



## I Know What You Did Last Summer: Students Share Experiences

As University of St. Thomas students returned to campus for the first few days of school, there was inevitably a lot of conversation among friends about what they did last summer. From study abroad and travel to jobs, internships, volunteering and – gasp – summer school, students took advantage of the time off for personal development and community service. Students and alumni shared snapshots of their summers on UST’s Facebook.



**Ramy Mahfouz**, senior general business major, said he was a part of “the greatest protest in the history of mankind.” On June 30, he joined millions of Egyptians who marched in the streets of Egypt, which resulted in the overthrow of the president, Mohamed Morsi, in three days. He was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and returned home for the summer.



**Sarah Ashour**, a junior theology major, spent two months in Indianapolis, Ind., with the Little Sisters of the Poor to discern a religious vocation. “Their

charm is caring for the elderly poor, and so I worked in their nursing home, serving the residents in many different ways,” Ashour said. “I was blessed to live in such close contact with a religious order.”

**Michael Hill**, a sophomore political science major, codirected “Charlotte’s Web” at Fort Bend Theatre, and he played one of the three pigs, a knight and a duloc dancer in *Shrek the Musical* at the Stafford Center. Hill also interned for District Court Associate Judge Pedro Ruiz.



**Margarita Perez ’07**, an alumna who is a volunteer services manager at AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., organized Camp Hope, a week-long camp for more than 100 HIV positive children. “It’s probably one of the best experiences of my life,” Perez said. “What’s wonderful about Camp Hope is that it replenishes your hope. It helps you understand what hope means.”



*Read the full story in the Online Newsroom:  
[www.stthom.edu/summer2013](http://www.stthom.edu/summer2013)*

## Colbert Riley Earns Fundraising Award



Cynthia Colbert Riley, vice president for Institutional Advancement, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Fundraising Professional award, given by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Houston Chapter. Riley has more than 25 years of experience in development leadership in healthcare, higher education and public broadcasting institutions.

Riley served as the vice president for development at The Methodist Hospital System from 2007-2012, building the organization's first strategic development program and completing its first major \$200 million fundraising campaign.

At the conclusion of the Methodist campaign, Riley re-joined St. Thomas, where she served for five years in the 1990s as the capital campaign coordinator during the University's first capital campaign.

"Life is an interesting journey," Riley said. "I never would have imagined that my career path would lead me back to the University of St. Thomas. Having the opportunity to help the institution achieve the next phase of its vision through philanthropy will be an exciting endeavor as well as important for Houston and Catholic higher education."

## Celts Welcome Assistant Basketball Coach

University of St. Thomas Athletic Director and head men's basketball coach Todd Smith announced the hiring of **Terry Johnson** as assistant basketball coach.

"Terry will be a great addition to our basketball program and the UST community," Smith said. "He is the son of a coach and has been around the game his entire life. Terry played Division II basketball so he knows all about small college athletics. He has a great understanding of the game and will be a terrific help to our student-athletes, both on and off the court."

Johnson came to UST from California State University, Stanislaus, in Turlock, Calif., where he served as assistant coach for the men's basketball program for two seasons.

"The team had a great season last year, and I just want to build off of that momentum," Johnson said. "I am really excited and looking forward to this season. Go Celts!"



## Course Studies JP II

Pope John Paul II Forum and the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist will host a six-week mini-course for faith enrichment on "Why He is a Saint: On the Life and Thought of Blessed John Paul II," taught by Dr. John Hittinger, professor of philosophy. Courses will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, **Sept. 10 – Oct. 15** in Clare Hall. A price of \$35 covers the fee for books and refreshments.



## Nicaragua Schoolhouse

UST's Cooperative Engineering Program, in collaboration with Engineers Without Borders, University of Houston Chapter, is in the process of designing a schoolhouse for 30 students and teachers to be built in Telpochapa, Nicaragua.

## Alertus Sends Messages to Desktops

University of St. Thomas has a new way to alert students, faculty and staff in case of an emergency. The Alertus desktop emergency alert software will display a message on all campus computers on the UST network if there is an emergency test or alert.



The University will conduct a test of the application on computers in offices, classrooms and labs on Sept. 24. To remove the desktop alert message, click the “Acknowledge” button.

The alert is part of the UST Alerts emergency notification system. The Alertus message will include information about the emergency and how to respond. All faculty, staff and students should follow the instructions on the Alertus message or any UST alert sent via email, phone or SMS message.

Contact the UST Help Desk at Ext. 6900 for a staff member who can answer your questions or concerns about the desktop emergency alert software.

## Campus Tests Alert System

Because campus safety is important at UST, the University will conduct a test of the emergency notification system, UST Alerts, on **Sept. 24**.



To prepare for the ENS test:

- Visit [www.stthom.edu/ens](http://www.stthom.edu/ens) for instructions to update your emergency contact information.
- Add “UST Alerts” in your phone contact list with SMS short codes 23177 and 63079.
- Alert family members included in your emergency information that the University is conducting an ENS test.

## Basilian Scholastics Take First Vows

It was with feelings of anxiousness and excitement that three Basilian novices declared their first profession of vows on Aug. 15 in the Chapel of St. Basil on the University of St. Thomas campus. Hoc Minh Nguyen, Steven Huber and Kittisak Chooklin, pictured left to right, begin the scholastic phase of the formation process as they continue their journey to the priesthood.

The scholastic period is a time of study when candidates take philosophy and theology classes to prepare for ordination. The period generally lasts five years and culminates in the profession of final vows and entrance into the priesthood. Of the four main components to formation-spiritual formation, academic formation, human formation and pastoral formation-this period focuses on the academic formation.

Since professing vows, life has been a whirlwind

of visiting family, moving into the new formation house on the St. Thomas campus, and beginning classes at St. Thomas and St. Mary’s seminary.

Along with their studies, the scholastics will continue assisting at St. Thomas High School and St. Anne Catholic Community, both Basilian run communities. There, they will exercise their pastoral formation, learning how to relate to and mentor those with whom they work.

They also have plans to collaborate with Campus Ministry as well as various on-campus clubs.



## Events

### Pro-Life Mass

Campus Ministry will host a Pro-Life Mass at 12:30 p.m. on **Sept. 17** in the Chapel of St. Basil.



### Controlling the Clock

Join Counseling and Disability Services at 12:30 p.m. on **Sept 19** to learn how to manage your time for academic success. The session will be held in the ISSS office, 2nd floor, Crooker Center.



### Study Abroad Meeting

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in winter or summer study abroad trips are welcome to attend an information session at 6 p.m. on **Sept. 20** in Anderson Hall 103. Participating professors will speak about the courses.



### SAB Tommy Fest

Love Music? SAB invites you to join them for an evening of fun and music at 3 p.m. on **Sept. 27** on the Crooker Patio. Tommy Fest is free and open to the public.



### UST Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the University of St. Thomas is looking to old friends in the group Mango Punch! The celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on **Sept. 27** in Cullen Hall.



## Pi Sigma Alpha Named Best Chapter

The National Political Science Honor Society awarded the University of St. Thomas Pi Sigma Alpha honor society as one of six Best Chapter awards for chapters in schools with enrollment of fewer than 5,000 students for the 2012-13 school year.



The award recognizes local chapters that are particularly active in their departments and universities and exhibit high levels of energy and creativity in furthering the goals of the honor society.

A \$250 cash prize was included with the award. Pi Sigma Alpha will use the prize to organize an activity or event during the 2013-14 year.

“I was very proud of the hard work our chapter did in the 2012-13 year to be awarded this very prestigious award,” said Dr. Jean-Philippe Faletta, associate professor of political science and Pi Sigma Alpha faculty advisor. “I want to give kudos to all of the hardworking participants.”

## UST Among ‘America’s Best Colleges’

For the 20th consecutive year, the University of St. Thomas has been named to the top tier of the U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” list of universities offering master’s degrees in the Western region of the United States.

UST currently ranks 33rd in 2014.

U.S. News & World Report surveyed more than 1,600 colleges and universities for its annual publication and based its rankings on 16 widely accepted indicators of excellence.

## UST Supports School of Irish Music

The Houston School of Irish Music, in collaboration with the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas, brings traditional Irish folksongs, ballads and harp tunes to the youth of Houston. The school offers lessons to students interested in learning to play traditional Irish music and instruments in a wholesome environment.

Register at [HSOIM.org](http://HSOIM.org).



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**Editor**  
Darnell Miller

**Publication Designer**  
Ronnie Piper

**Contributor**  
Brenda B. Cooper