News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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# University of St. Thomas President's Lecture Series Presents Hernando de Soto

**WHAT:** As part of its President's Lecture Series, UST hosts Hernando de Soto, named by Time Magazine as one of the five leading Latin American innovators of the century in 1999. He will present a lecture titled "Why and How to Globalize: The Role of Law."

**WHO:** Hernando de Soto, Peruvian economist and president of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy, a Lima-based think tank dedicated to the advancement of property rights in developing countries. The lecture is sponsored by the Office of the President.

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2008

**WHERE:** Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum
Parking available at Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama

**BACKGROUND:** A globally acclaimed and recognized economist, de Soto has argued that the lack of an integrated formal property system is the main source of poverty, as such a system does not allow the poor to convert their informal ownerships into capital.

Currently, de Soto, together with his colleagues at the Institute for Liberty and Democracy, is focused on designing and implementing capital formation programs to empower the poor in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and former Soviet Nations. He has been invited by more than 30 heads-of-state to implement such programs in their countries. He also co-chairs the Commission on Legal Empowerment for the Poor with former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

In 2004, Time Magazine named de Soto one of the 100 most influential people in the world. In its 85th anniversary edition, Forbes Magazine listed him as one of the 15 innovators "who will reinvent your future." He is the author of two international bestselling books, "The Other Path" and "The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else."

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**COST:** Free and open to the public.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Debbye Crofoot-Morley at 713-525-3109.

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