# Star View



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## UST Alumnus Hamilton Loomis To Rock Festa Italiana

Touring non-stop since 2001, University of St. Thomas graduate Hamilton Loomis has brought his "blues-rock-funk-groove-soul" music to audiences all over the United States and the world. Loomis will return to his alma mater to play live at the Festa Italiana at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, **Oct. 15**.

Loomis promises an energetic, interactive performance at Festa Italiana. His live shows are known for their funky rhythms, booming horns, powerful yet refined harmonica and Loomis' soulful vocals coupled with his stellar guitar work.

A native of Galveston and current resident of Katy, Loomis graduated magna cum laude in 1998 with a double degree in music and communication. He recalls his time at St. Thomas fondly and said his education has helped him in numerous aspects of his music career.

Loomis was performing on stage long before he enrolled at UST. He learned drums, piano, guitar, bass and harmonica by his early teens and toured regularly as part of his family's doo-wop group.

His musical talent was further cultivated at St. Thomas where he valued the "small classes and one-on-one attention from professors who were always attentive and

eager to help."

"Both degrees have helped me professionally," he said. "Being in the jazz ensemble really paid off. After I graduated, I had more

jazz gigs than I could handle. My communication degree and the internship I had at Fox 26 with Professor John Butler

helped me become a lot more media savvy, so I am comfortable promoting my music and doing appearances on television."

Loomis said he is looking forward to seeing how much campus has changed when he returns for the Festa Italiana performance. Learn more about him, watch videos and listen to his music at

www.hamiltonloomis.com.

Read the full story at www.stthom.edu.



#### Italian Festival hours

(rain or shine): Friday, **Oct. 14** – Saturday, **Oct. 15**: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

(admission is free until 4 p.m. on Friday) Sunday, **Oct. 16**:

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

houstonitalianfestival.com for more information.

Use your smart phone to watch a video about Hamilton Loomis.

Get the free mobile app at http://gettag.mobi

## \$5.9 Million Grant Funds STEM Transfers Between UST & HCC

The Department of Education has awarded the University of St. Thomas and Houston Community College a five-year, \$5.9 million grant for Hispanic and other low-income transfer students who are interested in pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

All grant program activities are designed to increase the participation, retention, transfer rates and completion of Hispanic and other low-income STEM students. Both institutions will implement a seamless transfer program driven by a new model articulation agreement. St. Thomas will add adding online tutoring services that will align with the HCCS online tutoring system. Both institutions will add a STEM transfer coordinator and will include mentoring and outreach conducted by faculty, mentors and peers to increase student engagement in STEM fields.

A \$747,000 STEM scholarship endowment will be created at both institutions. Revenues will be increased through new transfer enrollments, strong retention and external funding.

A year-round UST/HCCS undergraduate research program will be created. Each year, faculty members from St. Thomas and HCCS will work with students from both institutions on undergraduate research projects. Student learning, retention, and completion will be increased through improved



teaching and learning strategies, increased STEM faculty engagement and peer mentoring and tutoring. Five STEM labs at HCCS campuses will be aligned with St. Thomas STEM labs to provide a seamless transition to baccalaureate-level coursework.

Dr. John Palasota, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs will serve as the St. Thomas project director. Dr. Juan Carlos Reina will serve as the HCCS project director. Dr. Yiyan Bai and Dr. Jyoti Wagle of HCCS and Dr. Ruthann Bagnall of UST will serve as co-directors.

For more information, contact Dr. John Palasota, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, at 713-525-6918.

## Dr. Janet Lowery to Publish Poem in Houston Poetry Anthology



Apoem by Dr. Janet Lowery, professor of English, was selected to be published in a Mutabilis Press anthology of poets from Texas and Louisiana.

Lowery said her poem, "How Everything Stands in Place," was written in Spring 2011 and was inspired in part by Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry."

"The poem is about an observation I made in the last moments before getting ready to fall asleep," she said. "I was looking around my room in the partial light cast through my drapes when I was struck by a line by Walt Whitman from his poem 'Crossing Brooklyn Ferry.' The poem shows appreciation for beauty in the material world.

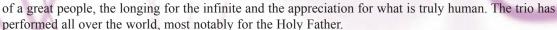
"I'm very honored and pleased to be included in this fine anthology," she said. "My poem was written in response to a call for submissions from Mutabilis Press dealing with finding spiritual sustenance in the busy world we live in. In the line from 'Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,' Whitman refers to the objects in our world as 'dumb, beautiful ministers,' the idea being that the things on the material plane minister or mediate between the divine and the mortal."

The anthology is expected to be available in early December at www.mutabilispress.org.

## Trio Napolincanto "Holy Happiness" Concert Kicks Off Festa Italiana

Kick off the 33rd Annual Festa Italiana with Trio Napolincanto's "Holy Happiness," a concert of traditional Italian music and storytelling from Naples. The concert will be held the evening before the Festa Italiana at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 13 in the University of St. Thomas Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum.

Founded in 1997, the award-winning Trio Napolincanto invites us to rediscover the beauty and the universal message of Neapolitan songs. Through a form of theater involving song and storytelling, the Trio highlights the story



The event is hosted in collaboration with the University of St. Thomas, the Italian Cultural & Community Center, Crossroads Cultural Center-Houston and the Consulate General of Italy. Italian refreshments will be provided by Festa Italiana after the concert. A \$5 donation at the door is suggested. For more information, contact the Crossroads Cultural Center at 713-823-2263.

# Dorothy Day's Granddaughter Discusses Catholic Worker Movement



The University of St. Thomas Catholic Social Justice Studies Program will host "The Increasing Relevance of the Catholic Worker Movement for Engaging 21st Century Problems," a lecture by Martha Hennessy from 7:15-9:30 p.m. on **Oct. 13** in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

Hennessy is the seventh grandchild of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. She has worked as an occupational therapist with young children and the elderly. She speaks and writes about her extensive world travels, memories of her grandmother, her Catholic faith and communal life at the Mary House Catholic Worker in New York.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. John Francis Burke at 713-525-3814 or jfburke@stthom.edu.

# Terri Schaivo's Brother Speaks on Caring for Cognitively Disabled

Bobby Schindler, brother of the late Terri Schiavo, will speak about "Caring for the Cognitively Disabled: the Moral Obligation of Catholics," at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18, on the University of St. Thomas campus, Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

This lecture, sponsored by the John Paul II Forum for the Church in the Modern World and Celts For Life, the St. Thomas student pro-life organization, will explore the legacy of John Paul II's Gospel of Life and raise awareness for the care for the cognitively disabled.

Since his sister's death on March 31, 2005, Schindler has served as spokesman for the Terri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation, traveling across the country and appearing in numerous speaking engagements. Terri Schiavo was a 41-year-old brain-damaged woman who became the centerpiece of a highly publicized legal battle and a national right-to-die debate.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. John Hittinger at www.jp2forum.com.

#### University Singers Fall Concert

The University singers will present a fall concert of sacred music at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4 in the Chapel of Saint Basil. The choir



will be accompanied by members of UST's string faculty. The concert is free and open to the public.

#### **Emergency Notification System Test**

The University will conduct an all-campus test of its Emergency Notification System (ENS) on Thursday, **Oct. 6**. Update your PeopleSoft record now to reflect changes in your emergency contact information. Find instructions to update ENS information at www.stthom.edu/ENS. If you have entered text messaging as a notification option, note that messages can come from 23177 or 63079.

#### Fall Festival Pig Roast

Holy Smoke! Father Mike Buentello will delight the campus with his barbecue mastery for the fourth annual Campus Ministry Pig Roast. Pulled-pork wraps will be sold for



\$2.50 beginning at 11 a.m. on Thursday, **Oct. 6**, on the Crooker Patio. Proceeds from the pig roast will benefit Campus Ministry and Catholic Charities.

#### **Human Trafficking Lecture**

The Catholic Social Justice Studies Program, the Maryknoll First Friday Forum and SWAT Students Working Against Trafficking will host "The Issues of Human Trafficking and SWAT's Mission," at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, in Ahern Room, Crooker Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Theresa Heard at 713-525-6982

"Seeing" According to the Gospel of Mark
The Friends of the Doherty Library Faculty
Lecture Series will present "Seeing" According
to the Gospel of Mark, a lecture by Fr. Dempsey
Rosales Acosta, assistant professor of
undergraduate theology. The lecture will be held
at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Oct 11, in the Doherty Library Atrium.
The lecture is free and open to the public. For more
information, e-mail jpicci@stthom.edu.

### **UST Hosts Leukemia Fundraiser**



The University of St. Thomas is known as a close-knit community that feels like family. St. Thomas' characteristic spirit of community will once again come to light when the Lady Celts volleyball team hosts "Orange Out Leukemia Night," a blood drive, fundraiser and volleyball game in support of Sydney Marquis on Thursday, Oct. 13.

Marquis, the 11-year-old niece of UST Psychology Associate Professor Dr. Jo Meier-Marquis, was diagnosed with leukemia in July shortly after trying out for her middle school volleyball team. The Marquis family is raising funds to support her treatments and to support leukemia research.

Just as pink represents breast cancer, orange represents leukemia. "Orange Out" t-shirts and "Sydneystrong" wristbands will be sold in the gym before the 7 p.m. volleyball game. Those who donate blood or wear their orange t-shirt or wristbands will be admitted the volleyball game for free. T-shirts are \$20 and wristbands are \$5. Proceeds from the t-shirts and wristbands will support a medical funds account in Sydney's name.

"This really means a lot to me because I know the money we raise can help other kids, not just me," Marquis said.

The blood drive will be held from noon – 7 p.m. in Jerabeck Center. The "Oh My! Pocket Pies" mobile restaurant will be on site to serve gournet pocket pies and burgers from 4:30-7 p.m. behind the Jerabeck Center.

To order t-shirts and wristbands or to make a contribution, call Dr. Jo Meier-Marquis at 713-525-3183 or e-mail meierj@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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