# Star View



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# **UST Program Helps First Generation College Students Succeed**

Erica Fulton has faced many obstacles over the years, but her aspiration to obtain a degree has never wavered.

A first generation theology major, she arrived at UST in 2006. The death of her husband in 2007 prompted her to take time off and reorganize her life, but in 2008 she returned to UST, started a theology degree and began working toward her goal of becoming a full-time hospital chaplain.

"I can empathize with people who have lost loved ones," Fulton said. "And the theology classes at St. Thomas have helped me to understand my Catholic faith better. The more I think about my background and the experiences God has allowed me to pass through, the more I feel drawn toward this career."

Fulton will graduate with a theology bachelor's degree in May. She made the dean's list twice and was recognized by the Chi Rho Theology club as its 2011 Outstanding Member of the Year for her service as secretary.

During her time at St. Thomas, Fulton has been

a devoted participant in the First Generation College Student Group. Comprised of faculty, staff and students, the group meets every other Friday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Crooker Center.

Faculty and staff share stories and advice from their college experiences and guide students in building resumes, finding scholarships and interviewing for jobs.

"Being part of the First Generation College Student Group has really been an enormous blessing to me," Fulton said. "It has given me motivation and encouragement."

Fulton plans to attend St. Mary's Seminary in Houston for her Master of Divinity in the fall.

Students interested in joining the group and members of the UST faculty or staff interested in helping with the group should contact Yolanda Norman at 713-525-3836 or normany@stthom.edu.

Next First Generation Meeting: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Friday Feb. 10 in Crooker Center

# **Emergency Notification Test**

The University will conduct a test of the emergency notification system (ENS) on Thursday, Feb. 16. To prepare for the ENS test:



- Visit www.stthom.edu/ens for instructions on updating your emergency contact information.
- Update your phone contact list with SMS short codes 23177 and 63079 to avoid confusion and ensure acknowledgement of notifications.
- Alert family members included in your emergency information that the University is conducting an ENS test.

Your safety and well-being is very important to us at the University of St. Thomas.

# Celts Hit Stride As Season Nears End

Come watch the Men and Women's basketball teams this month as they wrap up the end of their inaugural season in the Red River Athletic Conference and the Lady Celts as they complete their first season.

## **Upcoming Home Games:**

#### Women's Basketball

- 3 p.m., Feb. 18 vs. Wiley College
- 5:30 p.m, Feb. 23 vs. Texas College
- 5:30 p.m, Feb. 29 vs. Paul Quinn College

## Men's Basketball

- 5 p.m., Feb. 18 Men's vs. Wiley College
- 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23 Men's vs. Texas College
- 7:30 p.m., **Feb. 29** Men's vs. Paul Quinn College

# **Hittinger Named to Pontifical Academy**

University of St. Thomas philosophy professor **Dr. John Hittinger** was appointed recently to the Vatican-based Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Hittinger was notified in December that he will serve as one of the Academy's corresponding academicians, who augment the research and teaching work of the core group of scholars at the Academy.



He is director of the UST-affiliated John Paul II Forum for the Church in the Modern World and also part of the University's Center for Thomistic Studies.

Hittinger's expertise in both Thomistic philosophy and the thought of John Paul II make him a notable addition to the Academy. He will travel to Rome in April to help plan a 2013 conference the Academy will sponsor in Houston on the philosophies of Aquinas and John Paul II.

The Academy was established by Pope Leo XIII in 1879 and reorganized by Pope John Paul II in 1999 with his apostolic letter *Inter Munera Academiarum*. Its mission is to explore, defend and disseminate Aquinas' philosophy on faith, reason and the dignity of the human person. In particular, the Academy studies and promotes the modern relevance of the 13th century saint, philosopher and Doctor of the Church.



## **Celts for Life**

Forty-one members of the Celts for Life and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) travelled to Washington, D.C. for the 39th annual March for Life, a gathering of pro-life supporters.

# **Exhibit Highlights Historic Spanish Trail**

new exhibit at the University of St. Thomas Doherty Library will showcase the rich history of the Spanish colonial-era mission trail known as El Camino Real de los Tejas.



El Camino Real, or

the King's Highway, is one of the oldest documented travel routes in the state, running from Mexico City through presentday Texas and into Louisiana. This 2,500 mile trail has been recognized as a state and national historical landmark.

The exhibit will feature maps and photographs telling the story of this historic road and its importance in Texas commerce, communication and settlement.

The exhibit is free and open to the public and will be on display at Doherty Library from Jan. 27 to Feb. 17. It is sponsored by UST's Center for International Studies, Doherty Library and the Latin American and Latino Studies program and made possible in part by the General Consulate of Spain in Houston

For more information, contact Dr. Mary Kelleher at kellehm@stthom.edu

## **An Evening With Chesterton**

TST's English Department and Catholic Studies Program will host "An Evening with G. K. Chesterton," a dramatic portrayal of the famous Catholic author, essayist and apologist, from 7:30-9 p.m. on



Tuesday, Feb. 7 in Cullen Hall.

The event will feature actor and historian John Chalberg as Chesterton, one of the most well-known Christian thinkers and writers of the 20th century who died 70 years ago.

In full costume as Chesterton, complete with cape, walking stick and crumpled hat, Chalberg delivers the sort of witty, thought-provoking lectures for which Chesterton was famous.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Clint Brand at 713-942-5072.

# **Tuition, Financial Aid Increases for 2012-2013**

The University of St. Thomas will increase tuition I for the 2012-2013 school year by 6.37 percent for undergraduates and 5.32 percent for graduate students.

The University will also increase financial aid by approximately \$1.9 million, or nearly 20 percent, according to Jim Booth, vice president for finance.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved the tuition raise to support the increased cost of University operating expenses. Undergraduate students will pay \$885 per credit hour, and graduate students will pay \$990 per credit hour. Undergraduate tuition for 30 credit hours is \$26,650. Graduate tuition for 24 credit hours to \$23,760. This year's tuition increase is less than the previous year's increases of 7.77 and 7.8 percent for undergraduate and graduate tuition, respectively.

"The University of St. Thomas remains committed to balancing the need for increased scholarships, salary increases and improvements in student services with the cost of tuition," UST President Dr. Robert Ivany said.

To help make a UST education more accessible, the University will award \$11.5 million in student aid, which includes scholarships and grants. The University is granting the highest amount of financial aid in its history, up \$6.5 million since the 2003-2004 school year.

More than 85 percent of first-year students entering in the fall of 2011 received some kind of financial assistance, with many of these students receiving aid packages valued at more than \$20,000 (excluding student loans).

#### **Concert Features Traditional Irish Music**

Join the Flynn Center for Irish Studies for an evening of traditional Irish Music at the "The Jig is Up!" concert at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **Feb. 1** in Cullen Hall. Admission is free for students, \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors. For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592 or irishstudies@stthom.edu.



## **UST Theologians Discuss Immaculate Conception**

Chi Rho Theology Club will host a lecture and discussion on the dogma of the Immaculate Conception from the perspective of the Byzantine Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Black Lab Pub. For more information, contact Sr. Madeleine Grace, CVI at 713-525-3529.



## Fair Showcases Campus Clubs

Students looking to become more involved on campus can learn about all the different clubs and organizations at UST during the Spring Club Fair on from noon to 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9 on the Academic Mall. For more information contact Angie Montelongo at montela@stthom.edu.



## **Open House Features Faith & Culture Program**

Join the Center for Faith and Culture for a Master of Arts in Faith and Culture open house at 6 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 9 at the Center for Faith and Culture. The event is free and will include an overview of the MAFC academic program. For more information contact Greg Arbogast at cfc@stthom.edu.



## **UST Homecoming - Celtic Warrior Weekend**

Save the date for Homecoming on **Feb. 17-18**. On Friday, attend Mass and a President's Reception celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Link-Lee Mansion. On Saturday, attend a family-friendly tailgate and the Turtle Races. Register: www.stthom.edu/homecoming.



# **UST Seeking New RAs for 2012-13**

Resident assistants play an essential role in the campus life of the University, and UST is casting a wider net as it recruits a new batch of students to assume this leadership role.



The Office of Residence Life is now taking applications for 16 resident assistant positions and 10 sophomore advisors for the 2012-13 school year. The first time, the University has opened the process to students currently living off-campus who would like to be part of on-campus life and help new UST students transition into college life.

RAs receive a scholarship that provides a private residence hall room and a meal plan. RAs fill a variety of roles ranging from counselor to event programmer to friend to crisis manager, said Yolanda Norman, director of Residence Life.

Applicants should be passionate about servant leadership, committed to their fellow students and conscientious students who can model the balance between school and social life.

"They're responsible for growing people, that's a big responsibility," Norman said.

For John Kriescher came to UST from San Antonio. Friendly, welcoming RA's helped make him feel at home as a freshman in a new city. Now the junior philosophy and English major serves as an RA in Guinan Hall, said bonding with the other residents is the best part of his job.

"It's a great way to make new friends while helping newcomers," Kriescher said.

For more information about applying to be an RA or sophomore advisor, contact Residence Life at 713-525-3836 or residencelife@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.