News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
HOUSTON (Oct. 5, 2009)

UST Center for Irish Studies Hosts 2009 Annual Irish Gala

The University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies will celebrate Irish heritage and culture with a festive evening filled with entertainment and food. The annual Irish Gala 2009 will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, at the Houstonian Hotel, 111 N. Post Oak Lane.

The night's honorees are Colleen and George McCullough, who are Ambassador Members of the Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum. George is a founding member of, and serves on, the Center for Irish Studies Advisory Board. Colleen and George also are members of the University of St. Thomas Fr. Vincent J. Guinan Society. Gala chairs are Gayle and Bob Longmire.

The Gala's Irish entertainment will be provided by Kathleen Keane, fiddler, tin whistle player and singer.

The Gala will include silent and live auctions. Funds raised support the UST Center for Irish Studies academic, cultural and study aboard programs. The Center awards qualified students with scholarships, and offers other financial assistance to enhance the educational and cultural experience.

Tables of 10 range from $2,500 to $10,000, and individual tickets sell for $250. For reservations and more information, contact Abigail Showalter at 713-525-3173 or at showala@stthom.edu.

The Center for Irish Studies oversees an undergraduate minor program, a graduate concentration in the Master in Liberal Arts program and the Ireland Study Abroad program as well as a Cultural Outreach Program with events open to the public and the University community.

Founded in 2003, The Center for Irish Studies was named one of the top 10 Irish Studies programs in the nation by IrishCentral.com, an Irish Web site. The Center is listed among University of Notre Dame, Boston College, New York University and Catholic University of America.

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