

# Star View



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

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## University of St. Thomas Launches Music Preparatory School



**B**uilding on the University of St. Thomas Music Department's commitment to excellence in music education and community outreach, the University will offer private instruction to pre-college music students and non-traditional hobbyists by launching the Music Preparatory School.

The inaugural Theory, Music History and Performance class will be taught in late January 2009. The Music Preparatory School is a non-degree granting program that offers courses to students who are not seeking college credit for private lessons. However, pre-college lessons are available upon request.

Paul Krystofiak stands at the piano with his student, Michelle Shannahan, a State Collegiate Young Artist Piano Competition winner.

Paul Krystofiak, adjunct professor of music at UST, will serve as director of the Music Preparatory School. Krystofiak has served on the faculty of the University of St. Thomas since 1986, and holds degrees in piano performance and piano pedagogy on the graduate level. Krystofiak has served seven terms as president of the Houston Music Teachers Association and was honored by HMTA, receiving its Service Award and Teacher of the Year in 1993. He was also recognized as Faculty Advisor of the Year for his guidance with the UST chapter of the music fraternity. Every summer for the past 20 years, Krystofiak has hosted a UST piano camp for grades three extending through high school.

"These classes are affordable and students will receive a high level of instruction," said Krystofiak. "I cannot think of a better investment than nurturing our young people.

What better way to incite their intellect and sense of beauty than to support an inspiring music education."

Music Preparatory private lessons are available to third to 12th grade students. For additional requirements and information on private lesson fees, contact Paul Krystofiak at 713-525-3566 or [krystop@stthom.edu](mailto:krystop@stthom.edu).



**"The knowledge I acquired from the Music Department at the University of St. Thomas is the single most important element that I credit for a successful musical career. If you are serious about getting an opportunity in the extremely competitive music business, I suggest that you consider the challenging and rewarding musical education from the University of St. Thomas."**

**- Walter Suhr, Class of 1989,  
Band leader of Mango Punch!**

## On the Web: Read New Faculty Excellence Profiles

[www.stthom.edu/facultyexcellenceprofiles](http://www.stthom.edu/facultyexcellenceprofiles)



### **Bornigia Brings Creativity, Humor to Her Classes**

Dr. Livia Bornigia strives to engage the students in her communication classes, encouraging them

to express themselves.



### **Frohlich Shapes Students, Science One Building Block At a Time**

UST Biology Professor Don Frohlich is among the legions of teaching scientists who, without fanfare, never let up

in their expectation for daily excellence.



### **Garcia-Contreras Inspires Students to Eradicate Global Poverty**

Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras shares an urgent message with students. He teaches about the weakest voices on the planet – those living on \$2 or less a day.



### **George Offers Current Outsourcing Research, Industry Insight**

Dr. Beena George continues to be active in her field of research and provides opportunities for students to gain meaningful hands-on insight into the global outsourcing industry.



### **Maynard Charges UST to Reflect on Gratitude**

The Gratitude Project began as an outgrowth of Dr. Elizabeth Maynard's positive psychology class. This is just one of the creative ideas that make Maynard's teaching stand out.

## Betty Kaffenberger Celebrates Momentous Year at UST

Reaching two major milestones, 2008 marked a banner year for **Betty Kaffenberger**, archives records coordinator and the University's longest-serving staff member. Kaffenberger was honored for her 50 years of service to the University and also celebrated her 80th birthday.



Kaffenberger began her career at UST as secretary to the director of development in March of 1948, less than a year after the University officially opened its doors.

Over the years, Kaffenberger has worked in many capacities including secretary to the director of development, secretary to the president, secretary to the treasurer, payroll clerk, supervisor of payroll and benefits, director of financial aid, assistant to the treasurer, and director of personnel/payroll. In December 1993, Kaffenberger retired, only to return in 1998 to cofound the archives with Betty Fischer.

"I am extremely proud to have been a part of the University of St. Thomas for all these years. It is

very rewarding to see the campus grow from only one block – bordered by Montrose, Yoakum,

Sul Ross and West Alabama – to what it is today," Kaffenberger said. "I have been privileged to work under the leadership of all the University presidents, and now I have the honor of working in the

archives where I can help preserve the University's history and treasures."

Kaffenberger said her deep affection for the University always gave her a reason to return.

"My love for the University that keeps me coming back," she said. "I truly believe it's the place for me to be. St. Thomas has given so much to the Houston community and continues to be a gift to the city."

When UST recognized Kaffenberger's 50th employment anniversary, the University made a contribution to the Wayne Kaffenberger Endowed Scholarship Fund, which Kaffenberger established in honor of her late son.

## Support Athletics: Join Champions Club

As UST continues to expand the Athletic Department, a booster organization called the *Champions Club* was developed to strengthen the University of St. Thomas intercollegiate athletics program by providing vital financial assistance.

In 2008, the Lady Celts volleyball team finished 20-11 and reached the NAIA National Tournament, while the men's soccer team finished .500. With men's basketball restarting in 2009-2010, UST athletics is poised to become a tremendous asset to the University's campus life.

To become a member of the Champions Club, call Todd Smith at 713-831-7214 or visit [www.stthom.edu/athletics](http://www.stthom.edu/athletics).

## “The Ripest Fruit:” Aquinas as Commentator on the Letters of St. Paul



It is particularly fitting that, during the period which the Catholic Church has proclaimed The Year of St. Paul, the annual Aquinas Lecture at the University of St. Thomas should focus

on Thomas Aquinas as a Pauline commentator. The Center for Thomistic Studies will host Aquinas Lecture speaker Father Leo Elders, SVD, as he delivers, “The Ripest Fruit:” Aquinas as Commentator on the Letters of St. Paul, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29 in Cullen Hall.

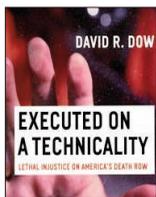
It is only recently that Thomists have become interested in Aquinas’ Biblical commentaries and have begun to discover the unsuspected treasures of these numerous texts. Thomas’s lectures on the Letters of Paul have been called “the ripest fruit and the most perfect example of medieval scholastic exegesis.”



Modern scriptural exegesis is marked by its philological and historical orientation. The medieval theologians, by contrast, examined in the first place and above all the doctrine contained in the text and its relevance for the moral life. This makes the study of the commentaries of St. Thomas a spiritual excursion through Sacred Scripture. We listen in silence and open our mind as part of the history of salvation unfolds before our eyes.

Fr. Elders holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Utrecht (1954) and an master’s and doctorate in philosophy from the University of Montréal, Canada (1959). He is a Fellow of the Pontifical Academy of Saint Thomas Aquinas (1979) and is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Maritain Association (2006). He was a visiting professor at the Center for Thomistic Studies at UST from 1981-1987.

## Dow Lectures On Executed on a Technicality



The University of St. Thomas Social Justice Committee, Pierre Grandjouan, Consul General of France, and the Board of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty will host “Executed on a Technicality,” a lecture given by renowned death penalty expert

Professor David Dow at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20 in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.

Dow is the Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Houston, founder of the Texas Innocence Network, and litigation director for the Texas Defender Service. Professor Dow has represented more than 100 death row prisoners in their state and federal appeals. He is the author of *Executed on a Technicality: Lethal Injustice on America’s Death Row* and *Machinery of Death: The Reality of America’s Death Penalty Regime*.

A \$25 tax-deductible donation to the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is suggested for each attendee, but students will be admitted for free.

## Religion, Mental Health, Search for Meaning

What can the perspectives of psychotherapy and religious faith teach each other? What road-blocks might one encounter in the attempt to integrate therapeutic technique and religious tradition? These questions will be explored at “Religion, Mental Health, and the Search for Meaning,” held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in Jones Hall. The event is cosponsored by the UST Psychology Department, the Center for Faith & Culture, Houston Psychological Association, the Jung Center, Mental Health America of Greater Houston and The Institute for Spirituality & Health.

Clergy and psychotherapists will discuss the universal search for meaning and the value of religious and psychological approach. For more information, contact Dr. Elizabeth Maynard at 713-525-6967.



## STAR VIEW

### HOLY LAND

A group of 27 UST faculty, staff, alumni and friends traveled to the Holy Land for the Christmas season, from Dec. 16 to Jan. 1. The trip, led by Sister Paula Jean Miller, FSE, with Father Daniel Callam, CSB, as chaplain, was sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and the Catholic Studies Program.



Participants were able to celebrate the liturgy in all the major holy sites in the Galilee and Jerusalem areas. They spent Christmas Eve at Shepherd's Field and Christmas Day in Bethlehem. The group is pictured at Qumran, located on the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea.



### UST/ARCHDIOCESAN ESSAY CONTEST

Approximately 2,500 essays written by third-12th-grade students from 43 Archdiocese Catholic schools were read by UST faculty, staff and friends on Jan. 14. The essays were submitted for the Jan. 30 UST/Archdiocesan Essay Contest. To read more about the contest and a list of readers, go to [www.stthom.edu/catholicconnections](http://www.stthom.edu/catholicconnections).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Fr. Michael Buentello, CSB, will lead 15 UST students to the **Texas Rally for Life** on **Saturday, Jan. 24** in Austin. The group will join more than 2,000 fellow Texans at numerous events including a prayer vigil at South Austin Planned Parenthood Facility, "Rosary For Life," Diocesan Pro-Life Mass, "March for Life," down Congress Avenue to the Capitol; and "Rally for Life," on the steps of the Capitol.



**Welcome Week** offers fun activities to usher in the new semester including Presidential Inauguration events televised throughout the day on Tuesday, Jan. 20 in the Old Bookstore; motivational speaker Geoff Morris at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 in Ahern; a Student Activities Board Welcome Back BBQ from 12:30-2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 22 in the Old Bookstore; and a Winter Warm-Up at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23 in the Old Bookstore.

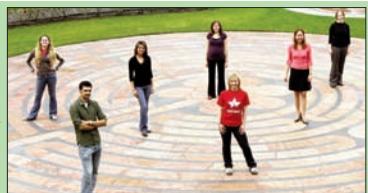


Join Campus Ministry for the **Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas** and reception from 12:45 – 3 p.m. **Thursday, Jan. 29**. The Mass is held in the Jerabeck Gym with a reception following in Scanlan. Principal celebrant is Father Robert Barringer, CSB. Faculty, staff and students participate in the readings, the prayers of the faithful, the procession of gifts, and music.

## BRAGGING RIGHTS

**We're on the beat looking for stories about UST's best and brightest. Take the opportunity to brag about students, professors, colleagues, unique classes, new program developments, grants, research (faculty and student), service learning projects and graduation stories.**

**Contact Sandy Soliz at 713-525-3116 or [solizs@stthom.edu](mailto:solizs@stthom.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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