Star View

UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS
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UST Mourns Tragic Loss of Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe

Beloved friend, colleague and professor Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe, director of the University of St. Thomas Center for International Studies, died tragically in a traffic accident along with his 9-month-old son, Julian, on Thursday, March 19, in Santa Clara, Peru. The accident occurred when a truck driver lost control and struck several cars. Wensjoe's wife, Joanne Houck, survived the accident and was hospitalized in critical condition.

Wensjoe, 59, was on sabbatical from the University. He had traveled with his family to his native Peru to oversee operations on a school, *Colegio 1270 San Juan Bautista*, in the Huyacán district of Lima. Wensjoe's dream was to improve education for the poor of Peru. In 2004, Wensjoe created the Peruvian Education Project (PEP), with the help of fellow UST faculty, students and friends. PEP seeks to provide better educational opportunities for students ages 12 to 17 years who show academic promise despite living in the most destitute shantytowns of Lima.

Wensjoe served on the UST faculty since 1994, and as the director of the Center for International Studies since 2005. Wensjoe received the St. Thomas Aquinas Award for Excellence in Teaching. He held the Endowed Cullen Trust for Higher Education/Fayez Sarofim Chair in International Studies.

Leading one of the most popular majors on campus, Wensjoe revised the degree plan to meet the demands of the global market place and challenges of graduate/professional school. His dedication to the development of global citizens is evidenced by the expansion of the Study Abroad Program, which has received national recognition. He was one of the most highly respected professors in International Studies. Under his leadership, the Center sponsored numerous well-known speakers and dignitaries to come to campus to discuss important global issues with students, faculty, and staff.

He earned graduate degrees in economics and political science and a doctorate in political science from the University of Houston. He was UST's resident political economist, and his teaching responsibilities included courses in International Politics, International Political Economy and Latin America.

The University will conduct a prayer service, in remembrance of Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe and his son, Julian, at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 in the Chapel of St. Basil, 3802 Yoakum. We ask you to keep them and Joanne in your prayers, and to pray for her recovery. A memorial service will be planned at a future date.

Members of the UST community in need of grief counseling are encouraged to call UST Counseling and Disability Services ar 713-525-6953.

Gustavo's ability to touch the lives of individuals in the University community and the world at large was legendary. The Center thrived under his leadership; there will forever be a hole in the fabric of our family where he stood.

-Dr. Linda Pett-Conklin

Upcoming Events

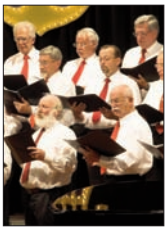
Large Garage Sale

It's time for spring cleaning. The Alumni Association invites the UST community to a large garage sale at 8 a.m., Saturday **March 28** at the Crooker Patio. Call Marty Thompson for drop off locations and times at 281-728-3156.

St. Paul and Evangelization

The Center for Faith and Culture invites you to the "St. Paul & Evangelization Lecture Series" 7 p.m. Wednesday **March 25** at St. Mary's Seminary. David B. Capes, Ph.D, is the speaker for this date. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo will speak April 1.

Choral Concert



Immerse yourself in the beautiful music which will be presented in the Spring Choral Concert: UST University Singers featuring Mozart's *Missa brevis*, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, **March 24** in the Chapel of St. Basil.

CFC Double Lecture

The Center for Faith and Culture presents two lectures by Author and Southern Methodist University professor Charles M. Wood, at 12:30 and 2 p.m. **March 23** in Sullivan Hall.

2009 I-Fest Celebration

The International Studies Society invites you to enjoy the International Festival (I-FEST), at 7 p.m. Thursday, **April 2**, on the Campus Life Mall. This is event will feature international food, dancers and artists.

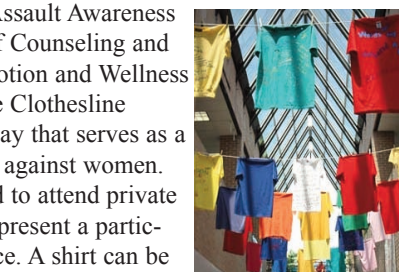
UST Reduces Required Hours for Scholarships

Beginning with the fall class, students are now only required to carry 12 hours per semester to maintain their scholarship status.

- Scholarships will be awarded based on 15 hours of enrollment.
- In the event a student does not enroll for 15 hours, it will be prorated to the number of hours the student enrolls (12, 13 or 14).
- If the student takes summer classes, they may use the portion of the scholarship they did not receive in the fall/spring semesters.
- Students will still only receive nine regular semesters of scholarship (fall/spring) or 126 hours for transfer students.
- Yearly totals per student will never exceed the initial 15 hour calculation.
- Students must still maintain 12 hours of enrollment per fall/spring term to keep their scholarship. Students who do not maintain 12 hours will lose their scholarship, but may appeal once.
- Students who have been placed on probation for any previous infraction will remain on probation per the terms and conditions in effect at the time of the infraction.
- Continuing students who wish to be classified under the new scholarship terms, must come to the Financial Aid Office and sign a new terms and conditions. Students who fail to do this by August 1 will remain under the old scholarship requirements of 14 hours per term.

For more information, contact Scott Moore at 713-525-215.

UST to Host Collaborative Clothesline Project



In recognition of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April, 2009), the offices of Counseling and Disability Services and Health Promotion and Wellness will host the Clothesline Project. The Clothesline Project is a collaborative visual display that serves as a testament to the problem of violence against women. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend private workshops to decorate a T-shirt to represent a particular person's experience with violence. A shirt can be made in recognition of a participant's loved one, for themselves, or as a general statement of support in the fight against sexual assault. The shirts will be hung up and displayed on "clotheslines" in Crooker Center.

The T-shirts are color-coded to represent specific types of violence. White represents women who died as a result of violence; yellow or beige represent battered or assaulted women; red, pink and orange represents survivor of rape or sexual assault; blue and green represent survivors of incest or sexual abuse and black represents women attacked or assaulted for political reasons.

Due to the sensitive nature of the purpose of the project, participant confidentiality is placed at a high priority. Participants must call Counseling and Disability Services at 713-525-2169 to make an appointment. A counselor will be available during every session.

The Center for Thomistic Studies and St. Joseph Medical Center will host, **"The Ethics of Organ Transplantation,"** Friday – Sunday, March 27 - 29 in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center. The interdisciplinary conference on medical and philosophical issues surrounding organ transplantation, will bring together experts from a variety of fields, such as philosophy, theology, and medicine. This conference features several talks on the controversial topics of brain death, the sale of organs and the dead donor rule.

Keynote speakers include: D. Alan Shewmon, M.D., professor of neurology and pediatrics, UCLA, speaking on brain death; Dr. Janet Smith, Fr. Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Issues, Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI, speaking on organ transplant and embryo adoption; Dr. A.A. Howsepian, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry, Veterans Administration Central California Health Care System, speaking on organ transplantation and anencephalic infants; Dr. Christopher Kaczor, associate professor of philosophy, Loyola Marymount University, speaking on organ donations after cardiac death.

For registration information, contact Dr. Steve Jensen at 713-831-7864.

The University of St. Thomas will host a two-day conference Wednesday-Thursday, March 25-26, entitled **"Mosaics of Faith: The Mexican Experience."** The event is geared toward stimulating active interest in the vast universe of social, anthropological and political manifestations resulting from the intertwined relation between culture and faith. Discussions will be prompted by the three documentary films of the "Darkness into Light," series and a group of experts in the matter will offer their intake from an American and Mexican perspective. Distinguished speakers include: Manuel Ramos Medina, Dr. Guadalupe Jimenez Codinach, and John Mason Hart, Dr. John Burke.

Events will be held Wednesday, March 25 from 7-10 p.m. and Thursday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. Following Mass and a lunch program, the concluding program will be in Jones Hall from 3 to 5 p.m. Those who wish to attend the lunch may send a check for $15 to Anna Martens or may reserve a place by contacting martena@stthom.edu.

Born without arms, **Tony Melendez** taught himself to play guitar with his feet at a young age, and now brings his music ministries and message of hope and inspiration to the University of St. Thomas. A concert coupled with Eucharistic adoration and reconciliation will be held 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 3 in the Jerabeck Athletic Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon.

Most notably, he was selected to perform for Pope John Paul II during the Holy Father's visit to Los Angeles in 1987. Since his performance for the Pope, Melendez's music ministry has been extremely successful, culminating in the formation of an international non profit organization, Tony Melendez Ministries, which seeks to serve youth and young adults, particularly those who are underprivileged. Melendez's visit to the University of St. Thomas is an incredible Lenten opportunity for young people and their families to grow in their faith and to praise God. The concert is sponsored by the UST Catholic Outreach Office. Tickets are $3 in advance, $5 at the door. To make reservations, call 713-525-3149 or e-mail elsie.biron@stthom.edu.

The University of St. Thomas History Department will present the B.K. Smith Lecture by Dr. John Lynn II, professor of history at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, on **"Surrender in History: The Other Side of Victory,"** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Cullen Hall.

Dr. Lynn is one of the foremost experts in European military history and the author of numerous books. He will address the question: "Why should Americans, so obsessed with victory, concern themselves with surrender." This is a very important question given today's military environment. Lynn's talk will also address the character of surrender as it evolved during the formative early modern period, 1500-1800, when most of the modern principles of international law emerged. During that epoch, surrender became linked with concepts of honor and principles of moral conduct which continue to be valid and which are worth our attention and coherence.

For more information, call Dr. Irving Kelter at 713-525-3192.

CSB Annual Alumni Week

Join the Cameron School of Business in celebrating the 2nd Annual Alumni Week. More than 80 alumni will return to campus to speak to current students about current trends in business. Alumni from a broad spectrum of industries such as Marie Myers, vice president of finance and controller for Hewlett Packard and Michael Scheurich, president of Arch Con Corporation, will share how their Cameron School education has helped them succeed.

The highlight of the week's events is Alumni Week keynote speaker, Tom Standish (MBA '84), group president of CenterPoint Energy. Standish will deliver a speech entitled, "Business Ethics in Today's Economy," at 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 in Jones Hall Auditorium. Lunch will be served. For more information, call Monica Clem at 713-525-3115.

UST MBA Students to Study Abroad in Prague

As the Central and Eastern European business markets emerge as important contributors to the world's economy, the University of St. Thomas Cameron School of Business will send a group of approximately 15 MBA students on a study abroad to Prague, Czech Republic this summer to study the successful business practices of multinational companies operating in Prague.

Dr. Cristian Morosan, assistant professor of management and marketing, and a native of Romania, will lead the Prague study abroad, and teach the associated course, Globalization of Business Management, a three credit hour MBA class. The course will begin with classroom discussion July 13-16. The group will depart July 19, and return from Prague July 30.

The group will visit a broad range of companies including Coca Cola Czech Republic, Bacchus Vins and Champagnes, CSA (Czech Airlines), Honeywell, McDonald's, Prague Stock Exchange, Procter & Gamble Czech Republic, Skoda Auto, Unipetrol, and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

The Czech Republic has enjoyed some of the most dramatic economic transformation in the region, boasting an economy which is bolstered by a thriving tourism industry. Morosan said Prague is a highly desirable destination because it offers the best of both worlds: much of the same old world European glamour without the high price tag of other European cities. The students will stay at a hotel within walking distance of the Prague's tourist sites and cultural district. Morosan will also offer the option of visiting Karlovy Vary, a luxury Czech resort during the weekend.

The course will cost approximately $5,500 per student which includes tuition, airfare, accommodations, breakfast and lunch each day, transportation in Prague and to excursions. **The deadline to apply for the course is March 31**. For more information, contact Dr. Morosan at 713-525-2158.

UST Community Collaborates to Volunteer at President's Day of Service

Shown at left: Dr. Robert Ivany joins students to load donations bound for Seabrook to be given to the victims of Hurricane Ike.

Shown at right: A group of UST volunteers join the UST Chapter of Best Buddies to spend quality time with residents at the Center Serving People with Mental Retardation.

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.

Executive Editor
Sandra Soliz, MLA '01

Editor
Ronnie H. Piper

Writer/Editor
Elise Marrion