

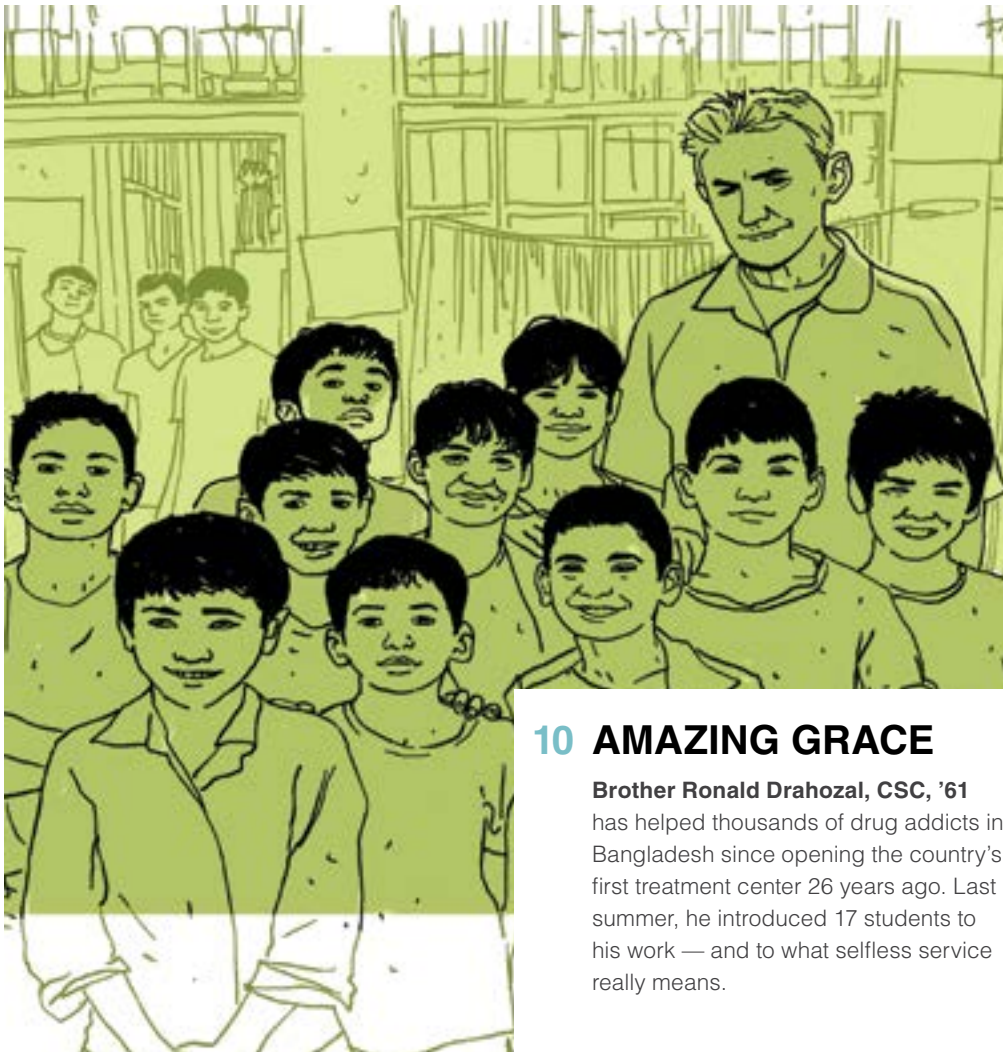
St. Edward's

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

WINTER 2015 VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

FOREVER OUR CHAPEL

A RENOVATION BRINGS NEW LIFE TO THE
SACRED SPACE. **PAGE 24**



10 AMAZING GRACE

Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, '61 has helped thousands of drug addicts in Bangladesh since opening the country's first treatment center 26 years ago. Last summer, he introduced 17 students to his work — and to what selfless service really means.



14 122 QUESTIONS

How do you capture the essence of St. Edward's University? How do you begin to understand what students are thinking about, what they're passionate about and what drives them? How do you see the college experience from their perspective? Sometimes, all you have to do is ask.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I remember the first time I walked on the St. Edward's campus. It was as picturesque as any prospective student could want with its glorious oak trees, blend of modern and historic architecture, and sweeping views of Austin. But what struck me the most was the unassuming aesthetic that prevailed — the campus was beautiful, but more than that, it was real.

Perhaps nowhere is that authenticity more evident than with the recent renovation of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. When it became clear that a larger chapel was needed to accommodate a growing student body, a different university might have seized the opportunity to build a resplendent church with gilded rafters, befitting for pomp and circumstance.

When I saw the renovated chapel, my first thought was how St. Edward's — and Holy Cross — it felt. Yes, it's changed. But if it's possible for a building to embody mission and values, this one embodies the core of St. Edward's University.

You can read about the transformation on page 24. If you'd like to get a more complete view of the renovation, including the construction of the meditation garden and the Brother Stephen

Walsh, CSC, '62 Campus Ministry Building, check out a video at <http://bit.ly/KEYEchapel>.

On stedwards.edu/webextras, we bring you additional content tied to stories in the magazine. We asked faculty and students a series of rapid-fire questions and had them give us their instinctive answers, and we talked with students who are linking their academic passions to cars and cows.

One of the purposes of this magazine is to bring you stories that connect you to St. Edward's, whether you live in Austin or Amsterdam. I think the best way we can do that is by showing the people — and in some cases the buildings — that exude the authenticity of the university. It could be the renovation of a chapel in a way that's true to the university's mission or a group of freshmen traveling to Bangladesh to encounter an alumnus saving child drug addicts.

Thanks for reading.

Frannie Schneider, Editor



20 CULTIVATING A LANGUAGE

Last summer, **Jacques Mercier des Rochettes '16** traveled to Europe to work on a small dairy farm. He wanted to develop his German language skills, but the experience also taught him about agriculture, sustainability and the value of a hard day's work.



24 BLESSED IS THIS PLACE

There may never be a soaring basilica or towering church at the spiritual heart of campus. But there is a humble, beautiful chapel with a history nearly as storied as the university itself — and it was recently dedicated after a major renovation.

departments

02 President's Q&A

03 Happenings

37 Parting Voices

alumni notes

32 Honoring Our Founders

34 Class Notes

35 Ask the Expert

36 Chapter News



stedwards.edu/webextras

27 Questions: Filmed in a single shot, we ask two popular professors and two students 27 questions about their lives both in and out of the classroom. Find out about secret spots on campus, the best ways to de-stress, what students don't know about Associate Professor of Political Science **Brian Smith**, and what Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences **Raelynn Deaton Haynes** considers her favorite animal.

Summer Scholars: Our yearlong video series of Summer Academic Excellence Award winners continues: **Jacques Mercier des Rochettes '16** takes multitasking to a new level when he learns German and farming at the same time. **Mary Counts '16** merges cars and graphic design as she uses her creative eye to help Austin-area car shows pick up speed.

About the Cover

On Oct. 21, 2014, the St. Edward's University community dedicated Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel after a nine-month renovation



process. The complex also includes the Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, '62 Campus Ministry Building and the Claire Kolodzey Memorial Garden.

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Big Man on Campus

We sat down with George E. Martin, president of St. Edward's University, to get his answers to a couple of the questions he is most frequently asked.

How much does the university value national collegiate rankings, and how heavily do they guide decisions you make?

The university's mission and strategic plan guide the major decisions we make. We don't structure what we do in order to achieve national collegiate rankings, but when they come along, we're happy about them because they certainly help with recruiting students. We've improved our retention and graduation rates and maintained a small average class size because they are consistent with our mission, and we've benefited from that in the rankings. For example, we've risen to No. 13 in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings because they emphasize some of the same areas.

How will changes in technology continue to shape how St. Edward's delivers its education? Is the university considering offering any online courses?

Technology is everywhere in life these days, and it's extremely important in an educational setting. A good example is the extent to which we've included technology in the Munday Library, which gives students and faculty accesses to research resources around the world. Technology also allows us to teach courses simultaneously to students sitting in classrooms in multiple countries. We are also able to invite professors from all parts of the world to lecture in our Global Digital Classrooms without them having to leave their homes. We couldn't be a global university without technology.

Online courses aren't something we're just considering; they're something we've already introduced into our students' educational experiences. We offer blended courses, in which students have scheduled classroom meetings, as well as online meetings during weeks they're not in the classroom.

What's the biggest challenge currently facing St. Edward's?

The environment for higher education is increasingly unfriendly. It's very competitive, as prospective student populations decline in several parts of the country. Many private colleges are struggling: According to a November 2014 Moody's report, 45 percent experienced a decline in enrollment. Fortunately, St. Edward's continues to do well, annually increasing enrollment and revenue.

We've always offered a personal transformational education experience characterized by small classes and a low student-faculty ratio. Maintaining this model has become more challenging financially.

How will St. Edward's meet these current marketplace challenges?

We'll keep the focus on students. That's how we judge whether or not we're successful. I think there are many indications that we are: Our students are receiving national and international scholarships. They're accepted to the top graduate schools. They get jobs after graduation. And then we have anecdotal information about how they're transformed as students. I hear this every day from both students and alumni. I hear how their education made their professional accomplishments possible and changed the way they look at the world. Their education influenced who they are as a person. If we keep the focus on student success, students will continue to seek out St. Edward's.

What do you envision for alumni engagement in the next five years?

One of the most rewarding things that has happened in the last 15 years is the growing involvement of alumni and the support alumni have given the university in so many different ways — helping with recruitment, attending and hosting send-offs and college nights for freshmen, as well as providing financial support. I think this affirms that St. Edward's has remained true to its Holy Cross, Catholic values and mission. I would like to see alumni involvement continue to expand, and I would particularly like to see the continued growth in the number of involved younger alumni. Alumni involvement assures a strong future for the university, one in which students 10, 20 or 50 years from now will have the same transformational experience at St. Edward's that our alumni had.

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Nicole, Geovanna and Michelle Rivera '18



TRIPLE Play

They've been together for every major life milestone since the day they were born. They grew up sharing everything — friends, clothes, bedrooms. They've only spent one day apart. So when the time came for triplets **Nicole, Michelle** and **Geovanna Rivera '18** to choose a university, they made the easy decision to stay together.

Their aunt, a high-school counselor in Houston, suggested they check out St. Edward's. The university's focus on social justice appealed to them, and they liked the idea of going to a small university where they could really get to know their professors and classmates. Applying to college is always stressful, but for the Rivera sisters, there were a few less common concerns: What if their essays were too similar? What if only one or two of them got in? Ultimately, all three applied and were accepted to St. Edward's.

They may have come to school together, but the Rivera sisters are branching out on their own, too. They're pursuing different majors — Elementary and Special Education for Nicole, Psychology

for Michelle, and Forensic Science for Geovanna. And though they live in the same residence hall, for the first time in their lives they aren't sharing a room. The women say it was strange when they first realized they couldn't just borrow clothes from one another's closets like they used to, but they've since acclimated to having their own space — although they admit they still visit each other constantly. Their biggest challenge has been adjusting to everyone speaking in English; their family now lives in Houston but is originally from El Salvador.

For their classmates and professors, the hardest part is telling who's who — Nicole and Michelle had a class together first semester, and they kept nametags on their desks for their professor's benefit. But for the sisters, whether it's homesickness, exam week or an unfamiliar city, they're meeting the challenges of freshman year head-on — together. —*Lauren Liebowitz*

6 Reflections from the Texas Teen Book Festival

From *Harry Potter* to *Hunger Games* to *The Fault in Our Stars*, young adult (“YA”) literature has become a cultural phenomenon. Last October, young and old fans converged on the hilltop for the Texas Teen Book Festival to meet favorite authors, shop for new books and attend writing workshops taught by two St. Edward’s professors. Here, Assistant Professor of English Writing and Rhetoric **Mary Helen Specht** and Writer-in-Residence **Carrie Fountain** share how they inspired writers during the festival. —*Lauren Liebowitz*

♥ Sharing the (Book) Love

When **Denae Dibrell '14** graduated from St. Edward’s, she moved to the Rio Grande Valley to teach 10th-grade English as part of the Teach For America program. Having attended the Texas Teen Book Festival for years, she was excited to see that the 2014 festival would be hosted by her alma mater. Dibrell knew she had to go back — and bring her students with her.



Dibrell set one important stipulation: Students had to be passing all their classes by the day before the trip. She was thrilled to see students sign up for tutoring, even those who had never done so before. It all paid off when, at 2 a.m. on the day of the event, Dibrell, two chaperones and 40 students boarded charter buses and set off across Texas, thanks to a grant Dibrell received.

The students met their favorite authors, participated in workshops, toured St. Edward’s, and picked up new books for their classroom shelves, courtesy of Assistant Professor of English Writing and Rhetoric **Moriah McCracken**, who collected books donated by the St. Edward’s community.

“These kids don’t get to leave the Valley much,” Dibrell says. “I thought this was a great chance for them to visit a college campus and get excited about literacy.”

Specht:

1

I find that, more and more, the students in my writing classes say they want to write because of *Harry Potter* or other YA stories. I think it’s definitely a shift, and I’m fascinated by it.

2

I’m a big believer that in terms of craft and writing, it shouldn’t matter what kind of literature you’re writing; you use the same skills. In my workshop, we focused on character development. One exercise we used helped develop characters through objects — what they keep in their backpacks, their cars, their medicine cabinets. By the end of the day, I hoped the students had fleshed out a protagonist they could take home and explore in a full story.

3

Book festivals are exciting and inspiring, but it can be hard for writers — especially younger writers — to use that inspiration to start writing on their own. Hopefully, workshops like these give the observers a way to get started instead of letting their enthusiasm fizzle out.



The Writing Life

These two professors aren’t just educators — they’re accomplished writers in their own right. Both Specht and Fountain are celebrating the launch of books. Even for published writers, learning is an ongoing process. We asked them what their latest publications have taught them.

Specht:

Migratory Animals is my first published novel. It’s also my first completed novel — before that, I wrote and published short stories. In the book’s first draft, each chapter had its own arc, like individual short stories. I had to learn to craft the book into an overarching novel shape. The biggest thing I learned from the process of writing this book is something I focus on when I teach my students — don’t get too attached to your first draft and your first idea of a story, but be playful and let yourself experiment. The novel was just so big,

Fountain:

4 I stay away from teaching beginning writers that they can just sit down and write a poem in an hour. That's not how poetry works. Instead, I get them to understand that they can draw on their own experiences for writing. They are the experts on their lives.

5 I have them pick a memory — not a monumental or painful memory, but something they might not think is important. I ask them a series of questions. They're not really writing a poem; they're just trying to make this memory specific and fill in the blanks. At the end, usually, they have a good mountain of material they can work with and turn into something.

6 I've always felt that adolescence is a really dramatic setting for anything. Not just because of raging hormones and first loves but also because of that dawning awareness that we are all mortal beings and after high school there's a whole life ahead of us. My first book of poetry has many poems set during adolescence. I'm fascinated by that whole precarious time of being a teenager.



so much work, that I had a hard time allowing it to radically change and to follow where it wanted to go, instead of adhering to my initial vision. Learning to practice what I preach in the classroom was a big challenge.

Fountain:

My first book of poetry was very deliberate and crafted. This one — *Instant Winner* — is looser. I love poems that seem to have a dawning awareness, like the poet is coming to some sort of awareness while writing the poem itself. I was a little worried how people would receive it — it's a book about motherhood from a woman writer, and in some ways the world of poetry is unfriendly to that subject matter. But, at the same time, there's also something about having had kids that makes it easier for me to accept imperfection and not really worry what people will think about it. I feel like in some ways I left a lot of the bumps and snags in, and I'm proud of that. It feels truer to my poetic voice.



Voices for Justice

Sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Leadership, the Fusion Discussion Group hosts lunchtime roundtables throughout the semester, but attendance was at an all-time high for a pointed conversation inspired by events in Ferguson, Missouri. Faculty, staff and students gathered to share their experiences with racism, perspectives on progress since the civil rights movement, and hopes for a better future.

President Carter on U.S./China Relations

On Oct. 16, St. Edward's hosted the China Town Hall, a program sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations (NCUSCR). Using the Munday Library's Global Digital Classrooms, a group of 73 faculty and staff members, students, and community members listened to former President Jimmy Carter (who was in Atlanta at the time) present on China and then answer questions sent via Twitter. After the webcast, a panel of prominent Austin businesspeople shared their extensive experience doing business in China. As China continues to develop as an international power, collaboration with the country becomes increasingly important in addressing and resolving major global issues.

Discussions on Ukraine

In October, the Kozmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance sponsored the forum "International Policy and Academic Perspectives on the Impact of the Ukrainian Conflict: A New Cold or Hot War?" Eight leading policy experts from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the European Union/NATO, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States examined the Ukraine conflict and made recommendations for how the international community should move forward.

A Reading from *Thunderstruck*

Author Elizabeth McCracken came to St. Edward's as part of this year's Marcia Kinsey Visiting Writers Series. She read from her recently published short-story collection, *Thunderstruck & Other Stories*, which was shortlisted for the National Book Award. McCracken also visited fiction classes and spoke with students, many of whom studied her work this semester and appreciated her insights about the writing life.

—Lauren Liebowitz

Things We Love

An Athletic Honor

Rugby player **Fawaz Alfageeh '16** was chosen to represent his home country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the 2014 Asian Games. He returned to Saudi Arabia to train, then played

1 in the international event hosted by South Korea last fall. Although his team did not win, Alfageeh says representing his country was a dream come true. Now that he's back on campus, he's returned to playing for the SEU Rugby Football Club, which is one of the premier rugby programs in Texas.

Engineering a New Degree

Students who want an engineering degree and the well-rounded, globally focused education of a liberal arts university will soon have an opportunity to pursue both. St. Edward's is partnering with Carroll College — a Catholic college in Helena, Montana — to offer a special five-year plan of study. Students will spend three years on the hilltop and two years in Carroll's Civil Engineering program, and they'll graduate with a Mathematics degree from St. Edward's and a Civil Engineering degree from Carroll. Current students who want to switch to the 3+2 program can do so immediately. And this is just the beginning — more dual-degree programs with other universities are already in the works.

3



Still the Best

4

For the 12th year in a row, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked St. Edward's among "America's Best Colleges." This time, the university moved up from No. 15 to No. 13 among master's-granting institutions in the West Region. St. Edward's has steadily climbed this list in recognition of the university's graduation rate, student-faculty ratio, alumni giving rate and how peer universities perceive St. Edward's, among other factors.



COURTESY OF AUSTIN MARATHON

A Marathon Success

Four students in the St. Edward's MBA program partnered with Conley Sports Productions, the company that produces the Austin Marathon, to study the marathon's economic impact on Austin. In addition to conducting the economic impact study, students developed a tool that Conley Sports can use to measure the effects of future events. After examining data including spending on hotels, retail purchases, travel costs and meals, the team estimated the impact of the 2014 Austin Marathon to be \$22.4 million.

Making Art

Six students in Assistant Professor of Art **Alexandra Robinson's** Installation Art class created an interactive art installation for high-school students visiting campus. The artists developed two ideas. The first, *Take On a Postcard*, was a series of postcards featuring locations where students had studied abroad and quotes from those students. The second project, *Wrapping, Walking, Winding, Weaving*, invited visitors to wind colorful

5 ribbons around a series of poles on the lawn — symbolizing the journey of going through college, making connections and moving forward in life. —Lauren Liebowitz



What I've Learned, **Freshman Edition**

More than 800 freshmen arrived on campus for orientation last summer, but we're pretty sure only one spent 11 hours traveling by Greyhound bus to get here. **David Lee Hernandez '18** left his hometown of Port Isabel in August to ride across the state the cheapest (if not fastest) way he could. He arrived in Austin to take in the city — and a Democrat taco from Torchy's — for the first time. Now, with a semester under his belt, the Global Studies major shares what he's gleaned about college, Austin ... and getting enough shuteye.

- **College has opened my eyes to what the world has to offer.** I've been able to do what I've wanted my whole life — explore and learn from those around me. Yes, most of the learning I do is directed by my professors, but you'd be astonished how much you learn outside your classes.
- **I come from a very small town in deep South Texas.** St. Edward's isn't too far from home, but it still manages to offer a completely different kind of setting than I'm used to. Being in a place that offers every kind of diversity is a new experience for me, and one I'm very happy to have.
- **Use a planner.** No matter how organized you think you are, you'll need one to stay on track with everything occurring on campus. Second, get enough sleep! And third, get involved. The variety of organizations, clubs and sports will keep you active and help you build more of a social life.
- **Exploring more of Austin is definitely on the top of my list.** I've only been here for a short time, and I'm already falling in love with everything this great city has to offer. —*Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05*

Buzzing In

Education major **Ariana Villegas '16** hadn't set foot outside Texas until last summer, when she landed in front of the cameras in Chicago filming the national Hispanic College Quiz show series, an entertaining but educational program about Hispanic and Latino heritage. In what seemed like a whirlwind of events, her advisor, **Fred Estrello**, sent in her application at the beginning of June. Within a couple of weeks, he informed her that she had been chosen to represent St. Edward's in one of the four episodes that aired in September and October to coincide with National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Villegas worked with Estrello for about five weeks last summer to learn trivia about Hispanic history, politics, sports, pop culture and music. "There was a study guide, but it was challenging," says Villegas. "I was a little nervous about pronunciation because I don't really know Spanish. But my advisor was constantly telling me to be confident."

She didn't feel overly confident on the day of the filming and laughs when she thinks about how the makeup artist targeted her during the show. "I got so nervous and sweaty under the beaming hot lights," she says. "They were constantly putting powder on my face."

Despite her uncertainty, she performed well under pressure against a student from Colorado State University–Pueblo and another student from Carlos Albizu University. Host Alfonso Gutiérrez kept the pace moving quickly and the energy level high all the way through the final question, which Villegas answered correctly (At what university was the foundation laid for the activist group Mexican American Youth Organization [MAYO] in 1964? Answer: Texas A&I University, which is now Texas A&M University–Kingsville). Although she was the only one to get the final answer correct, she didn't have quite enough points to pull into first place. She did leave with a \$1,000 scholarship, though.

The added benefit? Realizing that information she was studying was a bigger part of her own Hispanic heritage than she had thought. She discovered that her great-grandmother participated in marches after being inspired by Latino civil-rights activist César Chávez. "Being able to hear her experience with Hispanic culture and knowing that she was involved in some of the rapid change back then made learning about Hispanic history more relevant," Villegas says. —*Lisa Thiels*



Illyana Bocanegra '15 and Paige Applin '16 on Bass Rock in Scotland in Summer 2014

Documenting Voices of the Scottish Referendum

Illyana Bocanegra '15 had only a tourist's idea of Scotland before her trip to Edinburgh with her video-production class last summer.

But her pre-travel reading on the Scottish referendum, which proposed the country become independent from Great Britain, merely gave her an introduction. "It wasn't clear until I was there how much this was a deciding factor for the U.K.," Bocanegra says. "This was the equivalent of Texas seceding from the United States."

Bocanegra and her classmates spent nearly five weeks recording interviews with activists on both sides of the issues. She found that many of the proponents

of independence were artists, writers and grassroots activists. "The vote was not just an economic or industrial change, but it also had an entire cultural element behind it," says Bocanegra. Students found that proponents of maintaining the status quo cited financial implications, as well as the idea that independence might not be a panacea for Scotland's economic and social problems.

The vote for independence came up short in September 2014. Despite the fact that there wouldn't be big changes for Scotland, Bocanegra found the process of creating the documentary life changing.

"I have a different understanding of why the world works the way it does," she says.

"Now I feel like I can participate in local government in my own way, whether it's making films, or rallying with a group, or seeing the opposing side's perspective. It's really opened my eyes to what I can do with art, what I can show people."

Bocanegra is already on her way. She and a friend started a film- and arts-production company called Temper, which takes on projects like music videos, commercial content, artist videos, profiles and movies for clients like Raw Paw, an Austin-based record label and publishing company. Now, she hopes that documentaries will become a bigger focus for her company. —Lisa Thiegs

SCOTT CHRISTOPHERSON

Does Anyone Still Use a Chalkboard?

Play the cards you're dealt, the old adage goes. Students in some of the university's Cultural Foundations and Global Studies classes are doing just that — literally — in a simulation game designed to teach them about the ongoing conflict in Syria.

In the game, small groups of students take on the role of one of the conflict's key players — Bashar al-Assad or the Free Syrian Army, for example — and make decisions based on the cards they receive. Their choices impact the exercise's casualty rate, refugee count, involvement (or non-involvement) of foreign powers like the United States, and other statistics. By the end, "students learn about a complex conflict by playing through it for themselves," says Associate Professor of History **Christie Wilson**.

Learning by doing is a common theme across campus — and one that was highlighted in several presentations (including one by Wilson and her colleagues) at the university's annual Teaching Symposium in August, which serves as a forum for faculty members to share their teaching techniques with colleagues.

Assistant Professor of Communication **Billy Earnest** discussed his attempt to go 100 percent digital in Intro to Communication by piloting iPads from the university's Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable. Students used apps for everything from attendance



Adjunct Professor Jim McNabb uses a low-tech coffee can to engage his students.

to presentations. The pilot did have its hiccups (like bandwidth deficiencies and a lack of integration among apps), but overall, "student engagement was off the charts," says Earnest. "That opened the door for some really amazing discussions."

Adjunct Professor **Jim McNabb** took the opposite approach in his Presentational Speaking classes. He writes key lecture points on slips of numbered paper and drops them in a low-tech coffee can. Students drew a number and corresponding topic, spent a day researching it, and delivered a three-to-five-minute presentation on it in numerical order during the next class. "The beauty of this approach is that professors control the content and students listen and think about how what is being said applies to what they have prepared," says McNabb. "They are truly learning from each other."

And in the process, McNabb, Earnest and Wilson are stacking the deck for their students' success. —Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05



ALUMNUS HONORS #1 PROFESSOR

A nuclear physicist leaves the majority of his estate to St. Edward's in honor of his longtime mentor **Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, '47**.

ALEX MARUSAK '63 spent his professional career at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico conducting computer modeling of nuclear weapons effects using the first Cray-1 Supercomputer. He earned a PhD in Nuclear Physics through the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1969) and a law degree from Duke University (1975). But the award that meant the most to him was the copy of *The Handbook of Physics* he received as Physics Student of the Year during his freshman year at St. Edward's.



In fact, he kept the book for more than four decades. And when he returned to campus for a visit in 2006, he asked the person who had given it to him — **Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, '47**, longtime professor and director of the Physics program — to sign it. “I’ve used what I learned in this book my whole life,” Marusak said, “and your name in it would mean a lot to me.”

As an undergraduate, Marusak spent almost three years under Brother Romard's tutelage before the quiet, homesick Marusak left St. Edward's to finish his degree closer to his family's farm in Ennis. “Alex was very shy — he was a country boy coming to the big city,” remembers classmate **Bob Wilems '63**.

“What I learned from Alex has carried me throughout my life — only concern yourself with the big things and eventually the little things will cancel themselves out. We lost a very good man and a true friend.”

—Victor Orloski '63,
classmate of Alex Marusak '63

“The brothers, especially Brother Romard, gave him the opportunity to thrive. They had a significant impact on his life, just as they did mine.”

Marusak honored his mentor by contributing \$10,000 to the Brother Romard Barthel, CSC, '47 Endowed Scholarship Fund, an effort Wilems spearheaded in 2005. And when Marusak discovered he had a terminal illness in 2006, he made a provision in his will designating St. Edward's University as one of the primary beneficiaries of his estate. He passed away just a few months later, and his wife, Nancy — a geologist he had met at Los Alamos — kept the bequest intact.

“They were kindred spirits — both quiet and intelligent and devoted to each other,” says Wilems. “Nancy knew St. Edward's was such a special place for Alex.”

When Nancy died last year, St. Edward's learned that the Marusaks had left the majority of their estate to the university for scholarship endowment. Ultimately, the Marusak gift will provide financial aid to hundreds of students through the scholarship honoring Brother Romard, which will include research stipends that will continue to help St. Edward's attract top students in the sciences.

St. Edward's also received Marusak's copy of *The Handbook of Physics*, inscribed on the inside cover with this: “Alex, you're still #1!”

“Brother Romard made so many opportunities possible for us,” says Wilems. In fact, before Marusak left St. Edward's in the middle of his junior year, Brother Romard arranged internships for both him and

Wilems — who were not only roommates but also friendly competitors for class valedictorian — at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the summer of 1962. “Brother Romard continued to believe in us and support us, long after we had left the hilltop,” says Wilems.

Characteristically, 91-year-old Brother Romard is humble about the scholarship and research funds honoring him. “I have a hard time realizing I've had an impact in people's lives,” he says. “But if I'm going to be honored in any way, I like this forum very much.”

AMAZING GRACE

Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, '61 has helped thousands of drug addicts in Bangladesh since opening the country's first treatment center 26 years ago. Last summer, he introduced 17 students to his work — and to what selfless service really means.

By Stacia Hernstrom MLA '05 | Illustrations by Alec Morgan

DHAKA: PART 1

When **Mark Spinks '17** left his hotel in downtown Dhaka, Bangladesh, to explore the city with classmates from St. Edward's University, he had mastered *dhonyobad*, the Bengali word for “thank you.” He was prepared for the smothering humidity of monsoon season. And he knew to watch for impatient drivers who would casually clip slow-moving pedestrians.

But the little boy with facial deformities and dirty, shoeless feet, maybe 6 or 7 years old, who approached with outstretched hands startled him. He and his classmates took the boy and the girl he was with inside a corner grocery, communicating primarily with gestures and smiles, and bought milk and snacks for them. It felt good to help, says Spinks.

“Until we realized there were children just like them on every street corner — and we couldn't help them all.”

APON: PART 1

Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, '61 is a corn-fed Iowa farm boy who became a Holy Cross Brother in 1958. The septuagenarian can also name every drug available on the streets of Dhaka — and he knows where to get them. Dandy. Yaba. Ganja. Heroin. He rattles off the list as easily as the alphabet.



Drahozal knows these names because, for more than 26 years, he's worked with the addicts battling their effects. In 1988, the Congregation of Holy Cross opened Bangladesh's first addiction clinic, with Drahozal as founding director. In 1994, he became executive director of a larger facility on the outskirts of the city. Ashokti Punorbashon Nibash, APON for short, is the only center

in the country with dedicated services for child and female addicts, as well as programs for male addicts.

Of Bangladesh's roughly 6 million drug users, about 14 percent are children — Drahozal has worked with addicts as young as 4 years old. Some don't know their own names or where they came from, and most have little, if any, contact with their families. Virtually all smoke cigarettes; many have sniffed glue and smoked pot; and by the time they reach Drahozal's center, many have become addicted to sleeping pills to numb themselves to the routine beatings common in the slums.

"Most people don't notice these kids; others consider them a nuisance," says Drahozal. "And those who should protect them beat them like stray dogs and steal what little money they have."

But when they get to Drahozal, they find something different. Plates of food. Clean clothes. A place to shower and sleep. "I believe they have a basic right to be treated as human beings," he says. "They deserve life, food, education and medical care — and we seek to relieve their sufferings with loving care, not increase them."

DHAKA: PART 2

The idea to add an international trip to the university's Freshman Studies curriculum grew out of the class's common theme for Fall 2013 — human rights. **Holly Carter**, director of the Office of International Education, and **Alex Barron**, director of Freshman Studies, spent the summer of 2013 brainstorming and researching ideas, projects and locations over lattes in the campus coffeehouse.

"We wanted to expand the conversations that would be happening on campus and take them beyond that first year, beyond campus even," says Barron. "Holly really laid down a challenge. She said, 'Instead of thinking about human rights in the developing world, what if we go there and see for ourselves?'"

When Barron pitched the idea to students, **Andrea Ojeda '17** had one reaction: *Yes!* "This is exactly the reason I came to St. Edward's — for opportunities to do things I've never done before," says Ojeda. "I wanted the chance to be in a

situation where I didn't know what to expect so I could grow and learn from that."

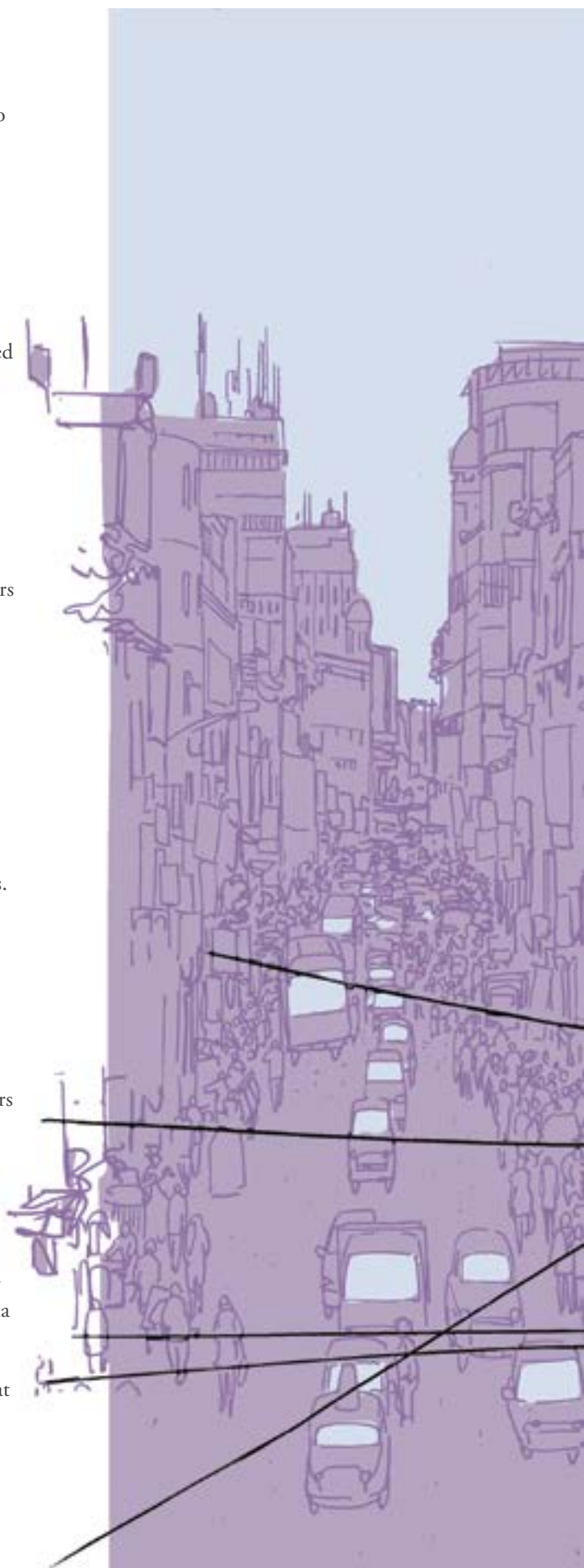
So last July, Barron and Carter — along with Ojeda, Spinks and 15 other students — flew to Dhaka to observe programs run by BRAC, a Bangladesh-based nonprofit focused on creating opportunities for the world's poor. The students had studied the organization and its success during the school year. "There's a tendency to think that because we're more advanced in the United States, we'll be able to go in and help," says Barron. "We really wanted to turn that preconception on its head and show students how people in the developing world are becoming leaders and problem-solvers in their own communities."

The group from St. Edward's visited a school, a maternity clinic, and a convenience store and fabric shop financed by micro-loans — all in Korail, Dhaka's biggest slum and home to more than 40,000 people. The students also spent time in the countryside observing workshops on sanitation, leadership and legal rights. It was an intense seven days, says **Ana Avalos '17** — "I just resolved myself to learning and listening as much as I could."

APON: PART 2

Drahozal was a fresh-faced 25 years old when he arrived in Bangladesh in 1962, one year after finishing his bachelor's degree in Education from St. Edward's. He led a spiritual program for seminarians, ran the candidate program for those in Bangladesh who wanted to join Holy Cross, and taught at schools in Dhaka and rural villages. "Slowly, I began to feel something inside telling me that teaching was *my* plan — and that God had this other plan for me, even though I didn't know the first thing about drugs or addiction," he says.

First, he visited Nepal and India to meet with brothers and priests



from other congregations who were running rehab centers. “I talked with and listened to addicts; I read and learned everything I could; and then I came back to Dhaka to start a center with almost no resources,” he says. “But through all the struggles and difficulties, I felt I was doing God’s work, and that was success enough.”

Today, Drahozal’s APON center serves some 220 addicts, including 90 children. “We don’t use the word *clinic*, which indicates the use of a lot of medicine to help or hurt addicts in the process,” he says. “Our aim is behavior change.”

The children’s program at APON accomplishes that change by offering group therapy, basic education classes that prepare students to take the government’s graduation exam, services in four major religions, vocational training in woodworking and candle-making, and daily physical activity

like cricket and soccer. The program lasts one year, though some children stay much longer and others choose to return to the streets after just a few weeks.

“No matter how long they are with us, they leave knowing some vocational skills that help them find work, and they can read and write so they will be able to keep learning all their life,” says Drahozal. “They also know what is needed to get off and stay off drugs — and where to find help if they need it.”

ONE LAST STOP

On the last day of their week in Dhaka, the group from St. Edward’s had one more stop on their itinerary — a visit to APON. Though not officially affiliated with the BRAC programs the students had spent the week observing, Drahozal had gotten in touch

with Carter and Barron and asked about connecting with the students from his alma mater.

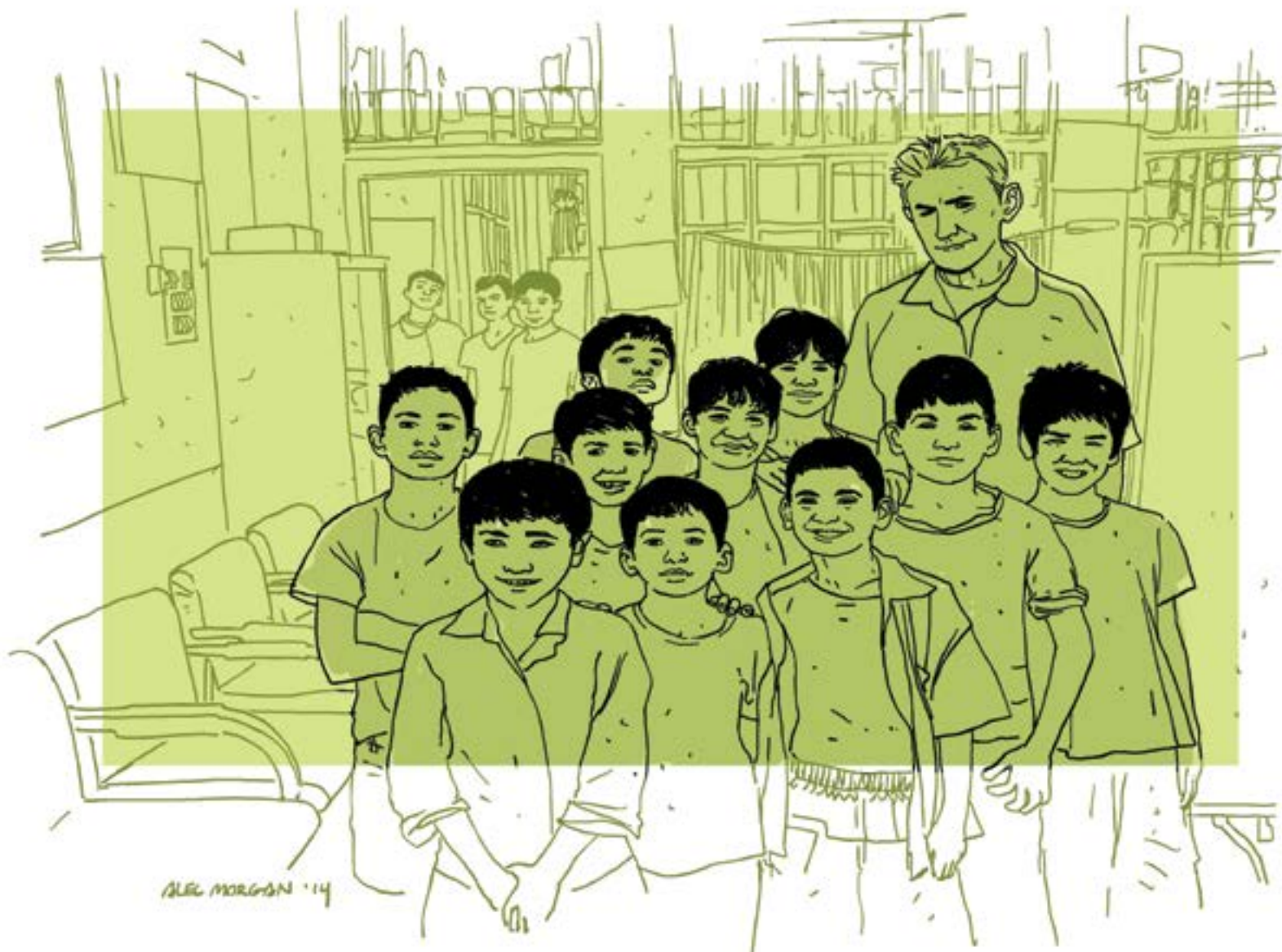
Carter and Barron had worked out the logistics with Drahozal well in advance, but on that last evening of the long week, nobody wanted to go. “After a week without much reprieve from the poverty everywhere around us, we were weary,” says Avalos. “We all decided we would go through the center as quickly as possible and not ask any questions. We just wanted to get it done.”

Carsick and cramped, they arrived at APON and tumbled out of the van, right into fresh air and green grass. “Brother Ronald’s place contrasted so completely with the crowded city and the slums,” says Avalos. “It was open, calm and peaceful. Exactly what we needed.”

After touring the grounds and talking with some of the children and staff (many of

“BROTHER RONALD’S PLACE CONTRASTED SO COMPLETELY WITH THE CROWDED CITY AND THE SLUMS,” SAYS AVALOS.

“IT WAS OPEN, CALM AND PEACEFUL. EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED.”



them recovering addicts), the group from St. Edward's had biscuits and tea with Drahozal. Minutes later, two boys came in and sat down across the room. Drahozal went to work. He brought the boys heaping plates of hot food. He spoke to them gently in their native Bengali. He arranged for space in the dormitory and let them know they would have a bed to sleep in that night, and every night for as long as they needed.

"For Brother Ronald, it was an everyday experience. For us, seeing that kind of urgent need, especially in children, was devastating," says Carter. "But we also got to see how his life's work is changing lives. He is the most caring, unselfish person I have ever seen in action."

"It was amazing to see how much comfort the boys drew from Brother Ronald," says Ojeda. "They felt welcomed, and maybe even loved for once."

In 1988, when he began working with addicts, Drahozal faced a nearly insurmountable struggle. "All the addicts I knew told me they didn't know anyone who had gotten off drugs and stayed off. They presumed they would die using drugs," he says. Today, there are thousands of recovering addicts all over Bangladesh. "I truly

know this is God's work, not mine," says Drahozal. "The results are amazing — well beyond my abilities, wisdom and knowledge."

The students felt that power, too. "The van ride back to our hotel couldn't have been more different from the one to APON. It was magical," says Avalos. "More than magical — we had hope." The students talked about "how and when we could come back," says Ojeda. And they brainstormed ideas like creating and selling a calendar of the children's artwork and organizing a cadre of volunteers from St. Edward's.

"We got to see the extent of Holy Cross' impact on the world and how far their reach is," says Ojeda. "Brother Ronald really showed us the difference between doing something *for* someone versus doing something *with* someone."

"His passion is a reminder that no matter where we're from or what we've been through, we are all created in God's image," says Avalos. "And if you look at the people around you, even a drug-addicted child who has forgotten his own name, you see how grace connects us all."

122 Questions

How do you capture the essence of St. Edward's University? How do you begin to understand what students are thinking about, what they're passionate about and what drives them? How do you see the college experience from their perspective?

Sometimes, all you have to do is ask.

To get answers, we worked with Associate Professor of University Studies **Todd Onderdonk** and seven students and recent alumni who took Onderdonk's Cultural Foundations courses.

By Erin Peterson

Illustrations by Tom Helland | Photography by Morgan Printy

Emily Blasdell '13 Communication

What was your favorite place on campus as a student? Mang House

Favorite activity on campus?

Homecoming week. It's the most wonderful time of the year.

What's the coolest thing about St. Edward's?

The mix of spiritedness/excitement and peace on campus

Which professor did you not appreciate until the semester was over?

Timothy Braun in American Dilemmas. I felt so respected by someone so different from me. I ended up taking him again for Contemporary World Issues: Global Media.

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Impactful, bold, home

Favorite book? *Sacraments of Life: Life of the Sacraments* by Leonardo Boff

Books: paper or pixels? Paper. Definitely paper.

Best way to procrastinate? Cleaning/organizing

Favorite Austin restaurant? P. Terry's

What's the weirdest thing you did as a student?

Tried to get people to bahh like a goat during basketball games when opponents were shooting free throws. It works, y'all.

What would you bring with you on a one-way visit to Mars?

I don't want to go on a one-way visit to Mars.



webextra 
27 Questions

Watch two popular professors and two students take our quiz at stedwards.edu/webextras.

Anthony Ernesto Wolf '17

Political Science and Economics

What's your favorite place on campus?

The tree overlooking the swamp behind the RCC

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Liberal, arts, hipsters

Favorite class? American Foreign Relations

What topic would you own in *Jeopardy!*? Philosophy

Favorite show? *Summoning Insight*, a video-game talk show

Favorite book? *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell

Books: paper or pixels? I'm a paperback fanatic.

Laptop or desktop?

Laptop. There's no way to use a desktop computer when you're a wanderer like me.

What do you wear when you want to feel totally confident?

If you see me wearing the suit and tie, you know I mean business.

What would you bring with you on a one-way visit to Mars? Oxygen

Famous person you'd want to have coffee with?

Bill Gates. I want to work with him to change the future.

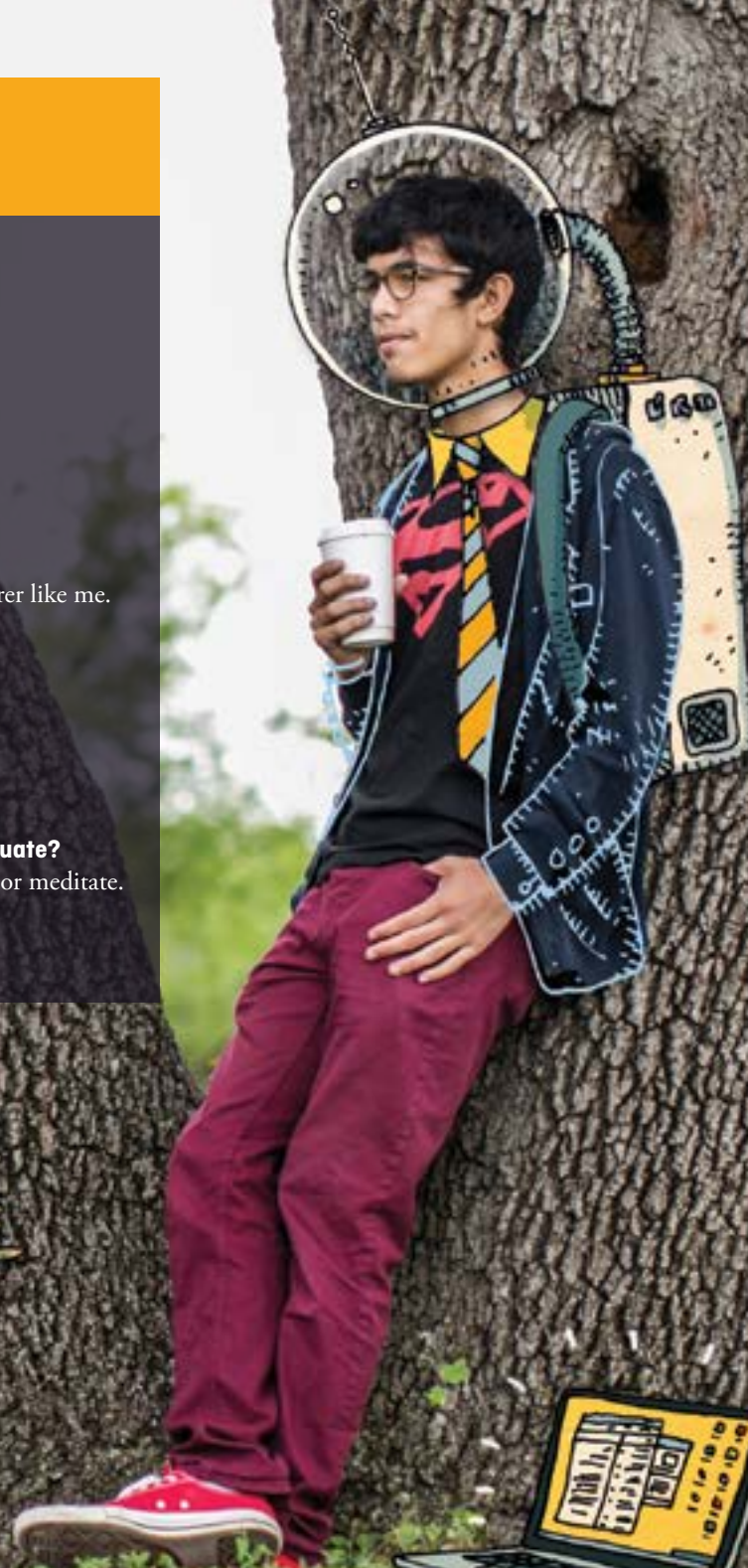
Best thing that happened to you as a student? I became self-motivated.

What part of campus do you wish you could take with you when you graduate?

The library, because it is always a good place to be when I need to focus or meditate.

What excites you most about graduating?

Being equipped with the knowledge to take the world by storm





Jordan Mersberger '16

Acting

What's your favorite place on campus? The Mary Moody Northen Theatre

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Influential, dynamic, intimate

Favorite class? Performance II

Most difficult class? Performance II

Favorite book? *The Commitments* by Roddy Doyle

What's a book you'd love to read? The complete works of William Shakespeare

What topic would you own in *Jeopardy!*? Theater

Favorite TV show? *The Walking Dead*

Books: paper or pixels? Paper

Favorite smartphone app? Imgur

Best way to procrastinate? Binge-watching Netflix

Favorite Austin restaurant? The Salt Lick

What's the weirdest thing you've ever done as a student?

In the St. Edward's production of *Love and Information*, I pranced around the stage in a full-body unitard for a little while.

What do you miss most from home when you're at school?

The open space and the stars at night

What's the last country you visited? Spain

Best way to decompress after a stressful day? A warm cup of tea and a movie

Best thing that's happened to you as a student? Last summer, through connections with my professors, I was able to act in a film with Aaron Eckhart and, immediately after that wrapped, work on ZACH Theatre's production of *The Who's Tommy*.

What part of campus do you wish you could take with you when you graduate?

The view from the Main Building steps overlooking Austin at night.

What excites you most about graduating? I am most excited about hitting the ground running and already being a step ahead in such a competitive environment.

Megan Lane '13

Social Work



What's your favorite place on campus? The courtyard outside Doyle Hall

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Growth, inspiring, beautiful

Favorite class? Race, Class and Gender

Most difficult class? Race, Class and Gender

What topic would you own in *Jeopardy!*? Netflix

Favorite show? *Parks and Recreation*

Books: Paper or pixels? I love hard copies and prefer them, but I love to read embarrassing spy novels on my iPad at night.

Favorite food at Ragsdale? BYOSalad

Favorite Austin restaurant? Bouldin Creek Cafe

What do you wear when you want to feel totally confident?

My best and toughest shoes (right now: Dr. Martens canvas high-tops)

What did you miss most from home when you were at school? My hamster

What would you bring with you on a one-way visit to Mars? Obviously a spacesuit

What's the last country you visited? South Africa

Best way to decompress after a stressful day?

Sweatpants and comedy television and a Frappuccino. Or several Frappuccinos.

Famous person you'd want to have coffee with? Brené Brown. No, Oprah.

Best thing that happened to you as a student?

My whole world opened up. I began to think about the way I think.

Janelle Nacpil '17

Finance

What's your favorite place on campus? The stairs in front of Main Building

What's the coolest thing about St. Edward's?

The opportunities for you to help your community and travel the world

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Global, enriching, expensive

What was your favorite class? 20th Century American Women Writers

Most difficult class? Spanish III

What's a book you read in class that positively shaped you?

Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle

What topic would you own in *Jeopardy!*? Anything that dealt with math

Books: paper or pixels? Paper

Website you're addicted to? Tumblr

Favorite smartphone apps? Instagram or Snapchat

What's the weirdest thing you've ever done as a student?

Something probably not appropriate for this magazine

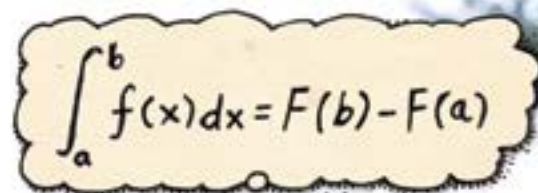
What's the hardest thing about being a college student?

Getting good grades, focusing on academics as much as I'm supposed to

What do you miss most from home when you're at school? Free food

If you could speak any language, what would it be? Arabic

What part of campus do you wish you could take with you when you graduate? Jo's Coffee



What's your favorite place on campus? Wandering through the books in the library

Books: Paper or pixels? I love the way a book feels and smells in my hands.

Favorite way to procrastinate? The beauty of procrastinating is that you can do anything in the world or nothing at all just so long as it's not the stupid, annoying task that awaits you.

Favorite place to study?

The library or in Ragsdale when it's completely empty at, like, 3 or 4 in the morning.

Favorite caffeinated drink? Sugar-free Red Bull

Favorite food at Ragsdale? Falafel

Hardest thing about being a college student?

The notion that I was supposed to be certain of my life

If you could speak any language, what would it be?

I would love to speak several different languages, but no one more than the others.

What country would you most like to visit?

I would start on the beaches of Normandy, France, because I'm a history nerd.

What would you bring with you on a one-way visit to Mars?

I'd want a tape recorder rather than a camera, because I think the images could never do justice to the real thing, but I would have too many thoughts running through my head to keep track of them all.

Historical figures you'd like to have coffee with?

Edmond Halley, Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln

Jacob Minor '14 Psychology



Leslie Ramirez '16 Special Education

What's your favorite place on campus? Munday Library

What's the coolest thing about St. Edward's? Diversity

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Opportunity, engaging, vision

Favorite class? Children's Literature

Most difficult class? Introduction to Linguistics

Favorite professor? Dr. [Leslie] Loughmiller

Professor you didn't appreciate until the semester was over?

[Holy Cross] Brother Joseph Harris

Favorite book? *The Story of B* by Daniel Quinn

What's a book you read in class that positively shaped you?

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath allowed me to understand mental illness.

Go-to social media site? Instagram

Books: paper or pixels? Paper

Best way to procrastinate? Sleep

Website you're addicted to? YouTube

Favorite smartphone app? Duolingo

Who should everyone be following on social media right now? Anna Akana

Favorite food at Ragsdale? Tater tots

What's the weirdest thing you've ever done as a student?

The world record water-balloon toss



Todd Onderdonk

Associate Professor

What's your favorite place on campus? My office couch

Three words that describe St. Edward's? Values-oriented education

Favorite thing about St. Edward's University students? Enthusiasm

What topic would you own in *Jeopardy!*? Psychedelic rock for \$1,000, Alex

Go-to social media site? Facebook

Favorite TV show? *Breaking Bad*

Books: paper or pixels? iBooks on my iPad mini — it's outrageous that old-style books lack built-in dictionaries and Wikipedia

Website you're addicted to? Humans of New York

Favorite smartphone app? Clash of Clans

Who should everyone be following right now? Neil deGrasse Tyson

Favorite caffeinated drink? I'm off caffeine!

Favorite food at Ragsdale? The chocolate chip cookies at meetings

Favorite Austin restaurant? Café Josie

If you could speak any language, what would it be? French

What's the country you'd most like to visit? Czech Republic

What's the last country you visited? Chile

Famous person you'd want to have coffee with? Brian Eno

Historical figure you'd like to have coffee with? James Joyce

Best way to decompress after a stressful day? Dinner at the Grove



Cultivating a Language

By Joel Hoekstra
Photography by Kate Miller

Last summer, **Jacques Mercier des Rochettes** '16 traveled to Europe to work on a small dairy farm. He wanted to develop his German language skills, but the experience also taught him about agriculture, sustainability and the value of a hard day's work.

Most European travelers rely on planes, trains or automobiles to get to their destinations. But last summer, **Jacques Mercier des Rochettes '16** needed something much more basic to complete his journey from America to Germany: his thumbs.

Mercier des Rochettes, an international student who grew up in France, had arranged to spend the month of June working on a dairy farm in southern Germany. He wanted to improve his language skills and learn something about agriculture, too. But when a delayed ride led to a missed train and then a bypassed stop, Mercier des Rochettes found himself several miles short of his destination. So he raised a thumb and hitchhiked — right to the road that led to the farm. “It was easy,” Mercier des Rochettes says. “Way better than the train.”

His thumbs were not only vital to hitchhiking in the German countryside; they were also key — along with his hands, back and legs — to nearly every aspect of life on a farm. As he learned the basics of milking cows, filling water tanks, moving hay bales and mowing a pasture, the 19-year-old quickly discovered that working with his hands was a way to expand his mind. Though his grandfather had owned a farm near Toulouse, Mercier des Rochettes had never before handled a plow or udders. Nearly every day brought a new insight into the relationships that exist between humans and animals, humans and the planet, and humans and each other.

The chief motivation behind Mercier des Rochettes’ decision to spend a month in Rüsselhausen, Germany, however, was the chance to speak German on a daily basis. A former student of political science turned Philosophy major, Mercier des Rochettes has many interests, but he finds German philosophy to be the most compelling. This spring, he is studying in Ingolstadt, a learning opportunity that his professors at St. Edward’s have encouraged — and that is only available to those fluent in German.

“There are always subtleties in the written expression of philosophy,” says **Peter Wake**, associate professor of Philosophy at St. Edward’s and specialist in modern French and German thinkers. “Even in the most seemingly straightforward arguments, you can catch nuances in the text and logic if you can read it in the original language.”

But often, the biggest benefits of overseas study come from immersion in another culture, says **Kerstin Somerholter**, an associate professor of European Languages. “Jacques likes anything that can be studied in theory,” she says, “but his experience on the farm brought a new level of learning and perspective.”



The son of an engineer and a former nurse, Mercier des Rochettes grew up in Lisieux, a small pilgrimage town near Caen, France. He is the youngest of five kids. He had traveled to England and with friends to Spain and Italy, but he had never visited Germany. He attended a Holy Cross high school in Nyoiseau, applied for and won a Moreau Scholarship to St. Edward’s, and enrolled at the university in Fall 2012. “I didn’t know what I wanted to study, but I knew I wanted to travel,” he says.



Mercier des Rochettes’ interests are varied. He works as a peer health educator on campus and is a teaching assistant for a course on political controversies. His interest in American politics led him to obtain an internship as a legislative aide at the Texas capitol in Austin during his freshman year. His professors say his enthusiasm and love of learning make him a star student. **Jack Green Musselman**, an associate professor of Philosophy who also runs the Center for Ethics and Leadership at St. Edward’s, says he’s been impressed by Mercier des Rochettes’ poise while partaking in Ethics Bowl competitions. What’s more, he’s the kind of student who cares less about grades and more about learning.

“He is zealous and motivated,” Somerholter says of Mercier des Rochettes. “He always wants to get the most out of class and reads tremendous amounts.”

So it’s perhaps not surprising to see how Mercier des Rochettes’ curiosity and enthusiasm led him to Germany last June: an introduction to the works of the German philosophers Kant, Hegel and Marx prompted a desire to learn more German, which sparked an interest in studying in the philosophers’ homeland. He applied for and received a Summer Academic Excellence Award from St. Edward’s last spring, which allowed him to volunteer for four weeks on a dairy farm — perhaps an unconventional, but effective, way of mastering a language.

“In the classroom, you can learn a language in theory, but nothing will advance your fluency like an immersive experience,” says Somerholter, who speaks five languages herself. “You have time to compose your sentences in your head in a classroom environment. But when you have a good foundation for the language and travel to that country, the experience puts all you’ve learned from your mind onto your tongue.”

Mercier des Rochettes would not only have the chance to polish his language skills, but he’d also get to learn about agriculture. As someone considering a future working for an international humanitarian organization, Mercier des Rochettes found this intriguing: “Agricultural development can play a large role in growing economies and relieving poverty. But it needs to be done carefully, with the right technologies and approach to sustainability.” He hopes to use the experience from his Summer Academic Excellence Award to earn entry into a graduate program in international development.



Mercier des Rochettes used a website, Helpx.net, that matches volunteers with work opportunities to contact a couple that runs a dairy operation on an approximately 100-hectare farm. The owners, Helmut and Ilse Bayer, took over the place in the early 1980s. They have three grown children — one who still lives on the farm and two who visit to help whenever they can — but use hired labor and volunteers to help them milk the cows, raise pigs, weed gardens and build fences.



The typical milk cow produces six to seven gallons of milk each day. But the fuel for that kind of production requires farmers to provide about 100 pounds of hay, silage, protein and other feed per day, not to mention lots of fresh, clean water. A well-kept cow will live as long as 20 years, providing an ample supply of milk over its lifetime. But keeping those cows happy, healthy and milked can be a full-time job for a farmer.

The Bayers own roughly 60 cows — 45 or so of which had to be milked twice a day. Within hours of his arrival on the farmstead, Mercier des Rochettes found himself learning the ins and outs of milking. His teachers included a 70-year-old farmhand who had worked on the farm for decades and a fellow volunteer, a young man from Halifax, Nova Scotia, who had arrived in Rüsselhausen a few weeks earlier. “We managed to speak German as much as possible,” Mercier des Rochettes says.

It was tough at first. “The declensions in German are just awful. I know them on paper, but speaking is another thing altogether,”

Mercier des Rochettes says. “I also wanted to express myself — not just be understood with bad grammar and gestures. That was hard since we were trying to get things done. The most challenging part was just paying attention to what I was saying.” His hosts were patient, occasionally correcting him but generally encouraging him to realize and fix mistakes himself.

The workday lasted from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. In addition to milking and caring for the cows, there were other chores. The calves had to be fed. There were a handful of pigs (raised for the owners’ own consumption) that needed tending and fields of potatoes and sugar beets that needed to be weeded. When a bumper crop of cherries and strawberries arrived, Mercier des Rochettes helped gather them. The flavor of the fruit was amazing, he says: “I don’t know what’s different. I just know that over there, they tasted better.”

The physical labor was intense, Mercier des Rochettes says, and the calorie expenditure considerable. The daily schedule included a second breakfast in the middle of the morning, and Mercier des Rochettes found himself eating large portions at every meal. There were infinite variations on *dunkel brot* and *spaetzle* — dark bread and homemade noodles. “I didn’t know you could do so many things with potatoes,” he says of the cooking on the farm. “I stayed there for more than a month, and I don’t think we ever had the same dish twice.”

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**Summer
Scholars**

See how cows and cars are connecting students with their academic passions at stedwards.edu/webextras.



The schedule of chores on the farm was intense, but Mercier des Rochettes and his fellow laborers relaxed a bit on weekends. They biked to a nearby lake to swim or visited a local castle. They joined locals at the weekend festivals that occurred in the towns surrounding the farm.

Mercier des Rochettes didn't have much time for reading, but there was plenty of time to think while doing chores. Wake, the philosophy professor, observes that time studying abroad often prompts students to reflect on their way of life and the world around them — a key element of philosophy. "Studying abroad always broadens your perspective, and in some ways it's perfect for cultivating philosophical reflection," Wake says. "You're out of your element. Being displaced often leads you to ask more philosophical questions and not just accept things as they're given to you."

Such epiphanies can take a while to develop, of course. Mercier des Rochettes says his month in the country wasn't life-changing, but it did make him reflect on the value of small-scale agriculture. It sustains families and local economies. Done correctly, it can have significantly less impact on the environment than large-scale farming, and the treatment of animals can be more humane. Buying organic and buying local may seem like small life changes, Mercier des Rochettes observed, but they can have enormous impact on the households that produce the goods. Lifestyle choices matter.

In early July, Mercier des Rochettes left the Bayers' farm to visit family and eventually return to Austin. Having achieved his goal, he says, to improve his skill at speaking German, he was glad to be back in the classroom and among his friends on the hilltop last semester. But he does miss the food and the people he met on the farm — and to his surprise, the livestock.

"I liked working with cows," Mercier des Rochettes says with bemusement.



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THERE MAY NEVER BE a soaring basilica or towering church at the spiritual heart of campus. But there is a humble, beautiful chapel with a history nearly as storied as the university itself — and it was recently dedicated after a major renovation.



ACE



By Robyn Ross
Photography by Morgan Printy
and Faith Robbins

Anyone well versed in St. Edward's University history can likely list off previous uses for the chapel building: auditorium, theater, classrooms, woodworking and blacksmith shop, and shooting range. Now, at last, it is forever a chapel. After a 9-month renovation process, Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel was formally dedicated in a Mass celebrated by the bishop of the Diocese of Austin, the Most Rev. Joe Vásquez, last October.

The chapel, which looks like a brighter, slightly longer version of its old self, is one part of a complex that includes a meditation garden and a new Campus Ministry building named in honor of **Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, '62**. Inside, the pews are now oriented processional style, facing an altar at the north end. Natural light sweeps in from the sides and a new clerestory window added above the altar. The restored wood floors and newly installed walls are a lighter shade of brown, giving the whole room a spacious, airy feel.

In Catholic tradition, a church dedication is an intentional commitment of a building for use in worship and prayer. It's also a chance to commit the furnishings inside the building — the altar, the crucifix and more — to their liturgical purposes. In the following pages we'll take a look at each of these pieces, from their beginnings as wood from campus trees to their blessing by the bishop.



Cross

Corpus

Ambo

Presider's Chair

Altar

THE UNIVERSITY COULD HAVE ordered liturgical furnishings — the baptismal font, ambo, altar, crucifix, tabernacle and ambry — from a church catalog. Instead, it commissioned local artisans to create custom pieces integrated with the design of the chapel. Austin furniture designer Mark Maček created some of the furnishings using wood from trees and snapped branches that were blown down during wind storms that came through campus, an approach that emphasizes sustainability but also offers a subtle reminder that out of death can come new life. In addition, using the campus wood echoes the Holy Cross educational mission of meeting students where

they are “and then fashioning something unique out of that,” says Director of Campus Ministry **Father Peter Walsh, CSC**.

Elm trees felled by Mang House’s demolition provided the wood for the altar, ambo, baptismal font and cross. Elm is a fine wood with small pores and a tight grain that, when sanded, feels soft to the touch. When Maček received the logs from Physical Plant staff in June, he took them to a friend’s sawmill to be sliced into 2-inch-thick slabs. But air-drying the wood to prepare it for use would have taken too long: about one year per inch of thickness. So he built a lumber-drying kiln to reduce the time to one month.



Baptismal Font



“Out of death can come new life.”
— FATHER PETER WALSH, CSC

Maček’s concept for all the furnishings began with the **baptismal font**, whose base is formed of two intersecting elm planes. When viewed from the side, space carved from the planes forms an empty almond shape called a *vesica piscis*, recognizable as the ancient Christian fish symbol.

“I’m basically taking the shape of the bottom of the bowl and translating that into the base. It’s a combination of structure, shape and symbolism,” Maček says.

The glass basin was made by artisan Kathleen Ash, who works in fused glass. While clear around its edges, the basin is marked by bands of increasingly dark blue-gray approaching the center, suggesting depth.

The base of the **ambo** is made of intersecting planes that, from above, form a cross.

The design for the **altar** evolved from Maček’s design for the baptismal font. Its base is a cross with two arms. In the intersection of all these planes is a large sphere of empty space.

“A circle symbolizes unity, completeness and perfection,” Maček says, “and a sphere implies all those things even more. I think that relates to how people think about God. But the sphere in the altar is not an object; it’s a space — so it’s there and not-there at the same time. This also relates to how we think of divinity: We can’t really see it, and it’s beyond our ability to comprehend, but we sense that it’s there.”

An altar, too, is two things, Walsh explains: an altar of sacrifice and a table of the Lord’s Supper. The new altar’s top, called the *mensa*, is stone, harking back to its sacrificial function in the Old Testament.

The altar continues another very old tradition: inside a recess in the underside of the *mensa* is a relic of Saint Brother André Bessette, CSC. Many Catholic churches incorporate a relic of a martyr or other saint into their altar to form a connection to the ancient Christians who celebrated the Eucharist on the burial sites of martyrs in the Roman catacombs. The relic of Saint Brother André, the only Holy Cross saint, was taken from his blood at the time of his death in 1937 and was sent to Walsh last spring by Brother Thomas Dziekan, CSC, the congregation’s vicar general in Rome. During the dedication liturgy Bishop Vásquez knelt to place the relic inside the altar, and then Maček sealed it inside with a stone cap.





Ave Crux, Spes Unica: Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope —HOLY CROSS MOTTO



Maček worked with sculptor Rebecca Cantos-Busch to produce a **crucifix** that hangs over the altar. Maček built the **cross** out of elm, and Cantos-Busch carved the **corpus** — the body of Christ — out of separately sourced poplar.

The figure of Christ is stylized instead of realistic. Rather than carve every detail, Cantos-Busch made facets, or tiny planes in the wood, to catch the changing natural light and suggest the spiritual realm. Christ appears to almost float on the cross, embodying the paradoxical-sounding Holy Cross motto *Ave Crux, Spes Unica*: Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope.

“Our understanding of the cross is that it delves into human suffering, but in a transformative way,” Walsh says. “Jesus is actually transcending the experience of crucifixion in the very moment of being crucified.”

To convey this dual symbolism of Christ, Cantos-Busch meditated on the crucifixion, a process she describes as powerful and healing. “I had a lot of visions of selflessness, unconditional love and nonjudgment,” she says. “Meditating on these things, you wonder: where do you need to be more selfless or loving in your life? I feel like in the past three months I’ve grown a lot because of that.”



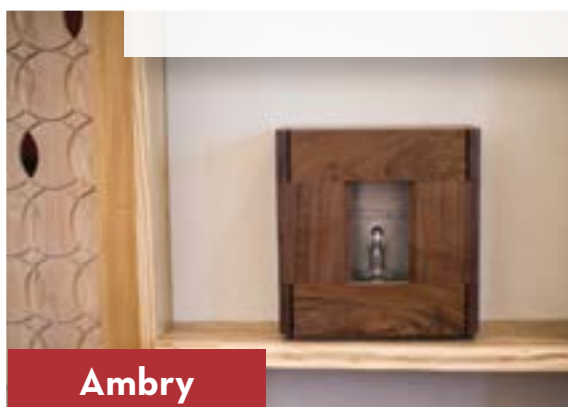
Tabernacle

The **tabernacle** and **ambry** are made of wood from the downed branches of the walnut tree that stands between Andre Hall and the parking lot — an uncommon wood for Texas. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the consecrated hosts are placed into the tabernacle, which is then locked. “It’s just a cabinet,” Walsh says, “but it becomes a place of devotion and prayer because the Blessed Sacrament is reserved there between liturgies for private prayer and bringing communion to the sick.”

The 16-by-16-inch tabernacle has a central panel of purple agate that contains the shape of a flame, a natural feature that evokes light, knowledge and contemplation, says Maček.

With the altar moving to the north end of the chapel, the tabernacle was placed in a side alcove that recently had been used as a storage room but was once a confessional. This creates a more protected, intimate space for private prayer.

The ambry has a design similar to the tabernacle but has a glass panel in the door that allows a look inside. Placed at the entrance to the church, adjacent to the baptismal font, it holds the oils blessed at Easter for use during the year: the sacred chrism, the oil of the sick and the oil of catechumens.



Ambry

“A Catholic chapel is the heart of the university. This chapel is a visible sign of the invisible God.”

—Most Rev. Joe Vásquez






THE RITE OF DEDICATION is “considered to be one of the most solemn and beautiful liturgies in the church,” says **Liza Manjarrez**, assistant director of Campus Ministry. The Oct. 21 Mass began in low light, with just the evening sun filtering through the windows, and ended with the sanctuary brightly illuminated. A chalice belonging to Father Edward Sorin, CSC, the university’s founder, was used during the Eucharist. On loan from the University of Notre Dame, the chalice was brought by former director of Campus Ministry Father Rick Wilkinson, CSC, now vicar of the U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross. It’s a detail that Manjarrez says “brings us full circle in our Holy Cross tradition.”

The altar, the principal symbol of Christ in the chapel, was consecrated by Vásquez, who poured holy chrism on the stone top

and rubbed it in to echo the anointing of Christ. Members of the community then cleaned off the oil and prepared the table for the liturgy of the Eucharist. Each liturgical furnishing was blessed with holy water, and the four walls of the chapel itself were anointed with oil. Small crosses made by Maček with fallen wood from Sorin Oak mark the places where the walls were anointed and remain permanently in place.

“By marking the boundaries of the space — the doorways and walls — we’re saying this space is now dedicated to the purpose of worship and prayer,” Walsh says. “By dedicating it formally, we’re ritualizing what folks intuited all those years: that this is a very special building.”



**“Here people should come with their
worries, fears, hopes and dreams,
confident that Christ will be present.”**

—Most Rev. Joe Vásquez

ALUMNI NOTES

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Every October, members of St. Edward's University alumni chapters embrace their alma mater's Holy Cross heritage by completing service projects in honor of Founders Day. Six volunteer-led chapters brought together 68 alumni to contribute 197 hours of service last fall.

Thank you to all of the alumni who served this year. We are already looking forward to next year!

— *Alumni and Parent Programs*

"St. Edward's instilled the values of Holy Cross in me, and I still look to the mission of the university on a daily basis. The alumni chapter and Founders Day allow me to continue to carry out that mission."

— **Erica Zamora '11**, Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter

"By being involved with your local chapter, you continue the legacy of St. Edward's and surround yourself with fellow alumni. Also, you give back to St. Edward's by representing the university in the community."

— **Alicia Barron '03**, Austin Chapter





HOURS BY CHAPTER

Rio Grande Valley:
63 hours

Houston:
49 hours

Austin:
40 hours

San Antonio:
21 hours

Bay Area:
12 hours

Dallas–Fort Worth:
12 hours

“Founders Day brings all of us back to our roots. It reminds us why we chose and love St. Edward’s: because we find great value and meaning in giving back to our community. I loved volunteering with my fellow Bay Area alumni because, while we’re all from a different time in the university’s history, we all share this common bond.”

— **Allyson Schaeffer '03, MBA '10**, Bay Area Chapter

“If there is one non-academic thing that I learned from attending St. Edward’s, it was the importance of giving back to our communities. Founders Day is meaningful to me because it is a way for regional alumni to work together and have a connection with our alma mater and aim for positive global impact.”

— **Lupita Villanueva '05**, Rio Grande Valley Chapter



“Founders Day is about celebrating the spirit of St. Edward’s University. Even though we’re not in Austin, we can still join together and serve our local community.”

— **Jennifer McGee '07**, Houston Chapter

To ensure that you receive information on events in your area, update your contact information online at <http://bit.ly/AlumniUpdateForm>.



“Our Founders Day event showed that a diverse group of alumni could come together in service to the community in the spirit of St. Edward’s.”

— **Juan Carlos Rodriguez '98**, San Antonio Chapter

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

Judy Coyne '73, of Brownsville, volunteers with Healthy Communities, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Brownsville. Coyne wrote the booklet *Grady Gumshoe and the Case of the Guilty Gum Droppers* to teach children about the proper disposal of chewing gum.

Luis De La Garza '76, of Laredo, was appointed to the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board by Gov. Rick Perry.

Patricia Gerling '79, of College Station, is president and CEO of the Community Foundation, a public charity that is the leading resource for philanthropic giving in the Brazos Valley.

1980s

Salvador Ochoa '81, of Albuquerque, N.M., is the dean of the School of Education at the University of New Mexico.

Edie Phillips '83, of Austin, recently released her first book, *Edie's First-Time Home Buyer's Manual*.

Carlos Pena '84, of Queensland, Australia, is the COO for Allmineral.

Gary Jessen '88, of Dickinson, was ordained as a minister in July. He and his family have moved to Kenya this year to serve more than 800 children and teens in the town of Suna Migori.

David Marwitz '88, of Austin, sold his health care legislative consulting business and was named the director of physician advocacy and external relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.

Mark Johnson '89, of Austin, is senior vice president in commercial lending for International Bank of Commerce.

1990s

Simone Talma Flowers '91, MBA '02, of Austin, wrote "Living Life as if Your Days Were Numbered," which was published in the *Austin American-Statesman* on Aug. 30, 2014.

Timothy Pschierer '91, of Bella Vista, Ark., is the founder of The First Tee of Northwest Arkansas.

Maria Mora '97, of Pflugerville, celebrated her 14th year with Capital IDEA as a career counselor.

2000s

Stacy Hollowell '01, of New Orleans, La., is the men's basketball head coach at Loyola University New Orleans.

Ryan Flores '02, of McAllen, is head coach of the McAllen High School boys' basketball team.

Lydia Wells '02, of Boston, Mass., is working as an agriculture specialist with Customs and Border Protection under the Department of Homeland Security.

Jessica Salinas '03, of Austin, is working toward a master's degree in Education with principal certification at Texas State University.

Lalo Herrera '05, of Austin, is a Realtor with Keller Williams.

Gabriel Luna '05, of Austin, stars in Robert Rodriguez's new show *Matador*, which airs on the El Rey Network.

Michael Schelbert MBA '05, of Bainbridge Island, Wash., is Insight's western regional vice president and general manager of sales.

Leah Foster '06, of Chicago, Ill., has joined the women's basketball coaching staff at Loyola University Chicago.

Casey Fannin '08, of Austin, recently opened the new restaurant Fork and Taco.

Cristina Rendon '08, of Oakland, Calif., joined KTVU, the San Francisco Bay Area Fox affiliate television station, as a general assignment reporter.

2010s

Kimberly Abbott '10, of Missouri City, a forward for the Houston Aces, helped her team finish second in the second division of the Women's Premier Soccer League in 2014.

Stacey Copeland '10, of Hyde, England, won a silver medal at the Women's European Boxing Championship in Bucharest, Romania.

Tim Phillips '10, of Houston, is a corporate actions analyst at Invesco and is working toward a master's degree in Finance.

Mario Leal '11, of Austin, earned an MBA from Concordia University and is now the director of information technology at Huston-Tillotson University.

Rachel Trimble '11, of Austin, graduated from Texas State University with a master's degree in Criminal Justice. She works for the State Office of Risk Management.

Paloma Reinoso '13, of Arlington, Va., is applying to medical school and completed the Nike Women's Half Marathon in Washington, D.C., fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

IN MEMORIAM

Angel Laurel hs '43, of Laredo, on May 23, 2014

Monsignor Harry Mazurkiewicz hs '44, of La Grange, on July 5, 2014

Andrew Cuevas hs '49, of Austin, on May 26, 2014

Edmond Klammer '51, of Evansville, Ind., on Jan. 14, 2014

Herbert Christenberry Jr. '52, of New Orleans, La., on June 11, 2014

Brother Joseph Kinsman CSC, '56, of Santarém, on July 16, 2014

Brother Albin Kuzminski, CSC, '60, of Notre Dame, Ind., on July 6, 2014

Benjamin Prieto-Trevino hs '62, '66, of Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, on Sept. 11, 2014

Reverend Barry Cabell '69, of Placentia, Canada, on June 16, 2014

Kenneth Merryman '70, of West Chester, Pa., on June 30, 2014

Frederick Mueller Jr. '72, of Dallas, on May 24, 2014

David Alegria '75, of Laredo, on May 1, 2014

Brother Joseph Esparza, CSC, '75, of San Antonio, on Aug. 19, 2014

Robert King '76, of Georgetown, on July 24, 2014

Raul Hernandez '78, of Greeley, Colo., on June 19, 2014

Joe Loreda '80, of Austin, on May 30, 2014

Judy Lee '86, MAHS '95, of Burnsville, N.C., on Feb. 28, 2014

Sarah Key MBA '87, of Austin, on Sept. 5, 2014

Martha Spears '89, of Temple, on June 13, 2014

Gayle Carlton '92, of Jonestown, on May 24, 2014

Stephanie Lienenbrugger '93, MBA '98, of Driftwood, on July 1, 2014

Marlene Goad '94, of Round Rock, on June 2, 2013

Jan Nissen '95, of Austin, on July 25, 2014

Edward Doris Jr. '00, of Georgetown, on June 24, 2013

Nic Ramos '13, of Duncanville, on Dec. 22, 2014

Sally Liserio, of Austin, on July 30, 2014

MARRIAGES

Victoria Gutierrez '00, MLA '04, of El Paso, to Richard Pineda on June 24, 2014

Timothy Edward Suarez '08, of Katy, to Laura Beth Suarez on Jan. 29, 2011

Joel Juarez '09, of Austin, to **Paige Layden '09**, of Austin, on May 17, 2014

BIRTHS

To **Christopher Burton '88, MBA '99**, and wife Veronica J. Burton, daughter Bridget Bianca on Aug. 27, 2013

To **Lydia Wells '02** and husband Nathan Wells, son Christopher on Sept. 13, 2014

To **Timothy Lamonte '08** and wife **Whitney Lamonte '09**, son Camden Watson on Jan. 11, 2014

To **Timothy Edward Suarez '08** and wife Laura Beth Suarez, son Luke Timothy on July 24, 2012

To **Roxanne Hernandez '09** and husband Braulio Amador, son Luke Nathaniel on July 27, 2014

To **James O'Sullivan '10** and wife Suzanne Atherton, daughter Neive Elizabeth on Aug. 22, 2014

ASK THE EXPERT

Secrets Behind the Salsa



Sarah (Zubiate) Darrouzet '06 of Zubiate Foods has spent the last decade assembling just the right ingredients for a successful salsa business. This Dallas entrepreneur made sure her company reflects the values she has learned from her mentors, her career in the financial industry and her family. We asked her to share what she's learned in starting her own business.

On-the-Job Learning...

In my years of being put through the wringer at large financial institutions, I was able to learn a lot about the variables of success and what it takes to make it. My last financial job was with Trinity Fiduciary Partners, where they focused on sustainability and corporate responsibility. All my experiences helped me reflect and really pin down what kind of business I want to run, how I want to manage people and what kind of culture I want to create.

Getting Fresh...

People describe our salsa as "the best they've ever had." We don't add any water, and there's no added sugar. We have all the flavorful ingredients — the cilantro, the jalapeño, the lime — and the taste is completely different than store salsa because ours is fresh, not cooked. Our price point is higher, but the profit margin is still relatively good. People are willing to pay for it because the taste is unique.

Taking It to the Streets...

Selling our salsa and queso at local farmers markets is our business model at this point. More people are moving to the hubs of cities, and they are more focused on buying local. They appreciate the fact that they are helping keep people in the community employed. There is a sense of pride associated with it. Once we create a brand presence and reputation in the community, then we hope to expand to grocery and other retail stores.

The Secret of My Success...

At St. Edward's, I was very active in entrepreneurship programs, and I knew that I eventually wanted to run my own business after getting hands-on experience. During my time in the financial industry, it was pounded into me that starting a successful business would take going into the trenches and getting dirty.

—Lisa Thiegs

CHAPTER NEWS

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

Alumni Baseball Game

Oct. 25, 2014

Highlight: More than 70 alumni and friends attended the game.

Golf Alumni Weekend

Oct. 25–26, 2014

Highlight: Alumni gathered for a cocktail party at the Rattle Inn and a golf tournament at Falconhead Golf Club.

Alumni Softball Game

Nov. 8, 2014

Highlight: Softball alumnae played a game of slow-pitch and offered advice to the current team on life after the hilltop.

**Men's Basketball Alumni Weekend**

Nov. 14–15, 2014

Highlight: The alumni players watched the Hilltoppers beat Colorado Christian 68–58 on Friday night and beat Colorado Mesa 74–61 on Saturday.

**Women's Basketball Alumni Event**

Nov. 15, 2014

Highlight: Women's basketball alumnae watched the Hilltoppers beat Fort Lewis 58–54.

Join us for Homecoming and Family Weekend Feb. 27–March 1, 2015!

Register now at homecoming.stedwards.edu

**From Austin
Happy Hour**

Nov. 13, 2014

Highlight: 48 Austin alumni gathered at Opal Divine's for a networking happy hour.

Holiday Service Project

Dec. 10, 2014

Highlight: Alumni packed meals for 360 families in need this holiday season.

**From Houston
Basketball Game**

Dec. 6, 2014

Highlight: 30 Houston alumni watched the Hilltopper men's basketball team play the Rice Owls in Houston.

**From the Rio Grande Valley
Bowling Event**

Dec. 20, 2014

Highlight: Daniel Hernandez (husband of Lupita Villanueva '05) won the match with a score of 114.

**From San Antonio
Holiday Service Project**

Dec. 13, 2014

Highlight: Alumni completed more than 50 hours of service volunteering at the Food Bank of San Antonio.

**From Dallas–Fort Worth
Holiday Service Project**

Dec. 20, 2014

Highlight: 19 alumni distributed gifts to families in need through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.



Editor's Note: We asked Margaret Crahan, senior research scholar at the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia University and a member of the board of trustees for St. Edward's University, to share reflections on the normalizing of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. Crahan was in Havana when the change was announced in December. Here is her account.

On Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, leading experts from the United States and Cuba gathered in Havana to assess the state of relations between the two countries. In panel after panel on that day and the next, speakers suggested that prior to the Summit of the Americas in Panama in April 2015, there might be some limited relaxation of U.S. restrictions on travel, banking and commerce. Pressure on the United States from throughout the Western Hemisphere and elsewhere had been building to abandon Washington's attempt to isolate Cuba politically, economically and diplomatically, an effort that had begun with the rupture of relations on Jan. 1, 1961.

On Wednesday morning, Dec. 17, 2014, while the conference was in session, CNN began reporting that President Barack Obama and President Raúl Castro would speak at noon. The experts gathered in the conference center were stunned when the two heads of state announced that the process of normalization of relations would begin. The room erupted in cheers, tears and hugs. The conference organizers cancelled the afternoon panels, while the university students in attendance took to the streets to celebrate. Most of the experts rushed to their hotels to get on the Internet and respond to the media. Remarkably there had been virtually no leaks during the months of negotiations facilitated by the Canadian government and encouraged by Pope Francis.

Using his executive authority, President Obama had directed Secretary of State John Kerry to review Cuba's inclusion on the state sponsors of terrorism list, which restricted some banking and commercial relations. The U.S. Departments of Treasury and Commerce were ordered to review a wide range of economic regulations. Restrictions on U.S. tourism and the embargo would remain in force as their elimination required congressional action. Both governments would have to change not only some of their laws and regulations but also overcome deep-rooted hostility. There was, however, considerable support for the decision in the United States. A 2014 survey of Cuban Americans in Miami-Dade County by Florida International University indicated that 68 percent favored diplomatic relations with Cuba, while a Pew Research Center survey in January 2015 found that 63 percent of all Americans did.

In the midst of the turmoil at the conference center, Wayne Smith, the dean of U.S. Cuba experts, arrived. Wayne had been a junior foreign-service officer in Havana at the time of the 1961 rupture of relations and had returned to Havana to serve as Chief of the U.S. Interests Section from 1979 to 1982, when he resigned in disagreement over U.S. policy toward Cuba. While based at Johns Hopkins University and subsequently at the Center for International Policy in Washington, he promoted academic and cultural exchanges with Cuba and urged a rethinking of U.S. policy towards Cuba. Shouts of "Viva Wayne" rang out, and he was urged to speak. In brief remarks, Wayne said that he had prayed that he would live to see this day.

His statement reminded me of the time in the mid-1980s when I had invited Wayne and Ambassador Anthony Quainton to speak on the art of diplomacy at Occidental College, where I was the Henry Luce Professor. Shortly after the event was announced, the college began receiving threatening telephone calls from anti-Castro militants. The Los Angeles Police Department was notified and provided security for Wayne, Tony and myself. The evening of the event, I hosted a reception at my home across the street from the college.

When the time came to leave to walk across campus to the auditorium, Wayne said he would go first; at 6 feet 4 inches he was the biggest target. Tony disagreed stating that he was the smaller target. I insisted that we go together, and the LAPD agreed. The police did advise the trustees and other guests to wait 10 minutes before starting out after us. As we crossed the campus, we were joined by half a dozen men whom the police identified as the armed militants. When we got to the auditorium, Wayne, Tony and I sat in the front row waiting for the president of the college and trustees to arrive. Directly behind us sat the armed militants and directly behind them the LAPD plainclothes officers. As soon as we were seated, Wayne turned to the armed militant behind him and stuck out his hand and asked him what part of Cuba he was from. Ciego de Ávila was the reply, and Wayne then raved about the town's beauty. He then asked the next Cuban where he was from — Matanzas was the answer, and Wayne said it had the best picadillo in Cuba. This continued down the line until Wayne and Tony had shaken hands with all the militants who looked increasingly confounded. Shortly thereafter they left, and Wayne and Tony spoke to 900 students and faculty without further ado. Wayne clearly demonstrated that diplomacy was highly effective in resolving conflicts. On Dec. 17, 2014, it appeared that Presidents Obama and Castro agreed.



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