News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UST Center for Irish Studies Celebrates Fifth Anniversary with Irish Literature Scholar

WHAT: The University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies and the Irish Society presents Dr. Richard Rankin Russell of Baylor University to speak about *The Beauties of Bernard MacLaverty's "Grace Notes."* It is part of the Center's fifth anniversary celebration.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Cullen Hall
4001 Mt. Vernon

Parking available in Moran Center Parking Facility
3807 Graustark at West Alabama

BACKGROUND:

- Dr. Richard Rankin Russell is currently an associate professor of English literature at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. His edited collection of essays, *Martin McDonagh: A Casebook* was published in 2007. He has published other works on such writers as Tom Stoppard, Seamus Heaney, Stewart Parker, William Trevor, and Michael Longley in leading reference journals.

- Russell reviews for Irish Studies Review, Studies in the Novel and the New Hibernia Review. He was named outstanding professor at Baylor in 2003-04 for distinctive scholarship by an untenured faculty member and has been a Fellow for summer seminars at the National Humanities Center, The Aspen Institute and for Liberty Fund.

- Northern-Ireland born Bernard MacLaverty's third novel, *Grace Notes*, focuses on the birth of his protagonist Catherine McKenna's two new creations—her child and the symphony she has just written. The grace granted Catherine is not so much religious as it is aesthetic and biological and surprises us, as grace always does, with its delightful unexpectedness, a necessary quality for cultural dialogue and forgiveness.

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- On Jan. 23, 2008, the Center for Irish Studies celebrates its fifth anniversary. Five years ago, the Center opened in the Link Lee Mansion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan, the Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB, (Coadjutor Archbishop of Vancouver and then University President, Dr. Joseph McFadden, University President Emeritus and Founding Center Director, Center Director Lori Gallagher, J.D., and many other well-wishing faculty, staff and friends.

- Lecture followed by a reception in Cullen Hall.

COST: Free and Open to the Public. No tickets sold.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the Center for Irish Studies 713-525-3592.

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