

Zapatista woman Chiapas, Mexico

## Organizer Speaks on Zapatismo

Women, globalization, NAFTA, economics and indigenous struggles for autonomy converge in topic at the inaugural 2007 Women of the World lecture series at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in UST's Jones Hall. Rosario Aguilar Arguello, an active member of The Other Campaign in Chiapas and a student of social anthropology at the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas, will speak on "Women Constructing Autonomy: Zapatismo, The Other Campaign, and Alternative Economy."

Arguello has participated in student groups in Chiapas, Bolivia and Guatemala that aim to create solidarity networks and spaces of analysis of the Zapatista struggle.

Since the Zapatista uprising began on Jan. 1, 1994, the Mexican military and paramilitaries have waged a counterinsurgency war against Zapatismo and communities that support the cause. Thirteen years after the uprising, the human rights abuses continue on the heels of the 500 years of cultural genocide against the indigenous communities of southern Mexico.

Dr. Debra D. Andrisc initiated the annual lecture series "Women of the World" to highlight the accomplishments of women from around the world.

The event is free and open to the public. For information, contact Dr. Andrisc at 713-525-3122.

## New Bachelor of Arts Program Rolls Out in Fall 2007

A new bachelor's program in studio arts that focuses on theory, aesthetics and practice in visual arts begins this fall. The program is a collaborative effort with the Glassell School of Art, the educational branch of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Approved last week by the curriculum committee, the program incorporates extensive aspects of global art history that span classic to contemporary from a Catholic perspective as part of the required art history program. Students may choose between a Bachelor of Arts degree and a dual Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts. The BFA is the degree most recognized by graduate programs and the professional arts world. This unique collaboration will allow the University to compete for art students at local and national arts academies and high schools.

Claire McDonald, associate professor and chair of the Fine and Performing Arts department, was instrumental in developing the degree programs. The majority of the faculty and staff and the facility for this program are already in place. UST will need an adjunct art historian to teach contemporary art and a faculty or staff member from the Glassell to assist with program administration, portfolio review arrangement and student advising.

## Explore New Facets of Sacrifice during Lent

Living in the melting pot of the world gives depth and dimension to life experiences. Americans might have many downfalls, but they are not

informing the cashier they would like to offer their meal for the program. The money from the missed meal will go toward buying food supplies, which

students will distribute on Friday to the families or neighbors of the week. A novena will be offered toward the end of Lent for those in need of spiritual aid and physical aid.

The project has students look beyond the world of academia by reaching out to families of different

unwilling to take on new experiences or give a helping hand to the underdog. Tapping into this American spirit, Campus Ministry invites the students of St. Thomas to take a step outside their everyday world this Lenten season by giving to those most in need of aid right in our community.

Campus Ministry has developed a plan to make and give food to families and the homeless in living in the area that are from different cultures. Every Wednesday, students may sacrifice flex or meal dollars for one of their meals at Crooker by

cultures, backgrounds and fortunes who share the neighborhood. Through the fasting on Wednesdays, almsgiving on Fridays, and prayer of novena, students will exercise their spiritual beliefs while developing a better sense of self and others. The project will culminate with a collage created by participants that will recognize their sacrifices.

Announcements about the families and the Lenten program will be posted outside Crooker every week. For more information contact Campus Ministry 713-525-3588.



### Aquinas Ensemble Concert

Indulge in musical delight at UST's Aquinas Ensemble Concert with Ann Fairbanks, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, Cullen Hall. Music by Buxtehude, Corelli and Telemann will be performed.



### Lenten Lecture Series

Hear Fr. William Kelly discuss "'Are There Any who are Sick Among You?'—Anointing through the Ages," 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.



### ACS Seminar

Robert L. Lichter will give a seminar, "So, What Do You Do for a Living?" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26 in Ahern Room, Crooker Center. He will discuss how to communicate chemistry to the public.



## UST Named 'School of Year' by Blood Center

UST was chosen from more than 200 high schools and colleges as "School of the Year" by the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. This award spotlights the blood drive volunteers at St. Thomas for the innovative ways they reach the student population and for increasing the number of blood donations at UST considerably over the past two years.

"The blood drives were scheduled on consecutive days to reach more students," JJ Durrenberger, UST chairperson for the blood drives, said. "We used Facebook.com and booked more appointments." Durrenberger accepted the award at the Blood Center's annual luncheon on Feb. 15.

## Attention Seniors!!

The last day to file for May, July and August graduations is Thursday, March 1. For more information contact Barbara Jonte at [jonteb@stthom.edu](mailto:jonteb@stthom.edu).



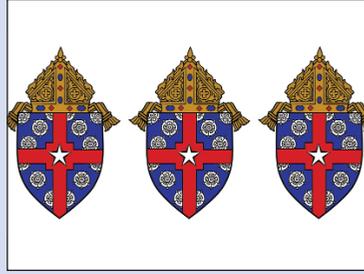
### Irish Harp, Guitar Music

Irish harp and guitar masters Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman will perform from their new CD "FireWire" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. This event is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

The two made their debut as a duo at the 1987 Cambridge Folk Festival and since have played in 21 countries from Shetland to New Zealand and from San Francisco to Kyoto. In the past two years they have toured in the United States, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and the UK.

Chathasaigh is one of Ireland's most important and influential traditional musicians. Newman is a prolific composer, arranger and record producer who is internationally known. He concentrates on traditional music and composition and is considered one of the most influential acoustical guitarists of his genre.

Sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum and The Irish Society. Call 713-525-3592 for more details.



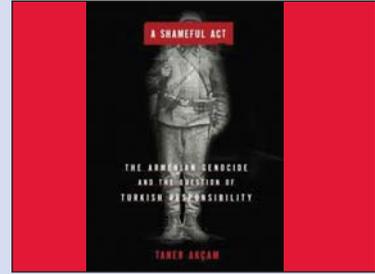
### Archdiocesan Career Fair

The University of St. Thomas Chi-Rho Theology Club hosts the annual Archdiocesan Career and Volunteer Fair from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, in Crooker Center. A panel discussion will be included in this year's fair, beginning at 12:45 p.m. The fair provides opportunities for students and others to see what the Church offers in ministry on an Archdiocesan level, as well as how religious orders serve the Church.

More than 25 exhibitors will share information about career and volunteer opportunities in ministries in the Church, religious vocations and volunteer opportunities. "Looking Toward the Future – Married Life, Priesthood or Religious Life, Single Life: What is the Lord Asking of Me?" is the topic of the panel discussion.

Panel members will include Nick Lopez Jr., Catholic psychotherapist; Wally and Winnie Honeywell, Archdiocesan Family Life Office; Fr. Joseph Pilsner, CSB, UST associate professor of theology; Sr. Madeleine Grace, CVI, UST associate professor of theology; and Tommy Romano, Strake Jesuit High School theology teacher.

For more information, contact Sr. Grace at 713-525-3529.



### Book Signing with Akçam

Turkish historian Taner Akçam will discuss his book, "A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility," at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 2, at Cullen Hall.

In 1915, under the cover of a world war, some one million Armenians were killed through starvation, forced marches, forced exile, and mass acts of slaughter. Although Armenians and world opinion have held the Ottoman powers responsible, Turkey has consistently rejected any claim of intentional genocide. In his book, Akçam uses Ottoman and other sources to produce a scrupulous charge sheet against the Turkish authorities.

In 1976, he was arrested and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, but escaped prison a year later. He has been living in the Federal Republic of Germany since early 1978 as a political refugee. He continued his political activities and, in 1988, started working for the Hamburg Institute for Social Research on the history of violence and torture in Turkey.

For more information contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530.

# Student's Dreams Become Reality Despite Disability

It was dark in the downtown parking garage in 1993 as UST alumna Sherrel A. Conway-Keys hurried to punch in at her telecommunications job at EDS just before her 6:30 a.m. start time. The night before, the garage management had installed low-hanging heavy steel signs that were invisible in the pitch-black of pre-dawn. Conway-Keys' head hit one of the signs so hard that she was immediately plunged into excruciating pain as she fell to the concrete. In that split second, her once photographic memory dissolved, to be replaced by a debilitating short-term memory loss and injuries to her spine.

The Houston native's life drastically changed. Unable to work, she fell into deep depression. EDS encouraged her to apply for Houston Community College's "Capable and Motivated" coping and retraining course, and she became one of 27 out of 2,700 applicants to be accepted. "You can get over it," was the instructor's mantra, which Conway-Keys adopted for herself.

The head of HCC's real estate department, with whom Conway-Keys frequently chatted during breaks, recruited her for the real estate program, and she received her associate's degree at the top of her class.

On Mother's Day in 1997 as Conway-Keys' mother lay on her deathbed, she made her daughter promise to complete her college education, which Conway-Keys had put on hold when she and her



first husband eloped in 1966.

She enrolled at UST in 2000 on a scholarship, which she calls the best thing that ever happened to her. It was also during one of the hardest times in her life – her younger sister had died two days earlier of a heart attack. In the admissions office that first day at UST, she met fellow student Johnnie F. Johnson, now a lifelong friend, who at the time helped her organize her academic schedule and supported her in her sorrow.

And she received invaluable help from UST's office of Counseling and Disability Services, through which students with disabilities can request academic accommodation for conditions that affect them in the learning environment. The goal of Disability Services is to provide appropriate accommodation for students in a friendly and supportive atmosphere that will assist them in accomplishing their academic goals.

Conway-Keys received bachelor's degrees in arts and science, graduating cum laude – but she didn't stop there. She went on to get her master's degree in liberal arts.

"I got the undergraduate degree for my mother and the

master's for myself," she says. Her friends at school also helped her after Dec. 3, 2001, when her husband, Rodney Keys, got the news that his employer, Enron, had imploded, wiping out his investments and savings. His health problems had forced him on disability – and he coped with his own devastating depression. Still, he never missed a chance to encourage and support his wife. "A lot of couples (who worked at Enron) split up after that happened," Conway-Keys said. "But because we are Christians, we were able to hang on and still love each other even more each day."

She still enjoys her work as a real estate agent, but her long-term dream had been to teach history, philosophy and real estate at HCC. She was recently accredited in all three subjects and plans to begin teaching this fall. She traces her success back to that day seven years ago when she became part of the St. Thomas community and its supportive network.

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