



Explore the Language of Indian Dance

Celebrate Women of the World with renowned dancer, Namita Bodaji, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in Jones Hall. Traveling to Houston from her residence in Bombay, Bodaji will perform classical Indian dance. A master of the ancient Indian art of Bharata Natyam, Bodaji will demonstrate the language of Indian dance, which uses complex body movements, hand signs and facial and eye expressions. She will also interpret epic dramas.

Shikha Mehta, a student studying under Bodaji, will also perform. The artists will present a fusion of modern and classical dances in a performance titled

Bharatajazzym, a combination of Bharata Natyam with its more modern dance form, jazz.

Bodaji studied at Sri Rajrajeshwari Bharat Natya Kala Mandir Institute in Mumbai, India and received the high honor of Sringer Mani (Artistic Jewel). She has performed at Indian festivals, Pallovothsava and Janmashtami, and danced at holy temples, such as Guruvayoor in Kerala and Jagmohan Palace in Mysore. Bodaji also has performed in the ballets “Vasantavalli” and “Krishna Lila.”

This event is sponsored by the Modern and Classical Languages Department and the Houston Institute for Culture.



Pop Singers Take Stage

Enjoy a musical interlude at the University of St. Thomas Music Department's spring concert series. The UST Pop Singers will perform in concert with Brady Knapp conducting 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, in Cullen Hall.



CIS Presents Latin American Roundtable

The Center for International Studies presents a roundtable of speakers discussing “Cultural Factors in Latin American Business,” at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in Ahern Room, Crooker Center. Speakers will include Dr. Habib Chamoud, Rosanna Moreno, JD, and Mark Bergsrud.

Come to the OVO Dedication Luncheon

Join the Office of Volunteer Opportunities at its annual Recognition Luncheon for leaders and volunteers at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1 in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center. President Emeritus and OVO Co-Founder Dr. Joseph McFadden will be honored. Please RSVP at 713-525-3800.



Countdown to Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo Friday, May 4, with the Student Organization of Latinos, Club Hispanico, Bilingual Education Student Organization and Hispanic Student Business Association.



The event begins with a Mariachi Mass at 6 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Basil and continues in

Jerabeck Center with a dinner reception from 7-8:30 p.m. featuring Folklórico dancers and a silent auction benefitting St. Michael's House. The evening will conclude with a dance from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.



For more information contact Tom Mendez at sol@stthom.edu.

New Study Abroad in Jamaica Offered for Educators this Winter

In response to continued demands by UST students and faculty to continue to diversify the subjects and locations of study abroad group programs, the Study Abroad Office is pleased to announce a study abroad opportunity in Jamaica for education students and educators this winter. Having had previous experiences with study abroad in Jamaica, Dr. Randy Soffer, a lecturer in the School of Education, is adapting a home-stay, classroom immersion model used by other American universities in Jamaica. Due to the nature of this program, registration will be limited to education

students, educators, and MLA students considering careers in education.

"Clearly, our state and nation's school populations are becoming more diverse. For future educators to fully appreciate, embrace, and respond to this diversity, immersion in a foreign culture can help," states Dr. Soffer. Immersion in a foreign culture provides current and future educators the opportunity to appreciate

CIS Film Series

CIS presents "No Debate" at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, in Tiller Hall. "No Debate" is a film that features a discussion with author George Farah, who argues that major U.S. political parties have hijacked and corrupted the open-political debate process.



University Singers Concert

Join the Music Department for its spring concert with the University Singers at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, in the Chapel of St. Basil. UST's Professor of Voice Dr. Brady Knapp will direct. Free and open to the public.



Ethics and the Elderly

Dr. Ken Milani, University of Notre Dame, will give a lecture titled "Ethics and the Elderly: Peering at America's Aging Population from a Business and Economic Perspective," at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, in Jones Hall.



An informational session on this new program will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, in Malloy Hall, Room 017. Additional information may also be obtained from Dr. Randy Soffer at sofferr@stthom.edu.



Learning Lessons Abroad

UST alumnus John Falco '04 has been accepted by La Universidad de Salamanca in Spain and will study this summer in a prestigious graduate program specifically geared for Spanish teachers.

The Universidad is one of the oldest universities in Europe. "I will immerse myself in the culture of Spain, especially in the region of Extremadura (western Spain)," Falco said. "This is the best way for me to experience what I've always had a passion for: learning, teaching and the Spanish language."

Falco found teaching Spanish his calling after he graduated from UST where he received a joint major in Spanish and secondary education. "I'm currently teaching Spanish at Carnegie Vanguard High School, Houston's only gifted and talented high school in HISD," said Falco.

Falco credits UST for giving him the confidence to teach. "John was an extraordinary student who was so talented that he began to teach at Houston High School for the Performing Arts before he graduated," said Dr. Debra Andrist, professor of Spanish and chair of the MACL Department.



Stewart: Student Scholar

From hundreds of promising candidates, UST history major, Whitney Stewart, was chosen by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to receive an all-expense-paid, one-week summer fellowship in New York City. The 2007 History Scholars will focus their research and publication projects on a collection from the founding era, slavery and abolition, or the Civil War.

"Stewart has attained a level of honor rarely gained by sophomores," said Assistant Professor of History Mark Nicholas. "The Gilder Lehrman Institute is world recognized, particularly for the study of slavery and African-American history. Whitney will have an opportunity to meet top-notch scholars from the best universities throughout the country, attend seminars, work the archives, and tour important slave sites in New York City."

"Dr. Nicholas was my mentor," said Stewart. "He told me about the Institute and guided me on my paper titled 'From the Seducer to the Seduced: The Changing of Cultural Images of Prostitution in Early America.' I'm fascinated with women's history and early American history."



Nguyen Wins Fellowship

UST student Kim-Thoa Nguyen is one of 25 college juniors from 16 participating institutions to be named as a recipient of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's 2007 Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color. Each fellow receives up to \$22,100 over a five-year period that begins this summer and ends after completion of three years of public school teaching.

"This award is very competitive," said Dr. Ruth Strudler, dean of UST's School of Education, "and Kim-Thoa is very deserving. The primary goal of the RBF program is to increase the number of teachers of color in American education. In 2001 St. Thomas became a select institution eligible to participate in the program. This recognition added UST to a select group of universities and colleges nationally," Strudler said. Also on the list for 2007 are students from Swathmore College, University of Chicago and Duke University.

Nguyen will use the money to pursue a graduate degree at the school of her choice. As an incoming fellow, she is required to complete a summer project with her faculty mentor, Dr. Regina Boulware-Gooden, assistant professor in Education.

CSB Student Teams Make Case



Cameron School of Business will hold the 6th Annual Case Competition from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, May, 4 in Welder Hall.

This year 35 students, enrolled in the senior seminar capstone class, will analyze a Harvard Business School case, presenting their work before 21 Houston-area business professionals who will act as judges.

A schedule will be posted in Welder Hall. The presentations are free and open to the public with the proviso that guests enter and exit between presentations to avoid interrupting the students and the filming that will be in progress.

Students in the group above

are (left to right) Tricia Montgomery, Emelie Jester, Elizabeth Pineda, Theresa Hendricks, Nadege Orbe, Cesar Avila, Thomas Lopez, Denison Brennan, Shohan Rahman, Henry Lam, Fan Wu, Allison Micus, Felicia Lanier, Monica Longoria, Bobby McAuliffe, Arturo Bauder and Dianne Maurice.

Students in the group below are (left to right) Huong Dao, Becca Suter, Nicole Merchant, Elisabeth Seat, Janet Joshua, Verta Cavanaugh, Gloria Paz, Luke Stuckey, Romell Thomas, Frank Alvarez, Erich Canseco, Reya Wannessian, Alejandro Cortes, Patrick Escobar, Priscila Lyon and Ryan Cheney



Honors Convocation

This year's Honors Convocation will honor graduating students at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center. Honor students will be inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for adults in higher education; Aquinas Honor Society; and Delta Epsilon Sigma, the national scholastic honor society. To be inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, students must be at least 25 years old and have a 3.3 minimum GPA. This year 48 students will be inducted.

Aquinas Honor Society students must have been on the Dean's List at least five times and must have maintained an overall 3.0 GPA. A total of 87 students will receive honors in this category. The Delta Epsilon Sigma Society is for students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their graduating class; 36 students will be inducted into this society.

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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