

New FOCUS Outreach Team to Help Meet Students' Spiritual Needs



As students embark on their spiritual journey this year, University of St. Thomas welcomes a new FOCUS team to help deepen and strengthen students' faith.

FOCUS, Fellowship of Catholic University Students, is a national campus outreach that invites college students to share in the Catholic faith and spread God's good news. Founded in 1998, the missionary program is currently working with 45 college and university campuses in 25 states.

Three years ago, Campus Ministry invited FOCUS to UST, the first and only university in Texas to host the FOCUS ministry. The team works closely with Campus Ministry to meet the spiritual needs of UST students, and helps with events such as retreats and Bible studies.

"The team brings a strong Catholic presence," said UST Chaplain Fr. Mike Buentello, CSB. "They provide a wonderful opportunity for our students to pray with scripture, not only while they are students, but hopefully, long after they leave the University of St. Thomas. This current team is a strong example of Christian service."

The four-member team is directed by Trisha Bucholz, who spent 2008-2009 at UST. Bucholz welcomes three new members – Esther Au, Andrew Tomsche and Lee Vigil from Hong Kong by way of Colorado, Minnesota and Colorado, respectively. Bucholz, originally from the Chicago area, and the others have become acquainted with Houston and its heat and humidity.

Esther Au, a first-year missionary, was pleasantly surprised by UST's diverse student body, especially the Asian population. The large Asian community is different from what she experienced as an international student at a large university.

Andrew Tomsche is ready to spread the Word of God and be a witness to students through athletics and intramural sports.

Like many UST students, **Lee Vigil** is a commuter. He moved his wife and five children to Pearland from Colorado.

FOCUS missionaries rely 100 percent on donations from his or her Mission Partners for their living expenses such as rent, food and health insurance. Mission Partners are recruited by the missionaries, and can be individuals, families or organizations.

Anyone who hears the calling to ministry can join FOCUS. Sheena Byrne, 2009 UST graduate, was heavily involved in Campus Ministry and became close with the previous FOCUS team. After graduating, Byrne applied to be a FOCUS missionary, and completed her training over the summer. She is currently at her first campus assignment at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Upcoming Events



Helping Hands Volunteer Fair

Visit with local non-profit organizations about volunteer opportunities at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, **Sept. 22**, on the Crooker Patio.



Twitter, Twitter Conference

The Center for Faith and Culture will host the "Twitter, Twitter Conference: Connecting and Loving in the Age of Me," 9:30 a.m. **Sept. 26**, in Jerabeck Center.



5th Annual Salsa Contest

Cheer on your favorite salsa dancers and taste homemade salsas at the 5th Annual Salsa Contest, 6 p.m., Thursday, **Sept. 24**, on the Crooker Patio.

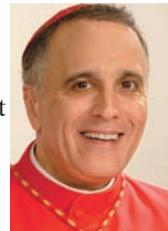


Job Fair Workshop

Learn how to prepare for the Celt Networking Night & Job Fair, at the Job Fair Preparation Workshop, Wednesday **Sept. 30**, from 12:30-1 p.m. and from 5-5:30 p.m., Second Floor Crooker Center.

Catholic Intellectual Tradition Features Cardinal

University of St. Thomas Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series presents **His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**, "Faith and Reason in the Modern Catholic University." The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1 at UST Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum.



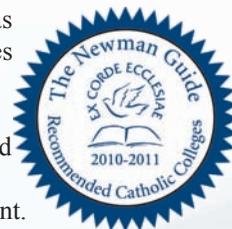
Cardinal DiNardo will examine Pope John Paul II's encyclical, "Fides et Ratio," in which the Pope addresses modern scientists, theologians and philosophers to provide appropriate use of the human capacity to know truth through faith and reason. He will also discuss the role of the Catholic university in promoting and sustaining the proper relationship between faith and reason.

In 1995, St. Thomas created the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Lecture Series to explore the wisdom and the riches of this tradition. The Series' purpose is to counteract the tendency to think of religion and intellectual life as adversaries.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Valerie Hall at 713-525-2163.

UST Named to Newman Guide for Second Time

The University of St. Thomas has been named as one of 21 top Catholic colleges and universities by the Cardinal Newman Society for the second time. The listing will be published in *The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*. This second edition of the *Guide* is published by The Cardinal Newman Society and is available online and in print.



The *Guide* is a unique resource for parents and students seeking a faithful Catholic education, features university profiles and several essays to help families better understand the search for a strong Catholic College.

The *Guide* is the culmination of more than four years of research and interviews. The colleges profiled are recommended for strong Catholic identity and cover a wide range of institutions in terms of history, size, location and academic focus.

Every college or program recommended in the *Guide* includes a complete profile that examines academics, governance, spiritual life, student activities and residence life. Among the key points on UST's online profile are the University's strong Catholic identity influenced by the Basilian Fathers, the core curriculum focused on theology and philosophy and Catholicism promoted through lecture series.

See full story at www.stthom.edu. For more information, go to www.TheNewmanGuide.com.

UST MicroCredit Program Hosts Third Annual *Dum Spiro* Event

University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program invites the Houston community to assist entrepreneurs in developing countries by attending the third annual *Dum Spiro* fundraising event at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8 in Scanlan Room.

Dum Spiro, Latin for "while I breathe," signifies the determination to continue the Program's mission of student activism and poverty alleviation around the world through microlending. In the past two years, the annual fundraiser has raised more than \$20,000 allowing the Program to dispatch loans to more than 300 beneficiaries around the world. Contributions from the silent auction and raffle will benefit the rural poor of many world regions including Mexico, Chile and Pakistan.

The Program includes a presentation about micro-credit, live music and light refreshments. *Dum Spiro* is sponsored by the Center for International Studies. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530 or at microcredit@stthom.edu.



Yucatan Honey Initiative Design Contest

Want to Empower the Poor? Want to See Your Work on the Shelves of Local Stores?

Use your talent and creativity to help the MicroCredit Program (MCP) develop a marketing campaign for honey producers in the Yucatan to sell their product to local stores.

Contest guidelines:

- Create a name for product branding
- Design a label for the honey jar
- Enter by Sept. 30, 2009
- Submissions due by Nov. 16, 2009
- Winner announced by Nov. 20, 2009

The Yucatan Honey Initiative strives to alleviate poverty among honey producers by extending microloans to expand their businesses and export honey to the U.S. at a fair price. These honey producers are loan beneficiaries of the MicroCredit Program.

To enter and learn more about contest rules, contact Renee McKeon at mckeonr@stthom.edu or microcredit@stthom.edu by Sept. 30.

The 31st Annual *Festa Italiana* Comes to St. Thomas Campus

The 31st *Festa Italiana* is coming to the campus of the University of St. Thomas for three exciting days, October 16, 17, 18, 2009.

Come experience Italy in the heart of Houston as the campus is transformed into the sights and sounds of Italy. The grounds will be lined with booths of authentic homemade foods such as, baked ziti, meatball sandwiches and an array of desserts including *sfinigi*, *cucciadate*, *cannoli* and gelato.

The Educational Stage will feature marionette puppet shows, mosaic tile demonstrations and a lecture on the best out of the way places to go while in Italy. On the Culinary/Tasting Stage, enjoy the wines, olive oils and other tastes of Italy during one of the many seminars. On the Academic Mall, kids of all ages will enjoy the rock wall and mechanical bull while exhibitors will proudly display their wares for sale. Enjoy the finest wines of Italy as you browse the Village Market. Entertainment throughout the weekend will be provided by local performers while on Saturday evening the 2nd Italian American Idol contest will take place on the Main Stage. Come for the day. Bring your blanket for the perfect Italian picnic; we have the wine, the bread, the cheese and the tree lined campus for your relaxation.

Admission is \$6 for adults, and children under 12 are admitted free. Current UST employees and students are admitted free with valid UST ID. The event benefits the educational programs, scholarship fund, language school and cultural events of the Italian Cultural and Community Center.

Visit www.HoustonItalianFestival.com for more information. Contact info@houstonitalianfestival.com or call 713-524-4222.



Practice Flu Prevention, Get Flu Shots Available on Campus Oct. 6

It is September and flu season is rapidly approaching. In addition to seasonal flu, H1N1 flu has become a topic of concern. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the H1N1 flu bears resemblance to the seasonal flu, with the exception that people over the age of 65 do not seem to contract the virus as easily. It is important that we take the following steps to keep ourselves healthy and prevent the spread of illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Wipe down all surfaces such as countertops, faucets, computer keyboards and mouse, light

switches, phones, door handles and cabinets with anti-bacterial cleaner often.

The signs and symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

If you are ill, one of the most important things that you can do to prevent others from becoming sick is to stay at home. If you are a student, and you have been confirmed to have H1N1 flu by a physician, please contact your professors and the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness at 713-525-3513. Log on to the University of St. Thomas flu information page at www.stthom.edu/flu for updates.

Seasonal flu shots will be available on campus from noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Old Bookstore inside Crooker Center. The cost of the flu shot is \$25 per person, and is available for all students, faculty and staff. To register for your flu shot, please email wellness@stthom.edu and enter "flu shot" in the subject line.



UST Receives Employer Recognition Awards

University of St. Thomas has recently earned two employer recognition awards. The University was named by AARP to its 2009 list of Best Employers for Workers Over 50, and was honored with the 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

AARP's Best Employer acknowledges companies and organizations whose policies best address an aging workforce and gives recognition for demonstrating exemplary practices in the recruitment, retention and promotion of mature workers.

The 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, a prestigious, national award recognizes employers in Houston and across the country who successfully use workplace flexibility as a strategy to increase effectiveness and yield positive business results. For the complete story go to www.stthom.edu.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2009

In October, UST will participate in the month-long National Cyber Security Awareness Campaign, which will focus on topics such as phishing, social networking, desktop security, portable devices, spyware and safeguarding your passwords. Look for security awareness posters and flyers around campus and weekly e-mail blasts. For more security information tips, go to www.stthom.edu/itsecurity.



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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