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Star View

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UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Irish Studies is Still Top Ten in US

In April 2012, the editors of IrishCentral once again named the University of St. Thomas William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies among the top 10 exemplary Irish Studies programs in the United States.

The Center shares the honor with elite North American universities such as University of Notre Dame, Boston College, New York University, Catholic University of America and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Along with this honor, the Center has garnered several awards in the past including Director Lori Gallagher, J.D., being named to the Global Irish 100 and receiving the Irish American Leaders of Texas award.

"We are delighted to once again be named one of the 'Top Ten Irish Studies Programs' in the country," Gallagher said. "This honor recognizes the continued strength of our academic, cultural outreach and study abroad programs relative to those of much larger institutions on the East Coast. The Irish Government recently acknowledged the significance of our program when the chairman and two members of the Irish Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee visited the Center on June 27. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Irish Government and the community."

St. Thomas is one of a few universities west of the Mississippi with a minor and graduate concentration in Irish Studies and a Center for Irish Studies.

Read full versions of stories featured in Star View in the Online Newsroom section at www.stthom.edu.

Dear faculty members,
Welcome back to St. Thomas! I hope your summer was restful and rewarding. We are blessed with another excellent group of freshmen students who are looking forward to the academic year. I deeply appreciate your dedication to them.

With very warmest regards,
Dr. Robert Ivany, President

University of St. Thomas Welcomes New Faculty

Dr. Tracey Covey
Assistant Professor
Chemistry and Physics

Dr. Jill Dewey
Assistant Professor
Biology

Prof. Eric Domuret
Assistant Professor
Fine Arts and Drama

Dr. Thomas Harmon
Assistant Professor
Theology

Dr. Glenn Garrido
Chair, *Associate Professor*
Music

Dr. Srijana Shrestha
Assistant Professor
Psychology

Dr. Richard Sindelar
Assistant Professor
Center for International Studies

Dr. Jean Kiekel
Assistant Professor
Center for International Studies

Dr. Steven Meyer
Assistant Professor
Theology
St. Mary's Seminary

Mr. Nicholas Kowalski
Assistant Professor
Doherty Library

School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Shivas Amin, *Visiting Instructor*, Biology
Dr. Sarah Houser, *Visiting Instructor*, Political Science
Dr. Steve Caloudas, *Instructor*, Psychology
Dr. Richard Gibbs, *Visiting Instructor*, Mathematics
Dr. Henry Foust, *Visiting Instructor*, Mathematics

School of Education

Prof. Christin Baker, *Visiting Instructor*
Prof. Kelci Gabriel, *Visiting Instructor*
Dr. James May, *Visiting Instructor*
Dr. Janice Taylor, *Visiting Instructor*

School of Nursing

Dr. Angelina Chambers, *Professor*
Prof. Kristina Leyden, *Instructor*
Prof. Anne Meng, *Associate Professor*
Dr. Kelly Vandenberg, *Assistant Professor*

Cardinal Beran Library

Prof. Nicolas Castellanos, *Assistant Professor*
Prof. Ashley Pitts, *Assistant Professor*, Public and Technical Service Librarian

Cameron School of Business

Dr. Shuoyang Zang, *Visiting Instructor*, Management and Marketing

UST Names VP for Institutional Advancement

The new University of St. Thomas Vice President for Institutional Advancement is Cynthia Colbert Riley, MLA '95. As head of institutional advancement, Riley will lead the University's fundraising efforts focusing on the "Faith in Our Future" Capital Campaign.

Riley has more than 24 years of experience in institutional leadership in healthcare, higher education and public broadcasting institutions.

"We are very happy to welcome Cynthia back to St. Thomas," President Dr. Robert Ivany said. "Her broad experience in fundraising in the Houston community and her appreciation of St. Thomas' unique mission make her a valuable addition to our campus."

Most recently, Riley served as the interim executive director and vice president for development at The Methodist Hospital Foundation in Houston. There, she led fundraising efforts for The Methodist Hospital System, including organizing the hospital's first strategic fundraising campaign and supporting the planning and development of its ongoing $200 million campaign.

Additionally, Riley has experience in fundraising at St. Thomas. She served for five years as the capital campaign coordinator during the University's first capital campaign in the 1990s.

"The University is on track to become one of America's great Catholic universities, and I look forward to working with alumni and the community at large to expand the base of philanthropic support for our University," Riley said.

Nursing Lab Opens with Blessing

The opening day for the University of St. Thomas School of Nursing arrived on May 29. The Rev. Mike Buentello, CSB, chaplain and director of Campus Ministry, blessed the School of Nursing and the Nursing Simulation Center at the opening day event. Dean Poldi Tschirch and Chair of the UST Board of Directors Michele Malloy spoke at the event.

"It was a special day for the UST School of Nursing," Tschirch said. "It was the first class day for the 28 nursing students of the class of 2014, who are the first nursing students to study at UST since the previous school closed in 1986."

The lab features eight patient beds and cutting-edge technology like virtual IVs, which use computer-generated animations to teach students how to insert intravenous needles. The lab also has traditional teaching tools such as body-part models and a variety of devices that provide students with practical learning experiences.

The lab at 4201 Graustark St. in building 27, is equipped with five fully-functional simulation manikins that mimic human reactions such as blinking, breathing, chest movement with heart and breath sounds, and pulses. The manikins have monitors that display physiological responses to medications and treatments in the form of electrocardiography waves, blood pressure, pulses and oxygen levels. They also have built-in speech phrases in different languages.

Events

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Join the University in prayer and celebration from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on **Aug. 28** in the Chapel of St. Basil. Begin the academic year by asking the Holy Spirit to guide, protect and encourage UST to grow in faith and reason.

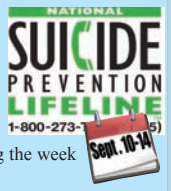
Seekers & Sages Lecture, Luncheon

The event is from 12:30-2 p.m on **Sept. 5** in the Scanlan Room in Jerabeck Center. Dr. Hans Stockton, director of the Center for International Studies, will speak on China.

First Friday Forum

Carla E. Aguilar, program coordinator for Catholic Relief Services, will present on ways Catholics can live their faith and defend the life and dignity of the impoverished. The presentation is from 7:30-9 p.m. on **Sept. 7** in the Ahern Room in Crooker Center.

Suicide Prevention Week



UST Counseling and Disability Services will provide resources to make the UST community aware of early warning signs for suicide prevention during the week of **Sept. 10-14**.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture

The Catholic Studies Program invites the public to the 9th annual Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture from 7:30-9 p.m. on **Sept. 19** in Jones Hall. Ross Douthat, New York Times columnist, will give his lecture titled "Budget Wars and Culture Wars: What the 2012 Election Means for the American Future."

Faculty Excel in Research, Collaboration

Nicole Casarez, professor of communication, was named by Mayor Annise Parker as a founding member of the Board of Directors for the proposed Houston Forensic Science Local Government Corporation, which will oversee the new crime lab the city is forming to be independent from the Houston Police Department.

Dr. Ann Coleman, nursing activity director, won the gold medal for the 2012 Excellence in Nursing Awards in the Nursing Administration and Leadership Category on behalf of the Good Samaritan Foundation. She attributes her award to the hard work and cooperation of the team that brought the School of Nursing back to life. As a part of her award, Coleman will be the star of a tribute video produced by the Foundation.

Dr. John Hittinger, professor of philosophy in the Center for Thomistic Studies, presented his paper "The Vocation of the Christian Philosopher" at a conference sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas in Vatican City. The Academy celebrates the Blessed John Paul II's Encyclical Letter "Fides et ratio," which reinterpreted Aquinas' themes of truth, good and being.

China Enriches UST Students' Study

Ten University of St. Thomas students traveled to Shanghai and Beijing as part of the study abroad trip to the People's Republic of China from June 17-30. Dr. Jon Taylor, chair of the Department of Political Science, led the students and taught a course on comparative public administration.

While in China, Taylor spoke with Party, government and university officials about the potential for future academic collaboration between UST and Chinese universities.

"Traveling and studying abroad may be that defining moment in your education that changes your life," Taylor said.

Star View is published by the Office of Marketing Communications to inform the UST community about University and campus news.
Call 713-525-3116 with questions and/or comments.

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