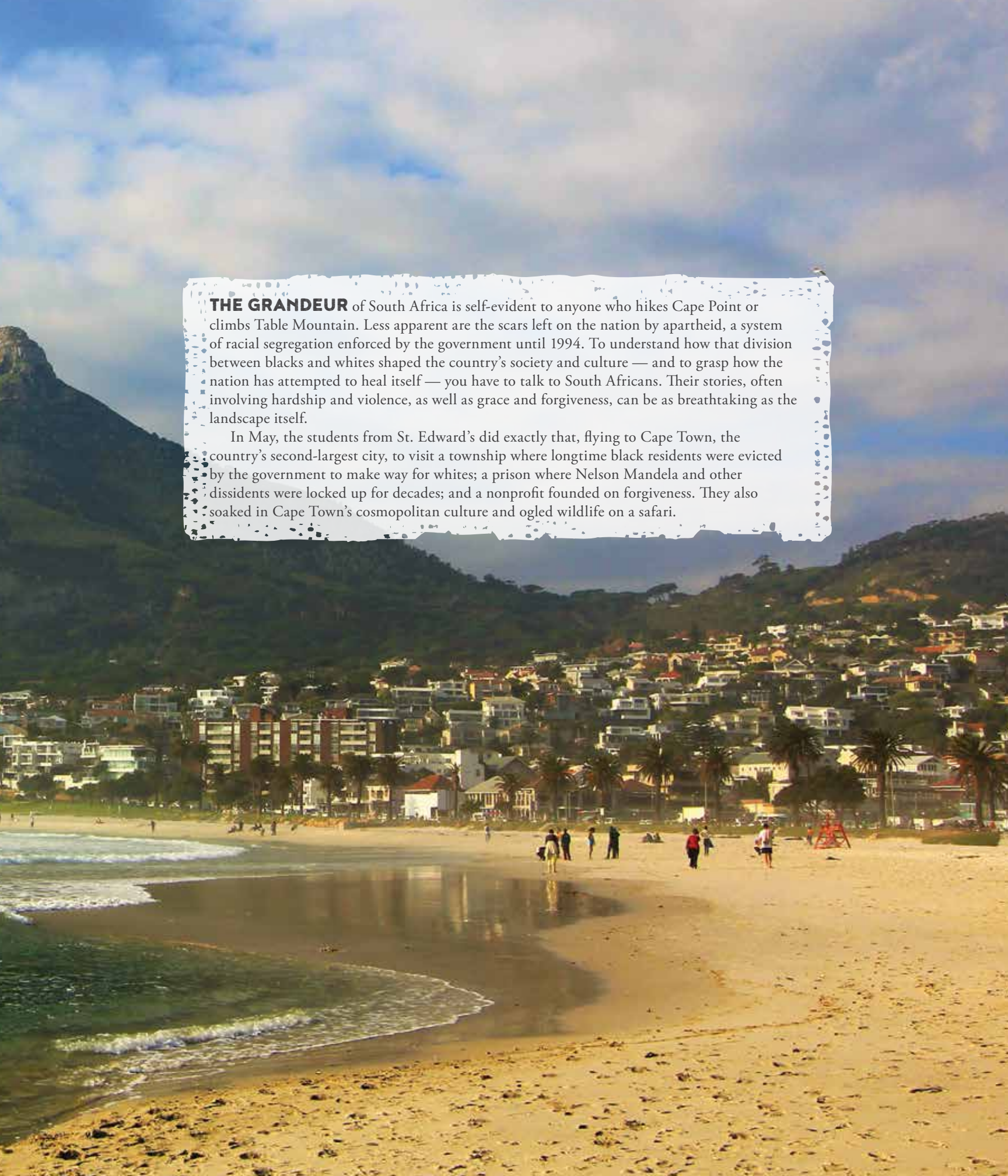
Kevin Leib '16 graduated with an Accounting and Finance double major and is pursuing his master's in Accounting at St. Edward's — while managing a demanding schedule as goalkeeper for the Hilltopper men's soccer team. The Division II Second Team All-America player and HERO Sports' National Goalkeeper of the Year spent the summer playing for the Oklahoma City Energy to keep him in top shape for his last season of eligibility with St. Edward's.



IN SEARCH **OF** JUSTICE

The Class of 2019 arrived at St. Edward's asking big questions about justice and mercy and how those issues relate to race. After a year of exploring those themes, 28 newly minted sophomores traveled to South Africa for two weeks that juxtaposed beauty and tragedy, violence and forgiveness. Here are selected photos from their trip.

By Joel Hoekstra | Photography by Jennifer Ansier



THE GRANDEUR of South Africa is self-evident to anyone who hikes Cape Point or climbs Table Mountain. Less apparent are the scars left on the nation by apartheid, a system of racial segregation enforced by the government until 1994. To understand how that division between blacks and whites shaped the country's society and culture — and to grasp how the nation has attempted to heal itself — you have to talk to South Africans. Their stories, often involving hardship and violence, as well as grace and forgiveness, can be as breathtaking as the landscape itself.

In May, the students from St. Edward's did exactly that, flying to Cape Town, the country's second-largest city, to visit a township where longtime black residents were evicted by the government to make way for whites; a prison where Nelson Mandela and other dissidents were locked up for decades; and a nonprofit founded on forgiveness. They also soaked in Cape Town's cosmopolitan culture and ogled wildlife on a safari.





THE CONVERSATIONS that students had at the Amy Biehl Foundation, a nonprofit organization that offers after-school programs to empower youth living in challenging parts of Western Cape, were extensions of discussions that had begun on campus the previous fall. The incoming Class of 2019 read *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by lawyer Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative, about racial inequality in the American judicial system. Intended to spark students' thinking about justice and compassion, the book was particularly relevant as questions about race and injustice surfaced again and again in current events. Two classes — one in literature and another in global studies — were also offered to freshmen who wanted to delve deeper into the issue of racial reconciliation. The courses culminated in the trip to South Africa.

English major **Lilli Hime '19** contrasts South Africans' willingness to talk about their racially riven past with what she sees in the United States. "It was as if they said, 'We're not going to push it away or forget this history. We're going to memorialize it so we don't repeat it,'" Hime says. "When I consider the racial problems we're having in America today, I think our unwillingness to address them in the past is what has led us to where we are now. America has chosen not to deal with its racial history."







TOURING SITES like District Six, where black residents were once forcibly removed by the government so white citizens could build homes, and Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 17 years, was truly eye-opening, says Theater Arts major **Sierra Boudoin '19**. The tours were given by individuals who had experienced violence or imprisonment firsthand. "I was surprised that they weren't angry and bitter," Boudoin observes. "But when I asked one of our guides, he said, 'The more I tell our story the more I heal.'"

Students also discussed the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which attempted to bring to light the injustices of the past — even if it didn't always result in punishment for the perpetrators. Boudoin says the commission's work clearly had a positive impact on South Africa, but a divide still exists, with many poor blacks on one side and rich whites on the other. The trip, she says, helped her realize that societal change is difficult and often takes decades to have an impact. "The only way we can find a way to change is if we try. But trying takes time — a lot of time — and we're just getting started."



Most Likely to Succeed

Caroline Morris doesn't give up, at least not when it comes to getting what she really wants out of her career and life. She blends pragmatism with imagination, which is the same approach she uses when she's coaching students applying for prestigious fellowships.

By Robyn Ross | Photography by Morgan Printy

How would you spend your time, if you didn't have to be practical?

What do you want to have accomplished in 15 years?

What is your secret dream, the one you almost don't dare to articulate because it seems so impossibly out of reach?

The answer is your Plan A.

That's what Director of Fellowships **Caroline Morris** tries to uncover when she sits down with applicants for the Fulbright and other prestigious scholarships. Finding Plan A is different from asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Plan A is the future her advisees long for but don't know how to create — the way Morris wanted to be a writer in grade school, but instead prioritized more pragmatic ambitions until starting her first novel 10 years ago. You pick a career with your brain; you know Plan A in your gut.

"The longer I did this job, the more I understood that my intellectual head was not necessarily the best guide for helping

students," Morris says. "You'll ask all these questions, and then there's a point in the conversation where they light up, and their demeanor changes. They smile and get a little sheepish, and they turn red, and they'll say" — she lowers her voice to a conspiratorial whisper — "'Well, really, I'm into drawing comics.' And you say, well, why couldn't you draw comics?"

Plan A doesn't necessarily equate to a practical way to make a living in the short term, Morris says. "That's a real concern, but that's not my job. My job is getting them to dream really big so that they can articulate how they're going to change the world for people who want to give them money to do it."

Morris' diligent questioning and careful listening have helped a record number of students win that money to put their world-changing dreams into motion. Under her tutelage, 10 students won Fulbright scholarships in 2015, making St. Edward's University the top producer of U.S. Fulbright Students among master's-granting



institutions in the nation last year. Since Morris arrived at the university in 2007, students from St. Edward's have won 44 Fulbright awards, 31 Gilman Scholarships, four State Department Critical Language Scholarships, a Truman Scholarship and a host of other awards. Those same years have seen the university enhance its study abroad options and support for student research, but its reputation as a powerhouse for prestigious fellowships can be traced directly to Morris and her ability to connect with her mentees.

"Caroline is uniquely talented in working with students to draw the best out of them," says **Mary Boyd**, former vice president for Academic Affairs. "She has this magic that fosters the student's own ability to bring out what is special and distinctive about them. She creates this space where the student can really explore and imagine all the possibilities, and then achieve them."

At the time Morris came to St. Edward's, only a handful of students from the university had ever won the country's most prestigious fellowships. Most had been mentored by the late Associate Professor of German **Harald Becker**, a champion of the Fulbright Program who continued to advise students until his death in 2012.

As the university's second director of Fellowships, Morris drew on Becker's work and that of her predecessor, who had focused on cultivating students from the Honors Program. But she realized that for St. Edward's to win more fellowships, she needed to broaden the pool of applicants beyond Honors and German students into "a college-wide, crowdsourced search for the best talent."

The pool of highly qualified students was broadening, thanks to seven years of groundwork laid by the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Shortly after President **George E. Martin** arrived at St. Edward's in 1999, the university adopted strategic priorities to help it become recognized as one of the best small universities in the country. Those goals included expanding enrollment and improving academic quality, which meant admission officers began traveling out of state to recruit students. The team also became more strategic in working with Student Financial Services to use scholarships and financial aid to encourage strong students to enroll.

In one measure of the team's success, the average SAT score of incoming freshmen rose from 1067 in the year 2000 to 1137 in Fall 2015, while the size of the class more than doubled. In another, the out-of-state portion of the class has jumped from 4 to 18 percent. Students who go to college far from home, notes Associate Vice President and Dean of Admission **Tracy Manier**, tend to be more academically talented and adventurous.

"We're a different university than we were 10 years ago, and we therefore attract a different kind of student," Manier says. "Everything from the facilities that we're able to offer, to the international experiences, to the expanded list of majors — so much has happened since Dr. Martin arrived that has placed St. Edward's in a better position to attract the kind of student who might go on to win the Fulbright. And we have put a tremendous amount of effort into finding the best students who would be good fits and thrive here."

Yet Morris realized that if she worked exclusively with students who entered St. Edward's with top academic records, she'd miss out on another talent pool entirely: students who come from poor high schools, who have to work instead of joining debate or orchestra, who are the first in their family to attend college — the kind of student the admission office also focuses on recruiting, because students who work hard in high school despite these disadvantages often blossom once they get to St. Edward's.

"We have a lot of really gifted first-generation college students who come to us underprepared," Morris says. "Figuring out how to convince that group that they can compete at this national level — and then supporting them in getting experiences that they need to be competitive — has been a big piece of our success."

Morris reaches out to all the freshmen in the Honors Program, as well as students who've made at least a 3.7 GPA their freshman year. But, knowing that students from disadvantaged backgrounds

sometimes take a year or more to hit their stride, she also looks for students at any stage of their education who've made strong grades or taken advanced foreign language classes. She relies on professors to refer strong candidates.

In an Ivy League setting, many students are familiar with awards like the Marshall or Fulbright. That wasn't the case at St. Edward's, where Morris first had to explain their merits, then counter students' assumptions that the awards were for someone else: students whose parents were doctors, lawyers, congressmen. Students from Harvard and Princeton.

"She's great at encouraging you to see that you're completely in line with all the other applicants from the Ivy League schools," says **Courtney Dymowski '14**, who graduated in June from the University of Cambridge, where her studies were paid for by a Davies-Jackson Scholarship for first-generation college students. "Even though you're coming from a background that possibly isn't as privileged, you can still capitalize on the opportunities you've had. She makes you feel that nothing is out of reach."

Once Morris connects with potential applicants, her next step is to explain what it takes to win a scholarship or fellowship. The top college graduates in the country, she tells her students, have a record of independent research. Committed and sustained volunteer work. Multiple internships in their field. Proficiency in a second, maybe a third, language. Studies abroad.

But many of these pursuits take money. So, with a dedicated Summer Academic Excellence Award budget, she began granting students the funds to make those life-changing experiences possible. Dymowski applied for a grant that allowed her to volunteer teaching English in Thailand the summer before her senior year. Other students have interned in the attorney general's office, worked at an orphanage in Ecuador, and completed a photography project focusing on small-town Texas.

Morris isn't a Fulbright alumna herself, but her CV includes two graduate degrees and experience in the realms of public policy, law and creative writing. She grew up immersed in the political world of Washington, D.C., where her parents worked in journalism, politics, diplomacy and research, and she studied French literature and government at Colby College in Maine, a private liberal arts college half the size of St. Edward's. She finished college in three years and went to work for the Bill Clinton presidential campaign and then the U.S. Department of Education, eventually starting, in her mid-20s, a nonprofit that taught non-college-bound students web design and professional skills. Next, she earned a law degree and practiced corporate law in New York City for several years before switching gears — and moving across the country — to earn an MFA in fiction at the University of Oregon.

Since that move, in 2005, Morris has written three novels. The first tells the parallel stories of an Alabama diver who falls in love with a German (and, to a degree, the Third Reich) while competing in the 1936 Olympics, and her granddaughter, who plagiarizes her memoir. Morris submitted the novel to editors, but no one bought it. She started work on a second novel about a gated community outside Austin, and the relationship between the children of the Anglo family that founded it and the Latino family in charge of security. The novel got much closer to selling, but the interested publisher wanted Morris to make changes she felt were untrue to the story. Her third novel, a project four years in the making, is about a 40-something environmental activist who abandoned her child and is reunited with her 18-year-old daughter to fight a powerline project. Her agent is shopping the manuscript to editors this fall.

Having put her own Plan A of being a writer into action, Morris can more authentically help students find theirs. Acting as "a combination of Dr. Phil and Socrates," she asks the students about their dreams and desires, then repeats back what she's noticed, to see if it resonates.

"Working with students is very much a Socratic process, where I don't know what the answer is from any of these individuals," she says. "What I can do is help them with the process of asking these questions. And that yields students who have thought deeply about these things — and because they've thought deeply, they can write well about it."

She asks advisees to complete exercises like writing their own biography as though they've won a MacArthur Fellowship — often called a "genius grant" — in 2030, an assignment that forces them to think relatively far into the future but also demands they consider details like

what they might study in graduate school. And she asks question after question:

How does where you come from influence your academic or professional interests? Students often answer that they come from "a normal Texas town," but Morris presses them for details. "If you start to get into religion and race and class and politics, then you realize you have a very specific upbringing."

Who are you jealous of? "Who is the Facebook friend whose success annoys you most? That is often an accurate barometer for what you actually want."

What makes you mad about the world? Morris remembers an obviously intelligent but laconic student whom she just couldn't figure out. Finally, she asked him what made him angry, and the young man straightened up: "Taxi medallion distribution systems in Dhaka, Bangladesh!" It turned out the student had grown up overseas and saw that taxi permits were unfairly and inefficiently distributed in Dhaka, which meant taxi drivers were being discriminated against. "Sometimes if you ask that question, and then you ask a bunch of substantive questions around it, that can be a great highlight because so many of our students are motivated by

Who are you jealous of?
Who is the Facebook friend
whose success annoys you most?
That is an accurate barometer for
what you actually want.

—Caroline Morris



social justice,” she says. “And that’s what fellowships are looking for — they’re not just looking for excellent students, they’re looking for excellent students they can invest in and who will be leaders in their generation.”

Those dialogues mean that Morris often gets to know fellowship applicants closely and keeps in touch with them after they graduate.

“She’s kind of like a life coach,” says **Victoria Ochoa ’16**, who in 2015 became the university’s first Truman Scholarship winner. Ochoa estimates she and Morris met at least 10 times during her college years. “Over time, when you’re applying to these scholarships, you’re pouring your heart out and telling your life story, talking about your passions. She’s really gotten to know me in a way that no other faculty or staff member at St. Edward’s has.”

Morris calls those one-on-one conversations the most enjoyable part of her job. While they help students articulate their goals in fellowship essays, they also help students clarify their direction in life. “The act of making these decisions and articulating this vision for what you want, whether or not you get the fellowship, gives you kind of a blueprint for your future,” she says.



These days, Morris’ job is not the uphill battle it was when she arrived in Austin nine years ago. Word gets out when 10 students win Fulbrights in a single year, or when a highly involved and influential student like Ochoa wins full tuition for graduate school through the Truman. Morris still seeks out top-performing students, but these days they’re just as likely to knock on her door.

That doesn’t mean she has everything figured out. Her applicant pool skews heavily female, an echo of a national trend, despite her efforts to engage more men in the process. Early in her tenure, several students won prestigious science awards like the Udall Scholarship and Environmental Protection Agency Scholarships, but lately those competitions have been tough to crack. Some years, despite her best efforts, no one wins a big award.

Last spring Morris got a call from some colleagues at Stonehill College in Massachusetts, a Holy Cross institution, asking about her success strategies. Start by concentrating on one or two fellowships, she told them. Branch out from there. You can’t do everything well in your first year. And keep trying.

No one from St. Edward’s has won — yet — the United Kingdom’s most prestigious scholarships, the Rhodes or the Marshall. “But I may be constitutionally incapable of declaring failure,” Morris says. “As someone who’s written three novels, none of which have yet sold, I think this word ‘yet’ is a big word for me. I am just going to keep hammering at it.”

Her approach to the job is informed by the same advice she gives her students: dream big, but remember that the dream will only happen with persistence and pragmatism. A student might, in conversation with Morris, discover a “Plan A” dream of being the secretary of energy — but in the meantime, he or she still has to make top grades, take internships that aren’t always fun and build a résumé over time.

Morris likens the process of applying for fellowships to the practice of writing. Each requires steady, sustained hard work. But each also demands chutzpah and imagination.

“You have to conceive of a story before you can write a story, and you have to conceive of a character that doesn’t exist,” she says. “You can apply that same sense of imagination to your own future. It’s both scary and fun to imagine — whether for yourself or a character — going places you haven’t been or achieving things you haven’t achieved yet. But if you can imagine the wild thing, you can construct the pragmatic bridge to that wild thing. And I actually don’t think there is much we imagine that is completely out of our reach.”

10 UNDER 10

We selected these 10 alumni — all of whom have graduated since 2007 — because of their drive, their vision and their deep humanity. While our list is admittedly subjective, these alumni embody all the bases of what makes Hilltoppers such a force for change.

By Erin Peterson

Left to right: Lt. Stephanie Meyer '07,
Nic Ragland '07, Kristin Owen DMBA '08



LT. STEPHANIE MEYER '07

San Antonio • Physician at Joint Base San Antonio

For helping members of the military and their families get and stay healthy

Lt. Stephanie Meyer '07 remembers with crystal clarity the moment she decided to become a doctor. In September 2001, she was a young mom with two kids and a husband. She was ready to return to a college career she'd put on hiatus when she'd had her children. And she was debating whether to become a doctor or a veterinarian.

September 11 put everything in perspective for her: She came from a military family, and she immediately knew she wanted to help. A Veterans Day event not long after the attack nudged her to take action. "A general gave a talk on the steps of the Texas Capitol, and he talked about the dire need for doctors to take care of veterans and active-duty military," she says. "It was as though he was telling me what I was supposed to do."

She got focused: She enrolled at St. Edward's, earned a degree in Biology and headed to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston for medical school.

Now she works with active-duty military patients and their families, treating them for common medical maladies as well as some of the more specialized issues common among service members, including musculoskeletal problems, depression and traumatic brain injuries. "Being in the military is hard on the body, and there are a lot of unique injuries that come from being in a war zone," she says.

For Meyer, the joy of her career comes not simply from helping individual patients who appreciate her care, but from the larger effort the work represents. "It's a privilege to support the defense of my country," she says.

KRISTIN OWEN DMBA '08

Austin • Director of Market Development for DoStuff Media

For helping make connections

When Kristin Owen DMBA '08 joined a pair of friends in 2008 on their tiny passion project, Do512, she was mainly interested in learning. She figured that even if the project didn't pan out, she'd still have a wealth of experience to take to her next job.

Do512 is designed to help young Austinites answer the question, *What am I going to do tonight?* The company makes it easy to find fun, often music-themed things to do on any night of the week, while simultaneously giving brands such as Anheuser-Busch and Google a way to connect with an audience in the local scene. "Our mission is to help people go out and have great experiences with people they care about," Owen says.

Before long, other cities were clamoring to create similar ventures. DoStuff Media was created in 2010 to license the

organization across North America, and there are now 20 sites creating a robust network. Fun-seekers discover new events through the company's popular emails and social media presence, and brands sponsor events and provide their products. Owen, who started out as an all-hands-on-deck general manager, has since moved into market development. She's helping find and train the company's partners in cities across the nation — and in Canadian and Mexican markets, including Tijuana.

In the eight years since she joined the team, it's grown from three people in Austin to 100 people in 20 cities. But for Owen, it still feels like the very beginning of the journey. "Our ultimate goal is to be in 150 cities across the globe," she says. "It's a whole new puzzle to figure out, but I can't wait to tackle it."

NIC RAGLAND '07

Austin • Analytics Manager at JPMorgan Chase

For using data to give banking an upgrade

THE BIG IDEA: As banks work to upgrade their online services to offer features their customers want, determining the best next move requires digging deep into reams of data to find patterns. "Our job is to understand what customers want and how we can serve different segments of these customers to suit their specific needs," says Nic Ragland '07.

CONVENIENCE IN A CLICK: Giving customers what they want looks different for everyone: Some want mobile deposit so they can deposit their paychecks by snapping a photo of a check from a smartphone. Others want to redeem credit card reward points on the fly at Starbucks. Ragland's data analysis helps the company pinpoint the features that customers are craving. Ragland and his team also use data to identify specific areas where customers might encounter problems — perhaps struggling to use a too-complex payment service — and recommend ways the company can simplify or overhaul features that aren't as intuitive as they need to be.

THE ST. EDWARD'S ADVANTAGE:

While Ragland's role demands plenty of tech expertise, he says his real edge at the job came from the liberal arts approach of St. Edward's: "It's important to be able to write a computer program and query for data in our systems, but it's also important to be able to think critically, to solve problems, and to write and speak effectively with our business partners," he says. "Everything blends together in today's world. What makes some technical people stand out in their field is their ability to communicate and think critically."

BRENDA TORRES '10

Mountain View, California • Immunology
PhD Student at Stanford University

For sleuthing out genetic clues to help doctors treat illnesses

When doctors prescribe medication to treat acute illnesses like malaria, the goal is to help patients get healthy as quickly as possible. But depending on what stage of the illness a patient is in, the treatment might actually hinder recovery, not help it.

Using mice as models, immunologist **Brenda Torres '10** and her team at Stanford have developed “disease maps” that use genetic data to understand how an infection changes over time, and how that might affect the way a given treatment will work.

The team’s preliminary data suggest that mice that are infected with a mouse version of malaria respond well to antimalarial drugs in the earliest stages of the illness, including the days before symptoms surface. But antimalarial drugs actually seem to prolong the malady once the disease has mostly run its course. The drugs block pathways crucial for the recovery of red blood cells, which are essential for healing.

While it’s a long way from mice models to the doctor’s office, Torres says the findings suggest that using genetic data (sometimes available with the help of a simple blood draw) of patients suffering from certain illnesses could yield more and better treatment options. “This work can shine a light on potential alternative methods we could use to help sick people — even when they’re asymptomatic,” she says.

And it’s not just malaria sufferers who could benefit. Her work may allow us to find better ways to combat far more common illnesses, including influenza. “We suspect this research is translatable across different diseases,” she says. “The goal is to find ways we can help treat patients more effectively.”

LUIZ TRILLO '11

Panama City, Panama • Procurement
Manager for Hilti’s Latin America
Operations

For ethical cross-cultural negotiation

THE GIG: As a procurement manager, **Luiz Trillo '11** is responsible for developing contracts with suppliers who provide the raw materials for Hilti, a company that makes construction-related products including drills, saws and levels. He also helps make sure that all of the thousand or so Hilti employees in Latin America are well supplied: He negotiates office rents, car leases and technology needs for workers.

THE SKILLS TO SUCCEED: Trillo has had to master the nuances of negotiating across cultures — a skill he practiced growing up in Brazil, getting his undergraduate degree at St. Edward’s, studying at the university’s partner campus in France and starting a master’s degree in Finance in the tiny European nation of Liechtenstein. “The approach you have for negotiating in Mexico looks different from the approach you have for Argentina, because they have different cultures and different values,” he says. “I’m always trying to understand other people’s thinking.”

THE ST. EDWARD’S ADVANTAGE: A Holy Cross education gave Trillo a rock-solid ethical foundation that makes him a trustworthy partner in a field that can often have a shady underside. “It’s very easy to take advantage of certain situations and not to be honest with your supplier,” he says. “But I don’t think of my work as a poker game, and I refuse to play that way. The ethical standards I honed at St. Edward’s have been valuable to me.”

MARLISA GOLDSMITH '11

Pittsburgh • Anchor and Reporter
for WPXI

For telling stories that make an impact

THE WORK: Marlisa Goldsmith '11 is an evening weekend anchor and general assignment reporter for WPXI, an NBC-affiliated television station in Pittsburgh.

As a journalist, Goldsmith has internalized the importance of unbiased reporting. But when she sees problems or injustice, she leverages the full force of her position in the media to help effect change. “I don’t believe our job as journalists is done after our newscasts are over. There’s a certain amount of power and responsibility [in this position], and I’m all about accepting that to enrich lives and better the community,” she says.

THE RESULTS: In 2011 and 2012, while working for KRBC-TV in Abilene, Texas, she covered a variety of issues linked to education; in 2012, the Texas State Teachers Association awarded her the School Bell Award for Outstanding Continuous Coverage. More recently, when she worked for a station in Little Rock and covered a deadly attack by a pack of pit bulls in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, she zeroed in on ordinances that required relatively little oversight of specific breeds of dogs; thanks in part to Goldsmith’s tenacious coverage, the ordinances were strengthened and harsher penalties were put into place in the event of future attacks. “I’m proud of that work, because I do think it makes a difference,” she says.

NEXT UP: Goldsmith has her eye on a full-time anchor position, which would give her more flexibility to pursue the in-depth reporting that she believes is most important to the community where she lives. “These are positions where you can do specials on things that are important to you, like adoption or the homeless community,” she says. “The local news is a place where you can really have an impact.”

BRENT JOHNSON '12

Washington, D.C. • Scheduler to U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker

For helping keep one of the American economy's VIPs focused on her work

We've all got busy lives, but few people pack more into a day than U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. In a single day in June, for example, she met with a head of state from a foreign country, spoke to two groups of CEOs and had two meetings at the White House. As the head of the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is focused on promoting economic growth and opportunity, she's in exceptionally high demand.

The person in the center of this whirlwind of activity is **Brent Johnson '12**, who is the scheduler in charge of every moment of Pritzker's 9-to-5 life in the nation's capital. "The secretary gets hundreds of speaking and meeting requests," he says. "I help filter those requests with her senior team and my assistant."

Because the logistics of his job involve day-to-day scheduling for Pritzker, that filtering role means he has a voice in helping determine the priorities of the secretary. "It's incredible to have a seat at the table with people who have been in D.C. a long time, and to have them take my advice," he says.

Johnson, who's worked in the secretary's office since 2014, had been dreaming of a political life since his high school years, when Barack Obama first ran for president. Inspired by Obama's campaign, he changed his St. Edward's major from Communication to Political Science and headed straight to graduate school to get a master's degree in Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Johnson's next move will depend on the incoming administration, but he says the political life is a fit for him. "If you care about politics and being a public servant, and you're willing to work long, hard hours, there's no better place to be than D.C."





Left to right: Marguerite Vichier-Guerre '13,
Claire Stone '13 and Evan Pun '14

MARGUERITE VICHIER-GUERRE '13

Cambridge, Massachusetts • Special Educator at KIPP Austin Public Schools, Harvard Graduate School of Education

For using real-world experiences to pursue a bigger vision of education's role in helping vulnerable students

THE FOUNDATION: As a Teach for America corps member in both Colorado and Texas, and a special education teacher for the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Austin Connections public charter school, **Marguerite Vichier-Guerre '13** has helped some of the country's most vulnerable students excel.

THE LESSONS: While Vichier-Guerre is inspired by the strides her students have made, she also sees that real change requires bigger thinking. Her students often don't have access to food, healthcare or psychological services that they desperately

need, and that absence of critical services has a huge impact on students' learning in the classroom. "It's not just about getting better teachers or creating a better curriculum," she says. "The issues are systemic, and we need to redefine the traditional notion of the school system."

THE VISION: Vichier-Guerre believes that schools should be a hub for all sorts of services: family workshops, immigration and mental health services, food banks, and dental clinics. "Creating partnerships within education that connect families with the resources they need will help address

some of the barriers students face," she says. This year, for example, she helped pilot family workshops at her KIPP school that educated parents about learning disabilities and helped families who have children with disabilities track down the community resources they need.

THE FUTURE: This fall, she entered the Harvard Graduate School of Education to study policy to understand how best to advocate for these resources in schools. She says her ultimate goal is to evolve school communities into centers with wraparound services.

CLAIRE STONE '13

San Francisco, California • Founder of Euclid Garden

For nurturing growth in unlikely places

A few months after graduating from St. Edward's, **Claire Stone '13** landed a job as a counselor at the San Francisco Girls' Home, a group home for teen girls released from juvenile incarceration.

After one year, the Social Work major left to become a City Hall Fellow for San Francisco's Recreation and Parks Department, a yearlong program designed to develop young, ambitious people into future civic leaders. But she couldn't get the girls out of her mind. "When I was working shifts, sometimes I thought, 'This is the worst,' because the days are tough," she says.

"But then when I left, I realized how much I missed it."

So she went back, this time as a volunteer. And in the tiny group home backyard, she and the girls began to plant a few seeds. And the space, named Euclid Garden for the street it's on, took off.

In the two years since the group began planting seeds, the garden has become an oasis for the girls, who now tend to tomatoes and spinach, roses and irises, lemon and orange trees. "This backyard used to be overgrown," says Stone. "Now we grow

our own salads, and the garden attracts butterflies and hummingbirds."

Earlier this year, Euclid Garden was named "Best Community Green Project" by San Francisco's Neighborhood Empowerment Network. Stone and others have raised \$7,000 to strengthen the garden and expand to the nearby boys' home. And one unexpected benefit is that people are using seed packets distributed by the project to start gardens all over San Francisco. "Watching a seedling pop open is such a rewarding and hopeful experience," she says. "I love being able to do this work with these kids."

EVAN PUN '14

San Francisco, California • Head of Product Design at First Derm

For using technology to bring the doctor's office to your smartphone

THE PROBLEM: That strange rash or worrisome-looking mole might mean it's time to take a trip to the dermatologist, but it takes an average of 28 days to get on the doctor's calendar, not to mention the time you'll waste in the waiting room before the doctor is ready to see you.

THE EPIPHANY: Diagnosing conditions in dermatology leans heavily on visual inspection, and today's increasingly powerful smartphone cameras can provide photos that often give doctors all the clues they need to make a diagnosis. **Evan Pun '14** and the team at First Derm saw the connection and dreamed up First Derm, an app that connects dermatologists with patients, for fees that start at just \$25.

THE EXECUTION: The team first developed a mobile app that allows users to take a photo, describe the problem and send it to a dermatologist. The dermatologist makes a diagnosis, suggests treatment and recommends helpful over-the-counter medicines. If the problem looks more serious, users receive a referral to a local dermatologist. The First Derm team has since developed other products, including a medical-grade lens that users can attach to their smartphone called a "smart mole scanner." Photos can be stored in the app, and users can send these detailed photos to First Derm's dermatologists whenever a mole looks suspicious.

THE RESULT: More than 20,000 people have used the app to get a diagnosis, and First Derm is in talks to partner with major players in the health field, including Walgreens. "In one case, a woman used our service and the dermatologist could not rule out the possibility that it was basal cell carcinoma," says Pun. When it was removed by a local dermatologist, the condition was confirmed. "The woman immediately wrote back and told us that the app was lifesaving for her. That kind of result is really rewarding."

WHAT'S NEXT: Pun is currently on sabbatical from First Derm as he completes a highly selective Whitespace product design fellowship, which places him in some of Silicon Valley's top startups to hone his skills.



MAGNA CARDA

**MAKING
IT AS A
HIP-HOP
BAND**

Megan Tillman '14 and Chris Beale '12 came to Austin for St. Edward's University, but they stayed to break into the city's music scene.

By Robyn Ross | Photography by Whitney Devin '10



The February night is chilly and damp, but the narrow courtyard at downtown Austin venue The Belmont is packed with fans of local hip-hop band Magna Carda. Smoke drifts through the spotlights as **Megan Tillman '14**, known on stage as Megz Kelli, spits rhymes into the microphone, her voice defiant and taunting. Her waist-length hair, which began the show piled atop her head, has come loose and swings back and forth as she raps, swaying to the beat and gesturing with her free arm. To her left **Chris Beale '12**, aka Dougie Do, alternates between playing one of the two keyboards in front of him and checking the laptop that mixes some of the group's sound. Behind them on stage are guitarist Eric Nikolaides, bassist Derek Van Wagner and drummer Mike Gonzales, each nodding to the beat.

The crowd erupts as the song ends, and Tillman nods appreciatively, grinning.

"So this next song is called 'The Root,'" she tells her audience, as Gonzales clicks his drumsticks together and heads bob to the rhythm. "It's pretty much about your roots" (she points to a fan in the front row), "your roots" (she points to someone else), "my roots. I'm from New Orleans, and that's where I grew up and learned everything. This one is for my grandmother, because when I think about this song, I think about her. I think about all the dreams I'm trying to pursue and about my roots, and about where I come from — and you never forget that." She nods at Beale and, in the next breath, launches into the song.

*Everybody come from somewhere/ or
maybe nowhere*

*The place you wake from/ The place we ain't
from that makes us scared*

*The projects, or overseas/ the trailer parks
The poverty line/ place where there ain't no
art on the walls*

*Just pictures of Jesus and civil rights leaders/
or Confederate flags and Elvis ...*

"The Root" is one of 11 tracks on Magna Carda's first full-length album, *CirQlation*, a collection *Austin Chronicle* music critic Kahron Spearman gave four stars and called "a quantum leap forward." The album's release was the spotlight of the February concert at The Belmont, which attracted new fans, as well as those who have followed



Magna Carda since it formed in 2011. The band is a tour de force on stage, blending rap with live instrumentation and frequently collaborating with friends and guest artists. Its sound is influenced by jazz, blues, soul, R&B and old-school hip-hop and has drawn comparisons to some of the biggest names in its genre.

“Think of Magna Carda as Austin’s answer to The Roots, except they’ve got a ferocious and charismatic frontwoman bound for stardom in Megz Kelli,” Morgan Davis, managing editor of Austin music blog Ovrlld, told the website Mashable in 2014. Recently, a fan posted on Instagram: “You took the best things from The Roots, old Outkast and Jamiroquai and made it new and incredible.” What most fans don’t know is that the band’s distinctive sound emerged as a response to obstacles it faced early on.

And that Magna Carda started in a St. Edward’s University campus apartment.



Tillman and Beale were both musicians — Beale dabbling in production, Tillman writing songs and rapping — before they came to St. Edward’s, but neither

was set on a musical career until they met in 2011. Beale’s father worked in the gas industry, and as a result, Beale grew up in Houston; Perth, Australia; and London. He came to St. Edward’s because of its Austin location and to play club soccer. Tillman, too, was attracted to Austin and chose the university for its small size and English Writing and Rhetoric program.

The two were introduced by mutual friend **Greg Rucker ’12**. Beale had been teaching himself music software, working on beats with Rucker and posting music on MySpace. But, Beale remembers, Rucker kept telling him, “Man, you’ve got to meet this girl who can rap. She’s got skills.” Beale and Tillman first performed together at Hip-Hop on the Hilltop, a concert and festival of hip-hop culture that debuted in 2011. Beale, Rucker, Tillman and a handful of friends formed a six-member band that headlined the show. Performing was a rush, but wrangling so many musicians (who were also full-time students) was exhausting. “Everyone had it together for 40 minutes, and then I was like, ‘I’m never doing this again,’” Beale remembers. “After that, we dropped the band thing, and the two of us stuck together.”

That meant holing up in Beale’s campus apartment after class, setting Tillman’s rhymes to Beale’s beats. In those early days, it seemed like every class at St. Edward’s somehow ended up in their music. Beale was taking a piano elective to build his skills on the keyboard. “I would learn some classical, super-beginner stuff in the Carriage House in the morning, and I’d run back to the apartment and plug in my own keyboard,” he remembers. “I was like, ‘All right, now let me try and make a beat out of it.’”

As his graduation drew nearer, Beale realized he could marry his Digital Media Management major with his musical avocation — in fact, it would be imperative for him to understand the business side of music if he and Tillman were going to pursue it. When the duo started getting small live gigs, Beale consulted now-retired Assistant Professor of Digital Media Management **Gregg Perry** for help interpreting the legal language in those early contracts.

Meanwhile, Tillman was filling her lyrics with ideas she'd encountered in classes taught by Associate Professor of English Writing and Rhetoric **Drew Loewe**, Adjunct Professor of University Studies **Tim Braun** and Writer-in-Residence **Carrie Fountain**. In a World History class taught by Assistant Professor of University Studies **Peter Austin**, Tillman and her classmates were charged with writing about a topic that had never been chosen by a previous student. Tillman chose the Nation of Islam.

"That led me to the Black Panther party and all of this other stuff that was going on in the '70s," she says. "It actually started my infatuation with the '70s and '70s music. I was sending Chris all these Curtis Mayfield songs to sample. A lot of what I'm writing now is slightly political and looks back on black history in the '60s and '70s. It's all been building on knowledge that [I gained in] that class."

Tillman and Beale started recording mixtapes — the hip-hop equivalent of a demo — and releasing music online: *Creature Creative* in late 2011; *Shoe String Theory* in 2012; and *Van Geaux* in 2014. The cover for *Creature Creative* was drawn by a St. Edward's student they approached in the art lab; another friend had access to a color printer and helped them make the covers; a Photocommunications student was their first photographer. "Our first three projects were definitely total St. Edward's collaborations," Tillman says.



In 2012 the duo started contacting Austin venues about playing live shows, but the response was curiously tepid. It seemed like Megz Kelli and Dougie Do could only get booked at Hip-Hop Wednesday at The 512 bar downtown. Four years ago, Austin's hip-hop scene received little attention — even big names performed in Dallas and Houston but skipped the capital city. Lacking a network to tap into, Tillman and Beale decided to rely on shoe leather, walking from bar to bar downtown, leaving their CD and their number. Other than The 512, they didn't get a single booking.

What they got was a skeptical question: *What kind of crowd are you going to bring?*

"It definitely had a lot to do with the basic hip-hop and rap stigma," Tillman says, suggesting club owners were wary of booking an act in a genre they associated with lyrics focused on violence or misogyny.

But Magna Carda calls its genre "conscious rap." Some of its songs are about relationships, real or imagined; others are infused with a self-conscious sense of humor. "The Root," off *CirQlation*, is more of a social commentary. Tillman grew up in a struggling area of New Orleans, but after Hurricane Katrina, her family resettled outside Dallas because they had relatives in Plano. The upper-middle-class suburbs where Tillman went to high school were the polar opposite of her childhood neighborhood in New Orleans.

"So I can see life from the perspective of the person who can't make the bills this week, and from the perspective of the person who has excess," Tillman explains. "At the end of the day, you are where you come from, and you are what you're rooted in. If you're rooted in evil and [are] mean-spirited, that's ultimately what you'll return to. If you're good-spirited — if you're rooted in values and a strong

"I THOUGHT, 'WHAT IF WE NAMED OURSELVES SOMETHING LIKE MAGNA CARTA?' THEN WE WOULD BE LIMITING OUR POWERS, SO EVERYBODY'S EQUAL CONTRIBUTION IS VALUED."

—MEGAN TILLMAN





“GETTING THE BAND WAS A GAME-CHANGER FOR US,” BEALE SAYS. “WHEN WE PLAYED THE FIRST TIME, PEOPLE SAID, ‘HEY, GOOD JOB,’ AND THAT WAS IT. WHEN WE CAME BACK WITH A BASSIST, PEOPLE WERE LIKE, ‘OH, SNAP, Y’ALL ARE SERIOUS.’”

— CHRIS BEALE

upbringing — it doesn’t matter what you have to go through. In the end you’re going to come out polished because you’re going to return to your root for guidance.”

Despite their innovative flavor of hip-hop, the duo continued to hit roadblocks for more than a year. They started studying bands that were getting gigs and noticed that, regardless of their genre or quality, those groups had a certain Live-Music-Capital-of-the-World sound: amplified guitar, bass, drums. Tillman and Beale decided to make a crucial pivot — one that ultimately transformed their sound and musical identity. They recruited a guitarist, a bassist and a drummer and reworked their sound to incorporate live instrumentation alongside Tillman’s rapping and Beale’s beats. Almost immediately, club owners who had ignored them started returning their calls.

“Getting the band was a game-changer for us,” Beale says. “When we played the first time, people said, ‘Hey, good job,’ and that was it. When we came back with a bassist, people were like, ‘Oh, snap, y’all are serious.’ So we brought in a guitarist and a drummer, and they were like, ‘Wow, let’s get you to play Saturday.’”

While live bands aren’t common in hip-hop, the strategic change Tillman and Beale made to get Austin clubs’ attention put them in the company of well-known hip-hop band The Roots as well as newer artists like Chance the Rapper and Kendrick Lamar, who incorporate live instrumentation into their sound. The duo’s evolution into a full band, with the addition of Nikolaides in early 2013, and Van Wagner and Gonzales in 2014, also meant the group had to shift how it operated and made decisions. And it needed a new name. For that, Tillman took her cue from World History with **Peter Austin**.

“We had been working closely with three other players, and their opinions were important to us, and we were all creating music together,” Tillman remembers. “So I thought, ‘What if we named

ourselves something like Magna Carta?’ Then we would be limiting our powers, so everybody’s equal contribution is valued. That was the concept of limiting the power of the kings. So it would be a check on ourselves, and a check on each other.” But “Magna Carta,” they thought, was too direct a reference, so they swapped the ‘t’ for a ‘d.’ It was a nice perk that the band’s initials matched the initials of its original members.

△ △ △

Today Magna Carta regularly plays gigs at popular Austin venues like Scoot Inn and Empire Control Room. The full band rehearses on Tuesdays at Gonzales’ house, but Tillman, 24, and Beale, 26, get together other evenings in Beale’s garage, where they tinker on new songs in a homemade soundproof booth. Both work as contractors in the fraud detection division of Facebook, a day job that’s flexible enough to allow them to log their shifts from a hotel room while on tour.

The two, who describe their relationship as “like brother and sister,” have spent so much time together that they have an intuitive connection, anticipating one another’s jokes and completing each other’s sentences. In a blurring of the lines between life and art, they often refer to one another by their performing names, Megz and Dougie.

Critics often describe the band as poised to “break out” — whether by releasing a hit single, touring enough to establish a substantial fan base or catching the attention of the right promoter. “Megz is an exceptional talent — one of the top two or three rappers in Austin, and I’m being conservative,” says Spearman, the *Austin Chronicle* critic. “She has the most star power and room for growth. [Magna Carta’s] live show is fire. No disrespect to the

rest of the band, but two things will drive them: Dougie's continued improvement in production, and Megz's vocal talent."

Female frontwomen are relatively rare in hip-hop, and Tillman knows younger artists look to her the way she looks to her role models. She cites singer-songwriters like Erykah Badu and Lauryn Hill as some of her biggest influences. "And artists like Teena Marie, Queen Latifah and Eve — those women have always been seen as uncompromising and powerful. They come from a time when it was much harder for them to break through. And musical activists like Nina Simone and Billie Holiday were like pioneers, so I look at them like a guide."

Now women, and even young girls, approach her after shows to connect with their own inspiration. "I always encourage

people to feel that they can do it, too — especially young women or women of color, or anyone who feels like they're facing the odds," she says. "So many people come up to me and say, 'I didn't think I could write, but I'm going to try it now,' and I always put time aside after a show to make sure I communicate with those women. That's the kind of encouragement that we all need."

These days, the band is channeling its energy into preparation for performances this fall at the Austin City Limits Music Festival and Sound on Sound Fest. They'll also head out on their third tour: this time to the East Coast, where cities like Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., have longstanding hip-hop scenes.

Getting signed is not a priority for the band that's done virtually everything — production, booking, promotion — itself.

A distribution deal would be better, Beale says, because it wouldn't take as much of a cut of the group's work but would help find a wider audience for its music. He says Magna Carda wouldn't turn down an offer from the right label, but "so far we haven't owed anybody anything. We haven't even done any Kickstarters, so it's cool just to fund ourselves without having to try to get signed."

For now, "making it" means getting to the point where they can follow their passion full time. "A Grammy would be nice," Tillman quips. "But if we could quit our jobs and still pay the bills, then that means we're doing what we love every single day. To me that's making it — and it doesn't get better than that."



Honor Roll of **GIVING**

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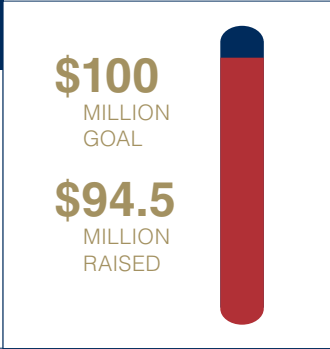
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Opening Doors To Their World

This year, we reached \$94.5 million on our way to a goal of \$100 million by 2017 through The Campaign for St. Edward's University.



The red tiles on Main Building's iconic roof will be repaired or replaced after **339 donors** gave to the project (the building's windows, limestone and interior will also receive major restoration).



440+

Students impacted by scholarship donations (140 of them were Munday Scholars, funded by our most generous individual donors, Pat and Bill Munday)

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An internship helped a Psychology major (and recipient of **4 private scholarships**) launch a monthly art workshop for at-risk teens.

9

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We nearly doubled our alumni giving percentage, from 5.5% last year to

9.74%
this year

Alumni volunteers helped recruit future Hilltoppers at

7
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The Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) reunion brought **56 recent alumni** back to the hilltop for Homecoming and Family Weekend; **231 alumni** of all class years attended the weekend's **27 events**, from sports games to a tailgate and everything in between.



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Luci Baines Johnson '97 and Ian Turpin
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Hope and Kevin '80, MBA '84 Koch
Charles Kolodzey '36[†]
Ronya[†] and George[†] Kozmetsky
Margaret MBA '98 and Frank Krasovec
Margaret[†] and R.B.[†] Lewis
Kathy and Griff Lord
Nancy[†] and Alex '63[†] Marusak
Evelyn and Fred hs '63, '67[†] McNair
Larry Meyers '67
Marie-Hélène and Albert Milhomme
Lavon '74[†] and Verne Philips
Steve Shadowen '80
Nela and Bob '63 Wilems

Silver (\$500,000 to \$999,999)

Linda and John[†] Amey
Germain Böer '60
Estate of Nancy Oatman Davis
Laurie and Ross Garber

The Family of Mr. Milton Hart[†]
Josephine[†] and Odas[†] Jung
Marcia[†] and Dick Kinsey
Cynthia and Gregory Kozmetsky
Carolyn Lewis
Estate of M. Jean McKemie
Debra and David '68 Moeller
J. B. N. Morris hs '48, '52
William Zanardi

Bronze (\$100,000 to \$499,999)

Debbie Adams
Sheik Abdulaziz Algosaibi[†]
Bonita and James[†] Anderson
Allen Asseo[†]
J. Estela Hollin-Avery and James Avery
Michelle and Lorne '67 Bain
John Bauer '62
Shirley and Edward '50 Block
Sherron and Guy hs '64, '68 Bodine
Carmel and Thomas Borders
Anthony Boros '69
Georgia and Leo hs '52, '62 Braun
Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province
Christy and Bill hs '64, '68 Camp
Regina Lewis and Joseph Chen
Bobbie and David Colley
Susan and Don '69 Cox
Brother John Crowe, CSC '61
Henry Curran[†]
Lorrie and Kenneth DeAngelis
Estate of E. J. Dunigan Jr.
Ruth Elliott[†]
Ronald Finch Family
Estate of Charlotte Flynn
Dell Gully
Alma Hanson[†]
Robert Harriss 1902[†]
Rani Clasquin and Eric Harslem
Patricia Hayes
Evelyn and Robert '70 Henry
Dealey and David Herndon

Margaret[†] and Louis '30[†] Hertenberger
Robert Hilliard '80 and Catherine Tobin
William P. Hobby
Ada "Tay" Birt Hodges[†]
Rosemary Guzman Hook MLA '10 and
Allan Hook[†]
Betsy and David MLA '05 Hughart
Gloria and James hs '49, '53[†] Ikard
Donna and John hs '50, '54 Ikard
Johnna MAHS '93, MAC '03 and
Stephen MBA '94 Jones
Nancy Macdonald Jordan '03 and
Mark Jordan
Leslie and Jim Keffer
Jacquelyn '78[†] and Mark '78[†] Kleypas
Estate of Alfreda Klmitcheck
Theresa '71 and Gregory '70[†] LaValle
Sandra '89 and Terry '85 Lawell
Cecil Lawson '76[†]
Millie Leonard[†]
Rosemary and Marvin Lewis
Mary and John '65 Lucas
Tottie and Joseph '80 Lucci III
Jean and Austin '57 Maley
Mary Jane and Wendell '02, MLA '05,
MBA '06 Mayes Jr.
Sue[†] and Frank[†] McBee Jr.
Nancy Turner McCoy '97[†]
Jane and Patrick '62 McDonald
John McKenna[†]
David Misunas
Moir Misunas '93
Kay '98 and John Mooney
Lois and William hs '64 Moran
Lewis Myers
Timothy O'Brien '01 and Anne Gilliam
Ines and Kevin '73 O'Connor
Patricia O'Connor
Ramona Oliver '99, MBA '01
Patricia[†] and Ed '55 Olliges
Joseph O'Neal
Brother Malcolm O'Neil, CSC '50[†]

Marilyn '74 and Kevin '73 O'Neill
Eileen[†] and Richard[†] Orton
William Penn, Sr.[†]
Kathryn and Donald '60[†] Penner
Sally and Michael '65 Pierle
Donna and Ted '60 Popp
Betty Reichel '88
Mary Kay and Kenneth '61 Reimer
Shirley and Thomas '52 Rheinberger
Estate of Frank Ribelin
Sally[†] and Harold[†] Robinson
Joan and Martin Rose
Jane and Tom '64 Ryan
Janet Wright-Santos '82 and Felipe Santos '82
Anthony Scaperlanda '59 and
MarySue Schriber
Deborah and James Schneider
Catherine[†] and Charles '33[†] Schulze
Ellen and Paul hs '68, '72 Seals
Kathleen and Bill hs '58 Sharman
Anna Skinner
Charles Slavik Jr.
Emma and Charles '35[†] Slavik Sr.
Judy '71 and Raymond '69 Smilor
Jare and Jim Smith
Nav Sooch
Lou Ann and David hs '68 Spaeth
David Sprague '95
Martha St. Romain-Avery '84, MBA '93 and
James Avery
Eliza and Stuart Stedman
TerraLynn Walters-Swift and A. Earl[†] Swift
Fay and Richard MBA '79 Timmins
Anita and Paul '91 Tramonte
Joan and Samuel '56[†] Tramonte
Jane and John[†] Trout
Virginia[†] and Vernon[†] Wattinger
Melba and Ted Whatley
Tomi and Peter Winstead
Jackie and Frank '69 Woodruff
Mary and Robert '62 Zapalac

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Corporate and Foundation Leadership Partners are contributors that have given lifetime gifts to the university of \$100,000 or more.

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Members have made a gift plan in favor of St. Edward's University. Gift plans include bequests or gifts from a living trust, charitable gift annuities, the designation of life insurance benefits and charitable trusts.

Judy Anderson '91, MBA '98
Andrea and Jack Angelo
John Bauer '62
Rose and Jim hs '47, '51 Bausch
Anthony Blasi '68
Shirley and Edward '50 Block
Germain Böer '60
Anthony Boros '69
Georgia and Leo hs '52, '62 Braun
Thomas Bronchetti '67
Cynthia and Jo '61 Carroll Jr.
Marvin Cavallino '60
Dorothy and Warren '52 Clemens
Susan and Don '69 Cox
Flora de Hart
Jacqueline and Michael '69 DeVault
Leona and Joseph '40 Dickmann
Anthony Florek
Gerard Foley '60
Cass Grange
Patricia Hayes
William Hopfensack III '69
Gloria Ikard
Brother Reginald Jacques, CSC
Bunny Joubert
Robert Kamm '61
Richard Kinsey
Margie and Tom Kintz
Margaret MBA '98 and Frank Krasovec
Kenneth Lamy '77
Margaret and Arnold '57 Landry
Sandra '89 and Terry '85 Lawell

Mary and John '65 Lucas
Michael Lucksinger '74
Jean and Austin '57 Maley
Marie Martine
Jane and Patrick '62 McDonald
Evelyn McNair
Larry Meyers '67
Marie- Hélène and Albert Milhomme
David Misunas
Moiria Misunas '93
Debra and David '69 Moeller
Laura Munoz '06
Lewis Myers
Ramona Oliver '99, MBA '01
Joseph O'Neal
Ramona Padilla '72
Kathryn Penner
Laura Pigg '74
Thomas Porfidio '60
John Poth '84, MBA '86
Alvin Prochaska '51
Mary Kay and Kenneth '61 Reimer
Shirley and Thomas '52 Rheinberger
Joe Roberts '90
Joan and Martin Rose
Steve Shadowen '80
Marie Shaw
Anna Skinner
Charles Slavik Jr.
Emma Slavik
Angela and Charles Smith
Stephanie Sobotik

Martha St. Romain-Avery '84, MBA '93
Martin Tenney III '55
Rosa Valencia '84
Mary Walker '94
Nela and Bob '63 Wilems
Jackie and Frank '69 Woodruff
William Zanardi
Mary and Robert '62 Zapalac

In Memoriam Members

Larry Armijo '58
Allan Asseo
Harald Becker
Paul Brock '50
Robert Brune '52
Bonnelle and J.L. Callaway
Elvira Christerson '84
Henry Curran
Nancy Oatman Davis
Catherine Dunlap
E.J. Dunigan Jr.
Richard Early '55
Charlotte Flynn
Francine and Edward Fries
Margaretha and Jac Gubbels
Alma Hanson
Margaret and Louis '30 Hertenberger
Ada "Tay" Birt Hodges
Floy and Frank Holloway
James Ikard hs '49, '53
Josephine and Odas Jung

Alfreda Klimitchek
Charles Kolodzey '36
Richard Kowalkowski '58
David Landry '65
Louis Landry
Cecil Lawson '76
Millie Leonard
Brother Daniel Lynch, CSC
Veniece and Tony Marrone
Nancy and Alex '63 Marusak
Nancy Turner McCoy '97
Irma McFadden
M. Jean McKemie
John McKenna
Fred McNair hs '63, '67
Gloria Neale
La Fern O'Hanlon '31
Brother Malcolm O'Neil, CSC '50
Eileen and Richard Orton
William Penn Sr.
Donald Penner '60
Pearle and Robert Ragsdale
Frank Ribelin
Sally and Harold Robinson
Catherine and Charles '33 Schulze
Rosemarie Schwarzer
Jack Shaw '43
Charles Slavik Sr. '35
LeRoy Spangler Jr. '57
John Brooks Williams

† = deceased, hs = high school, P = parent(s) or grandparent(s) of student or alumnus, F = faculty or staff member of St. Edward's

ALUMNI NOTES

Honor Roll of Volunteers

Service to others. It's at the heart of the university mission, and it's at the center of the St. Edward's University Alumni Association. Here, we recognize those who serve St. Edward's in furthering the mission of the university — and share the stories of just a few of those as examples of the many ways alumni continue their involvement to make the hilltop a better place. Thank you!

The following list represents volunteer contributions between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016.

Matthew Abbott '03	Noah Corn '12, MACSD '14	Paul Gerling MBA '98	George Kuhle '15
Jane Agnew '12	Jessica Coronado '15	Antonio Godoy '11	Vincent Laurita '71
Amanda Aguirre '10	Samantha Cruz '10	Alan Goss MBA '09	Vivian Le '14
Vanessa Alaniz '08	Benjamin Cukerbaum '10	Sarah Granger-Glauser '07	Dianey Leal '15
Le'Darrion Allen '13	Sarahi Dajlala '08	Erin Gray '13	Jessica Liss '14
Teresa Antonini '76	Clair Daly '15	Rebecca Green '13	Lynna Longaro '13
Joanna Arevalo '12	Jonathan Davis '10	Rene Greenwald '66	Christine Lucht '12
Arianna Auber '12	Karissa Devore '12	John Grieves hs '66, '70	Austin Lytle '09
Rocio Avila '12	John Dudley hs '59, '64	Ryan Grundy '12	Andres Madrid '10
Sandra Avila Ramirez '96	Erin Duke '07	Cynthia Gurrola '14	Crystal Magni Palomino '08
Kristina Bachman '07, MSOLE '12	Nathalie Eguiza-Gonzalez '15	Sophia Gutierrez '14	Mark Magnon '94
David Bain MBA '12	Kaitlin Eighme '14	Hunter Hagemann '13	Jenny Marquez '07
Gregory Ball '66	Idan Englander '13	Sarah Hastings '04	Pasquale Mattozzi '13
John Barajas hs '62, '66	Camille Eslick '13	Michael Haywood '15	Carmen Maverick '89
Gracie Barrera '10	Fred Estrello '77	Hunter Heimbürger '09	Becca May '14
Alicia Barron '03	Analisa Falcon '08	Kevin Hennessy '01, MLA '08	Kelsey McClure '06
Stephanie Bazan '02	Samuel Farias '12	Melissa Hernandez '07	Jennifer McGee '07
Kinlan Beck '99	Irma Fernandez '13	Melissa Hilliard '15	Mike McGee '07
Melinda Benavides '10	Gabriela Ferreiro-Chavez '15	Robert Hilliard '80	Richard McLinden '90
Bryce Bencivengo '10	Joseph Filip '10	Luz Hinojosa '03	Weldon Mikulik '66
Bethany Bennett '12	John "Floody" Flood '71	James Hinson '12	Carolina Molina '13
Emily Blasdell '13	Nancy Flores '03	Andres Hoch '09	Meghan Moore '14
Charles Boggess hs '66	Reyna Flores '08	Richard Hood '71	Ismael Moreno '14
John Bradley '71	Nina Fraga '12	Yvonne Hood '71	Christopher Naley '13
Karla Braun '13	Katherine Frazer '15	Sara Hoover '11	Br. William Nick, CSC '64
Lena Brown '15	Claire Frisby '12	Kelsey Howard '13	Juan Nieto hs '66
Neil Brown '02	Marion Frizzell '11	Sonia Hurtado '04	Michael O'Brien '90
Kari Campbell '13	Rosemary Galvan '08	Lauren Jackson '12	Kelli O'Donnell '11
Margaret Chatman '79	Tony Garza '66	Kyle Johnson '11	Danielle Older '09
Alexandra Chavez '14	J.D. Garza '93	Amy Jones '15	Kellie O'Lear '11
Milagros Chirino '08	Maureen Gavin '76	Lauren Kelley '15	Natalia Ornelas '08
Shelby Cole '13	Amy Gayhart '07	Kayla Knox '10	Anthony Ortiz '04

ADMISSION VOLUNTEER

Represents St. Edward's at events for prospective students | Kevin Hennessy '01, MLA '08

Why I'm involved: St. Edward's is my second home and second family, so it seems natural to volunteer.

How I connect with new students: I share the experiences I had with **Lorrain Perea**, who became my academic advisor and also helped me with accommodations for learning with dyslexia, and the late **Harald Becker**, associate professor of German, who encouraged me to take a higher-level German course and later taught me in other courses that shaped my worldview.

LOVE BLUE GIVE GOLD AMBASSADOR

Assists with the fundraising social media campaign to increase alumni participation | Christine Lucht '12

Life lessons from St. Edward's: Teamwork makes the dream work! We need to communicate, be positive and work well with others if we are going to be great citizens of the world and lifelong members of the St. Edward's community.

Favorite campus event: It's always Homecoming. I really love the pride the St. Edward's community has. It's a wonderful time to go back and see friends, mentors and all the improvements on campus.

Stay Connected

Email:

seualumni@stedwards.edu

Web:

stedwards.edu/alumni

Phone:

512-448-8415

800-964-7833

Mail:

St. Edward's University

Campus Mail Box 1028

Attn: Data Specialist

3001 South Congress Avenue

Austin, Texas 78704-6489



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Alumni Association"

ALUMNI BOARD VOLUNTEER

Provides guidance, leadership and active support of the alumni association's events and volunteer-engagement initiatives | Alicia Barron '03

My role as the new board president: My key job as president is serving as an official liaison between the alumni community and the university. It's important to connect and really listen to what alumni have to say.

How alumni from different classes can help each other: It's important to show students that after they leave the hilltop, they have a network of supportive alumni who care about the mission of St. Edward's.

Matthew Ortiz '12
Sara Ortiz '09
Erica Panado '16
Alberto Pasillas '06
William Pate '06
Dora Perez '11
Jesse Plaza '15
Ellen Pollard '71
Charles Porter MLA '07
Vincent Powell '09
Isabel Raya '14
Jennifer Revering '10
Anabel Rodriguez '14
Connie Rey Rodriguez '04,
MAHS '06
Juan Carlos Rodriguez '98
James Rosales '93
Michael Rozelle '09
Jennifer Ruiz '07
Chris Ryan '81
Josie Ryan '80, MAHS '85
Danielle Samuel '12
Sheyla Sanchez '12
Elias Sandoval '07
Larry Schaber '71
Allyson Rose Schaeffer '03,
MBA '10
Jacqueline Schicker '15
Ryan Schmidt '11
Kristian Scott '13
Nicole Seligman '12
Kendyll Severa '15
Steve Shadowen '80

Alex Simons '12
Hunter Skrasek '14
Stevie Smith '08
Jonathan Stockdale '13, MBA '14
Claire Stone '13
Ben Strader MBA '04
Hatton Sumner '66
Doug Sutherland '66
Melinda Szabo '15
Larry Tanguma '03
Theresa Tarantino '10
William Teague '13
Matthew Thompson '13
Robert Topley '71
John Traphagan '13
Rudy Trejo '08
Tom Uko '66
Marissa Valencia '06
Jose Vasquez '10
Lupita Villanueva '05
Jessica Villegas Salinas '03
Evelyn Walford '73
Andrew E. Weber '12
Bethany White '15
James Wight '66
Matthew Wolski '13
Austin Wood '09
Nairod Woods '13
April Workman '09
Erica Zamora '11
Peter Zenner '71
Charles Zimmerly hs '66
Anthony Zubia '14

CAREER VOLUNTEER

Shares career expertise as a speaker or blogger | Mike Rozelle '08

What makes a good intern: The best interns are the ones that enter the job as a blank slate — not that they are unprepared or unskilled, but they intend to learn as much as they can from everyone.

My advice to students who are undecided about their career: After each internship, write down everything you loved, and everything you hated. The earlier you can identify your preferences, the easier your transition from college to career will be.

REGIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTER VOLUNTEER

Works with a team to plan and promote social events and service opportunities for alumni, wherever they live | Erica Zamora '11

My favorite alumni chapter event: A lot of people come to volunteer for the Angel Tree program through the Salvation Army every Christmas, where we gather gifts for low-income families. My favorite event, though, is summer send-offs because I get to put my Orientation student-leader hat back on and remind all the incoming students and parents of what a great decision they made and all that they have to look forward to.

On bridging the generations: One of my favorite parts is getting to know older alumni. We see each other at different events, and I know about their families. When you find out someone has gone to St. Edward's, it's a warm welcome, and you have an automatic connection.

CLASS REUNION AMBASSADOR

Serves on a reunion committee and helps plan and promote reunion events | Lt. Col. John L. Barajas hs '62, '66

The benefits of showing up and supporting your alma mater: I tell alumni that the reunion isn't complete without their presence — and I gently remind them they aren't getting any younger. The size of a gift is not as significant as increasing the number of alumni who support St. Edward's.

Why I maintain alumni connections: Wherever we go, whatever we do, St. Edward's will always be a part of us. No matter how infrequent the communication, there is always a special tie that binds us.

Do you miss the hilltop? Do you want to reconnect with peers and fellow alumni? Are you searching for ways to serve your alma mater? The St. Edward's University Alumni Association is here to help. Driven by volunteers, the alumni association keeps Hilltoppers connected through alumni chapters and networks throughout Texas and beyond.

You spent four years on the hilltop, but you are a Hilltopper for life. Learn more about connecting with alumni and volunteering through the alumni association at stedwards.edu/alumni.



Erica Zamora '11



Mike Rozelle '08



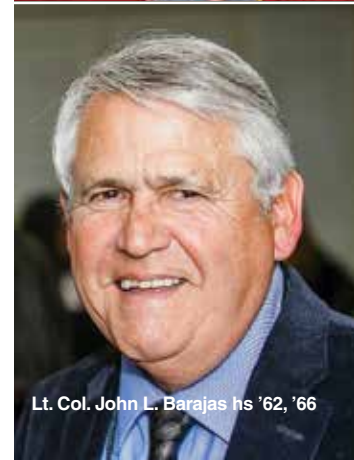
Christine Lucht '12



Kevin Hennessy '01, MLA '08



Alicia Barron '03



Lt. Col. John L. Barajas hs '62, '66

Class Notes

SEND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES

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

1970s

Melita “Gigi” Rodriguez ’74, of Laredo, is the deputy director of the River Pierce Foundation, founded by **Michael Tracy ’64**.

Maj. Jose O. Montemayor ’75, of Austin, joined the board of Vanbridge Holdings LLC.

Mark White ’75, of Austin, is a social worker and psychotherapist in private practice in Austin. He also is a co-founder of Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

1980s

Gary Cadwallader ’86, of Ormond Beach, Fla., is the director of education and community engagement at Palm Beach Dramaworks.

Sabrina Bermingham ’88, of Chicago, Ill., is the founder and director of operations and marketing for the Peace Center of Rogers Park.

1990s

Michael Lucas ’97, of Decatur, Georgia, spoke at the American Bar Association’s annual Equal Justice Conference in Chicago and the Points of Lights Conference on Volunteering and Service in Detroit. Lucas is an attorney with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and serves as the deputy director.

Alejandra Crowder-Schaefer ’99, of Attleboro, Mass., is a project manager for the Marvel and Hero Mashers teams at Hasbro Inc.

Anna Silver ’99, of Houston, authored the book *Songbyrd*, which was published in August by Jolly Fish Press.

2000s

Suzon Tropez Holmes MBA ’00, of Buda, published a paranormal fantasy novel, *Creole Moon: The Betrayal*.

B. J. Harding ’02, of Manchester, N.H., earned a master’s degree in Financial Economics from Boston University.

Salmeron Barnes ’03, of Houston, is a global strategy lead for Mercer.

Monica Clem ’04, of Houston, is the director of alumni relations at St. Pius X High School.

Dianne Arnett MAC ’08, of Austin, co-authored the book *Sudden Wealth: Blessing or Burden? The Stories of Eight Families and the Financial AND Emotional Challenges They Face with Financial Windfalls*.

Brandon Maxwell ’08, of New York, won the Council of Fashion Designers of America’s Swarovski Award for Womenswear, Fashion Group International’s Rising Star Award for Womenswear, and the Best Designer Debut Award at *The Daily Front Row*’s Fashion Los Angeles Awards.

Amanda Pallagi Naim ’08, of Austin, has been named executive pastry chef at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin.

Marcelo “Marc” Clifford ’09, MSPM ’11, of Virginia Beach, Va., is a senior project manager for Regent University.

Martin Salinas MLA ’09, of San Luis, Argentina, is a professor of Economics and Communication at the National University of San Luis.

Araminta Sellers MSOLE ’09, of Austin, is the executive director of the Headliners Foundation of Texas.

2010s

Le’Darrion Allen ’13, of Austin, is a program specialist for the Texas Crime Stoppers Council in Gov. Greg Abbott’s office.

BIRTHS

To **Matthew Kinsey ’93** and Liv Kinsey, daughter Mae Solveig Jette Kinsey on Nov. 3, 2015

To **John Alonso ’95** and Andrea Hachey, daughter Rachel Ashley Alonso on Oct. 9, 2015

To **Allyson Rose Schaeffer ’03, MBA ’10** and **Erik Schaeffer ’03**, son Floyd Schaeffer on March 5, 2016

To **Alicia (Rivas) Rodriguez ’06** and **Adam Rodriguez ’07**, son Matthew Lee Rodriguez on Feb. 13

To **Amanda Brown ’08** and David Brown, daughter Lena Brown on Dec. 22, 2015

To **Kaleigh Gardiner ’09** and **Justin Gardiner ’09**, son Ezra Daniel Gardiner on Dec. 2, 2015

To **JaWayla Hackworth ’11**, daughter Jocelyn Hackworth on July 12, 2015

MARRIAGES

Rebecca Wagner MBA ’88 to Larry Sproul, of Catonsville, Maryland, on March 25

Jamie Schoener ’04 to Edward Moreno, of Victoria, on April 9

Joseph Riley Sharman ’04 to Lee-Taylor Evans, of Austin, on Feb. 27

Alexander Leist ’12 to **Katherine Murray ’13**, of Austin, on March 19

Michael Smith ’12 to **Catherine Lippman-Bartkus ’11, MAC ’14**, of Dallas, on March 5



Thomas Uko ’66 and Elizabeth Ann “Betty” Lopez Uko, of Olathe, Kan., renewed their vows at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel on June 19. The Ukos celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 29.



Patricio Canavati '13, Leonidas Lacayo '14, Eduardo Maradiaga '15 and Felix Lazcano '16 met as students at St. Edward's. Although the four have scattered for various jobs, they traveled to Lazcano's hometown of Monterrey, Mexico, to celebrate his graduation by climbing the Sierra Madre.

IN MEMORIAM

- James Maloy hs '40**, of Austin, on Oct. 28, 2015
- Henry Guerra hs '46**, of Linn, on March 16
- Terry Dietsch '54**, of Evansville, Ind., on July 29, 2015
- Brother Joseph Berg '55, CSC**, of Notre Dame, Ind., on Jan. 27
- John Williamson '56**, of Galveston, on Dec. 1, 2015
- Thomas McCarthy '59**, of Glendale, Ariz., on Nov. 11, 2015
- John Brannon '60**, of Memphis, Tenn., on June 29, 2015
- Brother James Gulnac '60, CSC**, of Valatie, N.Y., on April 27
- James "Jim" Chinn hs '56, '61**, of Houston, on April 25

- Leo Rathbun '61**, of Newaygo, Mich., on June 20, 2015
- Byron Otto '64, MBA '79**, of Austin, on May 25
- David Papen '64**, of Salem, Ore., on Nov. 6, 2015
- Berry Hobbs Jr. '65**, of Chandler, Ariz., on June 23, 2015
- Dallas "Dale" Burke '66**, of Louisville, Ky., on June 25, 2015
- Daniel Mulvey '69**, of Irving, on Jan. 16
- Dennis Ferger '71**, of Oyster Bay, N.Y., on July 3, 2015
- John Maynard '71**, of Austin, on Jan. 8
- David Crawford MBA '72**, of Dripping Springs, on March 18

- Ronald Miller MBA '74**, of Houston, on March 1
- Janet Caliva Lodge '75**, of Houston, on May 7
- Phillip Williams '79**, of Austin, on May 11
- Daniel Lacewell Sr. '80**, of Oak Harbor, Wash., on Feb. 10
- Edward Corbett '83**, of Georgetown, on Jan. 25
- Barbara Manz '91**, of Austin, on June 12, 2015
- Christopher Escalante '03**, of Austin, on Sept. 10, 2015
- Julian Dahmen '07**, of Austin, on Jan. 9
- Adam Boley '09**, of Georgetown, on Sept. 4
- Christina Arce '11**, of Cypress, on April 4
- Austin Collins '11**, of Dallas, on Jan. 30



St. Edward's University

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

February 17-19

2017



Save the Date!

CHAPTER & NETWORK EVENTS

National Happy Hour: June 16

More than 125 alumni and friends in seven locations across the country — Austin, Dallas–Fort Worth, Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, the Bay Area and Washington, D.C. — gathered for the second annual St. Edward's University Alumni Association National Happy Hour on June 16. Alumni networked with one another and welcomed new graduates into the association.



Dallas–Fort Worth



Houston



Washington, D.C.



San Antonio



Rio Grande Valley

**Austin Night at the Ballpark: July 31**

More than 140 alumni, friends and family attended the 16th annual Austin Alumni Night at the Ballpark at Dell Diamond. The Round Rock Express triumphed over the San Francisco River Cats.

**Summer Send-off: July 29–Aug. 14**

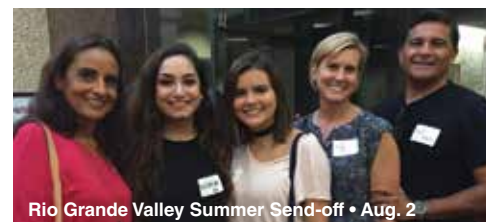
Alumni, students, parents and friends gathered in eight locations to welcome the Class of 2020 to the St. Edward's family and send them off to the hilltop.



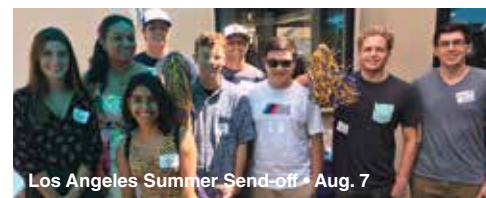
Bay Area Summer Send-off • July 31



El Paso Summer Send-off • July 29



Rio Grande Valley Summer Send-off • Aug. 2



Los Angeles Summer Send-off • Aug. 7



San Antonio Summer Send-off • Aug. 2



Houston Summer Send-off • Aug. 14



New Orleans Summer Send-off • Aug. 14



Dallas–Fort Worth Summer Send-off • Aug. 14



Hello from the Other Side

Teleportation isn't possible — yet — but in September, Austinites had a doorway to another part of the world with a Portal, a gold shipping container created by Shared Studios that fosters cross-cultural communication.

Nestled between Andre Hall and the Munday Library, visitors could talk full-bodied and face-to-face with people in Afghanistan, Honduras, Rwanda and Mexico. (Think of it as a large-scale Skype session.) Portals spend one month in each location, then are sent to another city somewhere in the world.

Inside a Portal, light bounces off the stranger in the dimly lit container, who is projected on the video screen. Interpreters in the connected countries help bridge language barriers, and conversations last about 20 minutes, evolving from pleasantries to more personal questions: *What makes you happy? What do you want to accomplish with your life?*

The goal of the project? To connect visitors personally with global issues.

—Erica Quiroz





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