





Franciscan Sisters Honored at Mardi Gras Gala

The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist will be honored at "A Mardi Gras Tradition," the 63rd Annual Mardi Gras Gala, at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Houston.

Dressed in brown habits and black veils, the sisters, who arrived at St. Thomas in 1999, live in a convent on the University campus and have a longstanding dedication to the University.

Exemplifying the model of religious life, Sister Mary Roberta Connors, the local superior, is active in UST Campus Ministry as pastoral care coordinator, a member of the UST Board of Directors and a graphic artist with a background in fine art. Sister Paula Jean Miller is founder and director of the Catholic Studies program and professor of theology. Sister Damien Marie Savino is an assistant professor and chair of Environmental Science and Studies, who also teaches in Catholic Studies. Sister Veronica Schueler is an immigration attorney for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Sister Mary Roberta said the sisters feel humbled to be part of the Mardi Gras celebration.

"I feel like we have been part of the fabric of the University over the past 14 years," she said.

The annual Mardi Gras Gala is the University's premier scholarship fundraising event. Many students would be unable to attend the University without the more than \$11.6 million in scholarships and grants that are awarded annually. Discounted tickets are \$200 each for faculty, staff and alumni. For more information, visit stthom.edu/MardiGrasGala.

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









Education Students Teach in Jamaica



A group of 12 University of St. Thomas students kicked off the new year by studying abroad in Jamaica on Jan. 2-12. The excursion was a part of the School of Education's cross-cultural learning experience trip.

The students, accompanied by Dr. Randy Soffer, spent 10 days in Lucea, Jamaica, and lived with Jamaican families in an effort to immerse themselves in the nation's culture.

"My experience with the people of Jamaica instilled a new perspective in me that cannot be gained in any other way," Grace Cheung, education major, said.

Students can study abroad for the summer in places such as Greece, Prague/Budapest, Spain, China and Ireland. For more information on study abroad opportunities, contact Diana Garcia at garciad@stthom.edu. The deadline to apply for study abroad trips is Feb. 15.

Campus Tests Alert System

Because campus safety is important at UST, the University will conduct a test of the emergency notification system, UST Alerts, on Feb. 5.



To prepare for the ENS test:

- Visit www.stthom.edu/ens for instructions to update your emergency contact information.
- Add "UST Alerts" in your phone contact list with SMS short codes 23177 and 63079.
- Alert family members included in your emergency information that the University is conducting an ENS test.

Klineberg Speaks on 'The Changing Face of Houston'



The Cameron School of Business Advisory Board Lecture Series will host Dr. Stephen Klineberg, at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

Klineberg, who has done extensive research on the evolution of Houston and is co-director at the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University, will give a lecture on "The Changing Face of Houston: Tracking the Economic and Demographic Transformations Through 31 Years of Surveys." Klineberg's research includes how "the Houston region recovered from the prolonged recession of the mid-1980s to find itself squarely in the midst of a restructured, two-tiered, knowledge-based, fully global economy and a truly remarkable transformation in its

ethnic and cultural composition." He will also discuss his film "Interesting Times."

RSVP at www.stthom.edu/KlinebergLecture.

Upcoming Men's and Women's Basketball Games

Admission is \$3 and free for children 12 and under.

Jan. 28:

Basketball vs. Bacone College 5.30-7:30 p.m.- Women's 7:30-9:30 p.m. - Men's

Feb. 2:

Basketball vs. University of the Southwest 2-4 p.m. - Women's

4-6 p.m. - Men's- Celts for Blue Cure Game

Feb. 4

Basketball vs. Texas Wesleyan University 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Women's 7:30-9:30 p.m. - Men's

Feb. 7:

Basketball vs. Our Lady of the Lake University

5:30-7:30 p.m. - Women's 7:30-9:30 p.m. - Men's

Feb. 9:

Basketball vs. Southwestern Assemblies of God University

2-4 p.m. - Women's 4-6 p.m. - Men's

THEY SHINE HERE.



Students, Alumni Shine at UST

UST students shine in the classroom, in their careers and around the globe. Shine at UST, a microsite created to applaud the accomplishments and individuality of current UST students and alumni, features several people who are proud to call St. Thomas home. Visit ShineAtUST.com to learn about people like:

- **Jason Tolbert '93**, a liberal arts alumnus who is a director at Microsoft Corp.
- Monica Hatcher '98, a Catholic worker at Casa Juan Diego and Master of Arts in Faith and Culture student
- Ron Hartgrove '74, who uses his fine arts degree as an abstract painter, jewelry maker and author.

Also, visit ShineAtUST.com to view television commercials about St. Thomas and the winners of the 2012 UST Photography Contest.

Student Voices

View a new video series called Student Voices, with vignettes of three students, Shirley Paul, Troy Bassiri and an upcoming video about Amalia Torres. The series will follow the students during the course of a year as they navigate their college experience. To view the first videos and stories, visit ShineAtUST.com.



Pre-Med Bio Major Aims for the Heart

Troy Bassiri's journey to become a cardiologist is just beginning. The senior pre-med biology major discusses the opportunities that have allowed his journey to become possible. See a video about Bassiri's path to success at shineatust.com on Jan. 30.



Volleyball Player Sets Sight on Vet School

On the volleyball court, junior **Shirley Paul** wears a different color jersey to set her apart as the best defender on the team. Paul is a libero, a key defensive specialist, on the St. Thomas women's volleyball team. See a video about Paul's experience as a volleyball player at shineatust.com.

Events

High Mass: Superlative Work of Art

Pr. Ted Rebard will speak of the beauty of traditional Latin Mass as the most sublime work of art at 7 p.m. on Jan. 30 in Ahern Room.



Testimony and Faith

n. Steven Meyer will give a lecture on testimony and faith in the Year of Faith at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 31 in Doherty Library.



Theology at the Lab

The Chi-Rho Theology Club presents "Theology at the Lab" with the Rev. Dempsey Rosales-Acosta, SSL, STD, who will discuss the Year of Faith at 7 p.m.



on **Feb. 5** at the Black Labrador, 4100 Montrose Blvd.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a traditional meal, red envelopes and lion dancers at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 7 on the Crooker Patio. Don't miss this wonderful tradition!



Celtic Spirituality

The William J. Flynn
Center for Irish
Studies invites you to
"Celtic Spirituality and its
Contribution to the
Roman Catholic Church"
with Sister Madeleine
Grace, CVI, at 7:30 p.m.
on Feb. 7.



Discover the 'Vocation of a Business Leader'

The Center for Business Ethics will host a Roundtable Discussion with Dr. Michael Naughton at noon on Feb. 7 in the Art Gallery. Naughton will speak on the "Vocation of the Business Leader."



Naughton is a professor of ethics, business law and Catholic studies at the University of St. Thomas in

St. Paul, Minn. He is the director of the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought and Alan W. Moss Endowed Chair in Catholic Social Thought. His area of expertise is in the interdisciplinary engagement between Catholic social thought and business. Naughton's presentation is on the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace document "Vocation of the Business Leader."

The event is free and open to the University and Houston community. RSVP to CBE 713-942-5951 or through email at cbe@stthom.edu.

Kithara Duo Performs at Alma Mater

Olga Amelkina-Vera '00 and Fernand Vera '98 have been making music together since their undergraduate years at the University of St. Thomas. The couple, now the world-renowned Kithara Duo, will perform for free at 7:30 p.m. on **Jan. 31** in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon.



Coming back to UST, the Duo reflected on their music education at St. Thomas and said it was absolutely excellent.

"We loved the intimate setting of our classes," Fernand said.
"University of St. Thomas and the Music Department in particular, provided a nurturing environment and allowed us to grow and have many new and exciting experiences."

Facebook/Twitter Sign Ups

Have you checked out the UST Facebook page? "Like" us to find out about sports updates, Catholic lectures and events, and good news about your friends and professors!

- · Facebook.com/usthouston
- Twitter: @stthomashouston

10 percent off Eatsie Boys

Eatsie Boys, local self-proclaimed purveyors of good eats, are now offering 10 percent off for all UST students, faculty and staff at their Montrose restaurant. To learn more, visit the website, http://eatsieboys.com, follow them on Twitter @eatsieboys.

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.