

# Star

# View



A Weekly Publication of University of St. Thomas Marketing & Communications

Vol. 6 No. 1 August. 15, 2008



## UST to Reopen School of Nursing

The University of St. Thomas has begun the initial planning phase to reopen the School of Nursing to address the growing shortage of nurses nationwide.

St. Thomas is poised to immediately initiate efforts to raise \$20 million to build and endow the School of Nursing, hire a director of nursing and begin faculty and student recruitment.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, these distinct shortages will increase due to the aging nursing workforce (average age of practicing nurses in the U.S. is 47), aging nursing faculty (average age of nursing faculty is 57) and an environment of increasing health care needs with a growing and aging population.

By 2020, Texas will be short 83,600 registered nurses to fill its expanding hospitals. At present capacity, nursing schools in Texas can only meet 59 percent of anticipated demand.

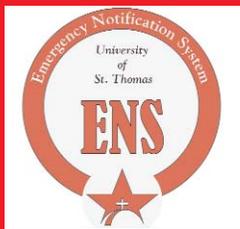
It is important to note that capacity is not hampered by lack of student interest. According to a recent report published by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, in 2005, as many as 35,000 qualified applicants were turned away from U.S. nursing baccalaureate programs,

and as many as 125,000 qualified applicants were turned away from all of the nation's nursing schools.

“St. Thomas has the potential to educate nurses with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees who appreciate the values of our Catholic, Basilian institution,” said UST President Dr. Robert Ivany.

“Caring for the sick complements our unique Catholic mission. As a faith-based institution located only minutes from the Texas Medical Center and other hospitals and clinics, we can provide the highly-educated and inspired nurses who are in such great demand.”

Dr. Ivany went on to say, “We are very fortunate to receive the backing of longtime friends and benefactors Odis and Carol Peavy to begin Phase One on our three-phase project. Their generosity allows us to begin planning, preparation and fundraising,” said President Robert Ivany. “For the next two to three years, we will seek the support of Houstonians, hospitals and foundations who realize the tremendous shortage of nurses and how we can contribute to easing that impact on our community.”



*On Thursday, Sept. 18, the University will conduct a fall campus-wide test of the emergency notification system. If you have not updated your emergency contact information, please do so immediately at [stthom.edu/ENS](http://stthom.edu/ENS). Thank you.*

## UST Gives a Warm Welcome to New Faculty Members



**Rev. Robert Barringer, CSB**  
*Associate Professor, Theology*  
Theology Department  
Ph.D. in Theology  
Oxford University



**Dr. Malcolm Rector**  
*Assistant Professor, Music*  
Fine & Performing Arts Department,  
DMA in Fine and Performing Arts, Music  
Composition  
Rice University



**Dr. James Clarage**  
*Assistant Professor, Chemistry*  
Chemistry and Physics Department  
Ph.D. in Physics  
Brandeis University



**Dr. John Story**  
*Associate Professor, Marketing*  
Cameron School of Business  
Ph.D. in Marketing  
University of Colorado at Boulder



**Mr. Samuel B. Condic**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy*  
Philosophy Department  
ABD in Philosophy  
University of St. Thomas



**Dr. Stephen Striby**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy*  
Philosophy Department  
Ph.D. in Philosophy  
University of St. Thomas



**Dr. Natalya Delcours**  
*Associate Professor, Finance*  
Cameron School of Business  
DBA in Economics  
Louisiana Tech University



**Dr. Shahram Taj**  
*Professor, Management and Chair,  
Management & Marketing*  
Cameron School of Business  
Ph.D. Industrial Engineering and  
Operations Research  
University of Massachusetts



**Dr. Ronald Hartberger**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Mathematics*  
Mathematics Department  
D.Sc. in Math  
University of Virginia



**Dr. Mark Turner**  
*Associate Professor, Accounting*  
Cameron School of Business  
DBA in Accounting  
University of Memphis



**Dr. Elmer Ledesma**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, Chemistry*  
Chemistry and Physics Department  
Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry  
University of Sydney



**Dr. Sharon Worley**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, Art History*  
Fine & Performing Arts Department  
Ph.D. in Arts and Humanities  
University of Texas at Dallas



**Mr. David Noe**  
*Assistant Professor,*  
Doherty Library  
Master of Library and Information  
Studies  
University of Alabama



**Ms. Aoife Ni Ghloinn**  
*Visiting Scholar, Irish Studies*  
Center for Irish Studies  
M.A. in Irish & Celtic Studies  
Queens University, Belfast, Ireland

## Three UST Faculty Members Recognized for Excellence

Three UST faculty members will be honored as recipients of the 2007-2008 faculty awards for excellence in teaching, research and service.

**Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe**, associate professor and director of the Center for International Studies, has received the St Thomas Aquinas Award for Excellence in Teaching. Wensjoe has been on the UST faculty since 1992, and the director of the Center for four years.

Leading one of the most popular majors on campus, Wensjoe has revised the degree plan to meet the demands of the global market place and challenges of graduate/professional school. His dedication to the development of global citizens is evidenced by the expansion of the Study Abroad Program, and



Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe

the Center holds regular speaker series, workshops, cultural and film festivals.

**The Rev. Charles Talar**, professor of systematic theology in the School of Theology located at St. Mary's Seminary, is the recipient of the Saint Edith Stein Excellence in Research Award.

Fr. Talar has been on the St. Mary's faculty since 2002. Recent works include editing *Mystics and Modernists* and co-authoring with Harvey Hill and Louis-Pierre, "*By Those Who Knew Them: Modernists in France, Left, Right and Center.*" This book is forthcoming fall 2008. His research in progress includes editing the translations and providing an introduction to "*Alfred Firmin Loisy and the Prelude to the Modernist Crisis: Five 'Firmin' Articles and a*



Rev. Charles Talar

*Critic's Response.*"

**Nicole Casarez, JD,**

professor of communication, received the Joseph McFadden Excellence in Service Award.

Casarez has been on the UST faculty since 1987, and has garnered nationwide attention as a pro bono defense attorney representing Anthony Graves in his capital murder retrial from 2006 to the present.

Casarez engaged students in a service-learning social justice project when they became part of the Texas Innocence Project research team in conjunction with the University of Houston Law Center. Students learned the principles of investigative journalism, law and critical thinking by trying to verify the innocence claims of death row inmates.



Nicole Casarez

## Bioinformatics to develop cutting-edge fruit fly genetics course

The University will continue in its efforts to be on the cutting-edge of bioinformatics thanks to a new special topics course which will be developed by Biology Professor Dr. Don Frohlich in Spring 2009.

This summer, Frohlich traveled to Washington University in St. Louis to receive training from the Genomics Education Partnership, a program funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which only accepts 12 undergraduate institutions per year.

Bioinformatics major Jacquelyn Flores will receive the teacher's assistant GEP training in January. Frohlich and Flores will develop a computer-based bioinformatics lab curriculum to

analyze and annotate the genome of the *Drosophila melanogaster* fruit fly.

"At St. Thomas, we are trying to train our students to be the best bioinformaticists that they can be," Frohlich said. "Being a part of the Genomics Education Project is an incredibly prestigious opportunity for UST, because there are so few undergraduate institutions able to participate, and usually, only doctoral students have a chance to work on this level. This is an indication that the University's original instincts about bioinformatics increasing importance in science were right on the money. We are headed in the right direction."

See [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu) for the full story.

# Welcome Back!!!

Mark your calendars and usher in the new semester with these UST fall events.

## Mass of the Holy Spirit August 26



Join the University in prayer and celebration of a new semester at the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Tuesday, August 26. Mass will begin at 12:45 p.m. in the Jerabeck Center, followed by a reception. For more information, contact Sr. Maura Behrenfeld, FSE, at 713-525-3588.

## Welcome Week August 25-29



Help make our new students, faculty and staff feel a part of the UST family during Welcome Week August 25 - August 29. Look for the different activities during welcome week including: welcome booth, commuter coffee talk, drive-in-movie and a home game for the men's soccer team.

## Labor Day Weekend August 30-Sept. 1



Amid the rush of the return to academia, Labor Day comes just in time for those who need a chance to catch up or wind down. Kick back and relax. Have a safe and fun Labor Day Weekend August 30- Sept. 1.

## Father Keon Days Sept. 3



Students can treat their favorite faculty or staff member to lunch for Father Keon Days on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Father Keon Days were established in recognition of Father Keon's lunches in Crooker Cafeteria. This day was created to promote student-faculty/staff interaction by giving both groups an opportunity to meet informally over lunch.

## State of the University September 11



Stay informed about exciting ongoing and future UST developments. UST President Dr. Ivany will share his vision for the coming semester. Please join Dr. Robert Ivany for his State of the University Address at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 in Jones Hall.

## Faculty Development Workshop Sept. 16



The Vice President of Academic Affairs will sponsor a faculty development workshop at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, in the Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center. The keynote speaker is Dr. Larry Braskamp, professor in the Department of Leadership, Foundation and Counseling Psychology at Loyola University in Chicago. His topic will be "Assessing Faculty by Sitting Beside."

*Star View* is published by the Marketing Communications Department 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**  
Ronnie H. Piper

**Writer/Editor**  
Elise Marrion