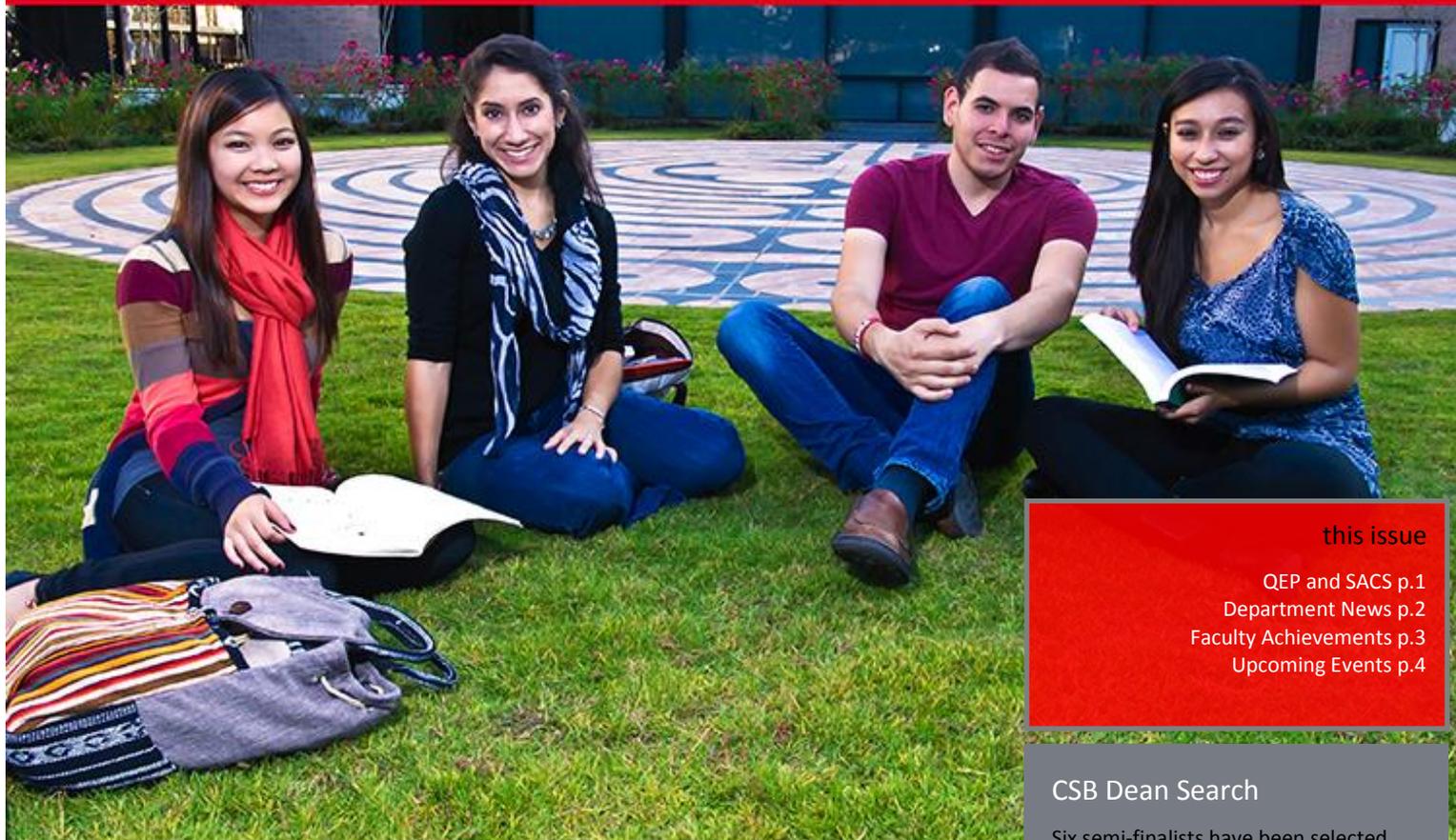




UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

Educating Leaders of Faith and Character

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FIRST FRIDAY NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2012 EDITION

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CSB Dean Search

Six semi-finalists have been selected from more than 50 initial applicants. Airport interviews with the semi-finalists are scheduled for Dec. 17 and 18. From there, finalists will be chosen for on-campus interviews in January. The university would like to recognize the CSB Dean Search Committee for the work with the process. Members are Dr. Dominic Aquila (Chair), Dean Fr. Joseph Pilsner, Dean Nora Hutto, Dr. John Leavins, Dr. Michele Simms, Dr. Joe Ueng, Ms. Mary Ricciardello (UST Board Member), and Mr. John Kelly (UST Board Member and Alumnus).

Faculty Searches

Cameron School of Business

Accounting, Asst. Prof., Tenure Track
 Finance, Asst. Prof., Tenure Track
 Marketing, Asst. Prof., Tenure Track

Arts and Sciences

Chemistry, Asst. Prof., Tenure Track (inorganic/ organometallic)
 Chemistry, Asst. Prof., Tenure Track (analytical or organic)
 (2) Math, Asst. Profs., Tenure Track
 Math/ Engineering, Asst. Prof., Tenure Track

Quality Enhancement and SACS

As part of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation class of 2015, the University of St. Thomas will develop a new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused effort to enhance student learning. It's not a burden – it's an opportunity to tackle an issue that we are passionate about.

Central to the process is showing that passion to SACSCOC. The preliminary phase is centered on engaging the entire UST community – faculty, staff, students, and administration – on topic identification. And the key to topic identification is YOUR input. Members of the SACSCOC Steering Committee (the Institutional Effectiveness Council) will be actively soliciting your ideas at venues including Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, Chairs and Directors meetings and a Campus Forum, scheduled for Jan. 29, 2013 in Scanlan.

If you would like further information, please contact a member of the steering committee: Dominic Aquila, John Palasota, Maury Harris, J. P. Faletta, Beena George, Kelly Vandenberg, Catherine Barber, Larry DiPaolo, and Sharon Valente (valents@stthom.edu, x2112). This is a chance to show SACSCOC why UST is a great Catholic university imbued with the Basilian tradition.

Department News

Office for Student Success

Dr. Ricardo Montelongo, Director for Student Success, developed and submitted a convention program proposal to ACPA College Student Educators International. His proposal was accepted, and Dr. Montelongo, along with seven other student affairs colleagues around the nation, will provide a convention institute based on the theme, "Latina/os and Their Involvement." The institute will consist of four conference sessions highlighting research and best practices on college organization involvement and its impact on Latina/o undergraduate success and experiences. The convention will be held March 4-7, 2013 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Library

The Library's new Discovery Tool, powered by Ex-Libris Primo, will launch in spring 2013. The tool will be a one-stop solution for finding books, journal articles and more. A single search will search our local catalog (the books we have here in the library) and every database, journal and ebook the library can access. The tool will provide a more "Google-like" search experience and will be especially beneficial to patrons unfamiliar with the full range of resources now available at Doherty. The preparation for this new library service involves the entire library faculty. The project is headed by Ms. Loan Nguyen.

Registrar

The office of the registrar is simplifying services for faculty staff and students with the implementation of streamlined Academic Advising Reports, improved Graduation Checklists with status updates and electronic submission of Substitution Waiver Forms, starting spring 2013.

Assessment

Sharon Valente has been hired as the new Director of Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness at the University of St. Thomas. Prior to joining UST, she was the Director of Evaluation and Policy Studies at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and she was an Associate Professor of Finance and Research Methods at Ashland University, where she was also the University Coordinator of Assessment. Sharon is the past president of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA). She is on the Editorial Review Board for the Journal of Research in Education, in addition to reviewing for the International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, the Journal on Excellence in College Teaching, the International Higher Education Teaching and Learning (HETL) Review, and the International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning.

Center for International Studies

CIS is on the move! Renovations are underway to change the Monaghan House, the former home of the Office of Admissions, into a space for the Center for International Studies. The move will allow both CIS and the Math department the opportunity to grow.

STEM

On Dec. 3, the STEM faculty and selected students met with Dr. David Wolf for lunch. Dr. Wolf is an astronaut, medical doctor and electrical engineer who now works to show the importance of STEM in higher education.



Student Success

STEM Student Nicholas Zaibaq received a Commended Presentation Award for his presentation at the Rice University Undergraduate Symposium on Oct. 20.

Armando Orduña, a student in the School of Education, online Principalship course was honored by the White House as a "Champion of Change" for his effort to improve the lives of Hispanic youths. [See an article about Mr. Orduña and video of him teaching.](#)

Students Andrew Hite and Celine Simmons, both joint majors in Environmental Science and Studies and Communication, were instrumental in the planning and filming of the recent Salt + Light production "Creation...and God saw that it was good," which aired Dec. 2.

Several UST students were recognized by the Italian Cultural and Community Center on Nov. 29 for their work with *La Scuola di Italiano*, the Italian language school. The students are pictured above with his Excellency Claudio Biosogniero the Ambassador of Italy to the United States.

Ryan Reynolds and Heather Skeen-Esterheld, senior biology majors, attended the annual national meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Knoxville, Tenn. Their research poster was "Determining the LD50 toluene on *Drosophila melanogaster*."

Attendance at this scientific meeting highlighted the quality of their research, allowed them to present research in front of other professionals and broadened their scientific knowledge. Their research was well-received and they were able to network with other scientist from all over the United States.



Faculty Achievement

School of Education

Dr. Suhyun Yoo, a visiting instructor with the School of Education, is developing an online teaching and learning module for the School of Education based on her research. Dr. Yoo presented An Exploration of the Difference in learning process and outcomes between the students with higher and lower levels of critical thinking: A multiple case study at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology International Convention in November.

Arts and Sciences

Dr. Brady Knapp will direct the University Singers in their performance with the Houston Symphony for the *New Vision, New Stars* Benefit Concert scheduled for Jan. 22 at Jones Hall in the Houston Theatre District. The concert will benefit the proposed UST Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available online at www.HoustonSymphony.org/UST.

Dr. Shivas Amin, a visiting professor in the Biology department, is building a collaborative research effort with the Houston Zoo. The partnership would allow students from St. Thomas to participate in conservation research designed to benefit endangered species. Additional projects may also include working with Houston Zoo veterinarians to study causality and treatment of animal disease.

UST Math Professor Dr. Henry Foust is currently exploring a possible collaboration of UST with the Johnson Space Center. If the agreement succeeds, UST students would run tests and do mathematical modeling to determine the safety of certain fire extinguishing methods when used in a confined space in micro gravity.

Cameron School of Business

Dr. Charles Davis, professor of management in the Cameron School of Business, has been appointed a Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from November 2012 through April 2013. Davis, who is on sabbatical from UST this year, will collaborate with logistics faculty on research at MIT's School of Engineering in the rapidly developing field of business analytics.

School of Nursing

Dr. Ann Coleman, the Nursing Activity Director, for UST's newly reopened School of Nursing was awarded a gold medal Excellence in Nursing Award for Nursing Administration and Leadership. The award presented by the Good Samaritan Foundation recognizes nursing's best and brightest. Dr. Coleman was selected from more than 100 nominees from all over Texas.

New Academic Programs

The University will add Economics as an undergraduate major in fall 2013.

More programs are in developmental stages and will be announced as they become approved.

Grant Opportunities

Janice Adamson, the Director of Sponsored Research, has made great strides in securing grant funding for new programs throughout the University.

Learn more about the PPOHA program in the School of Education:

www.stthom.edu/PPOHANews

Learn more about the HSI STEM program:

www.stthom.edu/STEMnews

Learn more about the Title V Program in the School of Nursing:

www.stthom.edu/NursingNews

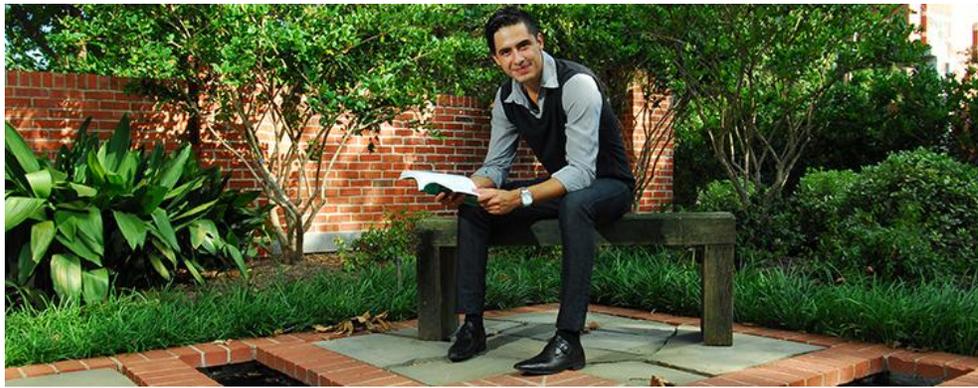
Relevant Articles

Recommended by Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Dominic Aquila

Each month *The Office of Academic Affairs First Friday Newsletter* will draw attention to articles related to developments in the field of higher education. Here are two for this month. Please feel free to contribute suggestions to the Office of Academic Affairs for inclusion in this section of the *First Friday Newsletter*.

- [Making the Case for a Liberal Arts Education: The State of the Question](#)
- [Musings in the wider culture on the future of a university education](#)

Do you have an article to suggest? Send suggestions to Amanda Dimit at alwhite@stthom.edu



Announcements

New Vision, New Stars

A Benefit Concert for the University of St. Thomas Performing Arts Center will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013 in the theatre district's Jones Hall. Tickets for the concert are available online at to www.HoustonSymphony.org/UST or by phone at (713) 224-7575.

Upcoming Events

President's Faculty Research & Colloquium Series

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012 at 12:15-2:00 p.m. in Ahern Room, Crooker Center

Dr. Angelina Chambers, professor of nursing, will present "Perceptions, Attitudes and Self-Management of Natural Menopausal Symptoms in Ghanaian Women."

Winter Graduation Mass and Reception

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 at noon-1:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6800 Buffalo Speedway

Winter Graduation Mass will be celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with a reception immediately following at Jerabeck Gym on the UST campus.

Campus Forum on The Quality Enhancement Plan

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013 at noon-1:30 p.m. in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center

A lunchtime campus Forum will be held to discuss the Quality Enhancement Plan for the upcoming SACS reaccreditation process. The discussion will be led by Dr. Sharon Valente, director of Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness and the SACSCOC Steering Committee.

Aquinas Lecture

Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013 at 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Cullen Hall

Rev. Kevin Flannery from the Pontifical Gregorian University will present "The Capacious Mind of St. Thomas Aquinas."



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