

Star

View



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Catherine Aquila and Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE

UST Students Restore Franciscan Sisters' Land

A group of nine UST students spent fall break knee-deep in muck and mud, digging and hauling rocks during an environmental service trip to the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden, Connecticut.

It may have been hard work, but this profound experience to restore the Franciscan Sisters' land prompted them to leave their muddy boots behind in hopes to return, or perhaps to let other students fill their shoes next year.

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Environmental Science and Studies chair, led the service trip to the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist to restore a farm pond and dam into a wetland area.

"This was our inaugural environmental service voyage, and my concept was to take the students to a place away from campus with beautiful land that needs help," Sr. Damien Marie said. "It was special for me because, as a young sister, I worked a lot on the pond in its original form, so it was nice to be called upon to bring my professional expertise back to help the Sisters. It was also an excellent opportunity for the students to learn from the Sisters and the hands-on field experience."

The trip exemplifies the new

Environmental Science and Studies program's integrated approach to creation, rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition. Combined with opportunities for morning and evening prayer, interaction with the Sisters and additional reading materials, students were able to look at nature from many perspectives.

Elizabeth Rinaldi, a senior environmental studies major, said one of the most memorable moments of the trip occurred when she got stuck in the pond muck in her hip waders, and Sr. Damien Marie had to pull her out of the pond with a rope.

"My main area of interest is wetland habitat restoration, so this trip was especially meaningful to me," Rinaldi said "We spend a lot of time reading case studies and learning scientific concepts in classes indoors. This was a chance for us to use what we learned in class and to go to a part of the country where we could learn about unfamiliar flora and fauna."

Just in time for peak fall foliage, the group took a break from work to enjoy nature and tour the Connecticut River Valley landscape with a steam train and boat ride along the Connecticut River.

View the complete story at www.stthom.edu.

Help USTrees

Tree Planting

Help USTrees reach their goal of planting 25,000 trees to reduce UST's carbon footprint

1:30 – 4 p.m. Friday Dec. 5

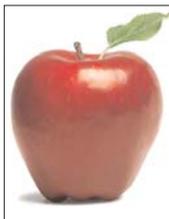
9:30 – 12:30 Saturday Dec. 6.

Goat Island, in the Port of Houston across from the San Jacinto Monument and Battleship

Call Sr. Damien Marie Savino 713-525-3894 to RSVP

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Into Education



The University of St. Thomas *Kappa Delta Pi* Chapter invites the public to learn more about UST's fast track to the teaching profession at, "Fall into Education," 5 p.m. on Monday, **Nov. 10**, in Ahern Room, Crooker Center.

IT & Globalization Lecture



The Center for International Studies presents an ISS Friday Lecture Series, "IT and Globalization," 2 p.m. Friday, **Nov. 14**, in Tiller Hall. Christopher Brock, Baker Institute fellow in technology, society and public policy will speak at this event.

2008 Annual Irish Gala



The Center for Irish Studies will host the Annual Irish Gala 6:30 p.m. Friday, **Nov. 14**, at the Houstonian Hotel. This event is a fundraiser that supports the Center for Irish Studies study abroad program and helps provide scholarships for qualified students. For more information call 713-525-3173.

Flu Shots



The Office of Health Promotion and Wellness will offer flu shots to the UST Community from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, **Nov. 19**, 2nd Floor Lounge in Jerabeck Center. To register for your flu shot, send an e-mail with "flu shot" as the subject to wellness@stthom.edu

Roman Emperors Video Series



The Friends of Archaeology will present a video study of the Emperors of Rome, moderated by Dr. Nancy Jireik, UST art history professor emerita, 4 p.m. Sunday, **Nov. 23**, Robertson Hall.

Humanae Vitae Conference: 40 Years Later

The University of St. Thomas will host "Humanae Vitae: Forty Years Later," Fri-Sat, Nov. 21-22, in Cullen Hall and Jerabeck Center.

The conference will feature presentations from Jennifer Kimball, B.E.L., executive director of the Culture of Life Foundation, Dr. Martha Garza, M.D. FACOG, NFP medical consultant, UST's own Rev. Anthony Giampietro, CSB, and Dr. Janet Smith, consultant to the Pontifical Council on the Family.

Fr. Giampietro, CSB, assistant professor of philosophy, will present a talk on *Humanae Vitae*

and *Public Discourse*, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, in Cullen Hall.

Garza will present, *Culture of Life vs. Culture of Death*, at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

Kimball will present, *The Gateway to a Eugenic Culture* at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

Smith will present *Pope John Paul II on Humanae Vitae*, at 10:15 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, and *Humanae Vitae: Respect for Fertility and the Problem of Homosexuality*, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

Pi Sigma Alpha Hosted Election Watch Party

On Nov. 4, *Pi Sigma Alpha*, the National Political Science Honor Society hosted a gathering of about 70 faculty, staff and students to witness the historic 2008 election events unfold.

When participants could tear themselves away from election coverage, the party offered fun and games including a candidate and political figure costume contest, a competition to guess how many electorates each candidate would received and which states each candidate would win. There were also activities that required less skill such as guessing what time the acceptance speech would be given.

Despite the hectic evening, both presidential candidates traveled to UST to make special appearances in the form of life-size cardboard cut-outs, where they paused for a photo opportunity with UST constituents.



Cameron School of Business Open House



Cameron
School of Business
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

The Cameron School of Business will host a Graduate Open House, 6 p.m. Wednesday, **Nov. 12** in the Malloy Board Room, Malloy Hall. The Cameron School of Business Graduate Open House gives prospective students the opportunity to meet with the faculty, alumni and current students.

University of St. Thomas Web site Gets Facelift and Fine Tuning

Log on to the UST home page, and you will notice a more streamlined look. UST launched a new home page to meet the evolving demands of prospective students clicking their way through their college search.

UST launched a complete Web site redesign with the input of faculty, staff and students in April of 2007. Last year, the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA), which asks more than 3,000 college-bound high school students to evaluate more than 3,000 Web sites, gave UST's site a C + rating.

"In this age of technology, a University's Web site is the top marketing tool to attract prospective students," said Vickie Alleman, vice president for Marketing Communications. "Our focus is increasing enrollment, so the most important target audience is potential students. A

closer look at our site was prompted by the NRCCUA research combined with various student and faculty complaints that our site was too busy and did not navigate well."

As Marketing Communications and Information Technology teamed up to tackle the project, Alleman said she reviewed sites of institutions who received top ratings by NRCCUA as well as the Web sites of every university in UST's peer group.

UST's most recent site was launched only 18 months ago, so designing an entirely new Web site was not an option, Alleman said. Working within the current software parameters, UST made



some prominent additions to the new homepage, including greater visibility of the "Apply Online" feature and a "Houston Connections" section. Information Technology hopes to add video capabilities next year. Alleman said she will also gradually continue to work with the University community to streamline content on departmental pages.

University of St. Thomas Offers Entertainment for the Whole Family

The Emperor's New Clothes
Children's Theater



Time:
10 - 11 a.m.

Date: **Nov. 13, 18, 20, 25,
Dec. 2 & 4**

Location: **Jones Theatre**

For more information call **713-525-3520.**

Pop Singers
Concert



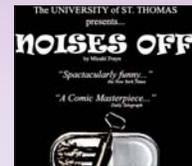
Time:
7:30 p.m.

Date: **Nov. 24 & 25**

Location: **Cullen Hall**

For more information call **713-525-3159.**

Noises Off
Drama Production



Time:
7:30 p.m.

Date: **Nov. 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15,
19, 20, 21 & 22**

Location: **Jones Theatre**

For more information call **713-525-3520.**

OVO Host Hunger Banquet

The Office of Volunteer Opportunities will host the Oxfam Hunger Banquet: A Call to Incorporate One's Beliefs into a Lifetime of Action from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.



A Hunger Banquet is a banquet without much food. Each person who attends is randomly assigned a role. The Hunger Banquet is intended to raise awareness of the fate of millions of people. Sixty percent of attendees of this event will sit on the floor and have broth, 25 percent will serve themselves rice and beans, and 15 percent will enjoy a three-course meal.

Through this unique, interactive event we experience the challenges of those who have much less than we do. Only a few at the banquet will have a full meal, but all will leave more aware of the millions who struggle against hunger.

The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Ellie Collier at ellie@ovo.edu.

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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Ivany Calls For Unified Enrollment Endeavors

The University of St. Thomas community gathered on Thursday, Oct. 28, in Jones Hall to hear UST President Dr. Robert Ivany deliver the State of the University Address, "The Next Steps to Becoming a Great Catholic University."

This academic year, the University has experienced approximately a 5 percent decrease in projected revenue from tuition and special programs, resulting in a \$1.7 million shortfall.

In his column, "Conversation with the President," Ivany shared the University's intent to eliminate \$1 million from this year's budget and the remaining amount from fiscal year 2009-2010 without layoffs of faculty or staff.

"At St. Thomas, we have sufficient assets to weather any economic storm, provided we remain prudent in our spending and aggressive in our enrollment and retention effort," Ivany said. "We have the responsibility to balance the budget, and to place ourselves in the best possible position to continue to grow in the future, regardless of the financial winds blowing around us."

As enrollment continues to be a crucial issue, Ivany challenged every member of the faculty and staff to identify at least one potential student who would benefit from a University of St. Thomas education.

He highlighted five steps which will allow the University to grow:

- Complete the work to reform



the core curriculum by the fall of 2010.

- Institute a campus-wide effort to increase enrollment and student retention. Ivany set a future enrollment goal of 4,000 graduate and undergraduate students at UST
- Expand summer and non-traditional academic programs to prepare students for academic rigor. Ivany cited the success of the Mendenhall Summer Institute.
- Push forward to the 2010 completion goal for Cameron School of Business AACSB accreditation. AACSB accreditation will help increase enrollment and boost the University's reputation.
- Support efforts to reopen the University's School of Nursing.

"I realize that these initiatives are possible because of you," Ivany told the crowd. "You are St. Thomas. It's not programs, courses, policies or buildings. It's people like you who care deeply and unselfishly. We have a unique gift to share with our students: a Catholic, Basilian education. Now we must share that gift with more students."