Star View



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Celebrate the Holiday Season with the UST Campus Community



As we approach the holiday season, we are called to reflect upon the timeless message of Christmas and the many people who help shape our lives. Amid the rush of year-end exams and projects, take a moment to enjoy the many festive activities the University of St. Thomas hosts to celebrate Christmas, the gift of faith and the blessings of hope and prosperity for the New Year.

Come celebrate the holidays with the **English and Modern and Classical Languages Departments' Christmas party** at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2, in the second floor lobby of Malloy Hall. The party will include refreshments, tree trimming and carols from around the world. It is free and open to the campus.

Alumni are invited to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season at **Christmas in the Mansion** at 6 p.m., on Thursday, Dec. 2 in the Link-Lee Mansion. Bring a canned good donation

Join the Office of Student Affairs for the annual **Deck the Mall Celebration** from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 on the Academic Mall. The event will feature crafts, camel rides, hay rides, a live Nativity, snow, cookies and the official lighting of the UST Christmas tree by Dr. Ivany.

Campus Ministry will celebrate **Las Posadas** at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3. Las Posadas is a yearly celebration that re-enacts Mary and Joseph's search for the location for Mary to give birth to Jesus. Fr. Mike Buentello, CSB, will lead students, faculty and staff in a procession from Guinan Hall to the Chapel of St. Basil.

University Singers will perform, "An Evening of Lessons and Carols," at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6, in the Chapel of St. Basil. Dr. Brady Knapp will direct the ensemble in a program of seasonal carols, anthems, motets and readings from the Advent and Christmas narrative. Courtney Daneill-Knapp will be the guest conductor.

The Center for Irish Studies will host "A Celtic Christmas with Danny O'Flaherty and Friends" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 in Jones Hall. This performance allows one to slip back in time and savor the holiday season as it has been celebrated for centuries among the Celtic countries, with art, dance, song, music, storytelling and drama.

President Robert Ivany invites all faculty and staff to the **Christmas Social** from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 in the Link-Lee Mansion.



UST Center for Irish Studies Renames Center in Honor of William J. Flynn

The University of St. Thomas Center for I Irish Studies reached milestones and broke records at its annual Irish Gala held Nov. 5 at the Houstonian Hotel in Houston. The event set the stage for the University to announce that the Center has surpassed its \$1 million initial fundraising goal for the William J. Flynn Endowment for Peace and Reconciliation. The University also announced the renaming of the Center as the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies.

"Peg and William J. Flynn have been instrumental in the success of the Center for



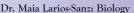
From L to R: William J. Flynn, Lori Gallagher, Marianne Ivany, Dr. Robert Ivany

Irish Studies and its mission to promote peace and reconciliation around the world," said Lori Gallagher, director of the Center for Irish Studies. "As Chairman of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, Flynn hosted one of the first peace conferences, in Derry, Northern Ireland, including all groups involved in the civil war. Bill reached out to people of all faiths and on all sides of the conflict, inviting them to the table for dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

Drawing the largest crowd in its 10-year history, the Irish Gala welcomed 370 guests, grossed more than \$231,000 in table and tickets sales as well as donations and more than \$39,000 for auction items. Guests were generous with their "paddles up," raising more than \$54,000 for scholarships for UST students to study in Ireland and Northern Ireland and students from Ireland and Northern Ireland to study at UST.

New Sample Class Videos Showcase University of St. Thomas Faculty







Dr. Rick Krustchinsky: Education



Dr. Jo Meier-Marquis: Psychology

This fall, the Office of Marketing Communications has continued their efforts to showcase the strength A of our faculty by creating three new recruiting videos. These sample class videos featured Dr. Jo Meier-Marquis' psychology class on interpersonal attraction; Dr. Rick Krustchinsky's education class on the integration of mathematics and literature and Dr. Maia Larios-Sanz's biology class on the nature of the cell. These three faculty members join Dr. Ted Rebard, Dr. Jim Clarage and Dr. Beena George, whose unique teaching styles were captured on film last spring. These videos are posted on the home page slide show, the Admissions page as well as the Center for Faculty Excellence. Find these three sample class videos on the University's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/StThomasHouston.

University of St. Thomas Celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Millions of Christians across the globe will join their hands and voices in prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, to be held Monday to Monday, Jan. 18-25, 2011.

Ecumenism has shown how important prayer is for Christian unity, and for 100 years, Christians have gathered around the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John



17:21). Houston-area Christians of all confessions will collaborate during the week-long observance to come together in prayer. Each night of the week will be hosted by a different Christian Church or Community. The Houston services are organized by the University of St. Thomas Center for Faith and Culture.

"Christians, who share belief in Christ and share one baptism and one Lord are obligated to overcome the stumbling block of disunity," said Fr. Donald Nesti, CSSp, director of the UST Center for Faith and Culture. "Obliged by their belief Christians of every generation and every decade must enter into relationship of prayer and dialogue to sense where it is that the Holy Spirit is leading them to be one. Only the Spirit can be the 'glue' that will reassemble a fractured body."

The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was first celebrated in January, 1908. The eight days between two liturgical feasts, the Confession of St. Peter (Jan.18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), seemed especially appropriate to pray for the unity of the Church.

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.stthom.edu/cfc.

Student Directs Sartre's "No Exit"

The UST Drama
Department will present
"No Exit" at 7:30 p.m., for
two nights, Dec. 9-10 in
Jones Theater. The play is
directed by Louis
Whisenant, UST senior
drama major. "No Exit" is
a 1944 existentialist French
play by Jean-Paul Sartre



in which the audience is introduced to three characters who are locked in a windowless room that they soon realize is actually hell. All three expect to be tortured, but no torturer arrives. Instead, they are left to probe each other's sins, desires, and unpleasant memories, gradually realizing that this is their eternal punishment: they are each other's torturers, resulting in the play's famous line, "L'enfer, c'est les autres" (hell is other people). Tickets are free and can be reserved by calling 713-525-3520.

UST Hosts Lecture on Advent

Dr. Dominic Aquila, UST vice president of Academic Affairs, will present the lecture, "Advent and New Beginnings: Gregorian Chant and Living the Liturgical Rhythms of the Year." The lecture will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 in Cullen Hall. The



lecture is part of the "Words, Deeds & Art" fall lecture series that is sponsored by the Serra Club of Houston, Notre Dame Club of Houston and the University of St. Thomas.

The event will open with a Mass at 5 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Basil. Admission is free for UST students and \$20 for the general public. RSVP to serra lectures@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Events



The Office of Counseling and Disability Services invites students Express Your Stress from noon to 2 p.m., Thursday, **Dec. 2** on the first floor of Crooker Center. The event will feature free chair massages, free one-hour yoga class, snacks, give-aways and a drawing for movie tickets, UST t-shirts, UST duffle bags and more! For more information, contact Jennifer Shannon at 713-942-3474.



The Office of Student Affairs will help students conquer the study munchies. Late Night Breakfast will be held from 9 - 11 p.m. Monday, **Dec. 6** in the Crooker Cafeteria. UST faculty and staff will serve students a free hot breakfast. Finals Survival Kits will be available to students get through finals. For more information or to volunteer as a server, contact Angie Montelongo at 713-525-3572.



Ustrainling ST winter graduates and their families are invited to attend the 2010 Winter Graduate Mass and Reception from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16. The Mass will be held at St. Anne Catholic Church, 2140 Westheimer. A reception will follow in the St. Basil Hall Parish Center at St. Anne. For more information, contact Campus Ministry at 713-525-3589.



Chool may be out, but the UST Men's Basketball Team will still play home games during Christmas break. Come and cheer them on in the Jerabeck Gymnasium at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 (Loyola-New Orleans); 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 (Dallas Christian); 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 30 (Texas Wesleyan) and 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 3 (St. Edward's University).

Service Learning Expands at UST

Over the past 10 years, an estimated 1,000 University of St. Thomas students from at least 18 different departments and programs have benefitted from experiential learning opportunities through the University's Service Learning Program.

The Program gives students and faculty the opportunity to integrate real-life learning experiences related directly to their academic coursework. At the same time, participants give back to the greater Houston community, fulfilling the University's mission to pursue excellence in teaching, scholarship and service while fostering engagement in a diverse, collaborative community.

The Service Learning Program has recently launched Facebook and Twitter pages to increase awareness of the available opportunities and allow for networking between professors, community service partners and similar service learning programs at other universities.



The Service Learning Program staff is eager to help professors interested in incorporating service learning into one of their classes. The Program has a list of around 150 volunteer organizations categorized by name and discipline that faculty can reference to find an agency.

Learn more at www.stthom.edu/ustservice-learning and www.twitter.com/USTServiceLearn or call 713-525-6982. Read the complete story at 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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