



# View



A Weekly Publication of the University of St. Thomas Office of Public Affairs

Vol. 5 No. 7 Feb. 25, 2008



## Celebrate St. Pat's Day with Irish Studies

Join the Center for Irish Studies for a St. Patrick's Day Mass at 10 a.m. Friday, March 14, 2008, in the Chapel of St. Basil.

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo will be the principal celebrant. Concelebrants are welcome. Dr. John Burke, UST political science professor, and the *de Burgo* Ensemble will perform the liturgical music.

A breakfast will follow Mass in Jerabeck Center Gym. The traditional Irish feast will include smoked salmon, Irish soda bread, scrambled eggs and more.

Breakfast is \$15 per person and will benefit the Bishop John

McCarthy Scholarship Fund awarded to students who study abroad in Ireland.

**RSVP for breakfast by March 7** by calling 713-525-3592; leave your name, number in party and telephone number.



The Center for Irish Studies concentrates on a broad and coherent study of Ireland within an integrating framework of many academic departments and community organizations.

In addition to the academic program, the Center sponsors lectures, concerts, programs and exhibits, and facilitates scholarships and research.

## UST to Conduct All-Campus Test of Emergency System

The University of St. Thomas will conduct an all-campus test of its emergency notification system within the next few weeks. In order to simulate a real emergency situation, the time and date of the test will be not be disclosed beforehand.

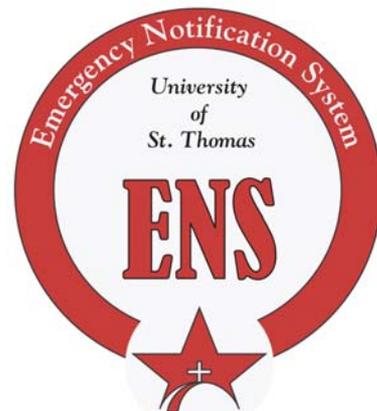
Please inform family members that the University will test its mass communication system in the near future.

The purpose of the test is to

ensure the University's preparedness in notifying the campus community in the event of an actual emergency.

If you have not updated your emergency contact information, please do so immediately. Instructions can be found at [www.stthom.edu/ens](http://www.stthom.edu/ens).

Questions or feedback about this test or the emergency notification system may be directed to [ens@stthom.edu](mailto:ens@stthom.edu).



## St. Thomas Recycling Program Expands to Include Aluminum, Plastics, Glass

UST is getting greener. Four sets of recycling bins for plastic, paper, glass and aluminum have been added to campus and are located outside Robertson Hall and in Jerabeck Center, Crooker Center and Guinan Hall.

Students and faculty began the recycling push targeting paper in 2007, and its success led to the focus this year on other recyclable materials.

In the period from December 2007 to January 2008, the campus recycled more than 3,800 pounds of paper, thanks to the efforts of UST student and recycling coordinator Murray Myers and Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE. They worked together with the Student Government Association and the Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students to implement the recycling program. Sr. Damien Marie, who is an assistant professor of biology and Catholic studies, says she feels encouraged by the UST community's interest in environmental

friendly practices.

In addition to recycling, last fall a committee of administrators and faculty discussed energy conservation initiatives such as planting thousands of native trees in the Houston area to offset a percentage of the carbon dioxide emitted annually by the University. Within the next two decades, committee members want to make UST carbon neutral.

Members of ECOS, of which Myers is co-president, have initiated tree-planting projects with Trees for Houston and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, and hope to work with other Houston organizations in the future in this effort.

Financial help to plant trees came from the Student Government Association; Dr. Maury Harris, associate professor and chair of Environmental Studies; and Dr. Steve Sutton, vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Offices and departments interested in recycling paper can contact Sr. Damien Marie at 713-525-3894 or [recycling@stthom.edu](mailto:recycling@stthom.edu) to find out how to obtain a bin.



Any students willing to volunteer to help with recycling duties, contact Murray Myers at [recycling@stthom.edu](mailto:recycling@stthom.edu)

### SAVE THE DATE

#### CIS Film and Doc Series



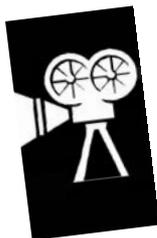
Three films that focus on current and political events in East and Central Asia will be shown at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in Tiller Hall, Room 116. Sponsored by the Center for International Studies.

#### Interview Prep Workshop



Students can hone their interview skills at an interview preparation workshop from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 5 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the Career Center, Crooker Center, second floor. Sponsored by Career Services.

#### Movie Makers: Be a Star



The offices of Residence Life and Student Activities will sponsor "Movie Makers," an event giving students a chance to star in their own movies. The event will be from 6 p.m. to midnight, Wednesday, Feb. 27 in Guinan Hall.

#### "The Wall that Divides"



Jay J. Johnson-Castro, member of Border Network for Human Rights, will speak on immigration issues at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, in the Ahern Room, Crooker Center. Sponsored by the Young Social Justice Institute.

## Film Screening and Discussion of “La Pared”

The Center for International Studies will sponsor a viewing and discussion of “La Pared,” a film by Maru Buendia-Sentias, at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25 in Anderson Hall.

Buendia-Sentias is a third-year Master of Fine Arts Film Production student at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the recent winner of a Princess Grace Award of the Princess Grace

Foundation in the film category and is the fourth University of Texas at Austin film student to be recognized by the organization.

Her latest film “La Pared,” a Spanish phrase meaning “the wall,” included performances of renowned Latin actors Joaquin Cosio, Roberto Sosa and Perla de la Rosa who have been recognized with Ariel Awards from the Mexican Academy of Film.



## Lecture to Compare and Contrast Nietzsche and Shakespeare

The University of St. Thomas’ English and Philosophy departments and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute will host a lecture by Dr. Michael Platt titled “Nietzsche and Shakespeare: The Most Poetic Philosopher and the Most Philosophic Poet” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in Cullen Hall.



Platt has taught literature, political science and philosophy at Dartmouth University, the University of Dallas and the University of Heidelberg in Germany. He currently lectures for the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, writes

for Practical Homeschooling magazine and is headmaster of the Friends of the Republic, a family home school in East Wallingford, Vt. and Albany, Texas.

In this lecture, Platt draws on more than 40 years of careful reading of Nietzsche and Shakespeare to point out the best in both authors and to examine the contrasts between the philosopher and the poet.

The Catholic Studies’ course “Mapping the Catholic Cultural Landscape,” will feature a variety of speakers and topics that explore the themes of creation, the human person and culture as they relate to the Catholic faith. Lectures will be Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:10 to 4:25 p.m., in T.P. O’Rourke, Room 106, unless otherwise noted. The series, which is open to the UST community, begins Monday, Feb. 25, and runs through Wednesday, April 23. The first six lectures are as follows.

Monday, Feb. 25: Dr. Ted Rebard, “Blaise Pascal and the Wager”

Wednesday, Feb. 27: Fr. Anthony Giampietro, CSB, “The Moral Person According to St. Thomas Aquinas”

Monday, March 10: Fr. Joseph Pilsner, CSB, “The Human Person in the Image and Likeness of God”

Wednesday, March 12: Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, “The Human Person as Mediator”

Monday, March 17: Dr. Brooke Deely, “The Concept of Woman in the Developing Catholic Tradition”

Wednesday, March 19: Dr. John Hittinger, “The Person and the Common Good”

# 2008 LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

Mark your calendars for the next two lectures in the 2008 Lenten Lecture Series. Both lectures will be at 7:30 p.m. in Cullen Hall.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27:** Dr. Randall Smith will discuss “Advertising and Our Sense of Self: Why None of Us Feels Rich in the Richest Country in the World.”

Smith contends that savvy marketers depend upon “the organized creation of dissatisfaction.”

The result of an economy that enriches itself by manipulating the desires of the American consumer is a society in which very few of us see ourselves as rich even in the richest country in the world.

Smith further asserts the late Pope John Paul II’s call for an evangelization of culture demands that we understand the nature and presuppositions of this consumer culture and the dissatisfaction it engenders and upon which it preys.

**Wednesday, March 5:** St.

Thomas High School Principal Fr. John Huber, CSB, will deliver a lecture on “Internet Safety, Morality and Social Networking: A Christian Approach for Families and Students.”

In his lecture, Fr. Huber will discuss the serious choices that children and adolescents face when accessing the Internet and ways in which parents can ensure the well-being and faith of their children in this current culture.

## St. Thomas MLA Student Finds Niche in Local Politics

Master in Liberal Arts student Maimee Bertrand said she “just fell into politics.” After graduating from the University of Mississippi in 2003 with a degree in journalism, the Kingwood native took a job with the state’s House of Representatives and soon after developed an interest in local politics.



During her position as supervisor of the page program for the Mississippi House, Bertrand had the opportunity to see the state government from a different perspective. The job lasted for only a semester, but she said the experience gave her a close-up look at the political process in action.

In 2004, Bertrand returned to Kingwood and eventually landed a job with former City Council Member Addie Wiseman, working as her press secretary and eventually her chief of staff.

After working for Wiseman for two years, Bertrand decided to pursue her master’s degree. She looked around at colleges throughout the city, but said she had the warmest response from UST, especially from then-dean of the MLA program, the late Dr. Janice Gordon-Kelter.

“She just had a wonderful, kind, open spirit,” Bertrand said. “I remember she called me back herself to tell me I’d been accepted into the program and invited me to her office to talk about how I could concentrate my studies in a way that would help me when I pursue my Ph.D.”

Bertrand’s graduate focus has been in political science, specifically women’s political communications in the South, on which she

will write her thesis. Bertrand said she appreciates the way the MLA program can be tailored to fit each student’s needs.

“The opportunity to have a little freedom in setting up my course studies and the one-on-one guidance from the professors has really helped me shape my degree in a way that will be effective for me in my Ph.D.,” she said.

Bertrand now works for the Houston Apartment Association as a public affairs specialist. She plans to graduate in August 2008.

Read the complete story at [stthom.edu/PA/features](http://stthom.edu/PA/features).

*Star View* is published by the Office of Public Affairs as a means of informing the UST community about University and campus news. Call 713-525-3116 with questions and/or comments.

**Executive Editor**  
Sandra Soliz, MLA '01

**Editor**  
Wendy Petronella '05

**Contributors**  
Kristy Attie '07  
Marcella Vasquez