

Explore I-Fest 2007

Take a trip around the world at the University of St. Thomas International Studies Society's fourth annual I-Fest celebration from 7-10 p.m., Thursday, March 29 on the Crooker Patio, Crooker Center, 3909 Graustark.

Festivities include food, music and dance from Africa, Russia, Venezuela, Greece, Palestine, Korea, Thailand, Peru, Colombia and India. The festival is free and open to the public.

ISS is a student-run organization dedicated to the promotion of cultural awareness and diversity in the community.

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

Hospice Presentation

American Hospice, Inc. will provide a presentation on hospice care from 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in the Old Bookstore, Crooker Center. A short drama and education on the meaning and purpose of hospice will be given by Rev. Debbie Leo and professionals from American Hospice. The program is part of the Lenten Love Project. The program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Sr. Maura Behrenfeld at 713-525-3588.



Accounting Students Excel on CPA Exam

UST's accounting students need not fear entering the job market after graduation. UST's Master of Science in Accounting Program prepares students for senior accounting positions or other positions requiring advanced accounting knowledge. Forty percent of UST's candidates for the Certified Public Accountant exam – one of the highest percentages of candidates in the state – recently passed all parts of the rigorous test given by the Texas State Board of Accountancy. They are eligible to apply for the CPA certificate, said Dr. John Leavens, professor and chair of UST's Accounting Program.

“The program is designed so that students can gain technical competence and theoretical understanding through advanced course work in financial and managerial accounting, auditing and taxation,” Leavens said. “Therefore, UST students are well prepared, so it's not unusual for UST graduates to land their first job at big firms.”

Accounting student Lauren VerBerkmoes is one of the Accounting Program's successes. Although apprehensive about interviewing with a major international accounting and consulting firm, she was persuaded to do so by her accounting professor Ramon Fernandez, and will start work full time this fall with PriceWaterhouseCooper. “The fact that UST alumni are managers and partners in big firms and are lobbying for UST students “gives graduates a leg up when they are looking for jobs,” Fernandez said.

Advantage UST: New Soccer Coach on Field

The University is one goal closer to instituting an inter-collegiate, Division I men's soccer team later this year. Aaron Champenoy, the former men's head soccer coach at Bellevue University in Nebraska, will serve as UST's men's soccer coach beginning March 30. Champenoy, a 12-year soccer veteran and coach, is ready to build a strong men's soccer team at UST.



"UST is a great institution with all the tools to be a consistent national power," he said. "Houston is an ideal location to build this new program. There is a wealth of soccer talent in this city and I plan on tapping into that talent early and often. My goal is to use this position to help mold student athletes who will succeed on the field, in the classroom and, eventually, in society."

Champenoy led the Bellevue Bruins to four consecutive competitions in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference and Region IV tournaments. In those four seasons, the Bruins placed 26 players on the MCAC All-Conference teams, nine players to the Region IV team and nine more with All-American



honors. The team also added back-to-back MCAC tournament championships, giving the Bruins four MCAC titles in the last six years.

The new coach is a 2003 Bellevue University graduate, finishing his playing career as a two-time MCAC first team player and a three-time All-Nebraska College first team selection. In 2001, his final playing season, Champenoy added an All-Region IV first team award and received All-American Honors. He was also the first men's soccer player to be named the Bellevue University Athlete of the Year for 2001-02.

Champenoy holds a certification with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America High School Coaching Special Topics, as well as the NSCAA National and Advanced National Coaching Diploma, both with distinction. Champenoy has also been active with the Nebraska Olympic Development Program where he was a head coach for four years.

Men's soccer will join the already initiated women's volleyball team, which recently completed its first season 5-15. The volleyball team was the first varsity sport at UST in more than 20 years.

"This is a great time to be a member of the UST community," said Matt Prasifka, interim athletics director. "The women's volleyball team started things rolling, and we can only move forward from here."

Choral Singers

Come indulge in a musical interlude at the music department's spring concert series. Enjoy the University Singers in a Choral Concert 4 p.m. Monday, March 19, in Cullen Hall.



Women of the World

Celebrate Women of the World with Charlene Dykman at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 in the MILAB, Malloy Hal. Dykman will discuss her experience with Fulbright in Panama.



Darkness into Light

Semana Santa, San Miguel, part of the trilogy *Darkness into Light*, produced and written by Houston filmmaker Pat Collins, will be shown 4 p.m. Sunday, April 8, on HoustonPBS Channel 8.



New Director of Graduate Programs

Dr. Bart Hartman assumes the new position of Director of Graduate Programs in the Cameron School of Business. He will coordinate all the graduate program activities in the Cameron School, including recruiting, counseling, curriculum and program matters.

Hartman earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, an MBA from Northern Illinois University and a DBA in accounting from the University of Kentucky. He joins UST after 10 years at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia where he held the Edward G. Sutula Endowed Chair in Accounting. He taught at Louisiana State University for 21 years as the Accounting Alumni Distinguished Professor.



Celtic Balladeers Perform

Join the Center for Irish Studies, The Irish Society and KPFT Radio's Irish Aires for an evening of story and song with Celtic balladeers Danny Doyle and Danny O'Flaherty, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in Cullen Hall. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$20 for adults; \$15 for students. Ticket sales are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Doyle has brought ballads, history and stories of Ireland to audiences for more than three decades. He conjures images of the Irish island with songs and vivid tales that evoke the salty aroma of a west Clare gale and the mist falling on Dublin's Ha'penny Bridge. The Celtic mood continues with O'Flaherty as he performs the traditional music of his native Ireland along with original ballads and love songs. Originally from the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland, O'Flaherty was influenced by evenings of music and stories around a turf fire, listening to the elder family members as they passed on centuries of history and tradition.

For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.



2007 B.K. Smith Lecture

Join the History Department for the 2007 B.K. Smith lecture featuring Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies and director of the Rabbi Donald Tam Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory University. Titled "Holocaust Denial: A New Form of Anti-Semitism?" Dr. Lipstadt's lecture will be held 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22, in Jerabeck Center, Scanlan Room.

Dr. Lipstadt is considered one of the leading experts on the Holocaust, especially on Holocaust denial. She is a historical consultant to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to the American Response to the Holocaust. From 1996 to 1999 she served as a member of the U.S. Department Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad.

Arrangements for Lipstadt made through the B'nai B'rith Lecture Bureau. This event is co-sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Social Justice Committee.

For more information, contact Dr. Irving Kelter at 713-525-3192 or at kelter@stthom.edu.



Social Justice Series

Alexandra Claire Causton and Dr. Quhrmaan Kakar, Catholic Relief Services-Pakistan, will deliver the second lecture in the 2007 Spring Social Justice Seminar Series, from noon-2 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Ahern Room, Crooker Center. They will discuss "Beyond the Headlines: A Humanitarian Lens into Pakistan."

Catholic Relief Services is a non-profit organization that assists the poor and disadvantaged.

In their presentation, Causton and Kakar will discuss peace-building, the plight of Pakistani women and educational issues. Other topics will include border, refugee and immigration issues, the earthquake disaster response in Pakistan, and how this Catholic agency has been successful in a strict Muslim culture.

Causton is head of programs for CRS Pakistan, managing field staff working who are working on the frontlines. Kakar is program manager for the Self Help Groups/Extremely Vulnerable Individuals program, establishing urban development centers for vulnerable women.

For more information, contact Dr. Trish Vandiver at 713-525-3197.

Cameron School Seeks AACSB Accreditation

The curriculum in the Cameron School of Business is undergoing a sweeping reorganization that streamlines and strengthens some of its degree programs while phasing out others in a move that was recently approved by UST's board of directors. It should bring the school closer to a prestigious accreditation awarded to only 20 percent of universities worldwide.

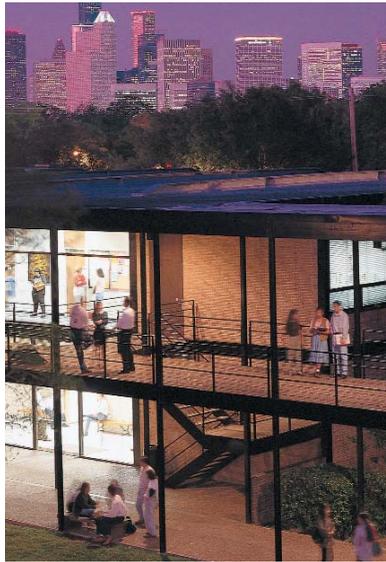
Dr. John Hittinger, vice president for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Bahman Mirshab, Cameron's new dean, announced the changes that will pare down the number of degree programs to focus attention on the remaining ones and align Cameron's mission and structure more closely with the requirements for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

"These changes were instituted to make the Cameron School of Business truly outstanding and to be on track for achieving accreditation," Hittinger said. "Business is an important arena for leadership today. It is imperative that men and women of faith and character be present in the business environment."

Although the reorganization includes phasing out some degree programs, students who are in those programs now will be allowed to complete their degrees under the original degree requirements, Mirshab said.

"In a fiercely competitive market like Houston, it is imperative that we achieve AACSB accreditation for long-term survival," he said.

Four permanent committees –



curriculum, mission and strategic planning, faculty development and assessment – are studying the current system and making improvements that were recommended by a mentor from the AACSB accreditation program who visited UST in October.

During his visit he found an expansive listing of degree programs and joint majors with other colleges at UST that spread faculty and adjunct professors too thinly to have strong, healthy programs, Hittinger said.

"The mentor from AACSB advised us that the number of programs in place was excessive in relation to the available resources of the university, and he said it would be beneficial to focus on core offerings that demonstrate quality," he said.

The reorganization extended to the existing Cameron Advisory Board, which has been overhauled and includes new members who

are prominent members of the business community. In addition, an alumni advisory board composed of graduates of the Cameron School of Business has been established. The Student Advisory Board, formed last year, will continue to operate.

An accreditation plan will be submitted to AACSB by the end of March. It will undergo intense scrutiny by two accreditation committees for possible approval. If it passes muster, the University will report annually for three years on its progress toward achieving the standards set forth in the plan. If the efforts are successful, the Cameron School of Business will host a formal visitation team that will assess Cameron's progress for final approval.

"The accreditation process is rigorous and lengthy, but it will be worth it," said Mirshab, who arrived at UST in mid-August from the University of Detroit-Mercy in Michigan, one of the oldest AACSB-accredited universities in the United States.

Star View is published by the Office of Public Affairs as a means of informing the UST community about University and campus news.

Office of Public Affairs
713-525-3116

Director
Tom Overton, MLA '05

Editor
Sandra Soliz, MLA '01

Assistant Editors
Wendy Petronella '05
C. Lee Taylor
Marcella Vasquez