# Star View



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### **Students Build Friendships through Best Buddies**

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life? Twenty-nine students from the University of St. Thomas do just that every week through their involvement with Best Buddies.

A nonprofit volunteer organization, Best Buddies builds one-on-one friendships between students and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). UST is one of 16 Texas universities with active Best Buddies Chapters. Each IDD adult – or "buddy" – is paired with a

student who calls or visits at least once a week. Twice a week, vans are available to take UST students to visit their buddies and the students plan

regular activities such as bowling or visiting local parks. Many buddy pairs remain the same from year-to-year, allowing real, long-term friendships to form.

Chloe Jester, treasurer of the UST chapter, said she joined Best Buddies looking for a way to become active in the community, not realizing the impact it would have on her life.

"The most fulfilling part of Best Buddies is the positive feeling I get every day I see my buddy, Carol," Jester said. "She is an amazing, beautiful person who has expanded my view of the world and has shown me how wonderful life truly is. Carol has made me an advocate for adults with intellectual disabilities."



On March 31, more than 9,000 members of Best Buddies Houston will come to the UST campus for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk, an annual

fundraiser advocating social inclusion in the community.

Jester said the benefits of being a buddy are infinite, including the friendships formed with other student members, the impact left on

another person's life and the laughter and fun of building relationships between buddies.

Students looking to volunteer and see the benefits of their work first-hand are encouraged to join the UST Best Buddies chapter. Student Buddies must be willing to commit to the mission of Best Buddies, participate regularly and maintain genuine friendships. For more information, contact ustbestbuddies@gmail.com.

Pictured: UST senior Jennifer Wade with Patty, her buddy of four years

## Thank-A-Prof

Want to thank a professor for their dedication, hard work and help? Send a note to cfe@stthom.edu and your message will be sent to the professor and posted anonymously to the Center for Faculty excellence website.

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#### B. K. Smith Talk Features St. Anselm

Dr. Sally N. Vaughn will present the annual B. K. Smith Lecture on "St. Anselm: The Statesman's Philosophical Views of Politics," from 7:30-9 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 in Cullen Hall.

St. Anselm of Canterbury was a theologian, master of meditation, teacher, missionary and politician. This talk will b

missionary and politician. This talk will begin with his 30-year tenure as teacher, prior and abbot of the Norman Abbey of Bec and continue through the political manifestations of his 16-year career as Archbishop of Canterbury in England.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Irving Kelter at 713-525-3192.

#### **Bioluminescence Talk Examines DNA**



Tr. Albert Ribes-Zamora, assistant professor of biology, will discuss "Using Bioluminescence to Dissect DNA Repair Pathways" at 2 p.m. on **March 28** in Doherty Library.

One of the ongoing revolutions in molecular biology is the use of bioluminesence molecules to identify and examine the functions of many of the genes present in our genome. Bioluminescence is used to dissect how genes are involved in repairing how DNA interacts with each other and how they assemble at DNA breaks. For more information, contact Jim Piccininni at jpicci@stthom.edu.

### Attend the Way of the Cross

Spend the morning of Good Friday in a reflective procession from the Chapel of St. Basil to



the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The Way of the Cross, hosted by the University of St. Thomas and Communion and Liberation, will begin at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, **April 6** in front of the Chapel of St. Basil.

Last year, more than 300 people carried the cross for the 2.2 mile procession, which includes five stations, gospel readings, reflections and choral presentations. At the conclusion, Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza will give a final blessing.

Five stops will honor the passion of the cross including the Chapel of St. Basil, the Edward P. White Memorial Cross Monument, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Catholic Charities and the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact 713-203-1566 or cltexas@sbcglobal.net.

#### ~ Easter Liturgical Schedule ~ Good Friday **Easter Sunday Holy Thursday Holy Saturday** Ξ April 5 April 8 **(**2) April 6 April 7 ಇ Tenebrae Service Tenebrae Service Mass Tenebrae Service 6 - 7 a.m.6 - 7 a.m.6 - 7 a.m.10:30 a.m. S French Mass Mass Way of the Cross **Easter Vigil Mass** 10:15 a.m. Noon 7 p.m. 8:30 p.m. Adoration in the Garden **Communion Service** Mass behind Hughes House d 3 p.m. 7 p.m. 8:30 p.m.

#### Lenten Lecture Series

Nome to the 23rd ∠Annual Lenten Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center, as speakers explore "The Catholic Literary Imagination."



#### March 21

Dr. Terry Hall "Dwelling in Darkness: The Vita Contemplativa in St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross"

#### March 28

Dale Ahlquist "G. K. Chesterton"

## **Bottom of the Cup**

↑ t 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays Ain Jones Hall, the Bottom of the Cup forms a bridge between modern academia and the Church by integrating faith and reason as it relates to the mystery of the human person.



#### What's Love Got to do with it? March 20

A noble vision of the beauty of the spousal embrace based upon a contemplative reading of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

#### The End of Love? March 27

Real answers to the breakdown of marriage and the family in modern culture, including an honest assessment on the impact to larger culture.

## **Texas Job Fair 2012**

Prepare for the Fair Workshop March 21, 12:30-1 p.m., 5-5:30 p.m.

Career Services, Crooker Are you ready for the Texas Job Fair? Learn how to get the most from any career fair or networking event.

**Texas Job Fair** March 27, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Jeraheck Center

Meet with representatives from 100+ organizations seeking to hire students and alumni from all majors interested in full-time, part-time and internship positions.

Contact Lindsey McPherson at career.services@stthom.edu for more information



## **Starting Strong After Midterms**

March 19, 4-5 p.m. Michael Levitt Room, Crooker The Mendenhall Achievement Center will provide tips for student success after midterms. For more

information, contact Dr. Ric Montelongo at 713-525-6972.

Managing Your Academic Stress March 22, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Michael Levitt Room, Crooker Counseling and Disability Services will present new ways to get a hold of your stress. For more information, contact Jennifer Shannon at shannoj@stthom.edu.

#### Faculty Excellence Workshop

**Behavior Workshop** March 27, 12-1:30 p.m. Doherty Library, Room 8 Dr. Liz Borreca, Dr. Jo Ann Meier-Marquis, Dr. Rose Signorello and Debra Jones will present about how to identify and manage students with behavior conditions.

Behavior Workshop Follow-Up **April 3**, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Art Gallery

A follow-up meeting to the March 27 workshop will allow faculty to discuss their own experiences in the classroom.

Contact Jill Calzada at 713-525-3543 or calzadi@stthom.edu for more information

#### **Upcoming Events**



Join the Office of Recreational Sports for a Rock Climbing trip from 10:30 a.m.—3 p.m. on Saturday, March 24. Cost is \$15. Sign up in the Office of Recreational Sports in Jerabeck.



The Houston Clarinet Ensemble will perform on **March 26** at 7:30 p.m. in Cullen Hall. The concert will premiere UST faculty Reynaldo Ochoa's work *El Mirador*.



Meet representatives from the Archdiocese and local religious orders from 12-2 p.m. on **March 29** in Crooker. Contact Sr. Madeleine Grace at grace@stthom.edu for information.



Discuss faith and academics and share homemade goodies at the Augustine Coffee House from 2-4 p.m. on **Fridays** in Clare Hall. For more information, contact 713-525-6989.



Accounting students will provide free tax filing assistance on **Saturdays** through April 14. For more information, contact Ramon Fernandez at ramonf@stthom.edu.

#### Dr. Robert LeBlanc Honored by Klein ISD

Dr. Robert LeBlanc, associate professor in the UST School of Education, has been chosen by the Klein ISD Education Foundation as the sixth recipient of the Donald R. Collins Distinguished Klein Educator Award. LeBlanc was nominated by a committee of former Klein ISD employees and current Education Foundation directors based on his years of service to the district. The award will be presented as part of the Foundation's annual Academic Banquet on April 23.



LeBlanc completed his undergraduate degree at the University of St. Thomas in 1969 and received a master's and doctorate degree in education from the University of Houston. He worked in a variety of positions in Klein ISD for 25 years, last serving as the associate superintendent for instruction and student services, and began working for UST in 2002.

In the School of Education, LeBlanc initiated an innovative program called the Gulf Region Academy for Catholic Educators (GRACE). He has received numerous other professional awards including a special recognition award from the University of Houston and an Educational Leadership Award from the Houston Suburban Chapter of Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. He and his wife, Rebecca, class of 1970, are recipients of the Rev. Vincent J. Guinan, CSB, Distinguished Alumni Award given by the University of St. Thomas Alumni Association for 2006.

#### Publications, Ad Receive Awards

Two UST publications and an advertisement produced in 2011 by the Office of Marketing Communications earned nationwide recognition in the 27th Annual Admissions Advertising Awards sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report. The newspaper Advertisement earned the Silver award in the category for schools with an enrollment between 2,000-4,999 students. Merit awards were given to a four-page Admissions "Counselor to Counselor" newsletter and for a Star View Publication.

The Admissions Advertising Awards is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,500 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools.

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.