

## Dr. Malcolm Rector Excels at Music, Writing, Film Production



**D**r. Malcolm Rector, University of St. Thomas assistant professor of music, began playing and composing music at the age of four and has been creatively expressing himself through music, writing, and film his entire life.

Rector earned a bachelor's degree in music from UST in 1996, followed by both master's and doctoral degrees from Rice University. He worked as an adjunct music professor at St. Thomas from 2002-2003, and returned to his alma mater in 2008 to teach jazz, music theory and composition.

As an undergraduate, Rector studied screenwriting and playwriting extensively. He has written 17

full-length screenplays, nine stage plays, one novel and numerous stories ranging in genre from drama to surreal. He is currently in post-production for his first feature film, *Ghosts*.

Rector has a passion for working with students, and several of his current UST students, including Brittany Whisenant and Bobby Murillo, are assisting in the production of *Ghosts*, which was filmed entirely on the UST campus. The story revolves around two music students who agree to work late in a university's music library after the campus closes for the summer. The events that follow push them to the brink of insanity and leave them fighting for their lives.

Rector hopes to sell *Ghosts* to a distributor upon completion. He has numerous other compositions and productions which have already been recognized globally.

Most recently, his music video *X-Man*, for which he directed, produced, edited, and composed the music and lyrics, has been aired in four different countries. It was an Official Selection of the Cannes Independent Film Festival in France, the London Independent Film Festival, the Hollywood Black Film Festival, and the San Diego Black Film Festival, and an Official Finalist of the Canada International Film Festival. It also won the Silver Remi Award for Creative Excellence at Worldfest –Houston International Film Festival.

"I especially love the process of creating and the world of imagination," Rector said, "whether it's through writing or directing or composing."

More information about Rector and his music, films, and other projects can be found on his website, [www.malcolmrector.com](http://www.malcolmrector.com).

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## UST Awarded Emergency Management Grant

University of St. Thomas has received a \$245,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for emergency management planning efforts. Over the next two years, UST will develop a comprehensive plan to develop, review, improve and fully integrate campus-based all-hazards emergency management and business continuity plans. These plans include regularly scheduled all-campus mock drills, campus training and coordination of communications for emergency preparedness.

UST is the only school in Texas to receive funds from the Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) Program that provided grants to 17 schools nationwide.

"In addition to the emergency procedures we already have in place, this grant will enhance our ability to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies," EMHE Project Director Chris Barry said. "As part of the grant, UST will expand partnerships with local law enforcement, behavior and mental health agencies, first responders and government agencies to assist us in the event of an emergency."

## Fourth Annual Dum Spiro Spero Fundraising Event

The money a typical student spends daily on a cup of coffee or a movie ticket could help an entrepreneur in a developing nation start a new life.



The University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program invites the Houston community to their fourth annual Dum Spiro Spero fundraising event at 7 p. m. on Thursday, **Oct. 28**, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon. Dum Spiro Spero, Latin for "while I breathe," signifies the determination to continue the Program's mission of student activism and poverty alleviation around the world through micro-lending.

Funds raised at this event will benefit the rural poor of many world regions including current projects in Mexico, Chile, Pakistan and Turkey, as well as possible new projects in Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Haiti. The program's student board hopes to raise \$15-\$20,000 this year.

Lisa Marie Laegreid, deputy director of the Microcredit Summit Campaign, will be the keynote speaker for the evening. The fundraising event is free and open to the public, and will feature international food donated by local restaurants, a silent auction, music, dancing and presentations about the Program. Silent auction items include art, jewelry and more. For more information, contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530 or at [microcredit@stthom.edu](mailto:microcredit@stthom.edu).

## UST Office of Student Affairs Reorganizes Staff



**Dr. Ricardo Montelongo**, Associate Vice President for Student Success, has recently joined the University of St. Thomas community. He will direct the Mendenhall Achievement Center, which includes the offices of Academic Advising, Career Services and Testing, Counseling and Disability Services, and Tutorial Services.

He can be reached at 713-525-6972 or [montelr@stthom.edu](mailto:montelr@stthom.edu).

**Matt Prasifka**, formerly the director of Campus Life, has been promoted to Assistant Vice President of Campus Life. He will continue to oversee Student Activities and Recreational Sports and serve as liaison to Food Services. He will now also supervise Residence Life and Health Promotion and Wellness, as well as provide special assistance to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**Lindsey McPherson** is now serving as the Dean of Students. She will continue to direct the Career Services and Testing Center.

**Dr. Connie Michalos** is the new Director of Tutorial Services, part of the Mendenhall Achievement Center. She comes to UST with extensive expertise and experience in helping students succeed academically. Read the complete story at [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu).

## Irish Lecture: No Ordinary People



The University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum will sponsor a free lecture by Irish historian and author, Sinéad McCooole, from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **Oct. 27**, in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. McCooole's lecture, titled "No Ordinary People: The Role of

Irish Artist John Lavery, Hazel Lavery and Other Women in Irish Revolutionary Politics 1900-1923," will explore the role of Irish artists and culturally active women in the evolution of Irish heritage and socio-political development. In the first decades of the twentieth century, Ireland saw an explosion of cultural activity in the Irish language, writing, drama, music and art. For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.

## UST Drama Performs Macbeth



The UST Fine Arts & Drama Department will perform "Macbeth," a tragedy by William Shakespeare. The play runs **Oct. 20- 23, 27- 30** and **Nov. 4-6**, and will be held upstairs in Jones Theater. Shakespeare's "Macbeth" is a landscape of beautiful rhythmic language and rich complex

imagery. The character Macbeth has contemporary relevance and illustrates the deepest and darkest of human realities. The situations, characters, and idioms of Shakespeare's play raise questions with which we struggle every day in theory and in practice. Cost is \$5 for UST students, faculty and staff, \$10 for non-UST students and seniors and \$15 for the general public. For more information and tickets, call 713-525-3520.

## St. Martin de Porres Feast Day



The University of St. Thomas St. Martin de Porres Society, the University's black alumni association, will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres with a "Conversation on Social Justice" and an evening of jazz on Saturday, **Nov. 6** on the UST campus.

The Feast Day Celebration will open with a Mass at 5 p.m., in the Chapel of St. Basil, "Conversation on Social Justice" between Rev. William A. Lawson and Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza will be held at 6:15 p.m. in Ahern Room, Crooker Center. The event will culminate with a jazz reception at 7 p.m. in the Old Bookstore, Crooker Center. Live music will be performed by members of the UST Jazz Ensemble. The events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Ryane Jackson at 713-525-2147.

## Strangest Book in the Bible



Dr. Paul Hahn, chair of the University of St. Thomas Theology Department, will discuss Ecclesiastes in his lecture, "The Strangest Book in the Bible." The event will be held at 6:30 p.m., **Oct. 27** in Ahern Room, Crooker Center on the UST campus, 3909 Graustark.

Hahn's lecture is the second in the "Words, Deeds and Art" lecture series hosted by the Serra Club of Houston, Notre Dame Club of Houston and the University of St. Thomas.

Admission is free for students with an ID and \$20 for all others. Parking is complementary in the Moran Center Parking Facility, W. Alabama and Graustark. For more information, contact Cathy Connors at [cathynd95@jlc-consult.com](mailto:cathynd95@jlc-consult.com) or 281-914-0703. Please RSVP by Oct. 21 to [serra\\_lectures@sbcglobal.net](mailto:serra_lectures@sbcglobal.net).

## Upcoming Events



Food Drive

During this fall season, share with those in need. Chi Rho Theology Club will collect non-perishable goods until **Oct. 22**, in the red collection boxes located in buildings across campus. The food will be donated to the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish. For more information, e-mail [chirho@stthom.edu](mailto:chirho@stthom.edu).



Opera Scenes Workshop

Join the UST Music Department for a weekend of scenes from classic opera, operetta and musical theater. Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, **Oct. 22**, and Saturday, **Oct. 23**, and 3 p.m., Sunday **Oct. 24**, in Cullen Hall. The workshop is directed by Dr. Brady Knapp. For more information, contact Monique Dupleich at 713-525-3159.



Graduate School Open Houses

Come and learn more about UST's graduate programs at two open houses. The Cameron School of Business will host an MBA/MSA open house at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 19. RSVP at [www.choose-ust.org/mba](http://www.choose-ust.org/mba). The School of Education will host an open house for the MEd and online MEd programs at 10 a.m., Saturday, **Oct. 23**. RSVP at [www.choose-ust.org/education](http://www.choose-ust.org/education).



Dr. Patrick Allitt

The UST Knights of Columbus, Fr. Vincent J. Guinan Council will host Dr. Patrick Allitt at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, **Oct. 21**, in Anderson Hall, Room 103. Allitt will speak about "How Converts Transformed and Re-Shaped the American Catholic Church." The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information contact Anna Martens at 713-525-2164.



Family & Alumni Weekend

Join the University of St. Thomas for Family & Alumni Weekend from **Oct. 22-23**. Families are invited to explore campus. Activities include bringing your parents to class, a student art show, St. Augustine's Birthday, a volleyball game, "Macbeth" and the Opera Workshop. For more information, contact Angie Montelongo at 713-525-3572.



Focus on Business Etiquette

Business etiquette is a must in today's workforce. Career Services will host the Focus on Business Etiquette Workshop to help you learn the basics of etiquette needed for all work environments including dress, correspondence and more. The workshop will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **Oct. 20**, in the COC Room, Crooker Center. For more information, call 713-525-3160.

## Neewollah, Dia De Los Muertos

The Student Activities Board will host Neewollah, the annual Halloween party, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday, **Oct. 29**, on the Crooker Center Patio. Students 21 and older should bring identification. Admission is \$5. E-mail [sab\\_president@stthom.edu](mailto:sab_president@stthom.edu). The Department of Modern and Classical Languages will celebrate Día de los Muertos at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **Nov. 2**, with a reception and potluck lunch. For more information, contact Chris Tennison at [tennis@stthom.edu](mailto:tennis@stthom.edu).

## Doherty Library Holds Book Sale

The University of St. Thomas Doherty Library will host its annual book sale Wednesday-Sunday, **Oct. 28-31** in the Doherty Library. Book lovers can find hardbound books for \$2 and paperback books for \$1.

Book Sale hours are Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. (UST students, faculty and staff only), Thursday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. For more information, contact Dianne Dallmann at 713-525-2182.

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