

Speak Up Faculty: Share Your Expertise

Ask any student on campus what they like most about the University of St. Thomas – the most common answer is the individual attention they receive from the engaging professors. The strength of the University relies on our dedicated and distinguished faculty.

As the entire campus community collaborates to attract exceptional students each semester, the Office of Marketing Communications (MarCom) is shining the spotlight on faculty accomplishments including grants, unique research, programs and courses, service learning projects and the subtle, yet vital victories that happen in classrooms every day.

In addition to traditional media promotion and regular features in the UST Online Newsroom, Communications has launched a



new series of faculty excellence profiles, which can be found on the Center for Faculty Excellence page. Communications is updating the Faculty Experts Guide, a roster of faculty members and their areas of expertise which will be made available to the media. Serving as a faculty expert to the media not only provides further exposure for the University, but also gives professors additional opportunities to share their knowledge with a wider audience and brings recognition, prestige and credibility to their programs and research. Check out “UST in the News” on the Online Newsroom, a rolling newsfeed that summarizes broadcast interviews and links to online stories featuring UST faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Widening the scope, University of St. Thomas faculty experts will also be highlighted on ProfNet, an online community of nearly 14,000 professional communicators that connects national and international reporters to nearly 25,000 expert profiles. To increase UST’s prominence on search engines, the Communications staff is also working to optimize UST online news on Google and Yahoo.

WELCOME BACK



"It is wonderful to have everyone back after the Christmas break. I hope everyone enjoyed their time with family and friends. We look forward to a challenging yet rewarding year as we collaborate to retain our hardworking and deserving students for the coming year."

- President Robert Ivany

Osborne Receives Humboldt Fellowship

Dr. Thomas M. Osborne Jr., assistant professor of philosophy, has been awarded the prestigious Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers for the 2009-2010 academic year.



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, first established in 1860, is named for Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), naturalist and explorer, and considered to be the founder of the sciences of physical geography, climatology, ecology and oceanography. The Humboldt Foundation promotes "academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from abroad and from Germany" and allows the recipient to carry out a long-term research project in cooperation with an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

Dr. Osborne will be working at *Thomas-Institut* in Cologne, Germany with an internationally renowned group of researchers in the area of medieval philosophy. His project is a book to be titled, *Human Action in Aquinas, Scotus, and Ockham*. The work will address the development of central themes in moral psychology and ethics through these three influential medieval philosophers.

Campus Ministry Hosts Continuous Bible-Reading

The University of St. Thomas invites faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and the Houston community to attend an inspiring ecumenical demonstration of faithful unity when they host, "Word of God: The Bible Unites," from Friday, Feb. 20 to Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Chapel of St. Basil.

This inaugural event offers guests the opportunity to witness a public proclamation of the Word of God through a continuous reading of the Bible. People of all faiths including various Catholic and non-Catholic religious leaders, community leaders, Catholic high school and grade school principals, UST faculty staff and students will unite to read the Bible aloud from Genesis to Revelation.

An opening ceremony featuring all special guests including religious and civic leaders will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 20. At the opening ceremony, each special guest will read from the Bible. Readings will proceed continuously with volunteer readers, stopping only for regularly scheduled Masses Friday at 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and Saturday 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. The Bible will be read in Spanish both Friday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 21 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. A closing ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 22.

For more information, contact Fr. Mike Buentello, CSB, at buentem@stthom.edu or call 713-525-6981.

On the Web: New Faculty Excellence Profiles

www.stthom.edu/facultyexcellenceprofiles



Bornigia Brings Creativity, Humor to Communication Classes

Dr. Livia Bornigia strives to engage the students in her communication classes, encouraging them to express themselves. But even she was speechless for a moment when a student giving a presentation in her public speaking course ripped off his shirt and started performing karate moves.



Frohlich Shapes Students, Science One Building Block At a Time

Any scientist dreams of making a groundbreaking discovery that will improve the human condition on every front, but those discoveries are made possible only by legions of teaching scientists who, without fanfare, never let up in their expectation for daily excellence. UST Biology Professor Don Frohlich is one of those educators.



Garcia-Contreras Inspires Students to Eradicate Global Poverty

When Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras teaches, he can see the frustration in his students' eyes. His message is urgent. The University of St. Thomas assistant professor in the International Studies Department teaches about the weakest voices on the planet – those living on \$2 or less a day.



George Offers Current Outsourcing Research, Industry Insight

Outsourcing is a \$6 trillion industry. Tapping into that market, Dr. Beena George, Cameron School of Business' resident expert on outsourcing, 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 Community to Reflect on Gratitude

The Gratitude Project began as an outgrowth of Dr. Elizabeth Maynard's positive psychology class with one panel of white paper posted in O'Rourke Hall. The scraps of colored paper bore the heartfelt scripted notes all listing something for which the writers were grateful. This is just one of the creative ideas that make Maynard's teaching stand out.

Students Thank Faculty on New Web Page

The Center for Faculty Excellence designed the Thank-A-Prof Web page for students to share their gratitude. Read a few of the comments UST students posted about faculty and check out the site at www.stthom.edu/thankaprof.

Dr. Mark Nicholas: You push your students to excellence. You have helped me become a better writer. The readings for your class are exhaustive and rewarding. Thank you for intense discussions

that combine text, theory, and connections to the present-day. Thank you for exposing me to a new world and geobody of ideas.

-Anonymous Student

Father Joseph Pilsner has just the right amount of energy and sense of humor for an 8 a.m. class. He is an easy teacher to understand, and he will always go out of his way to help students.

-Anonymous Student

“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.”

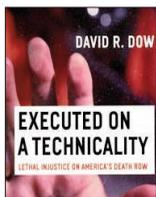
Modern scriptural exegesis is marked by its philological and historical orientation. The medieval theologians, by contrast, examined in the first place and above all the doctrine contained in the text and its relevance for the moral life. This makes the study of the commentaries of St. Thomas a spiritual 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 BA in philosophy from the University of Utrecht (1954) and an M.A. and Ph.D. 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 visiting professor at the Center for Thomistic Studies at University of St. Thomas from 1981-87.



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,” 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 co sponsored 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.



Development Efforts Underway During Capital Campaign Quiet Phase

The new year opens with the “quiet” phase of the Capital Campaign moving toward a public kickoff in 2010 under the leadership of **Liz Ghrist**, chair of the Vision 2010 leadership team.

According to Ghrist, it is common practice to dedicate several years to preparing for a campaign. During this “quiet” phase, key organizational steps are undertaken. Since the December 2005 close of the last successful campaign, which achieved \$67

million, steady progress has ensued. In 2008, a major market study was conducted to guide campaign development. Major donors and leaders have been identified for solicitation and recruitment. Also, in 2008, the “quiet” phase secured three multi-million dollar commitments—a school record—which fund the Mendenhall Achievement Center, the reintroduction of nursing, and a leadership chair. Comprehensive UST priorities and the campaign

goal will be revealed at the 2010 kickoff.

“We are determined to find the leadership and resources needed for next stage of comprehensive UST growth,” notes Ghrist. “I urge campus community members to make an annual fund gift, each according to his or her means; campus participation is important to gain external funders’ support.”



UPCOMING EVENTS



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.



The Office of Sponsored Research and the Center for Faculty Excellence invite faculty to the **Grant Incubator Workshop** from 8 a.m. to noon, Friday, **Jan. 16** in the Ahern Room, Jerabeck Center. Faculty participants will learn the do’s and don’ts of grant writing, research and program development, how to create budget justifications and grant narratives, and mind mapping of proposed projects.

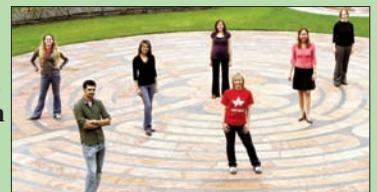


Join the Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations as they cheer on fellow UST alumni and students during the **Chevron Houston Marathon** at 7 a.m. Sunday, **Jan. 18** in front of Link Lee Mansion. Breakfast goods are available with a \$5 donation. Proceeds benefit the UST Alumni Association. Call Brenda Benkenstein at 713-942-3407 for more information.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

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

Contact Sandy Soliz at 713-525-3116 or 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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