



# A Knapp for Teaching



It has been more than 20 years since the music program at the University of St. Thomas staged an opera on campus. But when **Dr. Brady Knapp**, assistant professor of music and director of vocal and choral activities, arrived at UST in 2005, he set out to bring back the rich musical tradition. Knapp is a man driven by his passion to teach, and nowhere is that more evident than in his dedication to the new opera workshops.

"I created the UST opera workshop for our majors to have more performance opportunity," said Knapp.

In October, students performed Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *The Pirates of Penzance, or The Slave of Duty*. This opera workshop was one of several that Knapp has presented in his short time at UST. So far the response has been overwhelming. The lead roles for the operetta were double cast to accommodate student interest in the program.

The regular musical and operatic performances in the music program were discontinued in the early 1980s due to funding issues. The opera workshops help to recruit students to the music program by providing them a venue in which to perform. Students receive no class credits for their participation in the workshops, but instead a chance to hone their skills.

"One area in which I felt UST needed improvement was in providing more serious

singing and performing venues for our voice majors," said Knapp. "The first opera workshop was well received, and it was apparent that there was, in fact, a thirst and need for more opera and musical theater culture."

He credits part of the success of *The Pirates of Penzance* to adjunct faculty member, Debra Dickinson, who served as guest stage director. "Debbie is a consummate professional and a Broadway veteran who brings a level of real-world performance expertise that our students need," Knapp said.

Knapp's commitment to the opera workshop and his students is unwavering. It is the reason why he volunteers all the hours he puts into the workshops. Knapp's work at UST has helped to increase outreach to prospective music students and has greatly enhanced the University's reputation as a music program nationwide. According to Prof. Tom Crow, chair of the music program, enrollment in the UST vocal and choral music programs has increased significantly since Knapp began working at the school.

"The man can teach stones to sing," Crow said laughingly. "He has an uncanny knack for being able to zero in and tailor something for each student. He can spend two to three minutes with each student, and he can figure out something for them to sing. They love him. He has the capacity to fire them up."

Knapp exudes unflagging enthusiasm. "My UST students are smart, talented and sophisticated," he said. "My job is a real joy."

Knapp is a comprehensive musician with a background as both a secular academic and church musician. He teaches private one-hour voice lessons to 21 students on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as directs UST's two choirs, both of which have tripled in size in his two years at the University. He has also added vocal pedagogy and diction classes to the curriculum.

Every Wednesday and Thursday nights – and most Sundays – he serves as co-director of music at Palmer Episcopal Church with his wife, Courtney Daniell-Knapp, who is also a co-director as well as a guest conductor in the UST choral concert.

His hectic work schedule energizes him. "I have a very full life, and it's a wonderful life," he said.

"I have two boys, Emerson, 4, and Theodore, 6, who are the two highlights of my day, two black Chinese pugs, two jobs and two Subaru car payments," he laughs. "But only one wife, thank God."

Before coming to UST, Knapp served on the faculties of Rice University, where he received a master's in voice and a doctorate of musical arts in voice performance, Kenyon College in Gambler, Ohio, and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. Knapp also taught private voice lessons for more than a decade and served as the upper school choirmaster for the Columbus School of Girls in Columbus, Ohio.

He says that he enjoyed all those jobs, but his background is best suited to UST. "This is the best place to be," said Knapp. "I believe in small,

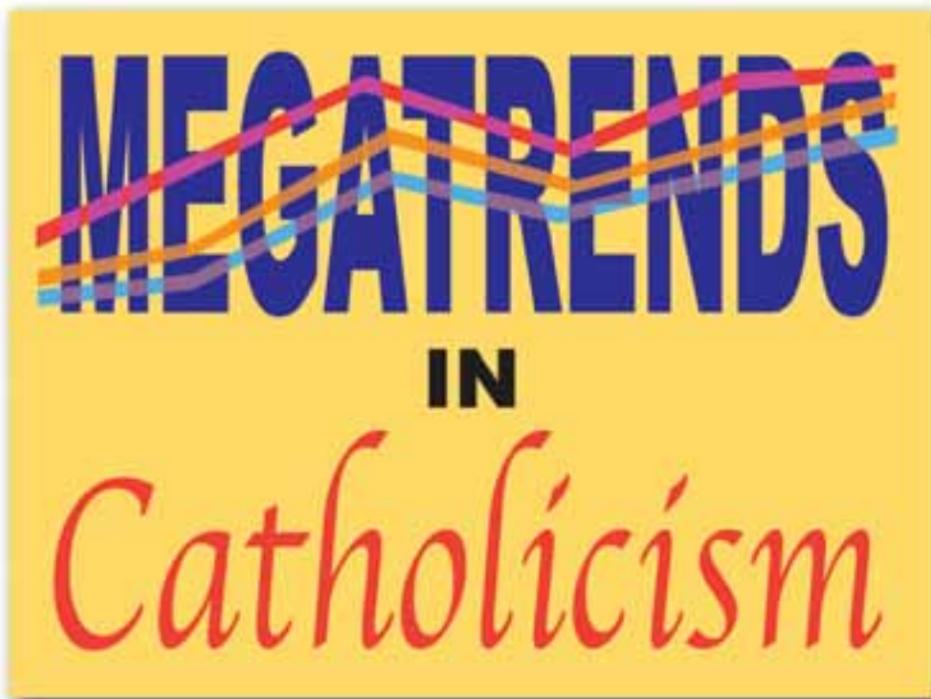
**"I believe in small, private, liberal arts education. It breeds comprehensive learning which creates comprehensive human beings."**

*Dr. Brady Knapp*

private, liberal arts education. It breeds comprehensive learning which creates comprehensive human beings. Here each student is unique, and it's my job not to use a cookie-cutter approach on them. I allow each voice to bloom and make sure all senses are being worked.

"The curriculum here is so attractive to me," he said. "The professors are at the highest level of education, and they teach at the highest level of education. The cross-pollination of coursework means music majors or pre-med students are going to have classes in art history and English. If you're a vocal major, you're not going to be just a singer in this place." ■

*During this holiest of seasons, the symbol of the star bearing the image of the Chapel of St. Basil dome reminds us of the Magi who sought the Child Jesus in the manger. The star that shone upon the earth led the wise men to our Savior. In like fashion, the University of St. Thomas guides young people along their lifelong spiritual quest to the fullness of life.*



## TURNING THE CHURCH UPSIDE DOWN

The following is an excerpt from the presentation by John L. Allen, guest speaker for the fourth annual Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture Series, sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Catholic Studies Program and the John W. or Alida M. Considine Foundation on Oct. 24, 2007.

Allen has been a prize-winning Vatican correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter* and a CNN analyst on Vatican affairs since 1999.

Allen is the author of five books on the Catholic Church, including *All the Pope's Men*, *The Rise of Benedict XVI*, and *Opus Dei* (all from Doubleday). His weekly Internet column, formerly "The Word from Rome" and now rechristened as "All Things Catholic," has a wide international readership.

Catholics across the usual ideological divides in the Church follow Allen's work. He speaks widely on Catholic affairs in the United States and abroad.

Predictions are always a hazardous enterprise. But I would argue that the discipline of trying to look down the line about where things might be going is justified because what it forces us to take seriously is the present. That is, to try to sort through the million and one things that are constantly washing across all our radar screens every day, and try to get our hands around those forces that are truly most elemental in terms of shaping the Catholic future. So that's what we are going to do through the guise of what I'm calling "Ten Megatrends in Catholicism." My claim is that the 10 forces we are going to look at seem to be 10 forces that are likely to be enormously consequential for where the Church is going in the 21st century.

**First of our 10 megatrends is what I call the birth of a world church.** I mean the transition from Catholicism, that in the 20th century was dominated largely by Europe and North America, to a Catholicism that will be ever more shaped by the experiences of Catholics in the global South – Latin America, Africa and Asia. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were 266 million Catholics in the world, of whom 200 million lived in Europe and North America and just 66 million everywhere else, principally in Latin America. One hundred years later, look what happened. We had 1.1 billion Catholics in the world in the year 2000 – 720 million of whom lived in Africa, Asia and Latin America, just 380 million of them in Europe and North America. What this means for the Catholic community is that as the 21st century unfolds, an increasing share of the leadership, the political energy, the pastoral imagination, and so forth, in the Catholic world is going to be bubbling up from the South.

I think what you would find is that Southern Catholics by our Western standards would come off as quite conservative politically and socially quite liberal. On issues like abortion, homosexuality, gay marriage, divorce, the traditional status of the family, and so on, the global South is exceptionally traditional and exceptionally conservative. But when you shift the conversation to other issues, like the ethics of free market capitalism and globalization, war and peace, race relations, the environment, social justice questions generally – what you often find in the global South – would strike us as quite liberal.

The poverty and exclusion that are created in the kind of emergent system of globalization that we see is their front burner pastoral reality; therefore, no surprise that it would be of great concern. Second, the thought world of Southern Catholicism tends to be very much rooted in the

Bible, which means this is a very earthy spirituality. It's one in which supernatural plays an important role. Third, the problems of the Church in the global South are problems of growth rather than decline. The global Catholic story in the 20th century was dramatic runaway growth. The real pastoral problems that many Catholics in the global South have are keeping up with this rapid expansion.

**If our first megatrend concerns the global South, our second is more concerned with the global North.** It is the emergence of evangelical Catholicism. I'm borrowing a term from the Protestant world to describe a robustly assertive form of traditional Catholic identity. What we see today in the Catholic world are efforts to reaffirm traditional Catholic identity in virtually every area of the Church's life. This is why the Holy Father recently issued a public document broadening permission for celebration of the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass, the so called Tridentine Mass.

**The third megatrend is Islam, and I'm thinking of the rise of radical Islam over the last quarter century.** It's producing a very complicated response within the Catholic world that I would describe in terms of both a new capacity to resist Islamism, but at the same time push forward toward new levels of dialogue with traditional Islam. Benedict XVI nevertheless is not the chaplain to a new anti-Islamic cold war. He believes profoundly in the possibility and the urgency of dialogue with Muslims, because the fundamental clash of civilizations that Benedict XVI sees in this world does not run between Islam and the West. It runs between belief and unbelief. It runs between cultures that make room for the supernatural,

**“My claim is that these 10 forces are likely to be enormously consequential for where the Church is going in the 21st century.”**

that recognize the centrality of God, that recognize the need for religious faith and practice, and those cultures that belittle and mock it.

**Megatrend four is the new demography.** The population was going to grow in such a runaway fashion that eventually the world would be full of people and we couldn't support it anymore. It was the old Malthusian demography. Rather than runaway population expansion, what we are living through today is a period of seemingly permanent decline in fertility – that is, population contraction. Between now and 2050, the world's population will continue to rise from the current 6.5 billion to 9 billion, but that is going to mask tremendous regional differences. Population will grow dramatically in the south; it will contract dramatically in the north, particularly in Europe and parts of Asia.

The rest of the world is going to go through the most rapid and dramatic aging of their populations that we have ever seen in human history. In the United States today, the 65-plus share of our population is the most rapidly growing segment of our population. That is going to create enormous new social strains as we struggle to pay for pensions and health care and so on. We are going to be called into service in increas-

ing fashion to make sure that this rapidly swelling elderly population is taken care of. I would also argue that this rapid aging is a potential boon for churches. The data show that for every year that goes by there is an uptick in the amount of interest in religious themes and willingness to devote one's time and treasure to religious causes. This means that we are going to have an explosion in the percentage of people entering that stage of their life where they are most likely to be interested, and most likely to be willing to commit themselves to religious causes.

**Megatrend five is expanding lay roles.**

We are living through a period in which the lay contribution to the Catholic community is in many ways being fundamentally redefined. We have in the late 20th century lived through the emergence of an entirely new form of committed religious life – lay people with strong theological formation who have taken it upon themselves to try to redeem the secular world from within. That is, not primarily in charge of performing some task inside the Church, but being out there in the world, being a Catholic doctor, or lawyer, or banker, or architect and trying to figure out how to bring an evangelical sensibility to that task. Inside the Church, of course, there is a parallel phenomenon in the growth of lay ecclesial ministry. There are at present in the United States about 40,000 priests – diocesan and religious – and there are 32,000 lay people who are playing the role of the lay ecclesial minister. At present, in the United States, there are about 5,000 seminarians, and there are 18,000 lay people training to become lay ecclesial ministers. What happened in the 20th century is that we created millions of new Catholics and we created hundreds of new dioceses, but we created precious few new parishes. The reason is that we don't have the priests to staff them in the global South. The point is that routine day-to-day pastoral ministry and pastoral care in this Church will increasingly be carried out by lay people performing functions once held by priests and nuns.

**Megatrend six is the biotech revolution.** All those fantastic new developments that are taking place in genetic science these days that are both expanding the horizons of what we can do to human life in dramatically and mind-boggling new ways and also creating enormous new ethical challenges. I would suggest that if you traipsed through the issues of cloning, genetic engineering and so on, the ultimate philosophical question that will confront us in the 21st century is this: What does it mean to be a human being? In a world in which human life can be manipulated at its most basic levels, at its earliest stages, in a world in which genetic traits can be programmed in a laboratory like so much computer software, where does the uniqueness of human identity and human dignity actually reside?

**Megatrend seven is globalization, and I'm thinking here – predominately – of economic globalization.** It's important to remember that the spread of free market globalized capitalism in the late 20th century has lifted more people out of poverty than at any previous point in human history. Growth in China and India alone just since 1978 has cut the percentage of the world's population that lives in extreme poverty from 40 to 20 percent. In that sense, you could make an argument that free market capitalism is the greatest humanitarian program ever devised. Yet there are deep indicators that something is amiss. We have 1.2 billion people in this world who live on less than a dollar a day. There are 10 million children who die every year from poverty-related diseases – like typhoid, malaria, cholera, diphtheria – that are utterly treatable. We have everything we need to treat those diseases except the will to get the resources to the people who need them.

**Megatrend eight is ecology – call it environmentalism.** I want to talk just for a moment about water. The possibility of conflict erupting around shortages of water is almost infinite. Policy analysts say that water is the new oil. Think about what happens when oil becomes scarce. Yes, the price of gas goes up. Yes, we might have to line up around the block to fill up our tanks. Yes, global commerce slows down; it becomes more expensive to ship goods. But think about what happens when water becomes scarce. What happens is that people die. They die, number one, because of thirst; number two, because they begin drinking unsafe water and, therefore, acquire the diseases that are carried by unsafe water; number three, because there is not enough water to irrigate crops, and when crops fail, famine results. This is an example of the kind of issue that is going to require an aggressive ethical and social witness from the Church. This means that we can approach this debate with a spiritual, theological and moral depth that no secular agent possibly can. It is an example of the kind of issue that is simply going to require us to take it seriously.

**Megatrend nine is what I call multipolarism – the transition from a world dominated by a lone super power, most recently the United States, to a world in which power is more evenly distributed around multiple poles.** The candidates that most people tout as the new poles of this multipolar system would be the so-called brick nations – Brazil, Russia, India and China. Their combined gross domestic product is higher than the combined GDP of the United States and Europe together. They represent 40 percent of the world's population. The other is the Shiite Axis, the transnational Shiite belt that stretches from Lebanon on the Mediterranean through Iran and Iraq all the way into some of the former Soviet republics in central Asia. Probably, the single

most consequential result of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 is going to be precisely the emboldening of Shiite Islam on the global stage. When the dust settles, it will be the first Arab nation to be governed by Shiites. What are the implications for Catholicism?

**Finally, no rundown of religious megatrends would be complete without a mention of Pentecostalism – easily, the fastest growing religious movement in the world.** It has become the most important competition of Roman Catholicism in many parts of the world. Pentecostals today represent about 20 percent of the global Christian population – that's up from less than 5 percent at the beginning of the 21st century. Even that significantly understates the Pentecostal footprint because you also have to take account of Pentecostal-style spirituality within established Christian denominations.

In the Catholic world, of course, we call our Pentecostals charismatics. The estimate is that currently somewhere around 12 percent of the global Catholic population is charismatic, and in many parts of the global South, it's over 50 percent. In Brazil and Chile, for example, more than 50 percent of the Catholic population is charismatic. In the United States, Hispanic Catholics are five times more likely to be charismatic than Anglo Catholics. Of course, it's the Hispanic percentage of the Catholic population in the United States that is growing. My point is Pentecostalism is the future. It is also in some ways a serious rival to Catholicism.

It seems to me that each one of these 10 megatrends is rich with the potential for creative, new responses from the Catholic community in the 21st century. We are going to have to stop thinking of our Catholic identity of membership in a particular Catholic tribe – that is, being a conservative Catholic or a liberal Catholic or whatever – and think much more in terms of mere Catholicism, the capacity to harness the best that all these tribes have to offer.

I would submit to you that the single tragedy of Catholic history in the United States in the 21st century was that we began the century living in the ghetto that had been imposed upon us by a hostile Protestant majority, which we spent the better part of the first half of the century clawing our way out of. We have spent the second part of the 20th century reconstructing ghettos of our own ideological choosing. We have ended the century just as divided as we began. We are no longer divided from the Protestants anymore, but we are divided amongst ourselves. To lead us out of that blind alley, we are going to need the energy, the passion and the commitment of all of us. This is not principally or primarily a work for our hierarchy to do. This is something that we all have to do together. That means it's going to require the intelligence and the passion of people just such as you. Thank you and God bless. ■



**St. Thomas campus and community attend reception for John Allen**

Pictured (l to r):

John Allen and Sister Paula Jean Miller, FSE, director, UST Catholic Studies Program.

President Emeritus Joseph McFadden and John Allen with friends of the University Judy and Darby Sere.

Lawrence Rubenstein and Dr. James F. Considine, trustees of the John W. or Alida M. Considine Foundation, with John Allen.

# Endowed Chairs

Professors who hold endowed chairs at St. Thomas share a dedication to discovery in and out of the classroom. The generous endowments provide salaries for distinguished professors who have one thing in common – a committed involvement in the lives of students. Teaching, research, presentation and publication activities undertaken by the chairs enhance the academic programs at UST and ensure that the University builds on its tradition of excellence.

## Leaders in Faculty Scholarship

Endowed chairs are a tradition in higher education that began in 1502 when King Henry VII's mother established the Lady Margaret Professorship of Divinity at Oxford, England. That endowment continues today, more than 500 years later, in support of distinguished faculty.

The University has many endowed chairs. Each has a specific intent:

**Bishop Nold Chair in Graduate Philosophy**  
Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Professor of Philosophy

**Cullen Trust for Higher Education/Lloyd P. Webre Chair in Education**  
Dr. Ruth Strudler, Dean, School of Education

**Rudman Chair in Philosophy**  
Dr. John Deely, Professor of Philosophy

**Cullen Trust for Higher Education/Dolores Welder Mitchell Chair in Chemistry**  
Dr. Thomas B. Malloy, Professor of Chemistry

**Cullen Trust for Higher Education/Fayez Sarofim Chair in International Studies**  
Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe, Associate Professor and Director, Center for International Studies

**Cullen Trust for Higher Education/Dolores Welder Mitchell Chair in Psychology**  
Dr. Trish Vandiver, Associate Professor of Psychology

**Cullen Foundation Chair in Economics**  
Dr. Javed Ashraf, Professor of Economics and Finance

**Scanlan Foundation Chair in Theology**  
Sr. Madeleine Grace, Associate Professor of Theology

**Cullen Trust for Higher Education Chair in Business Ethics**  
Dr. Daryl Koehn, Director of Center for Business Ethics and Professor of Ethics

**Cullen Foundation Chair in English**  
Dr. Janet Lowery, Professor of English

**Dr. John F.X. Knasas** serves as professor of philosophy at UST's Center for Thomistic Studies. He was named Bishop Nold Chair in Graduate Philosophy in 2006. The endowment has given him the opportunity to focus more time on his Thomistic research. He recently finished his fourth book, titled *Thomism and Tolerance*. He



has also been able to present several papers as well as spend three weeks teaching at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines.

"Being an endowed chair has allowed me extra time to focus on my writing and research," said Knasas. "It helps to make me a better teacher. However, I do miss being in the classroom and look forward to getting back to teaching more classes."

This Thomistic philosopher has also had a long-standing relationship with the philosophical community in Lithuania. Since 1997, he has participated in the planning, organization and teaching at the Thomistic Summer Schools in Trakai, Birstonas, Nida and Klaipeda, Lithuania. In 2004, Knasas was a visiting Fulbright Professor at the Vilnius Pedagogical University and at the Department of Philosophy, University of Vilnius. In September 2007, Knasas was invited to present



a paper at a University of Vilnius conference celebrating 500 years of philosophy in Lithuania.

The Cullen Foundation Chair in English, **Dr. Janet Lowery** is a poet and playwright who has examined the issue of violence against women in her work. On January 30, 2008, she continues this effort through *Traffic in Women III*, the latest installment in a trilogy of plays weaving dramatic monologues spoken by women from Greek mythology.

"I started *Traffic in Women* because I wanted to draw attention to the problem of human trafficking and focus attention on what I call 'the female heroic,'" said Lowery. "More than 600,000 people are trafficked each year, most of them women."

Lowery's third installment in the trilogy takes up the story of the Danaids, the 50 daughters of Danaus I who were forced to marry their cousins to dire consequences. Those three mythological deities of revenge, the Furies, the sibyl of Troy, and Cassandra, return from the previous two plays to participate in a retrieval of the Danaids. "Despite



their dramatic import, these plays draw on humor to explore various responses to violence against women and present nonviolent resolutions," said Lowery.

*Traffic in Women* began 10 years ago as a manuscript of poetry. Lowery was encouraged to transition her poetry into a play by Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Livia Bornigia, who has also acted in each production as well as co-produced and co-directed the trilogy. The endowed chair has provided Lowery with the time needed to write her scripts and produce the plays.

**Dr. John Deely** is a professor of philosophy at the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas. He is a well-known author whose books and articles have been published worldwide. Much of Deely's work in philosophy has been in semiotics, which is the study of the action of signs. He has been at UST since 1999 and currently holds the Rudman Chair in Philosophy.

Deely has been writing since 1965. "There are severe limits to what can be done in the classroom," said Deely. "The teacher is also a student, just at a more advanced stage of learning. You can



learn more from writing than by any other method."

As an endowed chair, he has been able to devote more time to research and writing. In 2007, he published his 22nd

book, titled *Intentionally and Semiotics: A Story of Mutual Fecundation*. Deely's 2001 book, *The Four Ages of Understanding*, is considered a definitive look at the history of philosophy, one which redraws the map of the periods and explains the positive sense for philosophy of postmodernity.



Above: Deely's latest book was on display at Border's Bookstore in Singapore along with books by Al Gore and Alan Greenspan.

## Business School seeks AACSB Accreditation



The University of St. Thomas Cameron School of Business is one step closer to receiving the highest and most prestigious business accreditation. The school is hoping to join the elite group of universities worldwide that are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The AACSB Initial Accreditation Committee approved the University's accreditation plan in December 2007. Now the plan enters the annual reporting phase as it heads to the AACSB board for its approval. The Cameron School of Business must bring itself into full compliance with every standard by June 1, 2009.

To stay ahead of the curve, the Cameron School of Business has already begun to implement a plan which tends to lead to accreditation in academic year 2010-2011. The Cameron School underwent a sweeping reorganization in academic year 2006-2007 to streamline and strengthen some of its degree programs, while phasing out others.

The Cameron School has hired two new faculty members and is currently in the market to add four more faculty members, two of whom will be endowed chairs.

Early this fall, The Harry and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation approved a pledge of \$1.5 million to create the Cameron Endowed Chair in Management and Marketing for the Cameron School of Business. The pledge was made to assist UST in its plan for accreditation.

**"I am thankful for the generosity of our donors," said Dr. Bahman Mirshab, dean of the Cameron School of Business. "They understand the importance of the AACSB. It is a long process, but the University will be better because of it."**

The generosity of the Cullen Foundation in year 2006-2007 also made it possible for the school to search for a Cullen Endowed Chair in Finance.

"I am thankful for the generosity of our donors," said **Dr. Bahman Mirshab**, dean of the Cameron School

of Business. "They understand the importance of the AACSB. It is a long process, but the University will be better because of it."

AACSB international accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. Institutions that earn accreditation confirm their commitment to quality and continuous improvement through a rigorous and comprehensive peer review. AACSB international accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in management education. Only less than 8 percent of institutions worldwide are accredited by AACSB.

Given the UST's strategic plan to become a major Catholic institution in the near future, it is imperative for the University to achieve this accreditation in a market where all major competitors are already accredited. ■

## VISION 2010 "We do it for the students."



Above: Nothing pleases Liz Ghrist more than interacting with University of St. Thomas students, whom she recognizes as future leaders of faith and character.

If you ask Liz Ghrist why she chaired the successful Shining Star capital campaign, she will proudly respond, "We do it for the students."

In late 2005, after leading her campaign team to a total of \$67 million and exceeding the goal by \$2 million, Liz Ghrist proposed and received approval to organize a Vision 2010 council comprised of community leaders. Since 2006 this council has helped develop the foundation for the next major phase of development according to the University master plan.

The "Shining Star" campaign transformed the neighborhood campus into a magnificent "academic village." The next public campaign, anticipated to be launched in 2010, will raise funds for academic priorities, including the goal of increasing the number of chairs. Chairs provide funding for outstanding faculty.

Having received a UST honorary doctorate for her many years of service to UST, Liz Ghrist gives credit to the many volunteers engaged in developing support for the University. Sharing credit for success over the years, Ghrist repeats her refrain: "We do it for the students." ■

# The all-classes reunion titled “Drive Thru Memory Lane”

was a time for alumni to reconnect with old friends, make some new ones and celebrate their time at UST. This fun-filled weekend of reunion activities included Mass and a dinner/dance on Friday evening, Aug. 24. Art Attack, a special events decorating company, creatively festooned the gym to encompass all the decades from the 1950s to 2000s, which included a groovy lounge. Grady Gaines & the Texas Upsetters had toes tapping and dancers swirling to his band’s music, and John Carrabba ’79 fed the group a delicious dinner. Saturday, Aug. 25, brought forth a little friendly competition when alumni took on the students in a soccer scrimmage on Hackett Field. As part of Saturday’s activities, alumni donated their time to the community, benefiting



both Palmer Way Station and St. Vincent de Paul’s food pantry. The weekend wrapped up on a sweet note when alumni, along with their families met on the Campus Life Mall to watch the family classic *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* on an outdoor screen while munching on treats that included Willy Wonka chocolate donated by Nestle. ■



## John Marion Carrabba BA '79 Owner, Piatto Ristorante



### Career Highlights

John graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business. After a successful 15-year banking career, he followed his heart and went to work for his cousin at Carrabba’s, where he worked for 10 years.

In 2001, he opened his own restaurant, Piatto Ristorante. John knows all about Italian hospitality. As a fourth-generation Houstonian, he learned firsthand from his parents and grandparents about Italian cooking and entertaining. He is carrying his family’s lifelong passion through Piatto.

Now he has two locations, one in the Galleria at West Alabama and Post Oak Boulevard, and a second location in West Houston in Royal Oaks Village.

“I could not have done it without the support of my faith and my wonderful family,” said John.

John lives in Houston with his wife, Janice. He is the father of one daughter, Jessica. John serves on the board of directors for the West Houston Chamber of Commerce.

### What Has UST Meant to John?

John credits the University of St. Thomas for providing him with a great education. That created the foundation for his success with Piatto Ristorante. In addition, UST provided him with the opportunity to establish and nurture lifelong friendships. That is part of the reason he donated the catering services for the recent all-classes reunion.

“My favorite memory of UST was graduating and then walking back to the campus. It was overwhelming. Now when I see how the school has grown, it is unbelievable. It is a first-class university, but I never expected less,” said John.

### Why Do You Want to Give Back to UST?

“My parents always taught me that it is important to give back to the community,” said John. “I want to be able to give back to UST to say thank you.”



## Bank of America Sponsors the Scholarship Tee-Up

Twenty-two golf teams participated in the annual Scholarship Tee-Up Tournament, which yielded more than \$105,000 for the Fr. Francis E. Monaghan Scholarship Fund. Danny Klaes '85 was the tournament chair and one of the event's

underwriters, which also included McDermott International, Quanex Corporation, Pride International; John L. Wortham and Son, Calyon Corporation, KPMG, Ray LeBlanc, and Deloitte and Touche. Bank of America was the presenting sponsor. Special thanks were given to Freeway Ford and Raymond James and Associates for underwriting the guest goody bags as well as the host site, BlackHorse Golf Club. ■



Annual tournament brings together friends and alumni in support of student scholarships.

## Major Donor Dinner

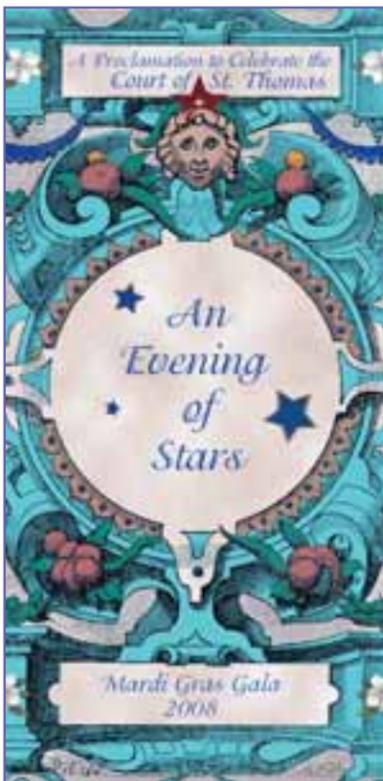
UST recognized philanthropists who made significant contributions over the past year at the Major Giving Society Dinner and Induction Ceremony on Nov. 6 at the Houstonian Hotel.

"Members of the Major Giving Society have generously supported the UST mission to educate leaders of faith and character through gifts



that helped to fund scholarships, endowments, capital projects and operations," said UST President Robert Ivany.

**Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kalman** were inducted into the society along with other donors. In addition to the inductions, Ivany recognized special achievement awards for the year. Trini Mendenhall Sosa was honored as Individual of the Year for her \$4.5 million donation for the Mendenhall Achievement Center. The Cullen Trust for Higher Education was named Foundation of the Year. The Cullen Trust gave more than \$1 million of its \$3 million pledge, making them the top foundation donor of 2006-2007. ■



## SAVE THE DATE

2008 Mardi Gras Gala  
benefiting UST scholarships

6:30 p.m., Feb. 5, 2008  
The Corinthian

**"An Evening of Stars: Celebrating the Court of St. Thomas"**  
gala chairs  
**Cora Sue and Harry Mach**

honoring  
**Jack Sweeney**  
president and publisher  
*Houston Chronicle*

## Alumna Gives Hope Through Music and Dance

University of St. Thomas alumna and current Master in Liberal Arts student **Carole Hanna McCann** experienced the adventure of a lifetime this past summer when she travelled to Iraq to teach singing and dancing to Iraqi children. McCann, who is working on a history concentration, has been teaching the arts for more than 40 years. More than half of those years have been spent at Theatre Under The Stars.

McCann traveled to the city of Erbil, in Northern Iraq, to teach theater, music and dance to the children, teens and even adults of the city, in the



first-ever Unity Performing Arts Academy. She was one of 10 professionals working through the Houston-based, nonprofit organization called American Voices, in collaboration with the U.S. State Department and the Iraqi Ministry of Culture.

"Singing and dancing are so universal and so barrier-breaking that I've never had any trouble teaching anywhere I've gone," said McCann. "The students were all so hungry for performing arts training and being on stage that they applied themselves wholeheartedly to every discipline. We shared jubilant closing performances, filled with laughter and applause – which sound the same and mean as much in any language."

"Miss Carole," as her students affectionately call her, spent 10 days in Iraq conducting workshops and rehearsals. Students were exposed to musical theater, orchestra, ballet, hip-hop, folk-dance, jazz and instrumental ensemble. The troupe was constantly escorted by armed guards, but McCann says she never feared for her safety.

"Never once did I feel scared or threatened, but soldiers with machine guns and assault rifles everywhere, as a fact of daily life, took some adjusting," said McCann.

Her work and that of her fellow instructors culminated in two gala concerts, July 21-22, performed to overflow audiences of more than 3,000 people at Erbil's new Peshawa Hall. The events were broadcast live throughout Iraq.

"The Iraqi head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said to me, 'We used to laugh, but the war made us forget how. You have helped us laugh again.' I couldn't have asked for a more fulfilling thank you," said McCann.

She credits UST for giving her the foundation to reach out to people as a teacher.

"The liberal arts academic structure and the rich diversity of the University instilled in me the appreciation of all people and their eagerness to learn. As a mentor teacher, I thrive under these conditions, so teaching in Iraq was the perfect opportunity," said McCann.

McCann's excitement for her work, both in Iraq and here in Houston, is shared by her brother, Fr. Jack Hanna, CSB, director of UST Mérida Program and adjunct professor of Spanish.

"She is a great teacher of theater and dance," said Fr. Hanna. "She is fortunate to be doing what she does. She does it well, and she is doing what she loves to do."

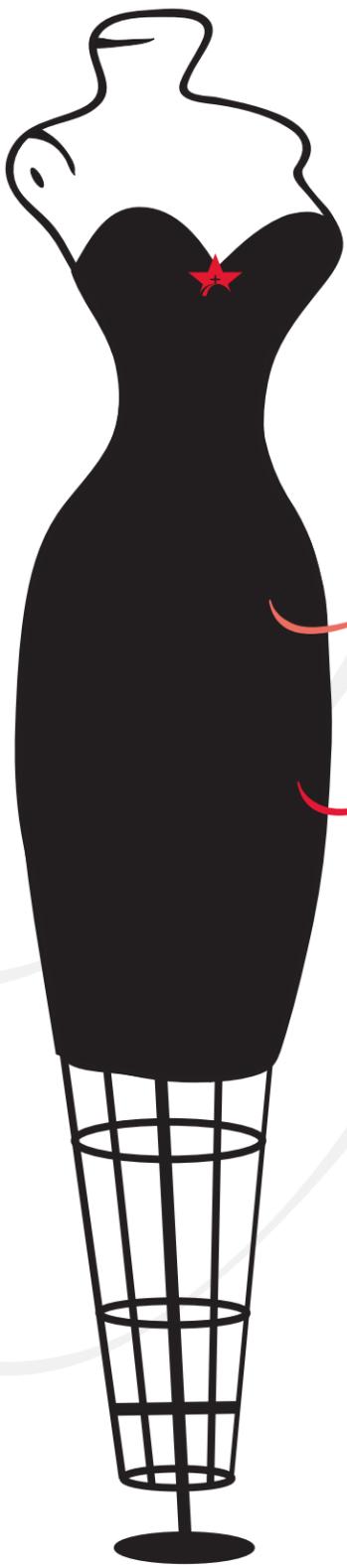
The longtime theater teacher calls the Iraqi trip a "perspective-making experience." She says, "It really brought home to me how blessed we all are to live in America, to have the privileges, comfort and security that comes with being born in the USA."

McCann sees her work abroad as a way to increase exposure for TUST to a global audience. "Bringing the Miss Carole and TUST touch to students so hungry for it is a real blessing for me as an educator. So spreading the mission of TUST to a global audience is a real feather in our cap," said McCann.

Before she returned home to the United States, McCann had her Iraqi students sign a rock as a memento. She keeps this special souvenir on her front porch as a reminder of the time she spent in Iraq and the people she met.

"I see it every time I enter or leave my home. It reminds me of the people of Erbil, especially the children, and of their long struggle for a safe home." ■

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS  
presents



A  
*Fall  
Fashion  
event*



Nearly 340 alumni and friends of the University of St. Thomas gathered at the River Oaks Country Club for the 3rd annual Fall Fashion Event. Guests enjoyed the latest styles from Neiman Marcus, including fashions from Ports, Phillip Lim, Lafayette 148 New York, Riani, Elie Tahari and Diane Von Furstenburg.

The event, chaired by Robin Thomas Klaes '84, helped raise more than \$85,000 for the University of St. Thomas Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship fund. UST alumnae Marilyn Tanner Hebinck of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery and William, L.L.P, Pamela Ngo Tranpark of Victory Lending Solutions, and Genna Wise Evans, executive director of the William & Marie Wise Family Foundation, were honored for their work with the University and the community.

As guests entered River Oaks Country Club, they were treated to touch-ups from Laura Mercier Cosmetics makeup artists. Event attendees included Kelli and Mary Kickerillo, Michael and Lucia Cordúa, Trini Mendenhall Sosa, Leticia Loya, Martha Long Lipsitz, William and Marie Wise, and Kittsie Thomas.



**Shining Star** newsletter is published by the Office of Public Affairs as a means of informing students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends about University activities, campus news and participation opportunities. For questions or comments please call 713-525-3103.

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