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Star View



Celebrate the Christmas Season with the UST Community

As the end of the year approaches, students, faculty and staff are preparing for finals, the holidays and ringing in the new year. Take a break from the sometimes stressful holiday season at one of the many holiday activities on campus.

Deck the Mall, Nov. 29

Join Student Affairs for the annual Deck the Mall celebration, beginning at 3:30 p.m. with a petting zoo, arts and crafts, camel rides and snow. There will be a live nativity at 7 p.m. and the tree-lighting at 7:30 p.m., all on the Academic Mall. Events also held in conjunction with Deck the Mall include:

- Advent Wreath-Making
Campus Ministry will provide supplies for the UST community to make wreaths to begin celebrating the Advent season.
- Alumni Open House
The Office of Alumni Relations will host an Alumni Christmas Open House, at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, in Link Lee Mansion. Alumni are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

Christmas in the Chapel, Dec 3

Enjoy the sounds of the season with the University Singers' annual winter concert, at 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel of St. Basil. This year's concert will consist of a program of lessons and carols, Advent and Christmas-centric readings from the Gospels with corresponding songs and traditional congregational hymns like "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Ding Dong Merrily On High."

Late Night Breakfast, Dec. 3

Take a study break for some late night food, served up by UST professors and staff members, from 7-11 p.m. in Crooker Center. Arrive early for a free finals survival kit. RSVP to studentactivities@stthom.edu.

Winter Class Completion, Dec. 13

The Winter Class Completion Mass will be at 6 p.m., in the Chapel of St. Basil. A reception will follow at 7 p.m. in the Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center. Students may reserve up to five tickets for the reception. Tickets may be picked up from Alumni Relations in the Link Lee Mansion starting Nov. 26.

President's Christmas Party

All faculty and staff and their families are invited to the President's Christmas Party, hosted by Dr. Robert Ivany and Marianne Ivany. Celebrate the Joy of the Christmas Season with the UST family, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, in Jerabeck Center. Everyone is asked to wear festive dress. RSVP by Dec. 3 at 713-525-3102.

Study Abroad in the Czech Republic

Learn about the Czech Republic Study Abroad in a meeting at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, in Tiller Hall. Pizza and refreshments will be served.



Responding to the need to better understand Central Europe and European integration, UST will offer a summer study abroad program to the Czech Republic in 2008. This study abroad marks the University's Central Europe premier and is hosted by the Jan Mazaryk Center for International Studies at the Economics

University of Prague. The program combines the study of European integration with the impact that this integration has had not only in world politics but in the ways we study world politics. Two courses constitute the core of the program: International Politics and European Integration. A series of visits with highly ranked local government, business and opinion leaders will be combined with multiple excursions to historical and cultural sites in and near the beautiful and ancient city of Prague.

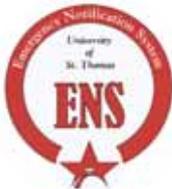
Emergency Test Slated for Nov. 29

On Thursday, Nov. 29 the University will conduct its first campus-wide test of its emergency notification system. With the new system, UST can send emergency notifications via voice messages, e-mails and text messages to faculty, staff and students.

If you updated your contact information to include your home, cell and/or office telephone numbers, you should receive a voice message as well as an e-mail containing a link to listen to the message.

Please inform family members that the University will test its mass communication system on that day.

If you have not updated your emergency contact information, please do so immediately. Instructions can be found at www.stthom.edu/ENS.



Important Information

- The caller ID for this test message will display 713-522-7911. Please do not reply to this number.
- When listening to a message, please be aware that background noise will cause the system to “stop and start.” It is calibrated very delicately to determine whether a person or an answering machine has picked up the phone, and background noise may affect the delivery. If possible, move to a quiet area, or press the “mute” button on your phone.
- If you missed any part of the message, please stay on the line and press * (star) to hear the message again.

Questions or feedback about this test or the emergency notification system may be directed to ens@stthom.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

Drama Club Improv Night



After the Deck the Mall celebration, join the UST Drama Club for “Improv Night,” from 8-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 in Jones Theatre. Admission is by donation to the Drama Club. | For more information, e-mail drama@stthom.edu.

SAB/SOL Winter Semi-Formal



The Student Activities Board and Student Organization of Latinos will present a semi-formal titled “Stellar Nights,” from 8 p.m. - midnight Friday, Nov. 30, in Crooker Center. Admission is \$5 at the door.

“Blues and Mercy” Concert



Join Campus Ministry and Communion and Liberation for a concert and discussion on the Blues, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in the Old Bookstore, Crooker Center. Maurizio Maniscalco will perform and discuss the power of music.

MACL Tree Decorating



Modern and Classical Languages will spread holiday joy at its annual Christmas Tree Decorating and Caroling celebration from noon - 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, on the second floor vestibule in Malloy Hall. Free and open to UST community.



Relieve Your Stress

The end of the semester can be a stressful time. Finals are coming, and assignments are due. The offices of Counseling and Disability Services and Health Promotion and Wellness remind the campus community to remember to take time to relax. Join them for “Relief from Stress and Finals,” from noon-2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, in the lobby of Crooker Center.

Sign up for a massage with certified massage therapists. Counseling and Disability Services staff and the Health Promotion and Wellness REACH peer educators will give away prizes and host fun activities for students. Students can also pick up study tips for finals.

Counseling and Disability Services offers counseling and/or disability services to all enrolled students. Call for an appointment at 713-525-3162 or 713-525-6953, or stop by the second floor of Crooker Center.

Health Promotion and Wellness is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and well-being for members of the UST community. Stop by the first floor of Jerabeck Center for information on wellness topics, or call Amanda Alvey at 712-525-3513.



GSA Hosts Ali Findik

The Graduate Student Association will host Ali Findik, Consul of Turkey, to speak on Turkish Foreign Policy and Turkish Economic Development, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4 in Ahern Room, Crooker Center.

Findik will be presenting his analysis on Turkish Foreign Policy, including Turkey’s current relationships with the United States, European Union and NATO.

The 40-minute presentation will also include a brief examination of Turkey’s recent economic boom tied to its revised economic policies. A question and answer session will follow his presentation.

The lecture is part of the 2007 Graduate Student Association lecture series. The event is free and open to the UST community.

The GSA aims to represent and support the interests of the University’s current and future graduate student community by supporting scholarly activities and providing leadership, service and social opportunities. It enriches the experience of graduate, and undergraduate students.

For more information on this event and the GSA, contact GSA President Ibrahim C. Firat at firati@stthom.edu.



Lady Celts Improve

The women’s volleyball team finished its second season ranked 10 in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Region Six ratings. The Lady Celts finished the 2007 season, 12-13. Last year, the team finished 5-15.

“I am extremely proud of what we accomplished this year,” said Jill Reynolds, UST Women’s Volleyball Coach. “It shows great improvement and growth in a short period of time. We are a very young team, but we’ve been able to come together to overcome our challenges.”

Team stand-outs included Katy freshman Lauren Poe, who led in kills with 235 and in digs with 221. Laura Welch led the team in assists with 488. The Lady Celts have competed as an Independent the past two seasons. The UST athletic department is planning to apply for membership into the Red River Athletic Conference for 2008.

Now Reynolds’ attention turns to next season. Volleyball tryouts are scheduled for Nov. 30.

“My hope is that we will bring in a few key recruits that will add to the team chemistry and competitiveness, so that we might make playoffs next year,” said Reynolds.

UST Students Carve Their Niche into the Business World

Five UST students have taken up the challenge of running a corporate business. They are evaluated on the aspects of research and development, produc-



tion, marketing and finances.

Matt Overton, Wendy Carabali, Michael Butler, Jennifer Monroy and Tominque

Roots (pictured from left to right) manage Baldwin (F21109), a high tech sensor manufacturing company, and have placed in the top 100 among universities and colleges across the United States in a program called Management Simulation, Inc.

“This was a hands-on experience of everything

we’ve learned the past four years. All of us were pushed to the limits,” Monroy said.

UST students who take the senior level seminar class, part of the Cameron School of Business, are challenged to run a business over the course of eight years. There are eight rounds total, each considered to be a year long.

“This experience allows you to measure your personal strengths and weakness because you have to deal with situations you wouldn’t come across in the classroom,” Carabali said. “We had to step out of our comfort zone to understand our market and customers and had to learn to adapt and grow.”

This capstone experience is designed to integrate concept and knowledge from a broad range of core business skills, and to explore contemporary social and economic issues influencing the business world.

Brandt Awarded for Work

Associate Professor Dr. Terry Brandt has been given the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented President’s Award “for exemplary contributions in the support of the education of gifted and talented children in the State of Texas.” He was presented the award on Nov. 16 at the association’s 30th Annual Conference in recognition of his more than 30 years of service. During that time, he has conducted more than 9,000 hours of training to more than 25,000 teachers and administrators and has served as a program design consultant to more than 100 school districts.

Brandt is the director of secondary education in the UST School of Education and the assistant director of the Gulf Region Academy for Catholic Educators.



Be a part of Trade Justice Day

Join the International Studies Society for Trade Justice Day on Wednesday, Nov. 28. From 9 a.m.-2 p.m. receive free fair trade coffee, pastries, tea and chocolate, on the UST Academic Mall.



Fair trade aims to set standards that benefit small farmers and workers, promote sustainable production and guarantee a fair price.

Fair trade standards go further than codes of conduct and other social labels. Beside minimum requirements that producers and traders must meet, fair trade labeling organizations are expected to continuously improve working conditions, to increase the environmental sustainability of their activities and to invest in organizational development for workers and small farmers.

Dining to Donate

Anyone who dines at Applebee's Restaurant from 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, at N Loop 610 @ 18th Street or at Hwy 290 @ Hwy 6, will be giving back to the University. Applebee's will give 20 percent of your bill, when you dine within those four hours, to UST. Simply tell your waiter you are “dining to donate” for UST, or bring a dining to donate flier, which can be picked up at Campus Ministry.

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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