News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UST President's Lecture Series Presents Ambassador R. James Nicholson

The University of St. Thomas President's Lecture Series presents Ambassador R. James Nicholson, "U.S./Vatican Relations: An Ambassador's Perspective," at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at UST Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum.

Nicholson is the senior counsel for Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck law firm. He served as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See from 2001 to 2005. In this position, he became a well-known advocate in Rome for the elevation of human dignity, giving special emphasis to human trafficking, religious freedom, starvation and bio-tech food, HIV-AIDS and international terrorism. For his work in the Vatican, Pope John Paul II knighted Nicholson in October 2003.

He also served as Secretary of Veteran Affairs from 2005 to 2007, where he was responsible for a nationwide system of hospitals, health care clinics, benefit programs and national cemeteries for America's 25 million veterans.

Nicholson is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He served eight years as a paratrooper and ranger, and while serving in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medial, Combat Infantryman Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and two Air Medals. After 22 years in the Army Reserve, Nicholson retired with the rank of colonel.

Nicholson earned his master's degree from Columbia University and his law degree from the University of Denver. In January 1986, Nicholson was elected to be the Republican National Committeeman from Colorado. He was elected vice-chairman of the RNC in 1993, and in 1997, he was elected chairman where he served for four years and oversaw the 2000 elections, which includes the election of President George W. Bush.

Parking is available for $2 in the Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama. For more information, contact Shawna Wallstein at 713-525-2160.

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