



Beginning the UST Journey

The incoming freshman class of 2011, spent Orientation weekend getting acquainted with each other and the University.

Spanning four days, the 2007 Fall Orientation began with students moving into Guinan Hall. They participated in a welcome barbecue, the Play Fair, tie-dyeing T-Shirts, a community Mass and dinner, a Club Fair, Casino Night, a Cast Party and museum trips.

On Monday, Aug. 20, freshman students attended the

first day of Odyssey, beginning with breakfast and a welcome on the academic mall, meetings with their academic advisors, Dr.

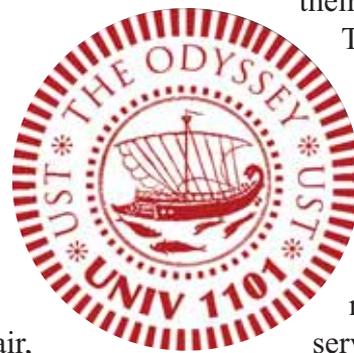
Terry Hall's presentation "Setting Sail," freshman class luncheon. Dr.

Steve Sutton gave a presentation on "Core Values in Action," followed by an afternoon of community

service.

The Odyssey course based on the *Odyssey* of Homer, engages the freshman class and helps them transition to college.

For more details on Odyssey, visit <http://www.stthom.edu/odyssey>.



Mendenhall Donates Achievement Center

A \$4.5 million gift to UST from Trini Mendenhall Sosa, former owner of Fiesta Mart, Inc., will fund the Mendenhall Achievement Center and related programs to help close the gap for students desiring a UST education.

“We intend to encourage students, especially those from Hispanic families to apply and succeed at St. Thomas through a comprehensive three-part program,” said UST President Robert Ivany.

The Mendenhall Achievement Center will provide integrated advising, counseling and tutoring services for the University’s 3,000 campus-based students. Crooker Center will be renovated to accommodate these new services. The gift will also establish the Mendenhall Summer Institute, which will offer courses to prepare students for success in the fall. Grants based on family need and continued academic achievement will be available for students throughout their college careers.

“I’m very excited about both the renovation to the Crooker Center, as well as how this program will benefit our students,” Dr. Steve Sutton, vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. “The renovations will enable us to better utilize our space, and the program will enable us to help better prepare all our students for college-level work. This should lead to greater educational outcomes, like higher retention. I look forward to sharing details about the planning with our



Dr. Ivany with Trini Mendenhall

university community in the next couple of months.”

The multi-million dollar commitment is the largest gift ever given to the UST by an individual donor in the 60 year history of the University.

“The University has propelled itself to a new level,” Mendenhall said. “As an outgoing board member, this is a perfect opportunity to leave a legacy and help our future students and our wonderful community in Houston. As a woman investor, I’m invested in the future.”

“We deeply appreciate Trini’s vision, generosity and dedication to the Hispanic community and our University,” Ivany said.

Mendenhall sits on the University of St. Thomas Board of Directors. She is president of Fulton Shopping Center, a real estate investment company located throughout Houston. She is vice-president of First Quality Fruit and Produce. Mendenhall’s philanthropic dreams of supporting various causes became reality with the creation in 1997 of the Trini and O.C. Mendenhall Foundation.

Chesterton Study Group

On the last Friday of every month, anyone interested in G.K. Chesterton is invited to join an informal group discussion on his thought, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, in Hughes House, Room 108.



Men’s Soccer Game

The Celts will kick off their first intercollegiate season against the Our Lady of the Lake Saints. Game time will be 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, at the OLLU soccer field in San Antonio.



Second Collection

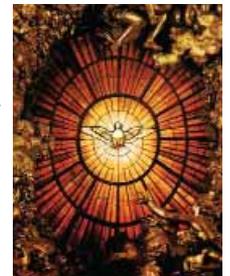
Second Collection is taken up in parishes in the Galveston/Houston Diocese for scholarships on Sept. 8 and 9. Volunteer by staffing a table or by talking to parishioners. Call 713-942-3407.



Mass of the Holy Spirit

The Mass of the Holy Spirit, the opening Mass for UST’s 2007 fall semester, will be at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 28, in the Jerabeck Center.

This opening prayer service and celebration of Mass is for all students, staff and faculty of all denominations



and faiths. A reception will follow Mass in the Scanlan Room of Jerabeck Center. Fr. Daniel Callam will serve as celebrant and homilist. Plan to begin the new school semester with the blessing this event offers the entire UST community.



Fresh Face in Res Life

UST has named **Yolanda Norman** as the new Residence Life director. Norman joined the University on July 23 and has quickly found the campus to be like home.

“UST is very family-oriented and that’s evident in everything, from the interview process to meeting the staff and walking around the campus,” Norman said.

Norman holds master’s degrees in college student personnel and counseling and in sports management and administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Norman wanted to work with student athletes, but her career took a turn when she began working in residence life. Quickly, Norman knew that she’d found her calling.

“I’m well versed in student life, but working on a small campus is new to me,” Norman said. “This is my first job at a Catholic school, and it feels really good to integrate my work and my faith.”

Norman believes she can make a difference at UST.

“My job is about connecting with people and seeing them grow and develop,” she said. “This is what completes me.”



I Madonnari Art Contest

A collaboration between UST and the Italian Cultural and Community Center will bring the excitement of creating original artwork on the campus sidewalks

This festival will include Italian music, food and performances. Sixteen Houston area high school students will compete alongside UST students in this age-old art form. Festivities begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8 on the Campus Life Mall sidewalk in front of the Moran Center. Judging will begin at 5 p.m. and the winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m.

This creative “street painting” art form experienced a rebirth in Italy in the 1970s and around the world and has now found its way to the “streets” of Montrose. The artists were known as *I Madonnari* and date back to the 1500s in Italy.

As traveling folk artists, they used brightly colored chalks to copy paintings of the Master painters of the time such as Raphael and Michelangelo.

The top three finalists will compete at the annual Houston Italian Festival on Oct. 13.

For more information, contact Gloria Ribnick at 713-665-7164 or visit www.houstonitalianfestival.com.



Matt Maher in Concert

Christian musical artist, **Matt Maher**, along with Paul George, Kelly Pease and Josh Blakesley, will perform in concert as part of the ADORE2097 Tour. They will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, in Jerabeck Center. Tickets are \$15. For tickets, contact Angie Montelongo at 713-525-3572. Sponsored by the UST Office of Admissions, Campus Ministry and Student Activities.

At World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, Maher’s “Litany of the Saints” was sung at the official Papal Evening Prayer, with the Holy Father singing the lyrical prayer along with 700,000 young pilgrims from around the world. His songs “Just Like You” and “Love Has Come” were recorded by Kathy Troccoli, who received a Grammy nomination for her 2002 album *The Heart of Me*.

Pease, a Louisiana native, performs at churches and conferences nationally. Blakesley, when he is not performing, is a young adult coordinator at a Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Alexandria, Louisiana.

The ADORE2097 tour is marked by praise and worship through music, personal ministry and adoration.

Students Merit Vincent J. Guinan Scholarships

Three incoming UST freshmen have been awarded the Fr. Vincent J. Guinan Scholarship. The full-tuition scholarship is named after the founding president, who led his fellow Basilian fathers in establishing the University. This year's recipients are Kailey Posterick, Carlos Vences and Sasha Stinner-Trimble.

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must be Catholic, meet specific academic requirements, submit a 500-word essay, along with a recommendation letter from a high school principal or guidance counselor. The top 10 finalists must also complete an on-campus interview with the selection committee. The recipients are required to join UST's Presidential Ambassadors and be active in campus ministry.

Sasha Stinner-Trimble

The Incarnate Word High School graduate considered 40 Catholic colleges and visited five before deciding on UST. In fact, she learned of her acceptance during a campus visit from San Antonio.



"The fact that St. Thomas is a Catholic school, not just in name but also in practice, and that Catholic theology infuses into the classroom, student body and campus life was the most important factor in deciding which university to attend," Stinner-Trimble said.

She will be in the honors program at UST and plans to get involved with Campus Ministry and the Save Darfur campaign. A ballet dancer since age 3, Stinner-Trimble also wants to teach an informal introductory ballet class at the University and possibly start a swing dancing club.

She is interested in bioethics, neurobiology and genetics, and plans to major in biology.

Kailey Posterick

The Klein Collins High School graduate chose

UST among other Catholic universities because she was attracted to the diverse student body and the infusion of faith and reason in the core curriculum.

"I like that St. Thomas is a really diverse school and that I will be able to meet a lot of different people while still receiving a Catholic education," Posterick said.

The scholarship comes as a financial relief for Posterick and her family, because her twin brother also plans to attend a private university in the fall.

Posterick plans to major in theology and psychology. She is considering youth ministry as a career and is interested in practicing psychology.



Carlos Vences

The smiling faces and friendly demeanor of the faculty and students at UST are what attracted Carlos Vences to St. Thomas. The Channelview High School graduate had always heard good things about the University and decided to check it out. After visiting the campus, Vences felt welcomed by the University's warm environment.



Vences said receiving the financial award made attending UST a possibility.

The son of a deacon, Vences was raised Catholic and is interested in expanding his knowledge of the religion.

Vences will major in chemistry and participate in the pre-med program. He plans to attend medical school after completing his undergraduate degree.

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

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