

Jennifer Amelang Named Top Young Environmental Leader



Jennifer Amelang has proven herself to be a champion of environmental issues on the University of St. Thomas campus. Now, the senior Environmental Science major has gained national recognition for her leadership. Amelang has been selected as one of the nation's top rising young leaders in the clean energy sector by the national organization, Focus the Nation.

She is one of only 20 students from across the country who were selected for their dedication, passion and unique contribution to increase awareness of clean energy solutions in America. The young leaders will meet for one week from August 21-26 at a retreat on Oregon's Mt. Hood to experience an area of the country that is rapidly moving toward more renewable energy.

"From this retreat, I hope to gain knowledge and awareness of case studies in clean energy," Amelang said.

Amelang attributes this recognition and opportunity to her involvement in organizing a clean energy forum and panel discussion on the UST campus last spring and her internship with Focus the Nation.

"Planning the event forced me to get into the community," she said.

"It's one thing to read about Houston's environmental community, but actually going out and meeting these professionals was a really amazing opportunity. It helped me to network for my future career."

At UST she is a member of Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students (ECOS). She helped design the UST Community Garden and she is the recycling coordinator for America Recycles Day and RecycleMania.

Read the complete story at stthom.edu.

"Surrounding myself with places, people and organizations that are making positive change in the community will help inspire me to continue making changes in my own community."

Volunteers To Sell Free-Trade Crafts

Former UST employee Lisa Emmite Baker, a volunteer with the nonprofit organization Eternal Threads, will return to campus to sell free-trade items hand-crafted by women in developing countries. Emmite Baker and students from the UST Social Entrepreneurship Program (formerly MicroCredit) will sell bags, jewelry and other crafts from 9-2 p.m., **August 30**, at the base of the stairs in Crooker Center.



Eternal Threads is dedicated to improving the lives of women and children most at risk of extreme poverty, trafficking and

other forms of exploitation by providing sustainable livelihoods through income-generating projects. Eternal Threads establishes sustainable methods of helping women and their families to increase their income enabling them to educate their children, buy nutritious food, medicine and other basic necessities.

Payments can only be made by cash or check. For more information about Eternal Threads, visit www.eternalthreads.com.

UST Receives Texas Board of Nursing Approval

University of St. Thomas students can now fulfill a new calling and choose a new major. St. Thomas received approval from the Texas Board of Nursing to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pending expected



program accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Colleges (SACS COC). St. Thomas will enroll the first class of nursing students in June 2012.

St. Thomas will offer pre-nursing courses in the fall of 2011, which will prepare students for entry into UST's nursing program.

Admission to the School of Nursing will require an additional application process. High school seniors who are accepted to UST and meet highly selective criteria may be eligible to pursue the nursing major at the start of their UST studies. Students enrolled at the University with a 3.0 minimum GPA overall will be considered for admission to the nursing major by fall of their sophomore year. Federal and University scholarships for nursing students are available.

As the only Catholic nursing program in Houston, the University of St. Thomas School of Nursing will serve as a critical asset to the future of the nursing workforce and well-being of our community.

Emphasizing the care of the whole person – body, mind and spirit – the University of St. Thomas School of Nursing will focus on patient-centered nursing using a newly developed curriculum based on a construct of healing and holistic care.

Plans for the School of Nursing carefully integrate input from St. Thomas faculty, professional nursing consultants, nursing alumni and the medical community. St. Thomas nursing and pre-med students will gain practical experience through community-based service learning and clinical training at Harris County Hospital District St. Joseph Medical Center, Christus St. Catherine Hospital, the San Jose Clinic and other healthcare organizations.

The School of Nursing will also be an integral part of the planned Center for Science and Health Professions, which is one of the major priorities of UST's planned capital campaign.

For more information on pre-nursing courses, nursing admission requirements and applications, visit www.stthom.edu/nursing.

Archbishop Miller Lecture

Dr. Michael Waldstein will present the annual Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture, "Overcoming the Mechanization of Nature: John Paul II's Theology of the Body," from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on **Sept. 29** in Jones Hall.

Waldstein has served as the Max Seckler Professor of Theology at Ave Maria University since 2008. He was an associate professor at the University of Notre Dame from 1988 to 1996. His published works include a critical edition of the four Coptic manuscripts of the *Gnostic Secret Book of John* and a new translation of *John Paul II's Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body* as well as articles on the Gospel of John, Gnosticism, St. Thomas Aquinas, John Paul II and Hans Urs von Balthasar.

The lecture is named in honor of former University of St. Thomas president Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, who was appointed as the archbishop of Vancouver in January 2008. This lecture is made possible through the generosity of the John W. and Alida M. Considine Foundation. The event is sponsored by the UST Catholic Studies Program. The lecture is free and open to the public. Contact Sr. Paula Jean Miller, FSE, at 713-525-6989 for more information.



Herzstein Lecture in Judaism

The University of St. Thomas will host a two-day event celebrating the music and heritage of Judaism. The Herzstein Concert of Jewish Music, "An Interfaith Introduction to the Music of the High Holy Days," will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, **Sept. 18** in the Chapel of St. Basil. The

Annual Herzstein Lecture in Judaism by Dr. Jon Levenson, "Abraham Becomes a Philosopher: The Transformation of the Patriarch," will be held at 7:30 p.m., Monday, **Sept. 19**, in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon.

Levenson is the Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies at Harvard Divinity School. In his lecture, Levenson will propose that Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism saw Abraham not only as the patriarch who fathered the

people of the covenant, as we find in Genesis, but also as the faithful sage who restored the true and proper recognition and worship of God by seeing through the false pretenses of idolatry and the philosophical claims on which idolatry relies.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Angelica M. Luna at 713-942-3491 or aluna@stthom.edu.

Susan Gallagher Gives New Insight into Ancient Irish Tales

The University of St. Thomas William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies will present "Intersection and Illumination: New Insight into Ancient Irish Tales," an evening of traditional Irish storytelling with Susan Gallagher. The event will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, **Sept. 15** on the UST campus in Cullen Hall.

Gallagher believes that stories have the ability to heal, enlighten and transform and that a tale spoken aloud in a face-to-face encounter between teller and listener has a particular power. She grew up listening to traditional tales in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York, in an Irish-American family in which the beauty of language was deeply valued. She has performed and has presented workshops in schools, libraries, museums and festivals. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592 or irishstudies@stthom.edu for more information.



Invest in Success

Invest in Success roundtable discussions will be held at 1 p.m., **August 24** in Crooker and at 4 p.m., **August 31**, in Guinan. These events discuss



effective strategies for studying, time management, overcoming stress and focusing in the classroom. For more information, contact Lindsey McPherson at 713-525-6939.

Volleyball and Soccer Home Games

Come cheer on the UST volleyball and soccer teams at their first home games of the season. The volleyball team will play Our Lady of the Lake University at 3 p.m. on Thursday, **Sept. 1** in the Jerabeck Gymnasium.



The men's soccer team will play Texas A&M International at 7 p.m., Saturday, **Sept. 3**. Location to be announced.

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Join the University in prayer and celebration of the new semester with the campus-wide Mass of Holy Spirit at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, **Sept. 13** in the Chapel of St. Basil. This opening Mass of the 2011-2012 academic year brings the University together to ask the Holy Spirit to guide, protect and encourage us as we grow in faith and reason.



Recreational Trip to Schlitterbahn

Enjoy the final days of summer with a trip to Galveston's water park, Schlitterbahn, all day on Saturday, **Sept. 17**. Take a ride down the lazy river or speed down the water slides. Sign up in the Office of Recreational Sports in Jerabeck. Cost is \$20. Contact Jessica Domann at domannj@stthom.edu for more information.



Family Weekend

Make plans to invite your family to campus and share your UST experience at Family Weekend from **Oct. 21-23**. The weekend features the opportunity for parents to attend class with students, attend St. Augustine's Birthday, drama or music performances, faculty lectures and the President's Reception. For more information, contact Matt Prasifka at 713-525-3512.



UST Orientation 2011



Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras Presents Seminar at El Centro Fox

Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, University of St. Thomas assistant professor of International Studies and director of the UST Social Entrepreneurship Program, presented a seminar on social and economic development and poverty alleviation for government officials at El Centro Fox in Mexico on August 5 and 6.

The seminar was the first of several forums on social entrepreneurship, microfinance, poverty eradication policies and related topics included in an agreement between Former Mexican President Vicente Fox and UST President Dr. Robert Ivany to establish collaboration between Centro Fox and the Social Entrepreneurship Program.

Garcia-Contreras said he felt the seminar was a success, and they have plans to present seminars every two months, starting in November.

"We hope to continue with these seminars addressing economic difficulties and continue to build a solid and long-lasting relationship with Centro Fox," said Garcia-Contreras.

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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