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Grad Speaker Highlights Leading with Faith, Character

University of St. Thomas will celebrate 350 undergraduates and 793 graduate students during the 2013 Commencement Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on May 18 in Reliant Arena. Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and founder and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, will give the commencement address. His speech, "The Life of Faith and The Moral Life," will give students valuable advice on living a faithful and moral life following their collegiate careers.

"I am honored to receive an invitation and am always so happy to assist Catholic colleges and universities that are seeking to promote proper integration of faith and reason," George said.

Before the commencement ceremony, UST will host a Baccalaureate Mass at 6:30 p.m. on **May 17**. Shuttle service will be provided.

George is a professor of politics and an associate faculty member of the Department of Philosophy at Princeton. He is a former member of the President's Council on Bioethics, and previously served as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

George is an author and has also written for publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post*.

A graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School, George also earned a master's degree in theology from Harvard University and a doctorate in philosophy of law from Oxford University. He holds honorary doctorates of law, letters, ethics, science, humane letters, civil law and juridical science, and he will earn an honorary degree from St. Thomas. Visit stthom.edu/graduation for more information.



Can't make it to Commencement or have family out of town? Watch a live stream of the graduation ceremony online. Find the details at: stthom.edu/graduation



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STAR VIEW

Grad Mathematician Calculates Perfect Speech

Brittany Garza, a senior math major, was selected to be the 2013 Commencement Student Speaker. She will present her speech, "Level Up as Leaders of Faith and Character," and looks forward to the opportunity to share her collegiate reflections.

"It feels surreal," Garza said. "It will be a privilege to tell them the thoughts I've had on my heart during my four years at St. Thomas. We've been very blessed, and 'leveling up' means giving back to the world and touching other people's lives as leaders of faith and character, which is our mission."

Garza said St. Thomas helped her tie together logic, faith and problem solving. She plans to finish her prerequisite courses for medical school in the coming year to become either a bilingual doctor or a physician's assistant



Alumna of the Year Embodies GRACE



Dr. Ana-Lisa Gonzalez '97, M.Ed. '01, assistant professor and director of Reading and Catholic Education and the GRACE program, will receive the Rev. Vincent J. Guinan CSB Alumni of the Year Award during Commencement.

Now that Gonzalez has a bachelor's in special education, a master's in educational leadership, a doctorate in educational psychology from University of Houston and a thriving position as the director of a major program under her belt, she is grateful for the place that started it all.

"I was accepted to many universities as a senior in high school, but when I walked onto the St. Thomas campus, it just felt like home – and 20 years later, it still feels like home," Gonzalez said.

Ihnatowicz Receives Honorary Degree for Years of Service

The Rev. Janusz Ihnatowicz, who has been a priest for more than 50 years and is a professor emeritus of theology, will receive an honorary degree at commencement. Ihnatowicz published nine volumes of poetry, inspired literary scholarship and earned a lifetime achievement award from the Union of Polish Writers Abroad for his contributions to Polish literature. Father Ihnatowicz worked with Pope John Paul II as a writer for his diocesan paper when the Pope was a bishop. Pope John Paul II bestowed the *Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* on Father Ihnatowicz.



Father Ihnatowicz was born in Poland and ordained for the Diocese of Kielce, Poland, in 1962. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University College in Dublin, a licentiate degree in sacred theology from the University of St. Paul in Ottawa, Canada, and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Angelicum, Rome. He joined the faculty of UST in 1969. Father Ihnatowicz is the author of more than 30 scholarly articles in Polish and English.







Jenny Treviño, the first in her family to go to college, will graduate with a degree in international studies. Her next adventure is Teach for America in Detroit, Mich.



Krista Karbalai is the first to earn a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio arts. See her exhibit '102 Hours' in the UST Art Gallery, April 26 to May 3.



Kayla Weaver, a biology major, will attend the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University.



Deacon Albert Vacek never thought three months after filing for Social Security, he would graduate with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. He will now serve as a hospital chaplain.

Graduation Stories 2013

Read more in the Success Stories section on stthom.edu.



Ali Civelek, a Muslim community leader—an imam—will receive a graduate degree in faith and culture from Houston's Catholic university. He examines charity in both faiths.



Adrienne Shearer, a first-generation college graduate, will earn a degree in drama. Performing has sustained her through the long road to UST.



Kelly Schmitz, an environmental science major, has a passion for animal conservation and recycling. She worked at the Houston Zoo and volunteers in the conservation field.



Elvia Valdez strives to be a voice for others through a career in communication. She will earn a Master of Education in dual language.



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STAR VIEW

Events

Express Your Stress

Visit Crooker Center to unwind before finals. Enjoy free chair massages, study tips, snacks and drinks, pet therapy and much more from noon to 2 p.m. on April 30.



Stay Afloat for Finals

The Office of Recreational Sports offers music, food and fun during Stay Afloat for Finals at 4 p.m. on April 30 at Jerabeck Pool.



Annual Fund Barbecue

Paculty and staff are invited to a delicious barbecue lunch prepared by chef and grilling guru, Father Mike Buentello, CSB, from 11:30-2 p.m. on May 2 at the Basilian Residence,



Donaghue House.

Presenting Shakespeare

The UST Drama
Department will give
a presentation of how an
actor approaches the text
of Shakespeare at
12:30 p.m. on May 2 in
Jones Hall.



Best Buddies Friendship Walk

UST Best Buddies wil participate in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 4 at Terry Hershey Park. All are invited to participate.



UST Faculty Members Get Promoted, Tenure

St. Thomas finished out the semester by awarding and promoting faculty members for their accomplishments and announcing program changes.

Endowed Chairs

Dr. Ruth Ann Bagnall, professor of biology Cullen-Smith Professor of Biology

Dr. John Deely, professor Thomistic studies Frank A. Rudman Endowed Chair in Philosophy

Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras,

assistant professor of international studies

Cullen Trust for Higher Education/ Fayez Sarofim Chair in International Studies

Dr. Randall Smith, professor of theology Scanlan Foundation Chair in Theology

Dr. Michelle Steiger, visiting assistant professor

Cullen Trust for Higher Education/ Dolores Welder Mitchell Chair in Chemistry

Dr. Shahram Taj, professor and chair of management and marketing Cameron Chair in Management and Marketing

Dr. C. Joe Ueng, professor and chair of Economics, Finance and Decision Information Sciences

Cullen Foundation Endowed Chair in Finance

Promotion and Tenure

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Dr. Catherine Barber - education

Dr. Livia Bornigia - communication

Dr. Brady Knapp - music

Dr. Lisa Mundey - history

Sister Damien Marie Savino – environmental science and studies

Dr. Charles Sommer - theology

Promotion to Full Professor

Dr. Steven Jensen – Thomistic studies

Dr. Michele Simms - marketing and management

Dr. Randall Smith - theology

Mr. Jim Piccininni – University libraries

New Programs

- •Joint JD/MBA with South Texas College of Law
- •Bachelor of Art in Applied Math
- Major in Economics
- •Major in Computer Science
- •Joint major in Environmental Science and Studies and International Studies

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.





