Sports



St. Thomas maturing in sports

Celts advance to nationals in soccer, volleyball

By RONNIE TURNER

FOR THE CHRONICLE

Through its first two years of existence, St. Thomas' athletic program was anchored by just two sports - men's soccer and women's volley-

Now in its fifth year, the program has expanded to include a men's basketball team and will add women's basketball to the lineup in 2011-12. Men and women's golf also could be added as soon as next year.

tinue to drive the bus for the

This weekend, they will drive it all the way into the national spotlight.

The soccer team will compete in its first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics tournament after finishing as the runner-up in last week's Association of Independent Institutions tournament at Phoenix. The volleyball team won its third consecutive AII tournament title on its home court to earn another return trip to the NAIA tournament.

The teams' rise to prominence in only a few years has come as a surprise to athletics director Todd Smith.

"I think that when we In the meantime, the vol- ventured into athletics that leyball and soccer teams con- we really wanted to build a campus life and add another ronnie.turner@chron.com

dimension to the campus, and we wanted to bring in some good student-athletes who would do a great job in the classroom," said Smith, who also serves as men's basketball coach. "But we didn't really think that they would be that successful that quickly, so we've been incredibly surprised and happy with their success."

The volleyball team (24-15) will travel to Caldwell, Idaho, to face College of Idaho in a first-round matchup at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The soccer team (10-6-2) will meet Belhaven (Miss.) at 4 p.m. Saturday at Jackson, Miss. The Celts have seven wins and one tie in their last 10 matches.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

AREA COLLEGES NOTEBOOK

Finalists named for St. Thomas job

■ School adding women's hoops for 2011-12 season

After a months-long process, St. Thomas has whittled down its search for a women's basketball coach to two finalists.

Athletic director Todd Smith says the finalists are Jacksonville (Texas) College women's as-



TURNER

sistant Amber Taylor and former Northeast Christian Academy girls and boys baskerball coach Mike Ricks, who is a volun-

teer assistant at St. Thomas, Smith said he will interview both candidates this week and hopes to have the position filled by the end of January.

St. Thomas, an independent that competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, plans to launch its inaugural women's basketball season in 2011, making it imperative to have a coach in place before February.

"For a small college, the recruiting season really picks up in the spring, so for us to have someone in place by the end of January and give that person the end of the basketball season and the spring to put a team together is still pretty quick notice," said Smith, who doubles as the

men's basketball coach. "But I think it's possible to still put together a pretty competitive team for the 2011-12

Smith made it a priority to find candidates with strong ties to the area and the state, and he appears to have found them in Taylor and Ricks.

"I feel strongly that we need to have a great recruiting presence right here in the city of Houston, first and foremost, and in the state of Texas," Smith said.

Southland expansion talk

Southland Conference school presidents will meet Friday at Dallas, and one of the items on their agenda surely will be conference realignment.

Texas State and Texas-San Antonio are on their way out after accepting invitations to join the Western Athletic Conference in November. Their membership in the WAC will become effective July 1, 2012.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Friday that the WAC is considering adding more members, and commissioner Karl Benson said additions could be announced as soon as April 1. The Express-News reported through multiple sources that the list of candidates numbers at least six schools, including Sam Houston State

and Lamar. League commissioner Tom Burnett said it would not be proper to discuss possible

departures until any action is

Odds and ends

The Sam Houston State women's basketball team defeated Nicholls State 81-66 on Saturday for their first 3-0 Southland Conference start in seven years. ... Stephen F. Austin (9-3) was ranked eighth in the Sports Network/Fathead.com's final Football Championship Subdivision top 25 poll. Texas Southern (9-3) received 138 points in the poll, making it 28th. ... SFA hired West Texas A&M offensive coordinator Mike Nesbitt to fill the same position with the Lumberjacks. ... San Jacinto College sophomore outside hitter Alyssa Dibbern signed a national letter of intent to join Baylor's volleyball program. Dibbern earned NJCAA All-America firstteam honors during both of her seasons at San Jacinto. ... Houston Baptist's Matt

Perri (4:16.92) and Maximo Mendoza (4:17.70) finished second and third, respectively, in the mile run at the University of Houston's Leonard Hilton Invitational on Friday. **Teammate Jonathan Staples** won his section of the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 10 inches. ... Texas Tech has added Stephen F. Austin to its 2013 football schedule.

... SFA senior quarterback Jeremy Moses won the Elite Quarterback Award for 2010.

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Sports





BOYS SOCCER: Lessons learned from last year's state tournament helped Strake Jesuit goalkeeper Jason Taffet lead his team back this season

ALL-GREATER HOUSTON . WINTER SPORTS

BASKETBALL I WRESTLING I SWIMMING I SOCCER

JASON

SERVING STRAKE INSHIT

TRAKE lesuit senior goalkeeper lason Taffet had another impressive season for the Crusaders as he helped lead them to the state tournament for the second year in a row. Taffet,

the All-Greater Houston boys soccer player of the year, talked about his plans, Strake Jesuit's season and what he hopes for future Crusaders.

What is your best memory of this season? My best memory this season was

winning the regional game against Dobie. It was the last step we had to climb to get back to state, and for us to win in shootouts was truly amauing. That was probably the toughest game we played that year, and to win in that regional championship atmo-ophora makes it unforgettable.

What was it like making it to state for the second straight year? Last year, after we lost in the

out (in the state championals) match to Dallas Jesset), we were all really upper and got on the bus. We all told the seniors then that we



DEFINITELY A KEEPER: The play of Strake Jesuit's Jason Taffel guarding the et helped the Crusaders qualify for their second consecutive Class SA stafe soccer fournament this season.

would get back to state for these this year. So we didn't have the best start to the year, but I move really thought we wouldn't make it back to state this year. When we went to a choosenst (nearest Dobie in the Class 5A Region III championship), I just knew we would be able to win the game. Our last shootsut was at state last year, and we were not going to lose another one. I was going to do whatever I had to to make sure we got past that this time. It was arran-

ing to win and to know that we had done it, since we believed since the end of last season that we could.

What are your plans for the next

few years? I still haven't decided on where I am going to college. I am going to play D-III (Division III) soccer at either Tringry University, Contra College, University of St. Thomas or Southwestern. I plan to major in biology or history and hopefully be

come a doctor.

What was the turning point for your team this season?

Our district game against Seven Lakes at their place. In preseason, we played a lot of tough teams, and we were still trying to get courdert-able with each other. During the Seven Lakes game, though, we came back from a 1-0 deficit against a tough team and scored two goals at the end to win. After that game, we really felt that we were a strong and composed team and that our only goal was to keep wirming to make it to state. After the first playoff game against Lamar was when everyone felt we could make it to state. After scoring three goals in the last 15 minutes of the game, we felt that no team could beat us and that we were

What do you hope future Strake Jesuit players learned from your senior class this year?

I hope that future Strake play-ers understand that having a goal of winning state isn't enough. You have to put in tens of work through many hours of practice just to be prepared and have a decent chance of making is. I hope they know never to give up in a game, even when you're losing. because goals are still scored in the final minutes of a game. I hope play ers understand how important team chemistry is. I felt that one of the main reasons our team this year and last year did so well is because how close everyone on the team was to each other. Everyone was very close to each other, and there was n any acrious conflicts, which I think made it much easier to be totally united and determined to achieve our goal. Also, it is very importan to focus on one same at a time and care only about winning that par ticular same. We have belowd prove that Strake has a quality soccer program, and I hope future players ake it their goal to continue its

- JERRY DIAG

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

May 30, 2011

AREA COLLEGES NOTEBOOK

Conference call comes quickly

St. Thomas happy with Red River affiliation

Life has been a blur for St. Thomas athletic director Todd Smith during the past four months.

Smith got the ball rolling on a first-year women's bas ketball program by naming

bired Matt Lu-

ther to bunch

and women's

golf teams in

March, In ad-

dition, Smith

the merck



RONNIE TURNER

frond time to complete his second season as men's baskethall coach and hit the recruiting trail. Last week, Smith was able to see the fruits of his latest venture - helping UST gain

admission to the Red River Athletic Conference. Wednesday's announcement that UST, which competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athan end to its five-year stint. as an independent. The Celts will immediately be eligible to compete for RRAC titles in all six of their sports (volleyball, men's soccer, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's golf).

The invitation from the previously 14-member RRAC might not have come as soon had Smith not been able to

initiate the women's basket-Mike Ricks ball and men's and women's as ceach in gulf programs. "From our end, I've February, He

> quickly (St. Thomas president) Robert Ivany and the St. Thomas community has stepped up and helped us add the additional sports," said Smith, who arrived at UST in June 2008. "(The RRAC) wanted us to have two full sports, two winter sports and two spring sports, and Dr. lyany and his people were able to quickly get support and funding for women's

been very pleased with how

basketball and men's and 2 qualify in NCAA track

Texas Southern senior Philip Reddrick earned a spot letics, had accepted an invitain the NCAA track and field tion to join the RRAC brings. championships after placing

women's golf."

third in his guarrerlinal heat of the men's 100-meter dash at the West proliminary meet Friday in Eugene, Ore.

Sam Houston State senior Chris Craffe also advanced after posting a top mark of 218 feet, 9 inches in the men's hammer threw competition.

The NCAAs are June 8-11 in Des Moines, Jowa.

TSU catcher honored

TSU junior softball catchor Vesenia Torres was named to the Louisville Slugger/ NFCA Division I All-Regional team for the Central Region. Theres, a second-ream selection, burned .444 with seven home runs and 51 RBIs.

HR record in sight

Houston Baptist junior designated hitter Robbie **Buller** finished the season with 16 home runs, imapping the school's record of 15 set by Jeremy Green in 2003. Buller will enter his senior season just six shy of the career record of 12 reached by Andrew Taccolini (2006-09).

Holden earns award

San Jacieto College sopho more guard Marsell Holden was named the Texas Associ-

ation of Baskerhall Coaches Junior College Men's Basketball Player of the Year last week. Holden has signed a national letter of intent to play for Morebead State.

HBU softball recognized

The HBU softball team took three of the four major honors when the Great West Conference announced its postpranon awards Friday. Shortstop Mollye Micak was named Player of the Year. Jammie Weidert earnod Pitcher of the Year honors, and Mary-Ellen Hall was tabbed Coach of the Year.

Blinn-tet of signings

The Blinn College women's basketball program had five players sign letters of intent to-continue their careers at four-year institutions. Guards Verme'qua Taylor and Marquesha Anderson-Sparks will join Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, forward Marqui Hodges is headed to Midwest ern State, goard Rayelsha. Washington signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville, and Michaela Burton will play for Prairie View A&M.

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Se dice que...

Talking about... December 2010

Con la dama más elegante de diciembre, Nidhika Mehta, cerumos con broche de oro las doce damas mejor vestidas del 2010, Nidhika es originaria de la India y luce los saris de forma espectacular, ella se distingue por ser un gran ser humano, mecenas que apoya innumerables causas en sa país y en Houston, entre llas el arte. Continuando con serhomanos especiaculares, hable to Trini Mendenhall Sosa, siemi e

escuchamos algo sobre ella es està apoyundo alguna buena está recibiendo por su invaluable labor taria, sin lugar a dudas un damas más respetadas y o de nuestra ciudad. Trini e las patrocinadoras de la de Enfermeria que la Unive de St. Thomas planea rea

el 2012 para atender el protescasez de enfermeras en o into con Trini, el resto de los nadores participaron en una cena como preparativo para un efectuada el 18 de noviembre.

Trini Mendenhall Sosa

is always linked to supporting a good cause and is known for receiving recognition for her invaluable humanitarian efforts. Without a doubt, she is one of the most respected and well-liked ladies in our city. Trini is one of the supporters of the University of St. Thomas (UST) School of Nursing. UST has begun the initial planning to reopen the School of Nursing to address the growing shortage of nurses nationwide and expects to begin enrolling the first class of nursing students by 2012. Along with Trini, supporters participated in an elegant dinner in preparation of a Gala held on November 18th.

With the best dressed for the month of December, Nidhika Mehta, we close on a high note this year. Nidhtka dixtinguishes herself by being a great kuman being, and a patron who supports innumerable causes in her home country India, as well as Houston, arts among

is always linked to supporting a goo cause and is known for receiving recog altion for her invaluable kumanitaria Gorts. Without a doubt, she is one o the most respected and well-liked ladie in our city. Trini is one of the supporter of the University of St. Thomas (UST) School of Nursing, UST has begun th initial planning to reopen the School s Nursing to address the growing short age of masses nationwide and expects to igin enrolling the first class of nurs ing students by 2012. Along with Trini supporters participated in an elega-

honoring Susana Martinola who is especting a baby box. Congratulations! And talking about younger generations starting a new chapter in life Norma and Raul Sanchez said "Yes in a religious ceremany in October The talented and beautiful fashion de signer Rackel Roy visited Houston on October 30th. She was in Macy's giving interviews and signing autographs to promote her designs for the Fall-Winter season. She comments that dryssmy the First Lady has not only had a great impact on her line of clothing. but it has also given her great satisfaction as she admires Ms. Ohama for her philanthropic work and believer she is a source of inspiration for women to succeed professionally. On November 15th, the 3 most recognized Hispanic stylists and beauty specialists in Houstow got together to record a TV show that will be trunmitted in December on Aztecu and LATV channels. Jorge Ollvares was belitted the idea of uniting the Fantastic 5" for the show. They are: Pedeo Abasolo, Harold Herrera, Jose Juan Alunis, Joe Omur and Edward Sanchez, Congratulations to all of them for their excellent work!

HOUSTON Strictly Houston, Strictly Business,

December 17-23, 2010



Ethical leadership

David Weekley, chairman of David Weekley Homes, left, received the 2010 Ethical Leadership in Action Award from the University of St. Thomas Cameron School of Business Center for Business Ethics, and the Greater Houston Partnership. Weekley is shown here with Bruce Wilkinson, UST board member, center, and Robert Ivany, president of UST.





UST Golf tournament raises \$215,000 for scholarships, nursing school receives support

KINGWOOD — University of St. Thomas friends and alumni hit the links Sept. 22 to support the UST Scholarship Tee-Up Tournament. The event, held at Kingwood Country Club, grossed more than \$215,000 for the Father Francis E. Monaghan Scholarship Fund.

UST established the Monaghan Scholarship Fund to help deserving students get a quality, liberal arts Taith-based education. Since 2000, the fund has awarded more than 59 million in scholarships and grants.

In other UST news, supporters of the School of Nursing kept their eyes on the horizon at the "View from Above Progressive Dinner, on Sept.17 at 2727 Kirby High Rise. This underwriters' event celebrated the support given for the University's Founders Nursing Gala to be held at Tony's Restaurant on Nov. 18. Sheridan Williams is chairing the gala that honors the John S. Dunn Research Foundation. The university is raising \$2 million for the Archbishop Joseph Florenza Endowed Chair in Nursing. Archbishop Emeritus Florenza's admiration and respect for the nursing profession began when he served as chaplain for St. Joseph Hospital. The university expects to begin offering a bachelor of science in nursing and enrolling the first class of nursing students by 2012. For more information on the upcoming nursing gala, contact Debbye Crofoot-Morley at 713- 525-3109. †



Plote identify of the University of II. Thomas University of St. Thomas President Dr. Robert Ivany (RIGHT) greets Ed Jones, director of the Mabbe Foundation, a presenting sponsor for the UST scholarship Tee-Up Tournament.



Proto coursey of St France de Sales Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza and UST Board Chair Michele Malloy greet Progressive Dinner hostese Judy Seré at her home.

DINASTÍA



AFTERNOON Tea

II 9 dis novimettes Indi Melicia desti in prantice dei nesidenzia del interpreta del periodici y se desemptibi corre artificia dei a timeli sua diamung Mesimone Ropinetti dei y se desemptibi corre artificia dei un sumo et se houre dei Melicia dei Corre fine Malti de tra Reporti del Society of Professing Anni de su sumo et de Society of Professing Anni del Society of Anni and Anni and del Society of Anni and Anni and

To see more photos visit: www.dia.cdianagacinc.com







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rianista menicana, y el violintea e american derge Seade, El concmenoritario Berge Shadh. El con-tiento file balle un chiele y due delle-ude a Flamma B. Wasser, receive de longe hande y spiese fillerere en filment de soré afte. La Casa de España se filmente emparate ou Fuena Amel de Frenzenzez el 8 de selection en Franças bishopp Brach. Las contientes diferences de della con-cidantes diferences de della conpacifies de fraçantes do del trimas pacifies de mar y turro, chemico caparlesi, aguntivos y sangria. Asid-ieros abradusias de 130 personas, entre ellos apragos de España que comirios de virido en racerdo ciudad. Las familias goranos de juspos de Sidhel y jusque, de secus morrous minus opakolo anextrana la mela con resisso do galesma y tachado que las invitadas apro-verbarse, para ballar fluencia. Canal Street Gallery Ileva a Comm. Security Section 2. A correspond for grain Marie Maghier and Control part of the Control part of the

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cent and one distingted to Distance B. Morre, the morrey of sty 2003. The Coun do Fonada in Picture on April 905 or George Back Park. Friends and families came regarder in onion delictors profits sepretures and supprise. The pressu was extraded by others 239 people. mechaning Francis Stone Space with mere mixing our city. Finelies on josed planning necest and beautigener while Spanish wassicans inaread the affirmens with printers and Surveyors, Carnel Street Gallery Sold a reception for great Maria Maghes



FIND US ON FACEBOOK









Serra clubs to host annual conference

Organizers to promote vocations and hope to raise awareness, attract members

By ANNETTE BAIRD

HOUSTON - For those interested in our paint a vocation in the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, the local Serra clobe are sometimes a first point of contact. The annual conference is in June and is for members, family and friends and those interested in becoming a Church? Serrus or pursuing a vocation in the Catholic Church. The clubs are chaptern of Serra International, a clobal organization of lay Catholics, whose goal is to bring young people to the priestbood and vowed religious life and to strengthen faith.

Named after the Blumed Junipe-California, who established a chain of missions and haptized more than 6,006 indigenous people, Serra International bus more than 19,000 members worldwide. There are eight clubs tract more members? in the Archdiocese, including Serra Clab of Houston.

Recently, the president of the Serra Club of Heuston, Larry Massey. chatted with the Trope Cotholic Heeald about the spooning event, which is sponsored by the University of St.

Texas Catholic Herald: What is the purpose of the conference?

Larry Massey: We want people to come and learn about what's going on in the [Archdiocese], as far as vocations and to find out how to get involved. We also want to promote the Serra Club.

the Serra Club?

Massey: The Serra Club is one of to raise awareness of this great group and reach a broader audience. Bancally, we want to recruit more memhers and make our club younger and more active.

TCH: What does the Serra Club

Massary: We are here to belo ICardinal Duniel DiNardo) and to build a culture that strengthens religious life. We want to increase the number

of priests and sisters to our Church There is a huge need for priests, especially been in Houston, where the number of Catholics are growing. We need to ask young men to think about the priesthood. We need to ask fellow Catholics to become Serrous.

TCH: What have you been doing to attract young people to serve the Massey: We support the Vocations

Office. We provide infrastructure, prayer and funding. For instance, we have been working hard with parishes to help them start vocations' committees. We provide training sessions to help them organize. We discovered a program 'Call by Name,' and we'd ro Serra (1713-1784), the Apostle of like to get that in every parish, it's going slower than we would like, but we're working on it.

TCH: What are you doing to at-

Massey: We've been working hard to get the word out [on] this conference and on recruitment. We moved our meetings to the University of St. Thomas and have connected with a group called FOCUS and worked with the campus ministry and the priests. The move has been a huge success in terms of the facility, the administration's support and the networking opportunities.

TCR: How did you get involved with the Serra Club?

Manney: I was at a popul audience In October of 2006. Right before the pope came out, they introduced Serra Club members, I asked myself, Who TCH. Why do you want to promote are those guys? When 1 got back 1 asked three of my friends about the Serra Club and it turns out they were those best kept secrets. My mission is members. It was about a month after that when I joined.

> TCR: When did you become presi-Massey: June 2010.

TCR: What has the Serva Club meant to you personally?

Massey: I've loved it from the day I iniped. It's given me a greater appreciation of the Church, the Mass and the Holy Spirit in action. ?

Serran's Life Awareness retreat, July 29-31

HOUSTON - The 33rd Life Awareness program, conceived and spon sored by the Serra Club of Northwest Houston, will again be presented in concert with the Archiference of Galveston-Houston Vications Office, Noty Name Retreat Center, and the other seven District 10 Serva Clubs in the Archdiscese, July 29 to 31, at the Passionist Order's Holy Name Estreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road, Houston.

The event is for those discerning a commitment to a future serving God as a Catholic priest, sister or brother. Attendess can participate in spiritual programs and activities, including socials, vocation and discernment talks, an Emmaus Walk during which an attender shares one-on-one with a religious, discussion groups, panels, prayer and Mass on Sunday. It offers a chance to learn, ask, listen, think and gain.

There is no charge to the attendees for the weekend and attendees are not asked to make any kind of future comm

For more information, contact Jim Kelly, V.P. Vocations, Serra Club of Northwest Houston at 713-681-6360 or kgoigekelly@vol.com. §

· DETAILS ·-

On June 17, Fether Bertt A. Branner, author of "To Save A Thousand Scale," will give a lecture titled "To Set the World on Fire" at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Hall, University of St. Thomas, 3800 Mostrone, The free event is own to the public. Students and parents are encouraged to attend. All attendees will receive a copy of Brannen's book. On June 18, Daniel Cardinal DiNards will conduct a Mass at 5 p.m. for Serra Club district club members, family and friends and those interested in vocations. The Mass is at the Co-Curbodraf of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy, and is followed by dinner The dinner is \$15 per person. RSVP to Imassey@bankhouston.com.













La gala del Mandi Gram da la Disvornidad de St. Thorma se licevia.

The University of St. Thorma: March Gran Gala was held on rathe of 8 de marco. La gala "laze et Uy", presidind per Kairly y d. Element", March Gran Gala was held on the Ken Wells, know our misterion de 450 persons. Deras de 150 5000,000 se recubriren a beneficio del Fondo de Bouse Ft. Francis.

La Chiangham para la educación de le les estadantes naciately y latura, de la Universidad, El Fondo de Bocan Ft. Francis. E. Monagham es la publi magnida de la ragion catalabatis de la Chicerostinal y estadantes e del cotto del Bocan Ft. Francis E. Monagham es la publi magnida de la ragion catalabatis de la Chicerostinal y estadantes e del cotto del 2011. Un quatro calminature de la societa del vel averso del 2012 del control del 2011. Un quatro calminature de la societa del vel averso del 2012 aestico si insuticional au hodorista de la control del 2011. Un quatro calminature de la societa del control del 2013 del 2014 del 150 del 2013 del 2014 del







I.A. Stories



January 7-13, 2011



Gifted chair

Tony's restaurant hosted over 200 benefactors of the University of St. Thomas and celebrated the creation of the Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Endowed Chair in Nursing. The endowment was the result of \$1 million in gifts to the school. Among those attending the celebration were UST's president, Dr. Robert Ivany (left); Michele Malloy, board chairwoman; and Sheridan Williams, nursing benefit chairwoman.

I.A. Stories



UST to build performing arts and conference center

HOUSTON -To celebrate the unveiling of a planned Performing Arts and Conference Center at the University of St. Thomas, world-renowned soprano and Houston Grand Opera favorite Ana Maria Martinez will perform a benefit concert "Cantos De Mi Corazon, Songs from My Heart" at 7:30 p.m., May 12, in Zilkha Hall of the Hobby Center. This event, chaired by Martin and Kelli Cohen Fein, celebrates UST's plan to enhance the visual and performing arts for the campus and the Houston community. Studio Red Architects will design the Performing Arts and Conference Center that will occupy a block of the campus. The design will include a mid-size concert hall, a black box flex theater and a multi-functional conference center.

During the event, Martinez will sing selections ranging from Broadway to Puccini's Madame Butterfly. Martinez is a Latin Grammy award-winning star whose dramatic range distinguishes her as one of today's most sophisticated lyric sopranos. Her career spans the world's opera houses, concert halls, recording studios and movie theatres. Most recently, Martinez made a major role debut as Cio-Cio-San, the central character in HGO's production of Madame Butterfly.

Benefit concert tickets are \$5,000, \$1,000 and \$500. Seating is limited. Reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner follows the event.

For tickets or more information, contact Sue Bradford at bradfords@stthom, edu. †



Photo courtesy of the University of St. Thornes Opera Diva Ana Maria Martinez will perform for a benefit concert for UST's planned arts center.

I.A. Stories



Ana María Martínez

José Antonio Simón • Throughout her career as a lyric soprano, Ana Marta Martinez has not lost sight of what is important to her. Her life seems to be a balancing act between family, singing and nurturing upcoming generations as they begin to make may into the world. In the early days of her musical development, she actually had her sights on the musical theater being performed in Broadway. It wasn't until she began studying with her teacher Mary Saunders at the Boston Conservatory that she began to consider classical singing as a career choice. She said: "I was a bit disappointed at first, but very soon after I was intrigued and excited about the prospect of devoting my life to classical music and opera in whatever capacity I could". Perhaps it was her years in school training to be an opera singer when she discovered a calling that is not common anymore; her commitment to the education of younger generations.

Ever since her days studying in Julifard, she made time to visit inner-city children to educate and inspire them through music. In an interview with Literal Magazine, she states: "The two universal languages are mathematics and music". It is no surprise then that she advocates music education in young people, not necessarily to be professional musicians, but to be the better individuals who will author the future:

"The arts and music are great sources of inspiration, beauty and are unifying forces for all. Through the arts and music we can all learn about feeling empathy, which is a vital component to a healthy society".

As part of this commitment to education, Martinez recently gave a benefit concert for the University of St. Thomas at Zilicha Hall at the Hobby Center in Houston—the benefit concert will help raise funds for the construction of a Performing Arts and Conference Center on campus as part of UST's liberal arts curriculum. With the recital she hopes to inspire the university's community as well as society in general.

"My commitment is to encourage everyone to discover their maximum potential and to aspire to live their best life. Insight and education are major factors in realizing one's dreams. It is an honor to be part of this very special event for UST and one that I hope will impire, encourage and support the UST community and beyond".

As ubiquitous as music might be, it is still generally a mystery to us. How could it be that listening to the music of Mozart affects our spatial reasoning, or the growth of a fetus? Regardless of our understanding of it, music influences us for the better, and few artists have an influential repertoire as Ana Maria Martinez. Her list of roles covers hundreds of years in terms of composers:

"Every role has been and is important, much like every life is important. I would say that there have been pivotal roles and operas in my development; those that have bouched me deeply, awakening aspects and qualities which I had never experienced before. The main role that has insigned me to be more than I felt I could be on a deep, soutful level has been Rusalka by Antonin Dvorzak".



She also cites Daniel Catán's Florencia en el Amazonas and Puccini's Turandot and Madame Butterfly as having had an impact on her life.

In an interview contained in earlier issue, Martha Nussbaum, one of the most important intellectuals of our time explained to Literal that we're in a crisis. "The crisis is the drastic decline in support for the humanities, the arts and even the social sciences as ingredients in both school and university education". Along these lines, Martinez stated that:

"To be well rounded, complete, tolerant of others and feel a connection to the world at large, one needs to receive an education in and exposure to the arts. It is not enough to be educated and trained exclusively in one's field of expertise. That would be the equivalent to having only one -perhaps two-dimensions. We need all three dimensions to live our fullest and most meaningful life".