

Star View



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University of St. Thomas Students Show Creativity with New PSA



Pictured from left to right: Sarah Pendley, Holly Beall and Cimela Kidonakis

With the right message, three UST students have found that a 30-second public service announcement can pack a powerful punch. Inspired by Bible's capacity to unify the faithful, Cimela Kidonakis, Holly Beall and Sarah Pendley applied their personal creativity and the skills they learned in communication classes to produce a PSA to promote UST's inaugural ecumenical continuous Bible-reading event, "The Word of God: The Bible Unites."

The students were approached about the project by Sandra Soliz, director of Communications, Sister Maura Behrenfeld, FSE, director of Campus Ministry, Fr. Michael Buentello, CSB, and John Butler, adjunct professor of communication and

newscast director for Fox News 26 KRIV. Kidonakis said the three students collaborated to devise a concept, story board, script and production schedule. They filmed diverse individuals including a young boy, a fireman, a soldier, a priest, a nurse and a rabbi to read the first verse of the Bible. Set against the backdrop of the heart of Houston skyline, the readers' voices transition seamlessly to symbolize a continuous reading of the Bible.

"Our target audience is ecumenical, so we wanted to use the first verse of Genesis because most people are familiar with, 'In the beginning ...'" Kidonakis said. "We also wanted community and civic leaders to whom everyone can relate to read the Bible."

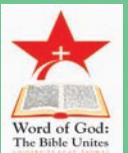
Compensating for the unpredictable natural lighting from outdoor filming, the students acquired a new skill by using blue screen technology at UST's communication video editing lab. Though they have all produced previous video projects, this will be the first time their work will be aired on local network affiliates.

"Producing a public service announcement was a great opportunity for our students," Butler said. "It allowed them to put into practice the concepts and skills they learned in the classroom. In addition, the benefit of being responsible to a client was an invaluable real-world experience that will help prepare them for the job market."

Pendley, who graduated in December, volunteered her time to work on the project. "This is a great way to invite the community to the University and to use our common faith in the Word of God to bridge the gap between different denominations and religions." To view the PSA search for Word of God the Bible Unites on YouTube.

Join UST Campus Ministry and HoustonBelief.com for an inspirational ecumenical event where the Bible will be read from cover to cover beginning on Friday February 20, pausing only for scheduled Masses, ending on Sunday **Feb. 22**.

For more information or to participate in reading for a 15-minute segment contact UST Campus Ministry at 713-525-3589.



Upcoming Events



The Center for International Studies and the International Studies Society present, "Journey Into America," a lecture featuring Ambassador

Akbar Ahmed, 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 in Tiller Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

Ambassador Ahmed is the former high commissioner of Pakistan to Great Britain and has advised Prince Charles and other world leaders on Islam.

For more information, contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530 or garciad@stthom.edu.



The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will host the 3rd Artful Fat FAFSA, 6 p.m., Monday Feb. 23, 2009 in Guinan Hall (Lobby).

The exhibit opens Feb. 23, in the Guinan Lobby 6 - 7:30 p.m. The art exhibit will remain open to the UST community, Feb 24 - 25.

For more information, contact Lynda M. LeClaire at 713-525-2170 or leclair@stthom.edu..



Please Join Dr. Robert Ivany as he cuts the ribbon at the official grand opening of Quiznos on campus, at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at

Crooker Center. Quiznos is open every day from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, contact Aramark at Arellano-thomas@aramark.com.

UST Hosts "Surviving the Financial Crisis" Symposium

The National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA) and the University of St. Thomas Cameron School of Business will bring the "Your Money Bus Tour," to the UST campus for a symposium on "Surviving the Financial Crisis," from 9 to noon on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Welder Hall, 3800 Yoakum.



The symposium will feature speakers on such topics as debt and savings, retirement, taxes, mortgages, asset allocation, and titling accounts. In addition, participants will be able to have their pressing financial questions and concerns answered by experienced financial advisors.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Professor Ramon Fernandez at 713-525-2103.

Sr. Augusta Collins, Ph.D., Speaks on Benedictine Ecology

Sr. Augusta Collins, Ph.D., is a Benedictine Sister at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn. The Abbey is located on approximately 400 acres of both wild and cultivated land, including a non-commercial farm which is professionally operated by the community.



With advanced degrees in plant science and agronomy, this cloistered nun is both a scientist and a religious dedicated to living sustainably in community on the land. Sr. Augusta manages the pastures and hayfields of the Abbey as well as their Belted Galloway beef herd. She also helps with care of the apple orchard and grapevines and management of their woodlands.

The Benedictine Spirituality and Ecology symposium will be held, Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. For more information, contact Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, at 713-525-3894.

The 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 two young sweet-hearts, a wealthy aunt and comic confusion. This farce has moved millions to tears of laughter. For tickets call, 713-525-3520.



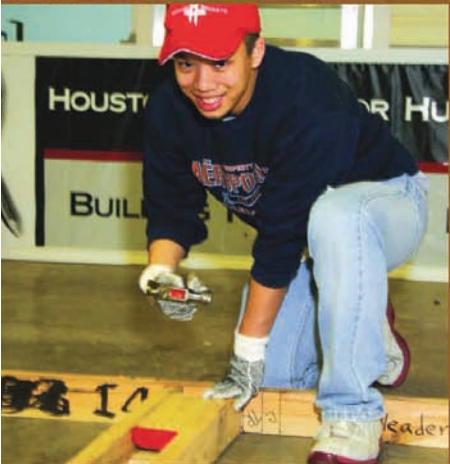


President's Day of Service "Relief Roundup" Saturday, Feb. 28 8 a.m. to noon



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True to the pioneering spirit of the West, where everyone pitches in when help is needed, the 5th Annual President's Day of Service is dubbed "Relief Roundup." Just as a rodeo has something for everyone, Dr. Robert Ivany is wrangling up students, faculty, staff and alumni for a variety of community service projects.

Sign up for these volunteer service projects:

- Seabrook Ike Relief Project
- Care Packages for the Troops
- Tree Plantings
- Play Softball with Best Buddies

For more information on each project, go to www.stthom.edu/ovo.



University of St. Thomas to Host the Great Southwest Mock Trial Tournament

The University of St. Thomas Fighting Celt Mock Trial teams will host the Great Southwest Mock Trial Tournament, Saturday- Sunday, Feb. 21-22. The UST teams will compete among 23 total university teams. The trials will be staged throughout the weekend at the Harris County Civil Courthouse, 201 Caroline.

UST began participating in mock trial tournaments in 2007 through the American Mock Trial Association. In the first year of participation, with only one St. Thomas team, UST won the "Best Lawyer Award" and two "Best Witness" awards and was recognized as being the best first-year team in AMTA history. In 2008, UST won two "Best Witness" awards. Both years the UST teams came close to the National Championship Rounds, and were within the top eight teams. The University of St. Thomas mock trial teams compete against, Arizona (A-team), Baylor, Collin College, UT - El Paso, UT - Pan American, UH, Air Force Academy, Houston Baptist, Rice University, Southern Methodist, Southwestern, Texas A&M, UT-Austin, and UT-Dallas. UST is the smallest university that participates the Southwest region.

"The American Mock Trial Association (AMTA)

asked UST to host the tournament this year in Houston because they were impressed with the performance by our teams and coaches and their desire to teach legal principles and professionalism," said Jeremy Heallen, and Pre-Law adjunct professor.



Members of 2008/2009 UST Mock Trial team are Emily Cook, Joe Konkel, Jeff Yurcak, Elizabeth Alexander, Judith C. Conover, Anthony Vargas, Kate Dickinson, Monica Winch, Rafael Casas and Merrari Zambrano. Coaches are Kelly Heallen, Lisa Linney, Jeremy Heallen, Jason Cox and Professor Rick Young. The teams were sponsored by Bracewell Guliani, David Beck of Beck, Redden & Secrest, Craig and Heallen, UST Prelaw, American Mock Trial Association, Tracey Law Firm, UST Alumni Board of Directors, Thomson Reuters, and Vinson Elkins.

UST Offers Advice on College Financial Aid at Fat FAFSA event

The University of St. Thomas Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will host the fifth annual Fat FAFSA from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the Jerabeck Athletic Center. This annual festive Mardi Gras-themed event is dedicated to promoting student participation in the financial aid process and early completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (February is Financial Aid Awareness Month).

Student loan providers, community leaders and the UST Financial Aid's professional staff will be on site to provide information on the FAFSA process, scholarships, grants, student and parent loans, college work study and loan consolidation. Computers will also be available for students who want to apply for aid.

The event features traditional Mardi Gras fare including king cakes and red beans and rice. Houston-based "indie pop" band, Wild Moccasins, will perform live during the event. Guests can participate in fun inflatable "jousting" and try their hand at catching fists full of flying cash in the FAT FAFSA Famous Money Machine.

Fat FAFSA is free and open to high school and college-age students and their families. Contact Scott Moore at the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at 713-525-2151.



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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