

## Nursing Program Receives Accreditation, Will Open Summer 2012

The University of St. Thomas will officially reopen the School of Nursing in summer 2012, with approval from the regional accreditation body. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges announced on Nov. 7 that the program meets accreditation requirements. The accreditation follows the July 21 Texas Board of Nursing's approval, allowing the University to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



The BSN program is a four-year academic

program that incorporates the University core curriculum, pre-nursing courses and courses in the nursing major. The nursing curriculum focuses on patient-centered nursing emphasizing healing and holistic care.

Dr. Dominic Aquila, vice president for Academic Affairs, said the accreditation processes are rigorous and underscore the excellence of our Nursing Program.

"Many faculty and administrators have worked tirelessly to fashion an education for nurses with the highest professional standards, which integrates UST's Catholic mission and values into the program in substantive and innovative ways," Aquila said.

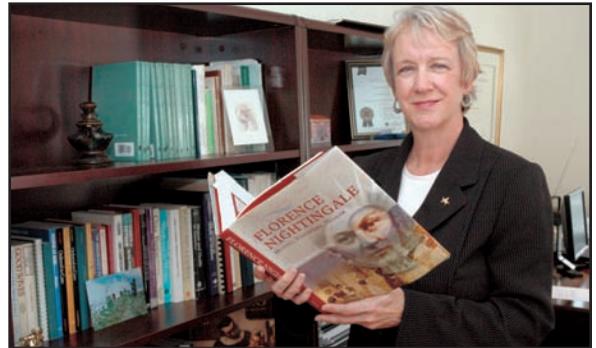
## Tschirch Receives Texas Nurses Association Award for New Program

Dr. Poldi Tschirch, RN, BC, director of Nursing Program Development at UST, received the 2011 President's Award from the Texas Nurses Association, District 9, on Nov. 10, recognizing her accomplishments in re-establishing a baccalaureate nursing program at the University of St. Thomas, 25 years after the program closed.

Since 2009, Tschirch has been responsible for assisting the University in re-establishing the School of Nursing on campus by laying the foundations for nursing curriculum, policies, admission structures and mandatory accreditation by the Texas Board of Nursing. She also supports fundraising for a nursing school endowment and for a new Center for Science and Health Professions building, which will include facilities for the School of Nursing.

Tschirch said the award is an affirmation of UST and all the people who have worked to re-open the school.

"I feel that it recognizes the legacy of the Catholic nursing schools that have come before us and the contribution that the School of Nursing will make to our community," Tschirch said. "This is a wonderful way for the nursing community of Houston



to welcome the re-opening of our school."

Dr. Dominic Aquila, vice president for Academic Affairs, said Tschirch is deserving of the award.

"The University of St. Thomas is grateful to the Texas Nursing Association, District 9 for recognizing Poldi's outstanding leadership in reestablishing UST's undergraduate nursing program," Aquila said. "My colleagues and I are proud of Poldi's achievement and celebrate this important recognition by the Houston nursing community."

The award was presented at the 21st Annual Nursing Celebration, where 20 Houston area nurses were also honored.

## Support UST SEP Shopping Night for Good

Find a unique gift and support fair trade artisans and the University of St. Thomas Social Entrepreneurship Program at Shopping Night on Friday, **Dec. 2** at Ten Thousand Villages, 2424A Rice Boulevard. Fifteen percent of net sales between 6 and 8 p.m. will benefit the Social Entrepreneurship Program.

Formerly the MicroCredit Program, SEP is a student-operated, co-curricular program that assists impoverished people around the globe with loans to launch income-generating



businesses. The interest-free loans help micro-entrepreneurs become self-reliant, while promoting principles of freedom, fairness and democracy around the world.

Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit, fair trade organization that markets handmade products from artisans in low-income countries. For more information, contact Diana Garcia at [garciad@stthom.edu](mailto:garciad@stthom.edu).

## Winter Graduation



The 2011 Winter Graduate Mass and Reception will be celebrated on Friday, **Dec. 16** at St. Anne Catholic Church, 2140 Westheimer Rd. The Mass will begin at 7 p.m. and a reception will follow in the St. Basil Hall Parish Center at St. Anne.

Graduates receive five tickets for family and friends. RSVP to Hank Emery at 713-525-3111 or [emeryh@stthom.edu](mailto:emeryh@stthom.edu).

### Basketball Games

- **Women's Basketball** vs. Our Lady of the Lake at 4 p.m. on **Dec. 2** in Jerabeck Gym
- **Women's Basketball** vs. Bacone College at 7 p.m. on **Dec. 15** in Jerabeck Gym
- **Men's Basketball** vs. Bacone College at 7:30 p.m. on **Dec. 15** in Jerabeck Gym
- **Women's Basketball** vs. Texas Wesleyan University at 2 p.m. on **Dec. 17** in Jerabeck Gym
- **Men's Basketball** vs. Texas Wesleyan University at 4 p.m. on **Dec. 17** in Jerabeck Gym
- **Men's Basketball** vs. Dallas Christian College at 1 p.m. on **Dec. 19** in Jerabeck Gym

*Basketball home games are free for UST students, faculty & staff; \$3 for all others.*

## UST Volleyball, Soccer Teams Finish 3rd Place

The Women's Volleyball and Men's Soccer teams competed in their inaugural Red River Athletic Conference Tournament on Nov. 11 at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

The **Women's Volleyball** team finished third at the tournament, with a 19-17 record for the season. In round one, the No. 6-seeded Lady Celts defeated No. 3-seeded Our Lady of the Lake University, winning the match 3 sets to 2. In the semifinals, the Lady Celts played No. 2-seeded Wiley College and ultimately lost the match, 3 sets to 1.

Brittany Downs was named to the All-Tournament Team. Regina Trapp and Brittany Weiler placed

on the 1st Team All-Conference Team; Evon Welch and Downs placed on the 2nd Team All-Conference Team. Catherine Loth and Kelsey Balderamos were selected for the NAIA Champions of Character Award. The **Men's Soccer** team finished 3rd in the RRAC, and was 9-4 in conference play.

After winning the quarter-final round against Northwood College at home on Nov. 5, UST advanced to the Conference semi-finals to face UT-Brownsville. The match went into overtime, and the Celts lost 2-3 on a golden goal.

Rafael Bustos, Nick Boras, Jack Brett (Cpt.) and Michael Enriquez all placed on the RRAC All-Conference 2nd Team.



## Evaluate Fall Courses



Students can evaluate courses online from Nov. 21 until 10 p.m. on **Dec. 6**.

Students in a course being evaluated this

semester will receive a CourseEval email via their stthom.edu email account with a link to the evaluation(s) and the student's unique CourseEval ID and password.

Once the course evaluations close at 10 p.m. on **Dec. 6**, course evaluations will no longer be accepted.

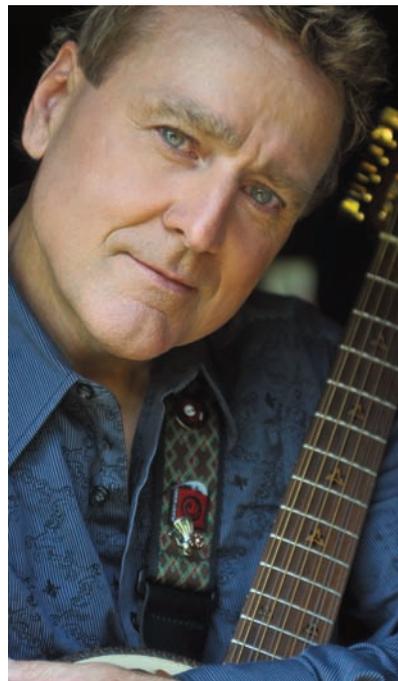
All course evaluations are confidential. Students may not be asked to complete a course evaluation for every course. For questions, contact April Hart in the Office of Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness at hartao@stthom.edu.

## Join Danny O'Flaherty for A Celtic Christmas

Danny O'Flaherty will skillfully evoke the richness of Celtic Christmases past through tales of the yuletide customs of the Celtic nations of Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Brittany, Galicia and the Isle of Man from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, **Dec. 4** in Jones Hall. The event is hosted by the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum and the Irish Society.

O'Flaherty and guest performers will celebrate the true Christmas spirit of the Celtic Nations through art, dance, song, music, storytelling and drama. Slip back in time to savor the Christmas season as it has been celebrated among the Celtic people for centuries.

The event is open to the public and is \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors; free for UST faculty and staff, as well as students and children. For more information, contact Lori Meghan Gallagher, JD, at 713-525-3592 or irishstudies@stthom.edu.



## Join Matt Maher for Advent Concert and Adoration

Dove Award-Winning Recording Artist Matt Maher will perform in concert during "The Light Shines," an evening of Advent worship with the Robbie Seay Band at 7 p.m. on Sunday, **Dec. 4** in Jerabeck Center. The night will feature powerful worship, relevant Advent teaching by Ennie Hickman of Adore Ministries and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$15 for reserved seating with a meet and greet.

The event is sponsored by UST Catholic Outreach Office and Adore Ministries, Inc. Purchase tickets online at [www.adoreworship.com](http://www.adoreworship.com).



**Blood Drive**

The Knights of Columbus and Health Awareness Club blood drive will take place 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, **Nov. 28 - 29** in the Old Bookstore. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Jose Bolivar at [bolivaj@stthom.edu](mailto:bolivaj@stthom.edu).



**Celebrate Christmas at Deck the Mall**



Join the campus community for the annual Deck the Mall Christmas celebration from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, **Nov. 30** on the Academic Mall. The event will include a petting zoo, arts and crafts, rides on Gunther the Camel, snow, a live Nativity scene and the lighting of campus by UST President Dr. Robert Ivany at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Angie Montelongo at 713-525-3572 or [montela@stthom.edu](mailto:montela@stthom.edu).

**Anti-Trafficking Victims Art Exhibit**

The Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition and Students Working Against Trafficking are hosting an art exhibit about human trafficking from 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Friday, **Dec. 2** in the Old Bookstore. Reception at 12:30 p.m. For details, contact Stephanie Hernandez at [Ranna266@yahoo.com](mailto:Ranna266@yahoo.com).



**Laurels Reading**

The contributing writers of the student literary magazine *Laurels* will read their stories and poems at the *Laurels* Reading from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, **Dec. 2** in the Old Bookstore in Crooker Center. For event details or copies of the publication, contact the literary magazine staff at [laurels.mag@gmail.com](mailto:laurels.mag@gmail.com).



**Christmas in the Chapel**

Enjoy the sounds of the season with the University Singers concert, "An Evening of Lessons and Carols," at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, **Dec. 5** in the Chapel of St. Basil, directed by Dr. Brady Knapp and special guest conductor Courtney Daniell-Knapp. Free and open to the public. For details, call 713-525-3560.



**Late Night Breakfast**

Take a break from studying at Late Night Breakfast from 9-11 p.m. on Monday, **Dec. 5** in Crooker Center. Enjoy a delicious meal served by faculty and staff members, and pick up a Survival Kit to help you through finals. For details, contact Angie Montelongo at [montela@stthom.edu](mailto:montela@stthom.edu).



**Come Celebrate Las Posadas**



Join Campus Ministry at the University of St. Thomas in celebrating Las Posadas at 7 p.m. on Friday, **Dec. 2**. Starting in the Guinan Lobby, Fr. Mike Buentello,

CSB, will lead a procession around campus reenacting the search of Mary and Joseph for a place to stay in Bethlehem. The evening will end with prayer at the Chapel of St. Basil and then tamales, hot chocolate and fellowship in the Old Bookstore. For more information, contact Campus Ministry at 713-525-3589 or [campusministry@stthom.edu](mailto:campusministry@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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