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# AlumNotes

The Official Newsletter of the  
St. Mary's University Alumni Association

## Fiesta Oyster Bake 2005

### A Record Breaking Shuckcess!

**Fiesta Oyster Bake 2005 showed why it is the Pearl of all of the Fiesta events as the event grossed nearly \$2 million (\$1.975 million) and entertained more than 75,000 people. Also, the 2005 Bake was historic in that the event was chaired by the FIRST female, Corinne Vela Zapata (BBA '82). Her dedication, experience and leadership helped guide the 7,000 volunteers in their efforts to raise significant funds for St. Mary's University student scholarships and other alumni and university projects.**

The planning for the event begins the day after the previous one ends. Because of the year-round planning that is involved, Corinne Vela Zapata and the 2005 committee believed it was time to review the event's mission, goals and objectives. Dr. Robert Mason (BS '68) led the committee through an extensive SWOT analysis and review. To that end, the committee was able to realize the challenges that exist in coordinating such a large scale event and to get a fresh new perspective on the importance of the event for the university and the association. That perspective is very important as the committee plans for the future of the event so that it remains a successful fundraising endeavor benefiting the association and the university community. Upon approval of the Fiesta Oyster Bake strategic plan, the committee will post the Strategic Plan on the web site, [www.oysterbake.com](http://www.oysterbake.com)

Friday's family night continues to set records in terms of crowd size and gross dollars raised. The headline entertainers, Kevin Fowler, Cory Morrow and The Turtles got the large crowds dancing and left the audience with a memorable evening. To cap off the evening, the Valero Fireworks Spectacular lit up the night sky with a dazzling array of patriotic colors and sounds which provided the backdrop for the first night of Fiesta.

As always, entertainment is the big draw at the Fiesta Oyster Bake, and this year's lineup on Saturday did not disappoint. Headliners included hard rocking Alter Bridge, international Latina stars, Ha\*Ash; Tejano superstar, David Lee Garza; Country / Americana performer Kevin Fowler; high energy, dance band, Mingo Fishtrap; and San Antonio local favorites, Miss Neesie and the Ear Food Orchestra and The Swindles. These bands helped add to the Fiesta Oyster Bake's reputation as one of the best entertainment values in the city, and maybe the state.

Every year, the patrons that Fiesta Oyster Bake surveys give the event high marks for its diverse musical selections and the value of the event comparing the admission price to the number of quality bands offered. They believe Fiesta Oyster Bake has something to offer for everyone. And, it does!

The Fiesta Oyster Bake remains a great event for children and children at heart. Children of all ages enjoyed the expanded carnival area both days on Shuckie Street as they played

games and twirled around and, in some cases, upside down at 200 feet in the air on the exciting rides. Also, the families were able to watch children's musical and dance performances by the Network for Young Artists. The Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee wants to make sure that the event remains family friendly in which parents and their children have a safe and enjoyable Fiesta experience.

In addition to all of the bands and carnival activities, the Fiesta Oyster Bake remains a great food event offering more than 120 food and beverage booths to quell any hunger pangs and quench every thirst. Fiesta Oyster Bake offers many diverse items like Chicken on A Stick, Turkey Legs, Chocolate Covered Strawberries just to name a few. But, you can't have a successful Fiesta Oyster Bake without what else...of course, oysters. This year volunteers served up nearly 100,000 of these baked, raw and fried delectable mollusks to the delight of many.

Fiesta Oyster Bake 2005 Chair, Corinne Vela Zapata and the entire Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee thank the 70,000 + patrons, 7,000 volunteers, the St. Mary's University Community and the local neighborhood for their continued support of this worthwhile event.

Special heartfelt thanks goes to the Fiesta Oyster Bake corporate sponsors and the 7,000 volunteers who contribute about 50,000 volunteer hours to help make the event a successful fundraiser for St. Mary's University student scholarships and university and alumni programs. Without the support of the sponsors and volunteers, there would not be a Fiesta Oyster Bake.

In 2006, the Alumni Association will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Oyster Bake. Please join the Alumni Association as it shares a great part of the history of St. Mary's University with the city of San Antonio.

The 2006 committee, chaired by Joe Carreon (BBA '82) is already hard at work planning next year's event. The dates of the event next year are Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22 (The First Weekend of Fiesta!). Also, the Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee is pleased to announce that Jeanne Champion (BA '91, MBA '95) will be the chair for the 2007 Fiesta Oyster Bake.

For updated information about the Bake, check out Shuckie's website at [www.oysterbake.com](http://www.oysterbake.com).

The Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee looks forward to seeing you all at the Bake. Viva Fiesta 2006!

**Every year, the patrons we survey give us high marks for our diverse musical selections and the value of the event comparing the admission price to the number of quality bands offered. They believe Fiesta Oyster Bake has something to offer for everyone. And, we do!**



### Opportunities Anew

Freshly sharpened pencils...notebooks with blank pages waiting to be filled...textbooks yet to be highlighted...knowledge still to be imparted...opportunities not yet taken. Those are just a few things that come to my mind when I think of a new school year. It's already underway at St. Mary's University and your Alumni Association is gearing up for all the opportunities a new school year allows us to bring to you.



Of course you can look forward to some of your favorite events such as the San Antonio Alumni Holiday Social on December 1; Homecoming Weekend beginning April 6, 2006 and of course, Fiesta Oyster Bake on April 21 and 22, 2006. By the way, Fiesta Oyster Bake was awarded Best Event to Benefit a Charity, Best Miscellaneous Clothing and Best Newsletter (Program over \$500,000) by the Texas Festivals and Events Association during their annual conference this summer. Congratulations to 2005 Fiesta Oyster Bake Chair Corinne Vela-Zapata ('82), Fiesta Oyster Bake Executive Director/Alumni Relations Associate Director Steve Rosenauer ('92, '96) and the entire Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee on the well deserved kudos!

In addition to the old favorites there are new events to be just as excited about including a very special exhibit of Papal artifacts from the Vatican to be displayed right here in San Antonio. St. Mary's Night at the exhibit will be held on October 29. And our own St. Mary's University Rattlers will be taking on the University of Texas Longhorns in a pre-season basketball match up on the UT campus in Austin on Wednesday, November 2. Wow! What an opportunity that will be!

The new school year also brings opportunities for you to help your alma mater. I encourage you to become engaged in supporting St. Mary's at the community level...whether it's attending local alumni events, volunteering at a college night or pitching in to help recruit students in your area to attend St. Mary's. Your opportunities...like those of our students...are endless. Of course you can also help by becoming a dues paying member of the Alumni Association. Your membership dues funds university and alumni programs and if you reside in one of our chapter cities/areas half of your \$25 dues is returned to your chapter to fund programs on the local level.

I also look forward to the opportunity to meet all of you during our 2005-2006 Reconnect season and at the multitude of San Antonio and chapter events throughout the year. Your thoughts, suggestions and ideas are valuable to me as president of your Alumni Association. I welcome them.

As you can see, it's not only the students of St. Mary's University who have a lot of work and opportunity ahead of them...Let's get started!

Doris Slay-Barber ('74)  
President, St. Mary's University Alumni Association

### Fiesta Oyster Bake Celebrates its 90th Anniversary



In April, 2006, the Alumni Association will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Oyster Bake event, now called Fiesta Oyster Bake. The Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee would like to commemorate the anniversary by developing a historical display featuring photos, merchandise, publicity materials, etc.

If you have any Oyster Bake memorabilia that you don't mind parting with, the committee would love to have it and include it in our display. In addition to the memorabilia, please include a written description of the piece, names of people in photos, your thoughts on your experiences of Oyster Bake, etc.

The committee thanks you in advance for your help with this project. Please understand that the committee will be unable to return your memorabilia, but your contribution will help the Association present and preserve the history of this great event.

Please send your Oyster Bake memorabilia to the following **by November 18, 2005:**

Steve Rosenauer  
St. Mary's University Office of Alumni Relations  
ATTN: FIESTA OYSTER BAKE  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, TX 78228-8504

For more information please e-mail: [srosenauer@stmarytx.edu](mailto:srosenauer@stmarytx.edu).

### Fiesta Oyster Bake Wins State and International Awards

In July, the Fiesta Oyster Bake proved once again why it is recognized as one of the best events in the state of Texas and around the world. At the annual state conference held this year in Grapevine, the Texas Festivals and Events Association awarded the Fiesta Oyster Bake three awards:

- Best Event to Benefit a Charity
- Best Miscellaneous Merchandise (souvenir tank top t-shirt)
- Best Event/Organization Newsletter (AlumNotes)

In August, the International Festivals and Events Association informed the Fiesta Oyster Bake committee that it had won at least one award which will be presented at this year's conference in September. As of press time, the awards ceremony had not occurred.

Thank you to everyone who makes the Fiesta Oyster Bake a great event.

Produced quarterly by the Alumni Relations Office

Editor: Leigh Scallorn (M.A. '96), Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

E-mail: [alumni@stmarytx.edu](mailto:alumni@stmarytx.edu) or [lscallorn@stmarytx.edu](mailto:lscallorn@stmarytx.edu)

Call: (210) 436-3324 or (800) 699-9932; Fax (210) 431-6864



# AlumNotes

## Won't You Join Us?

There are some great opportunities in San Antonio for you to socialize with your fellow St. Mary's Alumni. These are just some of the events we have coming up:

### 2nd Annual Alumni Association Golf Tournament

Friday, October 7, 2005  
Pecan Valley Golf Club

### The Legacy of the Popes: Papal Exhibit

Saturday, October 29, 2005  
Location: Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center

### San Antonio Alumni Holiday Social

Thursday, December 1, 2005  
Location: Omni San Antonio Hotel  
*The Alumni Association's Reconnect Committee will be collecting toys in support of the Service Learning Center's Giving Tree Program.*

### Post Game Social: St. Mary's vs. St. Edward's (Game time is 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006  
Diamondback Café, St. Mary's University  
Complimentary food and beverages will be served.

### Wine Tasting Bus Trip to Fredericksburg\*

Saturday, May 20, 2006  
\*Bus will leave from St. Mary's University

You will be receiving more information in the months to come. In the meantime, please visit the Alumni Association website for details or call the Office of Alumni Relations at (210) 436-3324 or (800) 699-9932.



**Thanks to your generosity** and those of countless others, your Alumni Association was able to continue offering scholarship support to a number of St. Mary's students. They are especially proud to assist 7 students with full scholarships in 2005-2006:

#### Full Scholarship Recipients

Henrietta Abodakpi  
Taylor Brzezinski  
Joe Garcia  
Alejandro Mendez  
Rebecca Stablein  
Celia Vaclavik  
Ariel Vinas

#### \$1500 Scholarship Recipients

Edgar Alanis  
Raul Arias  
Evita Ayala  
Meagan Brorman  
Kaessee Brown  
Simone Diener  
Joe Dinkins

Kelly Duron  
Diane Gaither  
Alyssa Gerany  
Amanda Gonzales  
Theresa Hill  
Jacob Ibarra  
Stefan Jewasko  
Brett Kaufman  
Christina Keller  
Claudia Leza-Valle  
Curtis Lucas  
Marybell Martinez  
Misha McDonald  
Jafet Morales  
Vanessa Peterson  
Sally Pretorius

Rachelle Ramos  
Maria Rivera  
Isabel Rodriguez  
Andrew Romero  
Ryan Schilhab  
Lucia Isabel Sobrevinas  
Petra Valenzuela  
Yanran Wang  
Tomoko Weggner  
Tiffany Williams

#### Graduate School Scholar

Joshua Melendez  
Additionally, there was a School of Law scholarship also awarded.

#### These scholars

were honored with a dinner in Pecan Grove on Thursday, Sept. 1. It provided members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors with an opportunity to meet and get to know these young men and women who will be St. Mary's University's future alumni leaders.

## Just Can't Wait to Wander...

St. Mary's University's own Father Charles Miller, S.M. ('55) and the St. Mary's University Roamin' Rattlers are ready to take it on the road again this year. There are some great tours in store...so pack your bags and tag along!

### Roamin' Rattlers 2005-2006 Travel Program Tour Schedule

Dec 3-11, 2005	European Christmas Markets in Germany and Switzerland
March 3-19, 2006	Diocese of Amarillo Pilgrimage to Holy Land and Rome
May 18-27, 2006	British Landscapes
May 15-30, 2006	Morocco and Tunisia (Tentative)
May 2006	Marian Shrines of France, Spain, Portugal (Tentative)
June 17-23, 2006	Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota
Summer 2006	Biblical/Archaeological Graduate Study Tour of Holy Land

For more information on these tours or the Roamin' Rattlers Travel Program, please contact Fr. Charles Miller, S.M. ('55) at (210) 436-3918 or e-mail: roaminrattlers@stmarytx.edu.

## The Only Thing Missing is...YOU!

### 2005-2006 St. Mary's University Reconnect Schedule

Milwaukee	September 23 (Friday)	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	September 24 (Saturday)	7:00 p.m.
Tucson	October 13 (Thursday)	7:00 p.m.
Phoenix	October 14 (Friday)	7:00 p.m.
New York	October 20 (Thursday)	7:00 p.m.
<b>SAN ANTONIO</b>	<b>DECEMBER 1 (THURSDAY)</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
San Diego	December 3 (Saturday)	7:00 p.m.
Brownsville	January 13 (Friday)	7:00 p.m.
McAllen	January 14 (Saturday)	7:00 p.m.

Austin	February 16 (Thursday)	7:00 p.m.
Dallas/Fort Worth	March 4 (Saturday)	7:00 p.m.
Houston	March 11 (Saturday)	7:00 p.m.
Laredo	March 16 (Thursday)	7:00 p.m.
Washington, DC	March 24 (Friday)	7:00 p.m.
El Paso	March 31 (Friday)	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	May 6 (Saturday)	7:00 p.m.

Check the Alumni Association website [www.stmarytx.edu/association](http://www.stmarytx.edu/association) for locations. To RSVP for any of these receptions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (210) 436-3324 or (800) 699-9932 or e-mail: ngarza@stmarytx.edu.

## Welcome Home Alumni

It's not even Halloween, you say...it's too early to think about Homecoming and Fiesta Oyster Bake... but it's NEVER too early to make plans to come back to your alma mater. Homecoming 2006 will begin on Thursday, April 6, 2006 with the Distinguished Alumni Dinner. School Reunions and the Greek and Student Group Reunion will occur on Friday, April 7, 2006 and then Homecoming Mass and Oyster Bake will be Saturday, April 8, 2006.

And that's just a warm up for everyone's favorite... Fiesta Oyster Bake on April 21 and 22, 2006...the first weekend of Fiesta!

iViva St. Mary's University!

## It's Time to Hit the Links

On Friday, October 7, 2005, the St. Mary's University Alumni Association will host its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Pecan Valley Golf Club. Registration will begin at 12:00 p.m., with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. An awards dinner will follow the tournament and prizes will be awarded to the top teams.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund student scholarships.

For corporate sponsorship and individual entry forms, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (210) 436-3324 or (800) 699-9932.

## Let's Go Rattlers... Let's Go!

The men's and women's athletic season at St. Mary's University is already underway. To keep up with all the action, log on to [www.rattlerathletics.com](http://www.rattlerathletics.com). You can also find a complete list of all Athletics Booster Club post game socials.

Let's Go Rattlers!

## Just "Due" It

There has never been a better time to become a dues paying member of the St. Mary's University Alumni Association. Why? Because the Alumni Association has added additional membership benefits to those already in place. By becoming a dues paying member you will be able to enjoy discounts at major businesses in all areas of industry including car services, entertainment and movies, sports and leisure and food and dining nationwide including those in your local community. Just show your membership card to any of the participating merchants and get great savings. Plus you'll still be doing your part to help fund university and alumni programs.

The expanded membership program has two levels from which to choose: the regular level of \$25 or the premium membership level at \$50, which gives you even more savings. Regardless of which level you choose, you will still be able to enjoy discounts at alumni events, the ability to submit nominations for Distinguished Alumni, voting privileges for the Alumni Association Board of Directors, \$5 worth of food and beverage coupons at Homecoming Oyster Bake and so much more!

It's so easy to join the Alumni Association! To pay on-line or get more information about the new membership program and all the wonderful benefits of membership, visit the Association's website at [www.stmarytx.edu/association/](http://www.stmarytx.edu/association/). You can call the Office of Alumni Relations at (210) 436-3324 or (800) 699-9932. You can also mail in your check to:

St. Mary's University  
Office of Alumni Relations  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, TX 78228-8504  
ATTN: DUES PROGRAM

However you choose to get it done, just "due" it.

## Alumni Scholar Referral Program

Is there a high school senior you know that would be a perfect St. Mary's University student? The Alumni Association wants to know about them. Please submit his or her name for consideration as an Alumni Scholar of St. Mary's University\*.

As a result of your recommendation, the Alumni Association will fund the student's application fee. **All nominations must be postmarked by January 15, 2006.**

To nominate a student, please provide the student's name, address, city, state, zip code and high school attended. You will also need to provide your name, class year, address and telephone number. All nominations may be sent to:

St. Mary's University  
Office of Alumni Relations  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, TX 78228-8504

ATTN: ALUMNI SCHOLAR REFERRAL PROGRAM

\*Please note: Submission of a name does not guarantee the student any scholarship funds. They are only placed in consideration for scholarship funds.

