

In Conversation With:

Vickie Milazzo '76 Entrepreneur and Best-selling Author

What does UST mean to you?

UST doesn't limit itself to teaching you skills. It teaches you how to think. That's why philosophy is so important. This ability helps you in the rest of your life.

UST also taught me the importance of integrity, which pervades every decision I make as a business owner. I have 27 employees, and integrity flows throughout my organization. Integrity isn't part-time – it doesn't turn off and on. Every action counts in your career, your business, and your family life. Integrity is the most important characteristic of authentic success. Integrity is something every business owner should understand, and I'm thankful to St. Thomas for teaching me that.

Does having your name on the door make you more cognizant of integrity?

Whether my name is on the door or not wouldn't matter. Yes, I'm the owner of the company, but we're like a family here, maybe a little dysfunctional, but a strong, tight team. Still, I know my employees are always watching me. I can't expect them to treat our customers and each other with integrity unless I'm willing to walk the walk. I want our mission to be about doing the right thing, not about what we can get by with, so I always strive to live up to that standard.

What else is important to you in your business?

My dream is to always be stepping out and going for my goals. Sure, I make mistakes and fail. But I know there are no guarantees in this or any other business. When people want guarantees, they won't step out.

For example, after I started consulting and earned my law degree, a law firm offered me an associate attorney position. I already owned my own business, so I

knew what that was like. My passion was teaching, so I turned down the law firm's offer. That was an easy decision. Then they offered to make me a partner, a position that promised a lucrative future. Suddenly the stakes were higher and I was tempted, but I chose to stay on my own. Ultimately, that decision earned me far more than I would have made as an attorney. However, I did not turn down the law firm's offer because I knew today's outcome. I acted on my belief in my passion.

Acting on a belief means stepping into a future without guarantees. I always say, "See it and believe it; imagine it and achieve it." But that doesn't mean you're at the mercy of your circumstances. Every action you take must be purposeful and make an impact.

It sounds as though you have invented for yourself not merely a job, but a vocation.

I have a passion for teaching and for transforming the lives of women. That passion is what makes my business a vocation. Last year my business grossed \$12 million, and this year we're up 25 percent. We've succeeded so well because I follow my passion. For me, success isn't about the money; it isn't about the achievements; it's about doing something I love.

Milazzo continues on page 7.

UST alumna Vickie Milazzo is interviewed by UST's Executive Director of the Center for Business Ethics, Dr. Daryl Koehn. The two women discuss integrity, vocation, passion, action with belief, and success. Milazzo's "Inside Every Woman: Using the 10 Strengths You Didn't Know You Had to Get the Career and Life You Want Now" recently made the Amazon bestseller list.

Milazzo owns Vickie Milazzo Institute, a division of Medical-Legal Consulting Institute Inc, a Houston-based education and publishing company that teaches traditional hospital RNs how to be consultants to attorneys on medical-related cases. Milazzo has trained more than 20,000 RNs throughout the U.S. to be entrepreneurs. In her book, Milazzo teaches other women "how to discover and harness 10 extraordinary strengths to achieve lasting success and fulfillment."

Jim Ketelsen Selected as Ethical Leadership in Action Award Winner

The Center for Business Ethics at the University of St. Thomas has recently announced that James Ketelsen, founder and chairman of Project GRAD, has accepted the Ethical Leadership in Action Award. As recipient of the award, Ketelsen has agreed to participate in a yearlong series of activities designed to stimulate discussion of ethical business practices.

Ketelsen has already spoken to one of Dr. Daryl Koehn's ethics classes; next fall the *In Conversation With...* event and the awards luncheon will be held. The Greater Houston Partnership and Union Pacific both serve as sponsors of these events.

Ketelsen served for many years as the chief executive officer of Tenneco, which became a part of El Paso Energy. Upon Ketelsen's retirement, he continued to be active in a community program he pioneered in the early 1990s at Tenneco, Project GRAD. Graduation Really Achieves Dreams sprang



from this work in 1993. This program itself has graduated: from Jeff Davis High School to many cities across the country.

"He makes children dream dreams they had never even thought of before, to realize possibilities they never considered," said Chip Carlyle, chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership and CEO of Wells Fargo Bank Texas. "He also helps them avoid many of the obstacles that can get them off track."

The UST Board of Directors instituted the Ethical Leadership in Action Award five years ago to foster broad discussion of business ethics in the community and to draw attention to business leaders who have established a respected pattern of ethical

Center for Business Ethics

The Center for Business Ethics at University of St. Thomas works with the corporate community to help business people and students make good choices that will benefit themselves, their businesses and their community. The Center offers corporate governance training programs, conferences on business ethics, public lectures, an ethics essay contest for UST MBA students and the *Online Journal of Ethics*. By becoming a member of CBES, you can support these activities and insure that you receive early notification of upcoming events.

behavior. Past winners include George Martinez, chairman of Sterling Bank; Jack Blanton, Houston businessman and philanthropist; and Charles Miller, who built his reputation in the mutual fund industry and at the University of Texas, where he chaired the board of regents.



Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

Archbishop J. Michael Miller to Speak at Commencement

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, secretary of the Vatican's Congregation of Catholic Education and former president of the University of St. Thomas, will speak at the University's 56th Annual Commencement Ceremony. Archbishop Miller and Houston businessman George Strake Jr. will receive honorary degrees for professional achievements and for their multifaceted contributions to the University of St. Thomas.

"Archbishop Miller's contributions to the University of St. Thomas in terms of scholarship and leadership on several levels, including president, are legendary," said Dr. Robert R. Ivany, president. "George Strake recently finished a six-year appointment to the Board of Directors, and his support through the years, both personal and through the Strake Foundation, has been invaluable to the institution." Just recently, Strake's foundation created a generous scholarship for children of veterans who died in Afghanistan or Iraq, and he himself is a recent recipient of UST's Center for Thomistic Studies "Order of St. Thomas Award." He received the award for his commitment to higher education and his generosity to the University.

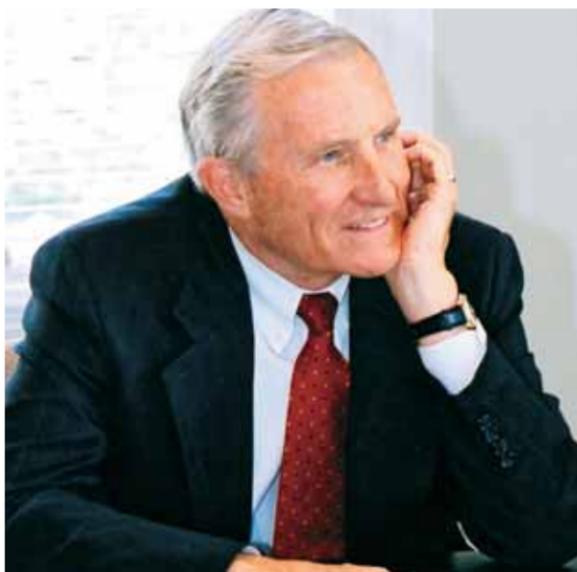
The University of St. Thomas will offer diplomas to 350 undergraduates and 393 graduates for a total of 743 degrees earned since December 2005, and through May 2006, including those who have filed for graduation through summer 2006.

Archbishop Miller titled his commencement address, "Believe in the Virtue of Dialogue." "In an age so rich in communication technology, there is a lot more talk than real conversation and not nearly enough true, human dialogue, but UST students should take heart in that they have developed a

Graduation 2006

The 2006 Commencement Ceremony, the 56th in University of St. Thomas history, will highlight the achievements of 350 undergraduates and 393 graduates. Commencement also highlights the hard work of countless faculty members, administrators and staff. In the end, we all merge into one University community, inextricably linked by the desire to learn, teach and serve. It takes a community to develop leaders of faith and character. By reading through the stories on these pages, and reading further at www.stthom.edu, you'll have no doubt that St. Thomas will one day move beyond excellence and take its place among America's great Catholic universities.

10 a.m. • Saturday, May 20 • Reliant Arena Hall • For details including parking locations go to www.stthom.edu.



George Strake Jr.

prudent and clear-sighted approach to humanity and its seemingly unceasing challenges," he said. "People, despite the 'drop of poison that is original sin,' are capable of overcoming divisions, conflicts of interest, even radical ones defended vigorously, if you believe in the virtue of dialogue," the Archbishop wrote in an early draft.

Alumni Award goes to Rebecca and Robert LeBlanc

Because Drs. Robert and Rebecca LeBlanc exemplify the core values of the University of St. Thomas, they will both receive the Vincent J. Guinan, CSB, Alumni of the Year Award at commencement.

Robert and Rebecca met at the University of St. Thomas and were married at St. Anne Church on April 11, 1971. Their one adult son, Jared, is a UST alumnus who practices law in Houston. During their lives, the LeBlancs have lived the values expressed in the University's mission statement: "By pursuing excellence in teaching, scholarship and service, we seek to embody and instill in our students the core

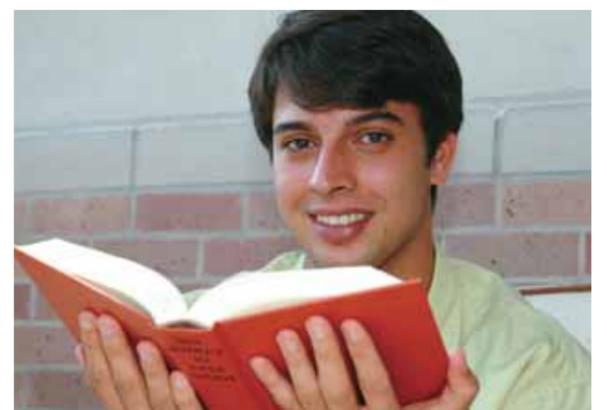
values of our founders, the Basilian Fathers: goodness, discipline and knowledge."

Rebecca Massey LeBlanc, a native of Victoria, graduated from the University in 1970, with a degree in history and English. She earned a doctorate in psychology at Texas A&M, and practices in the FM 1960 area. Rebecca served as president of the alumni board from 2002-2004.

A Houston native, Robert LeBlanc graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1969 majoring in education. He earned a doctorate in education at the University of Houston in 1980. After this he became the associate superintendent of Klein Independent School District. In 2002, he received appointments as an assistant professor of education and director of educational administration at UST. Today, he is an associate professor.

The award honors individuals for leadership and service to the University, to the community, and in his or her field of endeavor. Fr. Vincent J. Guinan, CSB, was a Basilian priest and served as founding president of the University of St. Thomas.

Poet D'Costa will address fellow 2006 graduates



Curtis D'Costa

Curtis D'Costa, soon to graduate with majors in English and philosophy, will address his fellow graduates at commencement on the topic: "Fate and the Future."

"I was inspired," he said, "by two statements often directed at graduating seniors. One is: 'Enjoy your college years, because after that it's all over.' The other comes from NASDAQ, 'It's not enough to be in the world; you've got to be ahead of it.'"

D'Costa doesn't agree with the first statement and says the second is simply impossible.

"My remarks," he said, "will take the middle ground through both of those comments."

D'Costa has been accepted to the Master of Fine Arts (creative writing) program at the University of Florida. He hopes for a future in writing and teaching after he concludes his college years.



Drs. Robert and Rebecca LeBlanc

Having it Both Ways: Patient Care and Research

Michael W. Holliday Jr. will not have much extra time this summer: After his May 20 graduation from the University of St. Thomas, he will have only one week to regroup from earning double majors in chemistry and biology before he heads to Lubbock to begin work at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and Graduate School on an MD/PhD program. This will significantly occupy his time during the next seven years.

"I will begin summer lab rotations," he explains, "so that by the end of my second year I will know what lab I will complete my PhD in."

"Michael is one of the most intellectually curious young people I've ever met," said chemistry Professor Thomas Malloy. "He's very accomplished with computers and software, learns quickly, is good with instruments and mechanically inclined. In addition to being president of the student affiliates chapter of the American Chemical Society, he is the webmaster

for that organization. I think he has a great future in medical research."

One thing that makes Holliday's story unique is his mother, who is disabled with a neurological disorder. "My mother inspired me to go to college and to pursue medicine," he said. "I've had my eyes on medical school since I was five." The reason he needs the PhD is simple: "A researcher cannot touch patients, ever," he said. "And a physician often doesn't have the experience of traditional graduate research. The dual degrees give education and experience in both patient care and research, enabling me to make a real contribution to science and medicine."

Like so many other UST graduates who have gone on to medical school, Holliday owes at least a small debt of gratitude to the humble white fly. "The white flies got me started in the lab my freshman year," he said. He has since moved on in his studies and has presented papers before the

American Chemical Society and other prestigious organizations.

Another bug that Holliday caught at UST was social service. "I had the Augustine Hall experience," he said. "It was terrific. It taught me that what I learn and contribute to science and medicine is for the common good."



Michael W. Holliday Jr.



Melissa Blancas, a premed liberal arts major, has been accepted to medical school at University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth to study osteopathic medicine.

Excellent Students: A Quantifiable Success

At St. Thomas students are taught the importance of not only excelling in the classroom but also excelling in life. A great indication of their success in achieving their dreams to become doctors, dentists, lawyers or engineers can be seen by their acceptance into professional schools. Of recent graduates responding to University surveys:

- 31% applied to graduate or professional school
- 81% of medical school applicants invited to interview are offered admission
- 75% of students in the prelaw program were admitted to law school
- 100% of dual-degree engineering students have been admitted to engineering school
- 100% acceptance rate to dental school in four of the last six years

A Big Heart for Medicine

Liliana Nañez was only seven when she moved with her family from Monterrey to the United States, where she learned English and followed her friends at DeBaKey High School for the Health Professions to the University of St. Thomas.

"I liked UST because it is small, has small classes, and I was able to keep track of my professors," she said. While at UST, Nañez was active in the Houston Humane Society, Students Interested in Medicine and the American Chemical Society. She's been studying the white fly with biology Professor Dr. Rosie Rosell to determine why plant viruses do not degrade in the fly's digestive system.

"Her patience with us is remarkable," Nañez said.

"Most students start doing research in medical school, but she's already taken us there. Research at UST gave me an incredible opportunity to gain research experience and apply what I have learned in class."

Nañez is not one for wasting time, and neither is the medical community. Because of her grades and interest in medicine, she was accepted into the Texas Joint Admission Medical Program her freshman year at UST. As a part of this program, she spent each summer doing internships at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Now, as the result of years of hard work, Nañez is off to Southwestern Medical School in Dallas so that she may become a cardiologist.

"UT Southwestern Medical School is one of those medical schools that wants to help someone who has a passion for helping others to become a great physician," she said.



Liliana Nañez

Thuy's Journey Through Transition and Faith

Thuy Le walked off the airplane from Vietnam 12 years ago, not knowing one word of English; neither did her college-educated parents. Today, at 21, not only is her English perfect, but her science is pretty good, too. When she graduates from St. Thomas in May, she'll enroll in the University of Texas-Houston's MD/PhD program. UT is picking up the tab. "I've been very blessed," Le said.



Thuy Le

"She was such a quiet, shy girl when she took my freshman class, and I have watched her mature into an amazing person and scientist," said Dr. Joanne Romagni, associate professor of biology. "When she became involved in undergraduate research, she just blossomed."

While her own story is sufficiently dramatic, Le prefers to tell the story of her parents' struggle and their dreams. Her father, an officer in the South Vietnamese Army, was sent to a "reeducation" camp after the Communists took over.

Then he packed up and moved the family to the United States once he had a chance. He now works as a janitor in an elementary school. Le's mother, a professor at one of South Vietnam's most prestigious universities, styles hair.

Le learned about the University of St. Thomas through her older sister, Thao, 23, who attended for about a year before beginning medical school. Le likes the "warm, cozy feeling of St. Thomas."

Scholarships and financial aid covered tuition. While studying here, she found herself interested in much more than medicine. "I had a lot of questions about my faith and life in general," she said. "Fr. Anthony Giampietro [assistant professor of philosophy] helped me find those answers," she said, of the three philosophy classes she took from him. "My only regret," she says, pausing briefly, "is that I didn't start studying philosophy and theology sooner."

"Thuy represents so much of the good that UST can give, and that we can receive," said Fr. Giampietro.

Le also praises Romagni. "She opened the door to research for me. I love research, and I am so grateful that I can take advantage of UT-Houston's program, which will allow me to become a doctor, and enable me to continue with research. UST's Undergraduate Research Symposium gave me a tremendous advantage. It is so good."

Graduation Stories continue on page 7.

Connecting Creativity

2006 Research Symposium & FAMfest



Research Symposium

Hard work and long hours culminated in excellent presentations at this year's Research Symposium and FAMfest, April 7-8, 2006. The symposium included 141 presentations, 175 student participants, 22 departments and 46 faculty members. According to University President Dr. Robert R. Ivany, "The symposium is brought to life through the dedication of our professors and the intellectual rigor, artistic verve and enthusiasm of our students. The result is exciting undergraduate research, articulate presentations and the involvement of the entire community."

Engaging in research projects with faculty members provides students special learning opportunities that deepen their knowledge of a subject. Students develop analytical and writing skills and emerge from the experience as critical thinkers and confident speakers. Undergraduate research is an increasingly important component of the student's educational experience across the curriculum. Most major programs as well as the Honors Program offer a capstone experience consisting of creative scholarship in the student's major, guided by a faculty advisor. Most students regard their undergraduate research project as the highlight of their university experience.

PRESENTATION WINNERS

Oral Session – First: Jorge Iglesias and William Collopy
Second: Jeanette Kutach and Matthew Jefferson
Third: Joshua Gautreau and Christina Ayad

Poster Session – First: Ara Ayeras and John Avila Jr.
Second: Liliana Nañez and Melissa Blancas
Third: Natalie Jabbour

FAMfest

Support for fine arts and appreciation for the creativity of students have grown, thanks to the second annual FAMfest. This showcase of film, art and music gives the UST community the opportunity to participate in the artistic verve displayed by the students. This year's FAMfest included paintings, installations, poetry readings and musical acts. "It is essential for the University to host an event that highlights students' artistic talent," FAMfest organizer Cody Ledvina said. "FAMfest gives students such a chance."

East Meets West: One Student's Pilgrimage Through Southeast Asia

Walking across the stage on May 20 with a joint major in Catholic Studies and international studies is a longer journey than some students travel. For Tram "Chum" Nguyen, the journey included dedicating six months to the country of her birth, Vietnam.

"I was blessed to earn one of the Freeman Asia Scholarships from the Institute of International Education (which also announces Fulbright Awards)," she said. Nguyen was born in Vietnam and emigrated to the United States when she was seven years old.

Nguyen's sojourn through Southeast Asia included North and South Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea. She reconnected with some family members, including grandparents, brushed up her language skills, and earned 12 credit hours – six in international studies and six in language – at Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. During her studies, she stayed in the dormitory offered at a convent, and visited and joined in the activities for disabled children affected by Agent Orange.

She's the second oldest of five children. Her parents share a common ambition for their children.

Her father not only learned English when he emigrated, he earned a GED and also learned Spanish. Learning Spanish allowed him to rise to supervisory status at the manufacturing factory where he and his wife work. Nguyen's mother wants to maintain the culture and history of Vietnam, so she has declined to learn English; however, she has since learned cosmetology and hair styling.

Nguyen was drawn to St. Thomas after a routine campus visit with representatives from Admissions. Always a hard worker at Milby High School, her efforts paid off in the form of a St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship and generous federal aid. "With my heightened interest in theology and philosophy, I knew that St. Thomas would provide the best environment for my educational endeavors," she said.

She praises Sr. Paula Jean Miller, FSE, in Catholic Studies and Dr. Hans Stockton, along with other faculty in international studies, for working with her ambitious plans. She states, "I attended St. Thomas with somewhat of a plan, but I felt enlightened when I found the Center for International Studies, which helped to mold me into a well-educated cosmopolitan individual. The International Studies Department no doubt has exceeded my expecta-



Tram Nguyen presented *Cultural Transformation Through Dialogue: The Case of Vietnamese Catholics* at the Research Symposium.

tions." She wants to become an immigration lawyer.

"Catholic Studies, which helps connect one's faith with one's profession, has left an indelible imprint on me," she said. "Catholic Studies will help me become a just and moral Catholic lawyer." She also looks to her *USTinsights* mentor, a caseworker at Catholic Charities, and has gained experience as president of the Catholic Studies Honor Society, Alpha Tau Omikron Omega.

& Scholarship

“This is a great forum for students to learn how to articulate what they are discovering or what they are passionate about in their lives. Getting it out of one’s head and into a dialogue is a key component of growth.”

– John Fichter, *Symposium Judge*



Opportunities for Success Revealed

Nam Xuan Nguyen was eight years old when he moved with his family from Vietnam to Houston. Since he knew no English, he avoided going to school during his first year in the nation’s fourth largest city. “When I was nine, I started in second grade.” However, he says this with no trace of bitterness. School was and remains his ticket to success.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo paid for a big chunk of college. Starting in a field of more than 200 qualifiers, he was one of 15 finalists to win a \$10,000 School Art Scholarship. This brought him to the University of St. Thomas and its partnership with the Glassell School of Art. He had to enroll as an art major to keep the scholarship, but now art is one of his minors, along with philosophy and chemistry. Biology is his major. When he graduates in 2008, he hopes to become a reconstructive plastic surgeon.

And this is where his plans take him back to his art. When he reproduces a face in charcoal or oil, he pays attention to details that others might miss. The same is true when he examines genes from a rare species of sea urchin. He can find profound differences and similarities in the obscurest of details.

In the 2006 Research Symposium, his art was exhibited, and he was scheduled to present his



Nam Nguyen presented a poster, *A Potential Role for a Vertebrate Transcriptional Regulator Required for Eye Development in Sea Urchins*.

research on a gene that he subcloned from the genomic DNA of the sea urchin, *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*, provided by the California Institute of Technology.

Nguyen has been awarded one of the exceptionally competitive Museum of Fine Arts Houston summer internships.



FAMFEST BRINGS THE ARTS FORWARD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS • Above left: *Pollinated* by Anne W. Engerrand • Above: *Katie and Gum* by Cody Ledvina

In the Pursuit of Meaningful Relationships

Under the guidance of Fr. Anthony Giampietro, CSB, the 2005-2006 Honors Class presented at this year’s Research Symposium, “Intimate Union: the Ethics and Politics of Marriage.” The project included the collaboration of 10 students.

Abstract: “Marriage: why does it matter? Sex: what is it for, and why does it have so much power over us? Many of the problems in our society can be traced back to breakdowns in intimate relationships. Due to the widespread instability of such relationships, the traditional view of marriage is surrounded by pessimism and doubt, as evidenced by prenuptial agreements, no-fault divorces and wedding vows that shy away from a promise of permanence. Increasingly, individuals are choosing alternative relationships that deviate from traditional models.

The question is: should one aim to achieve a lifelong relationship? If so, how does one attain such a relationship in a fulfilling manner, and how does the sexual drive fit into the picture? The presentation explored the progression of attitudes about marriage, the nature of relationships in regard to what individuals contribute to them, psychological reasons for sexual promiscuity, sex and marriage in relation to society and the transcendent, marriage preparation, fidelity, love and marital roles, all in an attempt to support the institution of marriage as the model for fruitful intimate relationships.”

Back (l to r): Amanda LeCompte, Robin Stone, Susan Karako, Matthew Cousar
Middle (l to r): Tiffany Dyer, Thuy Le, Katherine Raley
Front: Fr. Anthony Giampietro, CSB
Not in photo: Seth Quintanilla and Devin Kinsella



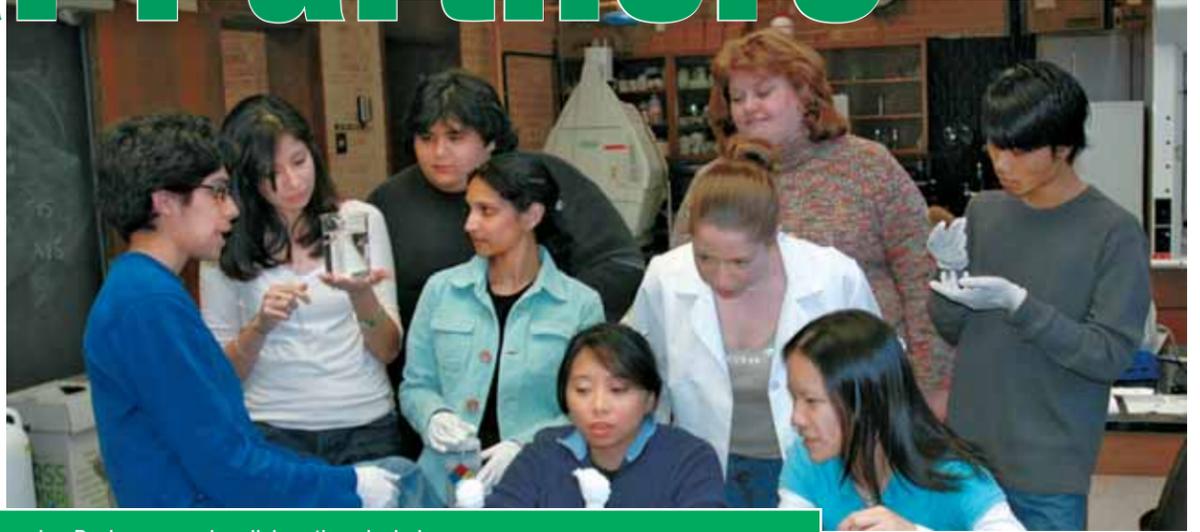
Medical Partners

Medical Research with Baylor

Engaging in research projects with faculty members provides students with learning opportunities that deepen their knowledge. In collaboration with Dr. Debra Bramblett's three ongoing research projects at Baylor College of Medicine, UST biology students learn to conduct cutting-edge research.

In her research, Bramblett has cloned the transcription factor or gene regulator, Bhlhb4, which has a highly restricted pattern of expression in the nervous system and the retina. During her work with mice, Bramblett concluded that the loss of the Bhlhb4 gene results in a mouse that is blind. Researchers down the line will be able to use Bramblett's information to develop a therapy for diseases that cause retinal degeneration, and physicians will be able to use the information to treat patients with neurological diseases.

"I have made significant efforts to include aspects of this research in my teaching," said Bramblett. "In the laboratory, I have students working on several model systems in embryonic development. One



Dr. Bramblett's ongoing Baylor research collaborations include:

- 1) study of the nuclear receptor COUP-TFI and the regulation of the cell cycle with Dr. Fred Pereira
- 2) study of the basic helix-loop-helix factor Bhlhb4 in the mouse brain with Dr. Ming-Jer Tsai
- 3) study of the basic helix-loop-helix factor Bhlhb4 in the mouse retina with Dr. Samuel M. Wu

group of students, that includes John Avila, are working on the molecular function of Bhlhb4, using mammalian cells grown in

a culture. These different levels of research show students the complete picture, from the whole organism down to the molecular level."

Many of these students presented their research at UST's Research Symposium in April.

student, Nam Nguyen, has subcloned what we believe to be the sea urchin version (homolog) of the Bhlhb4 gene. Similar to Nam's work, the group working on zebrafish are attempting to isolate the gene, Bhlhb4, from the zebrafish genome. Also, a

Medical Discussions: Stem Cell Research Debate Explored



The stem cell research controversy has generated much debate across the country. Recently, University of St. Thomas addressed this polemical topic with experts from the University and the Texas Heart Institute.

Dr. James T. Willerson, medical director and president-elect of the Texas Heart Institute, chief of Adult Cardiology at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, led the discussion at the UST-sponsored Stem Cell Symposium. Dr. Willerson reviewed the medical and scientific issues surrounding stem cell research. UST panel members included Dr. Jean Kitchel, professor of philosophy, and Dr. Jon Taylor, associate professor of political science, who discussed biomedical and political issues respectively.

Dr. James T. Willerson and UST President Dr. Robert R. Ivany

UT Medical Services Available

In partnership with The University of Texas Health Services, the University of St. Thomas now offers comprehensive, high quality medical services to students, staff and faculty.

If a student needs a particular immunization, has a specific health concern or needs emergency care, UTHS is available. UTHS also provides a pharmacy; illness and injury care; occupational health services; physical examinations including well woman exams, school and work physicals; and information about chronic disease, health education and information regarding healthy lifestyles.

"This service is available to anyone from campus, although we will only pay the first \$25 of each visit for students," said Steve Sutton, vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Methodist Onsite MBA Planned

The Methodist Hospital employees above the level of manager are now required to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of graduate business training within the next five years. Thanks to a developing partnership with UST's Cameron School of Business, Texas Medical Center employees will be able to earn college credit without leaving the workplace.

"In healthcare, it is not uncommon for administrative employees all the way to the executive level to come from the ranks of nursing," a hospital official explained. "While training for nursing positions can require a rigorous science regimen, some of these employees have no formal business education and learned their administrative job skills on the job. Methodist wants to substantially increase the skill sets of our management team."

After completion of 24 credit hours, students in the Methodist program would receive a certificate from The Methodist Hospital. They may then

branch off into their specializations and aim toward the full 36-hour academic degree. The program expects to attract employees throughout the Texas Medical Center and enable them to earn an MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Baylor Assists UST's Medical Mission Trip

The medical mission trip that the Prehealth Professional Society initiated last summer transferred classroom and laboratory education to the field when 15 students traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to care for patients who were in greatest need of medical attention.

This year's organizers, led by premed, chemistry major Martina Ayad, will again work with physicians from Baylor College of Medicine to gather supplies and support.

PHPS will take 20 UST students to El Salvador from May 21-28. They will work for two days with a primary care physician licensed to practice in El Salvador, and will spend the additional time working with a dentist and a family physician. This primary patient care will focus on under-developed communities that lack adequate access to proper healthcare.

"The medical mission trip gives students firsthand patient-care experience within the context of a service learning environment," said Dr. John Palasota, PHPS advisor and associate professor of chemistry.



Last summer, students participating in the medical mission trip traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border. Working with a variety of physicians, they registered patients, performed triage and managed a pharmacy donated by Medical Bridges and Nageeb Abdalla, MD, assistant professor of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

Premed Students Offered Opportunity

UST students can now be assured of acceptance in one of the top medical schools in the United States through the Assured Acceptance Program with The University of Texas-Houston Medical Center.

"St. Thomas has an excellent reputation for educating outstanding premed students," said Dr. E. Larry Nordyke, biology professor and co-chair of the health professions advisory committee. "What our students get from The UT-Houston Medical School is the advantage of knowing and conforming to exacting requirements early in their degree program. UST premed students are given the opportunity to study with outstanding faculty members such as Nobel Laureate Dr. Ferid Murad, chair of the Department of Integrative Biology, Pharmacology and Physiology."

Acceptance occurs early in students' academic careers, provided they meet certain requirements. Such eligibility requirements include a total SAT score of at least 1100, full-time enrollment in good standing and completion of 36 or fewer credit hours.

Once accepted, requirements include four years of undergraduate study with a baccalaureate degree earned before beginning studies at UT-H. Candidates must satisfactorily complete a project that will expose them to clinical medicine in a setting emphasizing altruism and an understanding of illness and its effects on the individual, family, community and society. Candidates also must fulfill the course requirements as listed in the medical school's catalogue, and maintain at least a 3.25 GPA, with no grade less than C. Specified scores on the Medical College Admission Test is also required.

Graduation Stories *continued.*

Retired New York City Police Officer Gets the Third Degree

At this year's commencement, Walter Mylett will receive his third diploma since he retired from the New York City Police Department in 1988 and moved to Houston. "In the last 14 years, I've done everything I've always wanted to do," he said. "It's been an incredible trip, and it's not over yet."

Shortly after Mylett arrived in Houston – he came here to be closer to his grandchildren – he signed up for classes at College of the Mainland, but he finished a bachelor's degree in music at the University of St. Thomas in 1998, the year he turned 70. Without missing a beat, he entered the Master of Liberal Arts program, and by 2000, had earned an MLA.

He put his music degree to work by playing trumpet and singing in the Dickinson area and with the *De Burgos Ensemble*, a group consisting mostly of the family of Dr. John Burke, professor of political science. With the addition of the MLA in 2000, Mylett added drama to his repertoire. He has since appeared in 15 productions and still gets excited about the study-abroad courses he signed up for at UST.

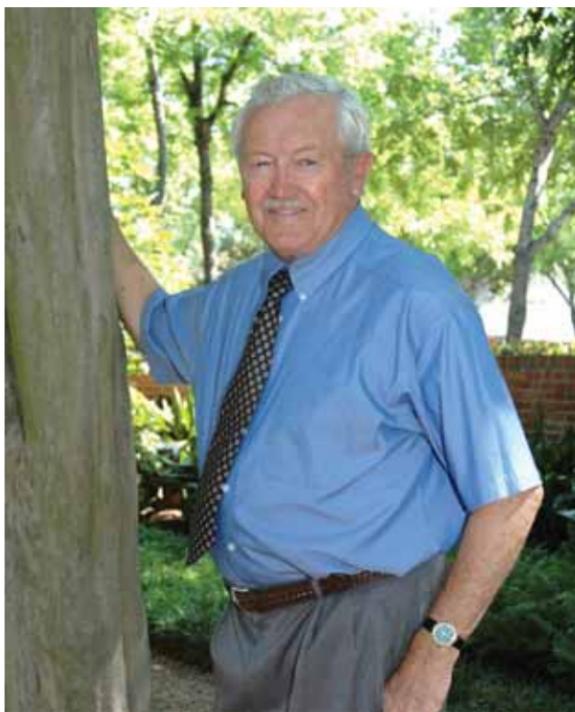
On the first trip, he went to England with English Professor Charles Krohn, who taught Shakespeare's England, and Dr. Irving Kelter, associate professor of history, who taught Medieval England. He remembers seeing "Richard III" performed by college students, as well as the movie, and then the Royal Shakespeare Company's performance at Stratford-on-Avon. He also saw a half-dozen more Shakespeare plays while he was there.

With the drama bug biting him deeply by now, the second study-abroad trip took him to Ireland where he got a seat on the front row of Dublin's legendary Abbey Theatre to see Euripides' tragedy, "Medea." "I was seated next to the Greek chorus. I was there!" he said. Dr. Joseph McFadden of history and Burke led those courses.

He also went to Jerusalem, and walked the path which Jesus traveled to his execution on the cross. In May, at age 78, Mylett will graduate with a Master in Applied Theology.

Mylett began his career with the New York City Police Department. He served as a beat cop, a scuba diver and boat captain. "I worked in any part of New York City that had water," he said.

Now anticipating his third degree, Mylett says he's always been inspired by two quotes: One, by John Dewey, that states "Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself," and two, the slogan from the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." These are words for the wise from one who dropped out of high school in his freshman year.



Walter Mylett

Milazzo *continued from page 1.*

What advice would you give to young people to help them find their vocations?

Young people need to know that each of them will live a long life and have a long business career. They need to start now making smart decisions about their futures.

My upbringing was humble, so I believe you should live below your income. That allows you to make smart decisions. Over-consumption can rob us of happiness. When people discover the joys of creating, they find it more satisfying than consuming.

Most important, young people need to follow their passions, to wake up excited every morning because they love their work. Doing something with passion helps you enjoy every day. Everyone should have a walk-away fund, so they can take advantage of the opportunity to pursue their passionate dreams when they find them.

If you spend every work week living for TGIF – Thank God It's Friday – then think about why you're always waiting for Friday – or for retirement. My philosophy is TGIT – Thank God It's Today. I'm living and working my passion every day, so I enjoy every single day. Even the days when my schedule includes tasks that aren't especially fun, I know those tasks contribute to my passion, and I celebrate them.

Many say that lawsuits are not enhancing health-care, but harming it. Would you agree with this assessment? Do you sometimes feel that by getting involved with litigation, you have become part of the problem rather than the solution?

I think legal nurse consultants are part of the solution. Nurses have the healthcare expertise and inside knowledge of the healthcare system to help attorneys understand their cases. Nurses know how to review medical records and define standards of care

objectively and cost-effectively. No attorney, no judge, no jury – in fact no one inside the legal system – has that kind of knowledge.

Nurses also help keep nonmeritorious cases out of the system, and that's very helpful – especially to a plaintiff attorney representing someone who's injured. Some cases are frivolous, and keeping those cases out of the system saves everybody a lot of time, money, and emotional turmoil.

Nurses who have taken my training programs have consulted on important cases like Fen-Phen, Vioxx, silicone implants and toxic mold litigation. Their contributions to these cases have made a big difference in achieving justice for the plaintiffs, in preventing abuses within the healthcare system and in forcing pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers and other defendants to become more responsible.

How did you find time to write Inside Every Woman and why was it important to write it?

I found time to write the book because I was passionate about it. Writing a book isn't a very logical decision financially. But it was something my passion drove me to do.

I've been around a lot of male entrepreneurs and CEOs, and there are plenty of books based on that model for success. I wanted to write a book about success from the woman's perspective. I want every woman to know she can be successful and still be a woman, still use her feminine strengths, and avoid needing to act like a man. In fact, these ten strengths – fire, intuitive vision, engagement, agility, genius, integrity, endurance, enterprise, renewal, and fusion – are what make her so successful. Yet many women don't even realize they have these strengths, or if they do, they don't know how to use them. I want women to know that our model for success is just as valid as men's. I want women to believe that whatever we want in our careers or our lives, we can go for it and achieve it.

SAVE THE DATE!

**UST Social Justice Summer Institute
Friday-Saturday, June 2-3, 2006**

Twenty years ago, the U.S. Catholic Bishops challenged federal, state and local officials as well as economic leaders to foster a society that enables every person "to be active and productive participants." This year the UST Social Justice Summer Institute commemorates the 20th anniversary of the pastoral letter, *Economic Justice For All* by assessing its implications for world of the 21st century.

The keynote speakers for this year's institute entitled "A Catholic Economic Framework for the 21st Century" are The Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, Bishop – Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Rev. Greg Fairbanks, Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

As much as the Institute will discuss the issues of employment, poverty, agriculture policy, the global economy and health care, particular emphasis will be placed upon the challenge of realizing a just and fair immigration policy and a compassionate disaster relief policy in light of the catastrophes of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

For more information, contact Dr. John Francis Burke, at jfburke@stthom.edu or 713-525-3814.

Details are also available at www.stthom.edu/political/sji/. This event is cosponsored by The UST Social Justice Committee, and working with Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston will host this event.

**Third Annual Seminar on Spirituality
Monday- Friday, June 12-16, 2006**

UST's Center for Faith & Culture will host its Third Annual Seminar on Spirituality, Come Wash in the Pool at Siloam, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday, June 12, through Friday, June 16, at St. Mary's Seminary. The objective of the 2006 seminar entitled "Can You Hear Me Now?" is to explore ways we may pay attention, listen, discern the voice of God and live the contemplative dimension in our everyday lives within the dominant American culture. The spirituality seminar focuses on a different theme each year.

The presenters for the seminar include: Maureen N. Bacchi, LMSW, spiritual director, psychotherapist, and social justice educator; Rev. Donald S. Nesti, CSSp, director, Center for Faith & Culture; and Rev. Binh The Quach, CSSp, PhD, Spiritan Group, Taiwan, ROC.

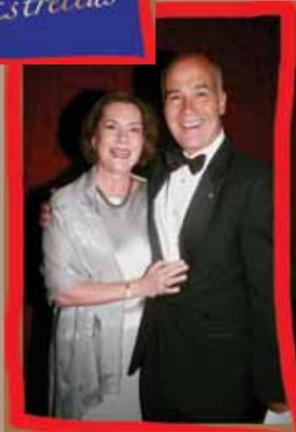
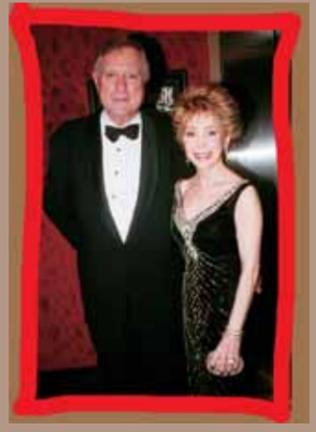
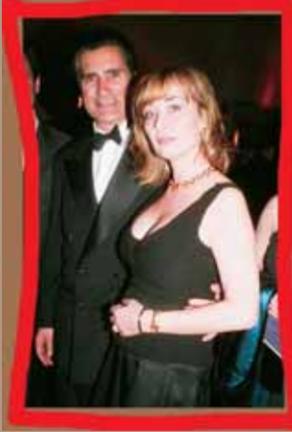
The cost is \$175 per person for those who register by May 31; \$190 thereafter. For registration information contact Cynthia Sapio at 713-686-6844, ext. 229, or email cfc@stthom.edu. Find details at www.stthom.edu/cfc/upcoming.html.

Fashion Event and Luncheon

The University will host its second annual Fashion Event and Luncheon on Oct. 19 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. Kelli Kickerillo '03 will chair this year's event honoring three alumnae for their support and volunteer work with UST and the community.

Tables are \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,000. Individual tickets are \$100. Proceeds benefit the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund. For more information or to purchase a table or tickets, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 713-525-3117.

MARDI GRAS: THE PLAYERS



Mardi Gras Raises \$800,000 for Student Scholarships

The 2006 Mardi Gras Gala, titled *Un Carnaval de Estrellas*, grossed \$800,000, almost double last year's tally. The event was held on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

"The breathtaking results, magnificent menu and decorations were all thanks to our co-chairs Lucia and Michael Cordúa, and their team of volunteers," said H. Ken DeDominicis, UST's vice president for Institutional Advancement. "The generosity of more than 400 donors, including major underwriters Odis and Carol Peavy, Pat and Debbie Moran, Trini Mendenhall Sosa and Raye White, provide worthy students needed scholarship money."

At the gala, the University announced the establishment of the Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Endowed Scholarship. Walter Suhr '89 and his band, Mango Punch! provided the evening's musical entertainment.



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The University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

For questions or comments please call 713-525-3105.

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