

Earn a Catholic Studies Minor in Holy Land & Italy in One Semester



University of St. Thomas students will have the unique opportunity to earn a minor in Catholic Studies in one semester while studying abroad in the Holy Land and Italy. UST will offer this rare pilgrimage, integrated learning, and immersion in faith and culture, for the first time in spring 2011. Courses will be offered for undergraduate and graduate credit.

“Catholic Studies is one of UST’s premier programs

designed specifically to integrate the Catholic intellectual tradition with a range of academic majors,” said Dr. Dominic Aquila, vice president for Academic Affairs. “The Catholic Studies semester abroad in the Holy Land and in Rome is a new and exciting way to achieve this integration. Students in this program will experience directly the places and cultures that form the foundations of the Catholic tradition.”

Sister Paula Jean Miller, FSE, director of the Catholic Studies Program, designed the new study abroad program to highlight the University’s Catholic identity as it strives to integrate multiple disciplines included in the core curriculum. While other Catholic universities study abroad in Italy, Sr. Paula Jean said there are very few universities that take students to Israel – much less both countries in one semester.

“You can only begin to grasp the richness of the church’s heritage by going to these lands and experiencing both the universality and the particularity of the Church. The Church is embodied in the uniqueness of each culture, even as it is universal to all cultures,” Sr. Paula Jean said. “You can’t get it by just reading it on a page; the only way is to be there long enough to begin to experience the land, the people, and the multifaceted nature of that people.”

Students of all faiths are welcome, but they must have taken Teachings of the Church and Introduction to Sacred Scripture before applying for the new Catholic Studies program, since these are prerequisites for upper division theology courses. Alongside the concentrated study abroad minor, dual or joint majors, the minor, and the Master in Liberal Arts concentration in Catholic Studies will still be offered in the traditional format. Read the complete story and download Catholic Studies Study Abroad itinerary and application at www.stthom.edu/catholicstudies.

- Program Accepts 15-20 Students

- You will Earn 18 Hours of Course Credit in 5 core disciplines (A Complete Catholic Studies Minor in one Semester)

- About 60 Days in the Holy Land and Italy

- Apply by **Nov. 15**

The University of St. Thomas Welcomes the New Faculty



Dr. Pedro Fernandez
Assistant Professor, Spanish
Modern & Classical Languages Dept.



Dr. Mirela Oliva
Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Philosophy Department



Dr. George Laird
Visiting Assistant Professor, Education
Education Department



Dr. Felisa Reynolds
Assistant Professor, French & Spanish
Modern & Classical Languages Dept.



Dr. Brian Mahon
Visiting Assistant Professor, Biology
Biology Department



Dr. Wesley Phelps
Instructor, History
History Department



Dr. Birgit Mellis
Visiting Assistant Professor, Chemistry
Chemistry Department



Dr. Catherine Romero Barber
Assistant Professor, Education
Education Department



Dr. Ronald Monachello
Visiting Assistant Professor, Education
Education Department



Fr. Dempsey Rosales-Acosta
Assistant Professor, Theology
Theology Department



University Appoints Faculty To New Leadership Roles for Fall 2010

Dr. John Starner was appointed to the position of Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Starner joined the faculty in 1998, and most recently served as associate professor of mathematics. He previously served as the Chair of the Management Information Systems Department.

Dr. Hans Stockton was named as the Director of the Center for International Studies and Cullen Trust for Higher Education/Fayez Sarofim Chair in International Studies. Stockton joined the UST faculty in 2002. Under his direction, the Study Abroad Program at UST was frequently ranked in the top 20 programs in the United States.

Dr. Jo Anne Meier-Marquis was appointed to the Chair of the Psychology Department. She is an Associate Professor and her teaching areas are social psychology, foundations of statistical analysis, experimental health, general psychology.

Dr. Ann Fairbanks was appointed to the Chair of the Music Department. She has been at UST since 1976. She has served as Director of the *UST Schola Cantorum*, and taught applied flute, chamber music ensembles, music history and theory. A full story of academic promotions, tenure awards, endowed chairs, and other academic announcements can be found on the Portal.



University Awards Faculty for Excellence in Teaching, Service, Research

The University of St. Thomas Faculty Senate Awards Committee will recognize three UST faculty members with the 2009-2010 awards for excellence in teaching, research and service at Faculty Study Day.

Cameron School of Business Associate Dean **Dr. Barry Wilbratte**, professor of economics, finance and decision information sciences, received the Joseph M. McFadden Excellence in Service Award. Wilbratte joined the faculty nearly 40 years ago. He has served in numerous capacities including department chair and associate dean to three consecutive Cameron School of Business deans. He has been instrumental in helping the Cameron School work toward their goal of obtaining AACSB accreditation. Wilbratte is also known for his mentorship of both students and fellow faculty members.



Dr. Vinita Ramaswamy, associate professor of accounting, received the Saint Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching award. Ramaswamy joined the UST faculty in 1995, and teaches both graduate and undergraduate accounting courses including financial and forensic accounting. A favorite among students, she has served as the faculty advisor to the Accounting Society and as a First-Year Experience advisor.



Dr. Rupak Rauniar, assistant professor of management and marketing, received the Saint Edith Stein Excellence in Research Award. In 2009-2010, Rauniar co-authored five refereed journal publications.

UST To Add Women's Basketball

With the success of women's volleyball, men's soccer, and men's basketball over the last three years, the University of St. Thomas is preparing to take the next step into intercollegiate athletics by introducing the women's basketball program in the 2011-2012 season.



The search for the program's first head coach began this summer to lay a solid foundation for their inaugural season.

"The time is right for St. Thomas to take the next step in intercollegiate athletics," said Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Coach Todd Smith. "There are so many great women's basketball players in Houston and the surrounding area who have to leave home to continue their academic and athletic careers. I believe we can become competitive quickly while providing an excellent education for these student-athletes."

Coming to a Classroom Near You

In the spring 2010 semester, Marketing Communications created three recruiting videos showcasing the strength of our



faculty. These sample class videos featured Dr. Beena George's class on "Outsourcing," Dr. Ted Rebard's metaphysics class on "The Nature of Love" and Dr. Jim Clarage's physics class on "Angular Momentum." These videos, posted on the home page slide show as well as well as the Center for Faculty Excellence and Faculty and Staff tabs, give prospective students a sneak peak into the high caliber of academics they will experience at UST.

MarComm is on the look-out for the next round of sample class videos, and we welcome suggestions of faculty who teach engaging courses to feature. Please contact Sandra Soliz at solizs@stthom.edu.

Upcoming Events



Celebrating 40 Years of Service

The School of Education will host a reception in honor of Dr. Anna DeWald, for her 40 years of service. The reception will be held at 4:30 p.m., **August 19** in the Malloy Hall Board Room. DeWald has held numerous leadership positions in the School of Education including most recently, Dean Emerita, Professor Emerita, Advisor and Certification Officer.



Herzstein Lecture

The annual Herzstein Lecture in Judaism will be given by Rabbi Jacob Neusner at 7 p.m. Monday, **Sept. 20** in Cullen Hall. Rabbi Neusner is a Distinguished Service Professor of the history and theology of Judaism and Senior Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Theology at Bard College.



Faith in Public Life

Join the Honorable Rick Santorum, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, as he explores, "The Role of Faith in Public Life: Fifty Years After Kennedy's Speech to the Greater Houstonian Ministerial Association." The JPII Forum talk will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, **Sept. 9** in Jones Hall.



Miller Lecture

Join Tracey Rowland for the Archbishop J.J. Michael Miller Lecture as she presents "Culture in the Thought of John Paul II and Benedict XVI" at 7 p.m. on Friday, **Sept. 29**. Rowland, Dean of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family Studies in Melbourne, Australia, has focused her previous scholarship on the interpretation of Vatican II and the theology of culture.



Irish Event

Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum will host "Céilí House: An Evening of Traditional Tales from Ireland" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, **Sept. 15** in Cullen Hall. Award winning Houston Storyteller Guild members Susan Gallagher, Sally Bates Goodroe and Brian Herod specialize in Irish and Celtic folktales, tales from the Irish Mythological Cycles and much more.



Mass of the Holy Spirit

Join the University in prayer and celebration of the new semester, with the campus-wide Mass of the Holy Spirit at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, **August 31** in Jerabeck Gymnasium. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow the Mass in Scanlan. This opening Mass will invoke the presence, protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

UST Seeks Volunteers for Catholic Education Second Collection

The University of St. Thomas is seeking volunteers to visit area parishes to promote the Second Collection for Catholic Education, which takes place on Saturday and Sunday, **Sept. 11-12**. The money collected will be shared between the University of St. Thomas Fr. Monaghan Scholarship Fund and the Catholic University of America. Volunteers will choose the parish of their choice to visit and provide parishioners with information about UST.

More than 75 percent of all UST students receive some type of scholarship or financial aid, and UST depends on gifts from area parishes to help make it possible. As a direct result of last year's Second Collection, UST was able to award \$142,866 of scholarships to students. For more information about volunteering, contact Hank Emery at 713-525-3111 or emeryh@stthom.edu.



Star View is published by the Office of Marketing Communications as a means of informing the UST community about University and campus news. Call 713-525-3116 with questions and/or comments.

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