

Prof. Nicole Casarez, Students Help Free Former Death Row Inmate



Nicole Casarez and Anthony Graves celebrate Graves' release from prison. Casarez and a group of former UST students worked to prove Graves' innocence.

students worked diligently to prove Graves' innocence. Since 2006, Casarez has continued to work pro bono for Graves. The team succeeded, and Graves was set free on Oct. 27.

"You have to hold on to hope regardless of the circumstances, and things will work out," Graves said. "Believe in yourself, and believe that better days are ahead. Having someone in my life like Nicole, who believed in me and who was dedicated to seeking justice for me gave me hope. She never left me, and I was ready to go to war with her. I can never say enough about how instrumental Nicole has been in my life."

Graves said he is also eternally grateful for the students who helped investigate his case.

"The students and I have developed a great friendship, and I will always be thankful for their committed work," Graves said. "In life you have to find something greater than yourself, something that challenges you to get up every day. I was really impressed that these young people really believe in a greater cause; that's amazing in today's society. I believe that every one of them will go on to do great things."

Casarez plans to take a leave of absence in spring 2011 to work with Graves helping him rebuild his life and move forward.

"I think the lesson to be learned is that the legal system is not perfect," Casarez said. "Mistakes can be made; our legal system is implemented by human beings, and human beings are not infallible. It should be a wakeup call and a warning that injustices can occur. Too often we have blind faith in our justice system. It is sobering that a group of college students can uncover a mistake and play a role in righting a wrong."

For now, Graves says he wants to spread his message of hope and he refuses to let anger, bitterness or resentment add to the 18 years he has already lost.

"I want to do positive work, and I can't do positive work with a negative mindset," Graves said. "My approach to life is to take it one day at a time. I was shown how life can change on a dime. In prison I learned my own strength and I learned through introspection what true freedom is about. It's not about walking the streets. It's about being spiritually free."

Former Mexico President Speaks at UST on Poverty Alleviation

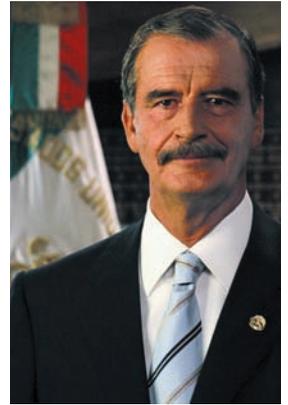
Vicente Fox, former President of Mexico, will visit the University of St. Thomas on Tuesday, Nov. 23 to speak about, "Poverty Alleviation through International Collaboration." The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon.

The event will also explore the efforts of Centro Fox (Fox Center) and the University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program to establish a collaboration for the development and implementation of poverty alleviation programs through microfinance and other techniques in Mexico and Latin America.

Fox served as President of Mexico from 2000-2006. He also served as Governor of Guanajuato and CEO of Coca Cola Mexico. He is the founder and director of Centro Fox, a reference point to study, research, consult, discuss, preserve and foster the economic strategies that contribute to democracy in Mexico and Latin America and in this manner, fight poverty.

The UST MicroCredit Program is housed within the Center for International Studies and is a student-operated co-curricular program that provides impoverished individuals around the world with starting loans to launch income-generating businesses. The interest-free loans provided by the program help these entrepreneurs become self-reliant while promoting principles of freedom, fairness and democracy, and integrated the Catholic values of the University of St. Thomas. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530.



Political Science, ESS Offer GIS and Redistricting Class in Spring 2011

The University of St. Thomas Political Science Department and Environmental Science and Studies Department are collaborating next semester to offer a special topics class titled, "We Draw the Lines: GIS and Redistricting." The class will be taught by Dr. Jean-Philippe Faletta, associate professor of political science and Dr. William Harris, associate professor of Environmental Science and Studies.

Every 10 years after the U.S. Census, redistricting takes place at both the federal and state level. Some states will lose seats in Congress and electoral votes, while others like Texas will gain. This class will delve into discussions about which party may be in control for the next 10 years, who will control public policy, how legislative maps are drawn and the politics behind them. The class will unfold as the redistricting process is taking place in the Texas State Legislature and across the country, making this truly a once in 10 years opportunity. The class will follow the process in real time and will draw maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and the 2010 Census data.

The class will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. during the Spring 2011 semester. For more information about the course, contact Dr. Faletta at 713-942-3481 or falettj@stthom.edu.



Spiritual Hike with St. Bonaventure



Sr. Damien Marie Savino, SFSE, will present, “Spiritual Hiking with St. Bonaventure: The Created World as a Path to the Spiritual” at 6:30 p.m. on **Nov. 18** in the Ahern Room, Crooker Center. This is the third lecture in the “Words, Deeds & Arts” fall lecture

series hosted by UST, the Serra Club of Houston and Notre Dame Club of Houston. According to St. Bonaventure, the great Franciscan Seraphic Doctor, the first steps of the spiritual journey begin by relating to the created world, which then becomes the entrance point and path to the spiritual world.

Admission is free for students with an ID and \$20 for all others. For more information, contact Cathy Connors at 281-914-0703.

Greatest Generation: Irish Style



James Silas Rogers, noted author, editor, and poet and managing director of the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) Center for Irish Studies, will share his expertise on the Irish in America in his lecture, “The ‘Greatest Generation’ Irish Style: The Mid-Twentieth Century

Reinvention of the Irish in America.” The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, **Nov. 18** in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

The Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Program is funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.

Actor, Alumnus Speaks at UST



New York actor and UST alumnus Aaron Krohn will speak about life as an artist at the annual Lee Lecture. The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, **Nov. 22**, in Jones Hall.

A Houston native, Krohn grew up in the theatre, raised and inspired by his actor parents, Charles and Chesley Krohn. He received his undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of St. Thomas.

Krohn has worked steadily in New York City, appearing in many Broadway productions, performing with notable actors including Kevin Kline, Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke and Hank Azaria.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chris Tennison at tennisc@stthom.edu.

Spirituality Through the Millennia



The University of St. Thomas will host a lecture by Rev. Fabio Ciardi, OMI, about “The Parable of the Three Commandments: Development of the Christian Spirituality through the Millennia.” The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, **Dec. 1** in Cullen Hall.

The event is sponsored by the UST Center for Faith and Culture, the John Paul II Forum, the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Focolare Movement. Internationally recognized expert on Christian Spirituality, Fr. Fabio Ciardi is a professor of the theology of consecrated life at the Claretianum Institute of the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Anna Martens at 713-525-2164.

Upcoming Events



Thanksgiving Lunch

Get a jump start on Thanksgiving when the UST Staff Social Committee invites students to enjoy the annual UST Thanksgiving lunch served by faculty and staff from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **Nov. 17** in Crooker Center cafeteria. Staff or faculty interested in volunteering, contact Lisa Soto at lsoto@stthom.edu.



Chi Rho Bake Sale

Chi Rho Theology Club will host an autumn bake sale just in time for Thanksgiving. Pies (apple, pecan, pumpkin and cherry) are available for \$8; chocolate chip cookies and sugar cookies are \$7 and brownies are \$8 per dozen; cinnamon coffee cake is \$8. Chi Rho will accept orders until **Nov. 18**. For more information, contact 713-525-3582.



Shadwell's Wake

Sigma Tau Delta invites you to the 39th Annual Shadwell's Wake English Honor Society Party on Friday, from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. **Nov. 19** in Malloy Hall Room 201. Guests will enjoy food, live music and a bad poetry contest in honor of Thomas Shadwell, widely considered one of the worst poets of all time. For more information, contact Chris Tennison at 713-525-6915.



UST Pop Singers Show

The University of St. Thomas Pop Singers will present a Pop Show from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Monday, **Nov. 22** at Cullen Hall. The show will feature a cabaret style review featuring the music of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and Rogers and Hammerstein.

To make a reservation, contact the Music Department at 713-525-3159.



UST Jazz Ensemble

The University of St. Thomas Jazz Band will perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, **Nov. 29** in Cullen Hall. The concert will feature jazz and rock and roll spanning the period between 1968-1975. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Monique Dupleich Stuart at 713-525-3159 or dupleim@stthom.edu.



Schola Cantorum

The UST Schola Cantorum will perform at a Latin Mass at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **Nov. 30** in the Chapel of St. Basil. The UST Schola Cantorum began in 1981 to acquaint young musicians with beauty of Gregorian chant. For more information, contact Monique Dupleich Stuart at 713-525-3159 or dupleim@stthom.edu.

Working Collaboratively Toward Student Success

The Center for Faculty Excellence invites faculty and staff to meet the newest members of the Mendenhall Achievement Center who will help identify ways we can work together to help UST students succeed. Dr. Ricardo Montelongo, associate vice president for Student Success, and Dr. Connie Michalos, director of Tutorial Services, will present "Working Collaboratively Toward Student Success." Guests can choose to attend one of two sessions including 12:30 -2 p.m. Friday, **Nov. 19** in the Little Gallery or 12:30 - 2 p.m., Tuesday, **Nov. 30** in Ahern Room, Crooker Center. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to CFE@stthom.edu or 713-525-3881.



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