# Star Vol. 14 No. 10 lew





## Deck the Mall, Celebrate the Holidays at UST

Crank up the Christmas carols and pull out the decorations to celebrate the jubilation surrounding this magical time of year. As you jingle hop around the campus and let out a "Feliz Navidad," stop by the events below to be a good cheer for the most wonderful time of the year.

Campus Ministry will re-enact **Las Posadas**, Mary and Joseph's search for the location where Jesus was to be born, at 7 p.m. on **Nov. 30**, beginning at Guinan Hall. Led by Father Mike Buentello, CSB, remember that holy night by walking around campus, praying Scripture and singing hymns.

A flurry of events will be held on **Dec. 4**. Play in the "snow," enjoy crafts,

snacks, a petting zoo, camel rides and hayrides at **Deck the Mall** at 4 p.m. on the Academic Mall. University President Dr. Robert Ivany will light the Christmas tree and a **Live Nativity** will proclaim Noel at 7 p.m. Before you sleep in heavenly peace, listen to the angelic voices of the University Singers **Christmas in the Chapel** at 8 p.m.

After hanging a shining star upon the highest bough, finish up your celebration at the "Celtic Christmas Carols with Danny O'Flaherty and Noel Nash" at 2 p.m. on Dec. 9 in Jones Hall.

Have a Merry Christmas, happy holiday season and a blessed new year!



Holiday Mass Schedule, Chapel of St. Basil Christmas Eve Mass:

7 p.m. - French Mass 11:30 p.m. - Christmas Carols 12 a.m. - Midnight Mass Christmas Day:

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m.

New Year's Day:

10:30 a.m.

## **BES Supports Strong Values in Business**

The University of St.
Thomas Business Ethics
Society welcomes Ron
Farmer, CEO of US LED, to
speak on "Strong Values
Equals Strong Business" at
7 p.m. on Nov. 27 in the
Malloy Board Room. Farmer
will share his insight on
building a successful
company based on strong



values, customer service, valued employees and innovative products. US LED is a manufacturer of solid state lighting products for commercial, industrial and office applications. It is one of the fastest-growing companies worldwide.

The event is free and open to the UST campus community. For more information, contact Klaudya Jimenez at 713-942-5951 or bes@stthom.edu.

## **Symphony Concert Benefits UST**

In celebration of the planned Performing Arts Center at the University of St. Thomas, the world-renowned Houston Symphony will perform



the New Vision, New Stars Benefit Concert at 7:30 p.m. on **Jan. 22** at Jones Hall in the Houston Theater District. Guest conductor, Andrey Boreyko will conduct Stravinsky's Suite from "The Firebird," Ravel's "Pavane" and Mussorgsky/Ravel's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

This memorable event celebrates the University's vision for enhancing the visual and performing arts for the campus and the Houston community. Thanks to a generous grant from The Alkek Williams Foundation, UST has engaged Studio Red Architects to begin the design of the Performing Arts Center that will occupy a block of University campus.

General public tickets begin at \$35 and can be purchased through the Houston Symphony by going online to www.HoustonSymphony.org/UST or calling 713-224-7575.

## Save the Date: Holiday Campus Schedules

• Last Day of Saturday Classes: **Dec. 1** 

 Last Day of Regular Classes: Dec. 5

• Regular Exam Schedule: **Dec. 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14** 

• Saturday Class Exam Schedule: **Dec. 10-11** 

• Grades Due: Dec. 18

• Christmas Holiday:

Dec. 24, 2012 to Jan. 1, 2013.

There are no classes, and University offices are closed.

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For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@stthom.edu or 713-525-2150.

## **Upcoming Home Games**

#### Basketball

Games are played at Jerabeck Gym. Free for UST students, faculty, staff, and children 12 and under. \$3 admission for all others.

#### Dec. 1

Women's Basketball vs. Texas College 5:30-7 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Texas College 7:30-9:30 p.m.

#### Dec. 13

Women's Basketball vs. Wiley College 5:30-7 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Wiley College 7:30-9:30 p.m.



Join Campus Ministry for a celebration of the life for the Rev. James Keon, CSB, at 7 p.m. on **Nov. 26** in the Chapel of St. Basil. A reception will follow at 8 p.m. in the Ahern Room. Read more about Father Keon at stthom.edu/FatherKeon.

#### **Politics Prevail for November**



UST's Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the Club of the Month for November. The group co-hosted an Election Night Watch Party with the International Studies Society, UST College Democrats and UST College Republicans in the Old Bookstore. It was an action-packed night and about 100 people attended. Attendees engaged in discussion as the results came in. Participants could also choose to take pictures with life-size cardboard images of President Barack Obama or Gov. Mitt Romney.

#### **Winter Graduation Mass**



The University will celebrate graduates at the Winter Graduation Mass at noon on **Dec. 15** at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6800 Buffalo Speedway. A reception will be held at UST welcoming graduates as new alumni at 1:30 p.m. in Jerabeck Gym. Buses are available starting at 10 a.m. to bring attendees to and from St. Vincent's. RSVP by **Dec. 12** to Alumni Relations at alumni@stthom.edu.

## Winter Graduates Look to Future

As winter graduation approaches, two UST seniors express their gratitude to UST and look to the future. Megan Viola-Vu and Grace Tan make plans for the future.

Senior communication major **Megan Viola-Vu** uses her time, treasure and talent to encourage children to dream big.

She created the Be The Difference Foundation, which reaches out to children battling



cancer, the less fortunate and children with disabilities to encourage them to follow their dreams. Viola-Vu's inspiration to create the foundation stems from her participation in the National American Miss pageants, aimed at instilling confidence in young women.

After graduation, Viola-Vu plans to work with the Texas Children's Hospital's Public Relations Office or focus on her foundation.

"I'm ready for whatever challenge life throws at me," Viola-Vu said.

Grace Tan will graduate with a Master of Education in Dual Language. Tan finished her program in only a year and a half and is the first Chinese American to train in UST's program.



An English-as-a-second-language student herself, Tan taught ESL for three years before deciding to pursue her master's. Tan taught first-graders speaking Spanish, Chinese, Turkish and German. Upon graduation, she looks forward to finding a job where she can continue to show children, parents and the community the benefits of being a dual language speaker.

"I enjoy teaching kids because their little brains can absorb so much information," Tan said. "Teaching children dual languages at a young age will begin to introduce them into the global marketplace where so many others are bilingual. For a five-year-old to speak fluently to an adult in a different language is very impressive, and I'm excited to be a part of that growth."

Read more in the Online Newsroom.

#### **Events**

#### Research 2.0 for Faculty

ibrarians show faculty members database alerts, RSS feeds and other social media resource. "Research 2.0: Tools to Help Students Engage with Current Research"



is at noon on Nov. 27 in Doherty Library.

#### Making the Grade: Tips for Testing

Tutorial Services and Counseling and Disability Services will hold a workshop to address different study techniques for exams at 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 27 in the Tutorial Services Center, Room 207, Crooker Center.

#### CTS Colloquium with Hittinger

he Center for I Thomistic Studies Colloquium Series presents Dr. John Hittinger on "What Does Aguinas Add to Aristotle's Defense of Private Property?" The



event is at 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 in Sullivan Hall, Room 102.

#### **Augustine Without Walls Coffeehouse**

TST students, faculty and staff gather to casually discuss topics that help integrate their faith, academics and life as they share homemade goodies at 2 p.m. on Nov. 30 in Clare Hall.



#### Pictures in Sound

he UST Music Department is hosting "Pictures in Sound: Programmatic Music of the Baroque" at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 in Cullen Hall. The event is free and open to the public.



### **Faculty Explore Catholic Intellectual Tradition**

eeting three times a semester, I faculty members meet to discuss books and artwork relevant to the co-existence of faith and reason. The group is reading from "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander" by Thomas Merton.



Open to all faculty, the next meeting is at 3 p.m. on **Dec. 6** in the Center for Faculty Excellence on 1206 Colquitt St. For more information, contact group director Jim Clarage at claragi@stthom.edu.

## Leadership Conference Inspires Student

Elevia Le attended the Beta Gamma Sigma Leadership Forum in St. Louis, Miss., on Nov. 1-4.

Le engaged in leadership exercises and workshops to practice ethical management and work style. She collaborated with 100 members from around the globe.

BGS is the international honor society serving business programs accredited by the Association to

Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. Membership in BGS is the highest recognition a business student can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB.

## Nominate Students for Mardi Gras King, Queen

The University of St. Thomas is accepting ▲ nominations for the 2013 Mardi Gras king and queen.

Ideal nominees are preferably scholarship recipients, significant contributors to the University as a student and leaders of faith and character. Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by other students, faculty or staff.

The deadline is **Dec. 7**, and finalists will be invited to interview. Download the nomination form at stthom.edu/MardiGrasKingAndQueen.

The winning student king and queen will attend the Mardi Gras Gala on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, from 6-10 p.m. to greet guests and thank the audience for their generous gifts to the scholarship fund.

For more information, contact Corey Flores at floresce@stthom.edu or 713-525-3173

Star View is published by the Office of Marketing Communications to inform the UST community about University and campus news. Call 713-525-3105 with questions and/or comments.