

Star

View



UNIVERSITY
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UST Community Unites in Wake of Ike

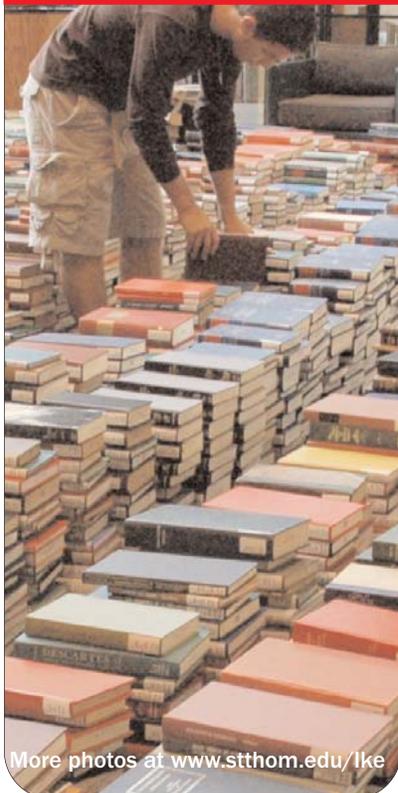
The University of St. Thomas may have closed for Hurricane Ike, but true to form, UST's close-knit community was at work helping each other long before the University officially reopened.

UST's characteristic spirit of community was visible and palpable as faculty, staff and students collaborated throughout the week. Security, Facilities, Information Technology, Custodial Services and many other employees worked long hours for the duration of the week. Students evacuated together, as Houston area residents offered accommodations to out-of-state and international students. Faculty and staff assisted ground crews to clean up storm debris. A team of volunteers helped remove books from the Doherty Library basement.

Numerous meetings were held to revise academic and event schedules. Through it all, keeping everyone informed was a top priority as updates were communicated through the new Emergency Notification System and volunteers staffed the hotline phone to answer questions.

"The teamwork of the UST community has been amazing," said Dr. Robert Ivany. "The spirit of cooperation has been contagious as everyone pitched in to keep essential services and information channels operating. We have met every challenge Hurricane Ike threw at us."

Shown at left, a Doherty Library student worker organizes displaced books after volunteers removed the books from the flooded basement.



More photos at www.stthom.edu/ike

UST Students Return to Guinan Hall, Stop to Share Storm Stories

Maria Cooz is an international student from Venezuela. Cooz evacuated to Montgomery for three days, and returned to Houston to stay with one of the Guinan Hall Resident Assistants. "I would recommend that every international student should have a UST buddy in case of an emergency situation. When you have no family here, and you have to evacuate, you need to have a plan to go with someone."

Bensy Benny watched as the ceilings of the home her family built in Friendswood collapsed. Luckily, her family was in the process of relocating to another home, so they had somewhere else to stay. After the storm, her family alternated between the two homes, moving their possessions, using the few functioning facilities in one and sleeping in the new house. "Everyone was safe, and that's what mattered."

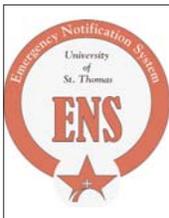
Leslie Meigs lives in north Houston near Spring, and fortunately, her home was spared. "I feel blessed and fortunate that we didn't have any damage to our house. It was a reality check moment when you know something bad could really happen. My family is very religious, so we spent a lot of time in prayer before the hurricane."



Students moving back into Guinan Hall Post-Ike

SAVE THE DATE

Receive Text Message Updates



Don't be left in the dark. Update your emergency notification information to enable text messaging. Go to www.stthom.edu/ens and follow the instructions. SMS messaging is the fastest and most efficient way to receive updates.

Houston Demographics Lecture



The Center for International Studies presents a lecture by Dr. Steven Klineberg, Rice University Sociology Professor, titled "The Changing Face of Houston" at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday **Oct. 8** in the Ahern Room, Crooker Center. For more information, contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530.

Salsa Dancing Contest



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at UST! Enjoy, food, dancing and music while testing your dancing skills in the salsa contest. You can even cook up your favorite salsa for the taste competition. The choice is yours. Event is 6 p.m., Thursday, **Oct. 2** at Crooker Center.

Irish Singer, Storyteller



Irish performer Sean Tyrrell presents "Cry of the Dreamer-The Amazing Story of Irish Hero John Boyle O'Reilly," at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, **Oct. 8** in Jones Hall. For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.

Teach-In on Capital Punishment



The Social Justice Committee and the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty will present a "Teach-In on Capital Punishment" to be held at 10 a.m., Saturday **Oct. 11** in Ahern Room, Crooker Center. For more information, contact Trish Vandiver at 713-525-3197.

UST Offers Support Services After the Hurricane

The beginning of the fall semester brings stress for everyone. Add to that the uncertainty, possible trauma and loss resulting from a hurricane. Numerous events were held around campus and resources have been available to help ease the transition back to campus. Every thing from a Welcome Back Booth to a "Take a Hike, Ike" campus art project and a special Mass in memory of the hurricane victims helped the UST community cope with post-hurricane stress.

Dr. Rose Signorello, executive director of Counseling, Wellness and Disability Services, provided a list of tips to help those are struggling to recover from the emotional trauma of Hurricane Ike.

Things to remember when trying to understand this event:

- Anyone who witnesses a disaster is touched by it.
- It is normal to feel anxious about safety.
- It is normal to feel misplaced, as if your familiar life is on hold. You may feel uncertain about the future.
- Profound sadness, grief and anger are all normal reactions to loss.
- Acknowledging your feelings will help you recover.
- Focusing on your strengths and abilities will help you heal.
- Accepting help from family, friends and community programs is healthy and encouraged.
- Everyone has different needs and different ways of coping.
- It is common to feel agitated and mistrusting of others (family, friends, institutions, etc.); however, nothing is accomplished by harsh language or unruly actions.

Signs that you or a loved one may need assistance:

- Difficulty communicating, sleeping, eating or relaxing
- Difficulty carrying out your normal daily responsibilities or activities.
- Feeling easily frustrated or agitated
- Increased use of drugs or alcohol
- Feeling confused or having poor attention and concentration
- Having symptoms of depression, sadness and/or isolation
- Experiencing mood swings with or without tearfulness
- Feeling fearful of crowds, strangers or being alone
- Preoccupation with news reports
- Experiencing flashbacks and/or nightmares of past events: It is possible that a recent trauma may trigger feelings from the past.

Post-IKE New Academic Calendar - Fall 2008

	Current	New Plan
FALL BREAK	Oct. 20-21	No Change
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	Nov. 26-30	No Change
LAST CLASS	Dec. 8	Dec. 16
STUDY DAY	Dec. 9	None
FINAL EXAMS	Dec. 10-16	Instructor Discretion
GRADES DUE	Dec. 21	Dec. 21
GRADES AVAILABLE		Dec. 23
OFFICIAL HOLIDAY (Faculty & Staff)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 2	No Change

Post-Ike Financial Aid Adjustments Available

"We understand that this has been a hardship for many of our students. If you have experienced a financial loss due to Hurricane Ike, I would like to encourage you to contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid so we can look into adjusting your financial aid as necessary."
 - Scott Moore, Dean of Scholarships and Financial Aid

University of St. Thomas

The Rev. William J. Young Social Justice Institute, Office of Academic Affairs, School of Arts and Sciences and Friends of Doherty Library
present

Catholics in the American Political Tradition

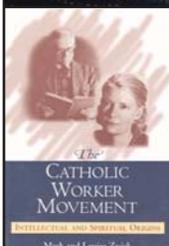


Wednesday, October 1

Is There a "Catholic Vote" and Should There Be?

Dr. Clarke Cochran, Vice President of Mission Integration, Covenant Health System in Lubbock, Texas is a retired Texas Tech professor of political science who specializes in religion and politics, political philosophy and healthcare policy. In his lecture Cochran proposes a way through the maze of contending arguments about Catholics and political life.

7:30 p.m.
Jones Hall
3910 Yoakum Blvd.



Thursday October 9

Panel Discussion on The Catholic Worker Movement: Intellectual and Spiritual Origins

Panel Discussion on The Catholic Worker Movement: Intellectual and Spiritual Origins Panelists Drs. John Hittinger, Brooke Deely and John Burke will discuss Mark and Louise Zwick's book, The Catholic Worker Movement: Intellectual and Spiritual Origins. The book is a tribute to journalist, social activist and pacifist Dorothy Day, as well as an examination of the influences which led to her conversion and to her particular approach to Catholicism.

6:30 p.m.
Ahern Room, Crooker Center
3909 Graustark
Doherty Library exhibit on the Catholic Worker Movement from Sept. 15 - Oct. 3.
Reception to follow the lecture.



Thursday, October 23

John Courtney Murray and American Politics

Fr. John Allen, STB, Dean of Men and Director of Pastoral Formation, Pontifical College Josephinum, will explore the contributions of John Courtney Murray, SJ, (1904-1967) to American civil discourse and to Catholic theology. Fr. Allen teaches graduate courses in American Catholicism, Church-State Relations, and the Documents and History of the Second Vatican Council.

7 p.m.
Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center
4000 Mt. Vernon



Wednesday, October 29

The Five Wars in Iraq: How Do We End Them?

Fr. John Langan, SJ, will discuss The Five Wars in Iraq: How Do We End Them?
Fr. Langan is the Rose R. Kennedy Professor of Christian Ethics, senior research scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and professor of philosophy at Georgetown.
Dr. John Hittinger, VPAA and Sr. Ceil Roeger, O.P. will serve as Respondents.

7:30 p.m.
Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center
4000 Mt. Vernon
Event co-sponsored by Jesuit volunteers and Strake Jesuit College Preparatory.

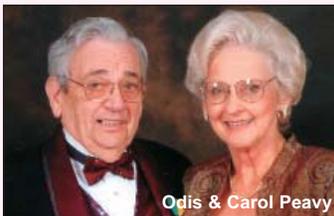
Hurricane Ike Resources

- Health Promotion and Wellness: 713-525-3513
- Counseling & Disability Services: 713-525-2169
- Campus Ministry: 713-525-3588
- Financial Aid: 713-525-2151
- OVO: 713-525-3800

Post-Ike Volunteer Opportunities

Our own hearts feel lighter when we reach out to others during this unsettling time following Hurricane Ike. There are so many ways to help. Visit the Office of Volunteer Opportunities to learn about hurricane-relief service projects. OVO is located on the 2nd floor Crooker Center.

Peavys Donate to Nursing School



Thanks to the generous support of longtime friends and benefactors Odis and Carol Peavy, the University is poised to reintroduce a nursing program. The Peavys, owners of PV Rentals, have committed \$2.5 million to provide operating support, establish an endowment fund and enable the University to begin a national search for a director of nursing.

Carol Peavy was a nurse and a St. Thomas Nursing School faculty member from 1980 to 1982.

“The University of St. Thomas is very fortunate to receive the backing of longtime friends and benefactors Carol and Odis Peavy to begin Phase One on our three-phase project,” said UST President Robert Ivany.

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

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Stephen McEveety Explores “Faith in Film”

Don't miss the chance to hear Hollywood producer Stephen McEveety speak about “Faith and Film” at the 2008

Archbishop J. Michael Miller lecture 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10 in Jones Hall. McEveety is a two-time winner of the Director's Guild of America Award and has produced many films including *Bella*, *Passion of the Christ*,

Braveheart, *We Were Soldiers*, *Trip to Bountiful*, *Immortal Beloved*, *Payback*, *What Women Want* and *The Man Without a Face*.

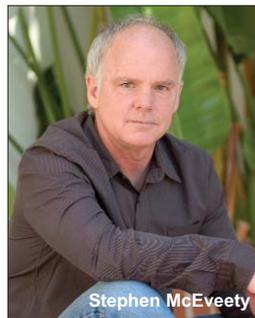
McEveety, a Roman Catholic, is vocal about his own pro-life views. To make a difference in politics and to put Catholic values in the public square, he serves (along with Robert George, the inaugural Miller lecturer) on the National

Advisory Board for the The Catholic Association (TCA). McEveety launched MPower

Pictures whose first release was the Toronto Film Festival Award-winning *Bella* to create, “high-impact, socially relevant film productions and to take risks on film projects others in Hollywood wouldn't consider.”

“Being a Catholic is now playing a larger role in how I approach projects. I'm really fascinated with the question of what is good or evil – in film, in life,” McEveety says. “And that definitely comes from being Catholic.”

The lecture is sponsored by UST's Catholic Studies Program and the Departments of Drama and Communication.



UST Jumps in *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings

For the 15th consecutive year, the University of St. Thomas has been named to the top tier of the *U.S. News & World Report's* “America's Best Colleges” list of universities offering master's degrees in the Western region of the United States. UST currently ranks 24th in the 2009 rankings, up four places from the 2008 list.

U.S. News & World Report surveyed more than 1,400 colleges and universities for its annual publication, and based its rankings on 15 widely accepted indicators of excellence. UST's low student-to-faculty ratio of 12:1, and the high

percentage of freshmen who were ranked in the top quarter of the high school their graduating class were key factors in St. Thomas' ranking.

UST is categorized among schools that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's programs, but few doctoral programs. University of St. Thomas offers eight master's programs and one doctoral program in philosophy. The 572 universities in this category are ranked within four geographic areas – North, South, Midwest and West – because these schools tend to draw students heavily from the surrounding states.