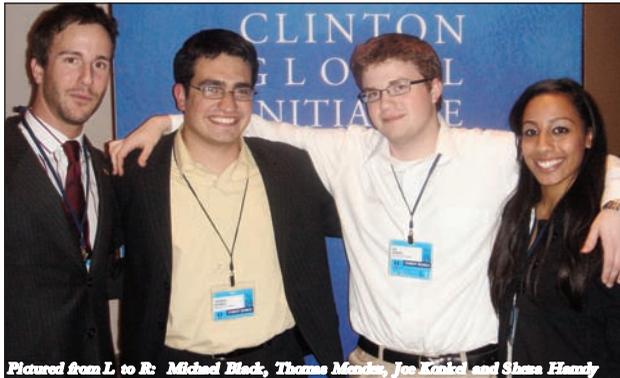


UST MicroCredit Program Joins World Leaders on Global Challenges



Pictured from L. to R.: Michael Black, Thomas Mendez, Joe Konkel and Sheza Hamdy

For UST senior Michael Black, seeing more than 1,000 college students in one place committed to humanitarian action on a global scale, moved him beyond motivation and inspiration. Representing the UST MicroCredit Program, Black, Thomas Mendez, Joe Konkel and Sheza Hamdy spent the weekend of Feb. 14 at the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) held at the University of Texas at Austin.

Building on the successful model of the Clinton Global Initiative, which brings together world leaders to take action on global challenges, Former President Bill Clinton launched the Clinton Global Initiative University in 2007 to engage the next

generation of leaders on college campuses around the world. Each year, CGIU hosts a meeting for students, national youth organizations, and university officials to discuss solutions to pressing global issues. Participants convened with a common goal to make a difference in CGIU's five focus areas: education, energy and climate change, global health, peace and human rights, and poverty alleviation.

The students networked with various corporate, political and nonprofit organization representatives. This included former President Clinton, Paul Begala, former Clinton presidential aide, celebrity activists Matthew McConaughey and Natalie Portman, university presidents and many more.

UST students participated in workshops that included tips on expanding organizations, creating infrastructure and gaining publicity. The conference included a service excursion to a local Austin park. Black said the most profound impact of the CGIU experience was the strength and unity of the students' desire to change the world. "It's easy to get lost in the immensity of problems like global poverty, and it's easy to think that those problems are impossible to attack," Black said. "In a sense, that's true, because no single program or service will eradicate poverty. But by networking with other university students, we can all act together to be agents of change, to harness the humanitarian impact of youth and to find multiple solutions to global problems."



Thomas Mendez and Former President Bill Clinton.

UST Board of Directors Approves New 2009/2010 Tuition

The UST Board of Directors approved a 6.54 percent tuition increase for undergraduates and 6.51 percent increase for graduates during the 2009/2010 academic year. This year's tuition increase is slightly less than the previous year's increase of 6.8 percent. The University will freeze room and board rates to ease the cost for students who reside on campus. Laboratory and technology fees will be frozen as well.

During the April Board of Directors meeting, Dr. Robert Ivany will ask for an increase in the University's scholarship funding to \$7 million to partially offset the cost of tuition.

The University of St. Thomas remains committed to keeping tuition and fees as low as possible despite the uncertainty of the economic environment.

Upcoming Events



The University of St. Thomas Drama Program will present a production of “Charley’s Aunt” from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday,

Feb. 26, 27, 28 and Wednesday-Saturday, **March 4, 5, 6, and 7**. The performance will be held in Jones Theatre.

Charley’s Aunt is a world famous farce that tells the tale of young sweethearts, a wealthy aunt and comic confusion. For tickets call, 713-525-3520.



The Center for Faith and Culture invites the public to the “**St. Paul & Evangelization**” Pauline Year Lecture Series featuring guest

lecturers Dr. Ben Witherington, Dr. Carolyn Osiek, Dr. Judy Ryan, Dr. David B. Capes and His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo at 7 p.m., Wednesdays **March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1** at St. Mary’s Seminary.

For more information, contact 713-686-6844, ext. 229 or cfc@stthom.edu.



Join the Center for Irish Studies for “**St. Patrick’s Day Mass**” 10 a.m.

Tuesday, **March 17**, in the Chapel of St. Basil, celebrated by

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. A traditional Irish brunch will follow the Mass. The ticket price for the brunch is \$15 per person in cash or check. RSVP by March 6 to 713-525-3592 or irish-studies@stthom.edu.

UST Named to President’s Higher Education Honor Roll

The University of St. Thomas was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service to America’s communities.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees

for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

“The University of St. Thomas is extremely proud to have been named to the President’s Community Service Honor Roll for a second year,” said Jean-Philippe Faletta, associate professor of political science and director of service learning. “Academic service learning and civic engagement are a natural fit with our Catholic mission and with the values of the University’s founders, the Basilian Fathers.”

The Service Learning Program at the University of St. Thomas enables students to connect classroom theory with practical experience in the community, and offer resources to meet the needs of the Greater Houston Metropolitan area. The University responds creatively to challenges posed by poverty, globalization, limited economic resources and changing demographics, as well as to the mission of Catholic universities delineated in *Ex Corde Ecclesia*.

The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is presented during the annual conference of the American Council on Education.

Recent studies have underlined the importance of service-learning and volunteering to college students. In 2006, 2.8 million college students gave more than 297 million hours of volunteer service, according to the Corporation’s Volunteering in America 2007 study.

“In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges,” said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll.



Lenten Schedule:

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent in the Chapel of St. Basil at 1 p.m. (right after the 12:30 p.m. Mass)

Lenten Holy Hour with Adoration and music: Every Monday during Lent from 7 – 8 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Basil

On-going Adoration Hours: Monday afternoons from 1– 5 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays

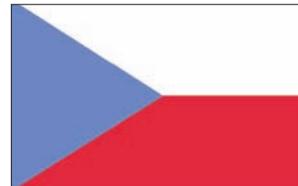
Living Stations: Catholic Studies – Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. – Academic Mall

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry: Friday, April 3, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. - Crooker Patio

Lenten Renewal Concert: Tony Melendez, internationally acclaimed guitarist – Friday, April 3, 7-9 p.m. - Jerabeck Center - Tickets: \$3 advance, \$5 at the door. For reservations, call 713-525-3149.

Doherty Library Hosts Annual Czech Exhibit

The Annual Czech Heritage Exhibit returns to the University of St. Thomas February 23 – March 23 at the Doherty Library, 1100 W. Main. This exhibit features carved crystal and rare stones from the Czech Republic, as well as a collection of classic written work and photographs.



Designed by the Rev. Paul Chovanec, pastor of St. Justin Martyr Catholic Community and former board member for the Czech Center Museum of Houston, the exhibit gives special attention to the long and complicated history of the Czech people and the way major global events have affected their cultural development. Guests will also learn about local Czech heritage societies, events, and the Czech Center Museum of Houston.

The exhibit is available to view during library hours. For more information, contact the Doherty Library reference desk at 713-525-2188.

UST Community Offers Free Tax Preparation

Professor Ramon Fernandez and more than 50 UST accounting students, alumni, friends will provide free income tax return preparation and electronic filing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays until April 15 at the MD Anderson YMCA, 705 Cavalcade.



The group will offer these services as part of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The UST/YMCA site has been the largest one in the city, where UST volunteers complete about 100-200 returns per Saturday. Managed and run completely by UST students and alumni, the program offers a 100 percent computerized VITA site and free electronic filing as well.

To avoid the long lines, volunteers will offer tax services in a separate room to the UST community on the Saturdays: March 7, 14, 28, and April 4. To see a full list of services and documents required for tax preparation, go to www.stthom.edu.

UST Learning and Writing Center Garners Prestigious Training Award

The tutoring program of the Learning and Writing Center was recently certified by the College Reading and Learning Association under its International Tutor Training Certification Program. The LWC tutors have been receiving ongoing specialized training in tutoring and now have the opportunity of becoming certified as a result.

Since 1989, the CRLA has certified more than 1,000 college and university tutorial programs in the United States and internationally. International Tutor Training Certification Program reinforces successful tutoring practices and sets the standard for tutor training. The UST Learning and Writing Center has earned all three levels of certification – regular, advanced and master – which require 10 hours of training and 25 hours of tutoring. For more information about the Learning and Writing Center, contact Dr. Sophia Esquiff Von Holden at 713-525-3175.



Cardinal Newman Society Names UST “Best Buy” Among Catholic Universities

A new independent report on college costs published by the Center for the Study of Catholic Higher Education named the University of St. Thomas among the 21 most affordable and faithful Catholic colleges and universities in the United States.

The Center – the research division of The Cardinal Newman Society – commissioned this report in response to the economic recession as a way of helping parents and students as they consider various options for colleges. The study compares the Catholic colleges recommended in *The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College: What to Look for and Where to Find It*, with other Catholic colleges and other private colleges on issues such as tuition, institutional aid, student debt and overall affordability. The Catholic colleges profiled in *The Newman Guide* were chosen for their quality education and for the priority that they place on Catholic identity in all aspects of campus life.

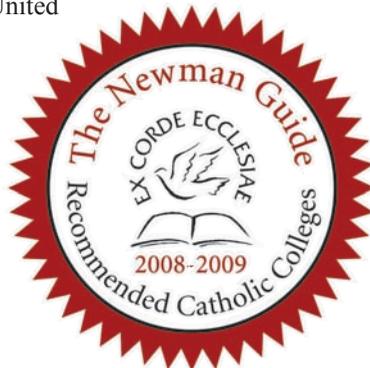
“In these challenging economic times, this news will certainly be a reassurance for students and parents to learn that UST’s outstanding quality education has garnered recognition for providing an affordable value competitive with other Catholic colleges and private colleges throughout the United States,” said UST President Dr. Robert Ivany.

Among the study’s key findings:

- Average tuition for students at the recommended faithful Catholic colleges is about \$3,000 less than at other Catholic colleges and about \$1,000 less than the average private college.
- The Newman Guide colleges provide students a larger portion of institutional aid (39 percent) than the average private college (29 percent).
- Students at the Catholic recommended colleges graduate with fewer loans and less debt on average, about \$2,000 less than at private colleges and \$1,400 less than other Catholic colleges.

“We have always believed that the recommended colleges were ‘best buys’ for families based on fidelity to Catholic teachings, but with the publication of this affordability study we now know that they are also truly economic ‘best buys’ too,” noted Joseph A. Esposito, editor of *The Newman Guide* and director of the Center.

The study was conducted by Andrew Gillen, Ph.D., a leading expert on college affordability issues and the research director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity. The study is available online at TheNewmanGuide.com.



Graduate Open House Events

Prepare for your future now and explore graduate school options. The University of St. Thomas will host three graduate open house events in March. These sessions will provide in-depth information about:

- **Cameron School of Business** from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 in Welder Hall: For more information, call Dr. Natasha Delcours at 713-525-2101 or Sandra Flanagan at 713-525-2100. RSVP at www.stthom.edu/csbopenhouse.
- **Master in Education** from 10-11 a.m., March 14 in Malloy Hall. RSVP Online: www.choose-ust.org/education Call 713-525-3540 for more information.
- **Master in Liberal Arts** from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 28 in Malloy Hall. RSVP online: www.choose-ust.org/mla Call 713-525-6951 for more information.

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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