

S-STEM Grant Provides \$100,000 in Math, Science Scholarships

The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of St. Thomas a \$575,000 grant to provide scholarships over the next five years to undergraduate students obtaining degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

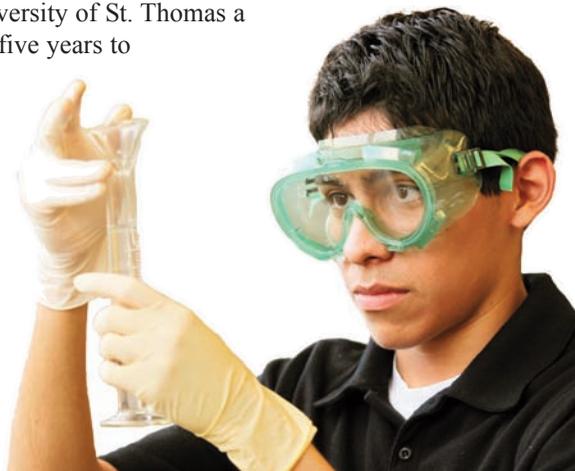
Each year, the UST STEM Scholars Program will award \$100,000 in direct scholarships of \$4,000 to \$10,000 to approximately 25 STEM students, excluding pre-health majors. These scholarships will support an estimated 125 students over the five-year period. The first scholarships will be awarded for the fall 2010 semester.

This program, dubbed The S-STEM Scholars Program, seeks to increase the number of students graduating in the fields of science, pre-engineering and mathematics. UST aims to reach the diverse communities in the Houston area, and to recruit women and underrepresented groups to the STEM fields. Using successful models established by UST, retention and academic success will be increased among students, particularly first-time college freshmen.

“The National Science Foundation’s support will directly help more students obtain a University of St. Thomas degree in the STEM areas,” said Dr. Michelle Steiger, program director and assistant professor of chemistry. Dr. Maia Larios-Sanz, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Sheila Waggoner, mathematics chair, will assist Steiger in program implementation.

Through the S-STEM Scholars Program, students will receive mentoring from senior-level STEM students, career counseling and a hands-on undergraduate research experience. All S-STEM scholars will also have the opportunity to conduct outreach events to high school students at several Houston Independent School District science magnet schools.

All S-STEM scholars will interact with professionals in the STEM fields by visiting laboratory environments, attending professional society meetings and attending guest lectures. All program participants will have access to student counseling, financial aid, tutoring and other student support services to help ensure their success. Read complete story at www.stthom.edu.



Welcome Back



“We extend a warm welcome to returning students and faculty. We hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable semester break. We welcome undergraduate and graduate students who are joining us for the first time. It is a pleasure to include you in the UST community, and we look forward to a rewarding and fulfilling semester of study and collaboration.”

- President Robert Ivany

Upcoming Events



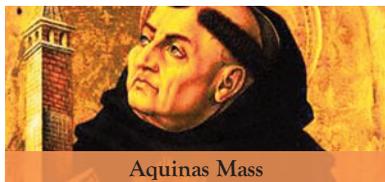
Invest in Success

Student Affairs invites students to attend the Invest in Success event tailored to help students with scholastic survival tips at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, **Jan. 26** in Ahern Room, Crooker Center.



Cameron Graduate Open House

The Cameron School of Business will host a Graduate Open House on Tuesday, **Jan. 26**. This event provides the opportunity for students, alumni and interested persons to meet and discuss degree requirements in detail. RSVP to Sandra Flanagan at 713-525-2115.



Aquinas Mass

The feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas marks the beginning of the spring term and honors the patron saint of UST. Join Campus Ministry for the Mass of Saint Thomas Aquinas and reception from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on **Jan. 28**, in Jerabek Gymnasium.

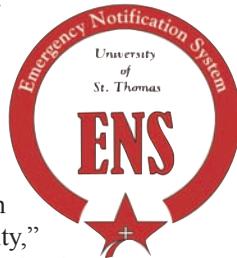


Veterans Lunch and Learn

The University of St. Thomas will host a Lunch and Learn for veteran students at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, **Feb. 2** in Jerabek Lounge, Jerabek Center. Please RSVP to Shannon Wilson at 713-942-3409 or wilsons@stthom.edu.

UST To Move SMS Phone Numbers into ENS

Beginning on Friday, **Feb. 5**, the University of St. Thomas employees and students' cell phone numbers entered into PeopleSoft will automatically be uploaded to the Emergency Notification System database as a number where text messages may be received.



“Quickly notifying our campus community in the event of an emergency remains our first priority,” said UST President Dr. Robert Ivany. “Text messaging is the fastest mode of communication in the event of an emergency. This notification method is also helpful when the phone lines are down.”

If your information was uploaded, you will receive an **automated confirmation message** from our ENS vendor Blackboard Connect within 24 hours. You will see 23177 as the text messaging number sending you the confirmation message and all subsequent messages. We encourage you to add 23177 to your contact list as UST Alert. Standard text messaging rates will apply. The ENS system is used only for emergencies.

This initial message will read: “UST ALERT: You are now confirmed to receive alerts from us. More info text reply ‘HELP’ or ‘STOP UST’ to opt-out.” View a complete FAQ about SMS/Text Messaging at www.stthom.edu/ens. For additional questions email ens@stthom.edu.

As always, UST faculty, staff and students are encouraged to update their PeopleSoft record to reflect any changes to their emergency information. You can update your record at any time, but we encourage you to make your updates soon because UST will conduct an all-campus test of the ENS on Wednesday, **Feb. 10**.

Sign Up For President’s Day of Service Projects

The 6th Annual Presidents Day of Service will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, **Feb. 6**. The event offers a wide array of projects from campus beautification to making blankets for area children in need. All Celts – students, alumni, faculty and staff – will have the chance to work side-by-side and support their University without leaving the campus. And, for the first time, the Day of Service will be held in conjunction with the excitement of UST Homecoming. Service projects include planting trees, shrubs and perennials, Project Linus and Hug Pillows, campus bench restoration and painting.



Please sign up today, as space for various projects is limited. If you have any questions or concerns, e-mail dayofservice@stthom.edu.

Archbishop Miller Returns to UST to Give Aquinas Lecture

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver and University of St. Thomas President Emeritus, will return to UST to give the 2010 Aquinas Lecture. The event, hosted by the Center for Thomistic Studies, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 28**, in Jones Hall.

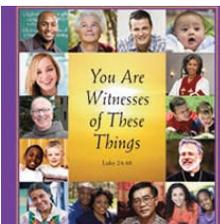
In his lecture, "The Church's 'Common Doctor': Thomas Aquinas and the Contemporary Catholic University," Archbishop Miller will discuss the encouragement that is found in recent papal documents, including those of Benedict XVI, for the study of St. Thomas Aquinas in seminaries and universities and the importance of such study at this critical juncture in the history of Catholic universities in North America and worldwide.

In 1992, Archbishop Miller was called to Rome, where he worked in the English-language section of the Secretariat of State of the Holy See until 1997, when he returned to Houston as president of the University of St. Thomas. Pope John Paul II appointed him Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education in 2003, and he was ordained an archbishop at St. Peter's Basilica on Jan. 12, 2004. He continued working at the Holy See until being appointed coadjutor archbishop of Vancouver. He was named the archbishop of Vancouver in January 2008.

He is a specialist on the papacy, modern papal teaching, and Catholic higher education, and has published seven books and more than 150 articles, scholarly, popular and journalistic. His books include *The Shepherd and the Rock: Origins, Development, and Mission of the Papacy* (1995); and *The Encyclicals of John Paul II* (2nd ed., 2001).



CFC Invites You to Celebrate Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010

Millions of Christians across the globe will join hands and voices in prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU), to be held **Jan. 18 to 25**. Ecumenism has shown how important prayer is for Christian unity, and for 100 years, Christians have gathered to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John 17:21). The 2010 WPCU theme, "You Are Witness of These Things," comes from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24, verse 48. Each night of the week will be hosted by a different Christian church or community. Each prayer service is open to the public. The Houston services are organized by the University of St. Thomas Center for Faith and Culture.

"Christians, who share belief in Christ and share one baptism and one Lord are obligated to overcome the stumbling block of disunity," said Fr. Donald Nesti, CSSp, director of the UST Center for Faith and Culture. "Obligated by their belief Christians of every generation and every decade must enter into relationship of prayer and dialogue to sense where it is that the Holy Spirit is leading them to be one. Only the Spirit can be the 'Glue' that will reassemble a fractured Body." For more information call 713-942-5066 or go to www.stthom.edu/cfc.

Tues	Jan 19	7 pm	St. Mary's Seminary Chapel	9845 Memorial Drive – 77024
Wed	Jan 20	7 pm	University of St. Thomas – Chapel of St. Basil	3802 Yoakum – 77006
Thurs	Jan 21	7 pm	St. Theresa Catholic Church	6622 Haskell Street – 77007
Fri	Jan 22	7 pm	Windsor Village United Methodist Church	6011 West Orem - 77085
Sat	Jan 23	6 pm	Christ the King Lutheran Church	2353 Rice Boulevard - 77005
Sun	Jan 24	6 pm	St. Martin's Episcopal Church	717 Sage Road - 77056
Mon	Jan 25	7 pm	The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart	1111 St. Joseph Parkway - 77002

Gautreau Integrates Faith and Journalism at Salt + Light Internship

Well acquainted with the deadline-driven pressures of student print journalism, **Michelle Gautreau** traded her seat behind the keyboard for a spot in front of the news cameras during a six-week winter break internship at Salt + Light Catholic Media Network in Toronto.

The University of St. Thomas senior history major and founding Editor-in-Chief of the UST student newspaper, *The Summa*, was prompted to apply for the internship while taking the Catholic Studies Capstone course, Catholic Impact on the Professions, taught by Sister Paula Jean Miller, FSE. The class requires students to complete 100 internship hours at a job that integrates their faith and profession.

Sister Paula Jean and Father Anthony Giampietro, CSB, immediately recommended Gautreau to contact Father Thomas Rosica, CSB, Chief Executive Officer of Salt + Light Television, and a member of the UST Board of Directors. Fr. Rosica, who was visiting UST and staying with the Basilian Fathers at the time, invited Gautreau to Toronto.

“Michelle’s internship at Salt + Light TV was a perfect match with her background, her professional desires and her desire to integrate her faith into a work experience,” said Sr. Paula Jean. “Salt + Light opened new professional vistas to Michelle. Best of all, Michelle experienced what Pope John Paul II calls the ‘vocation and mission of the laity’: she was able to link her profession to her faith, rather than surrendering to the split between professional life and personal faith.”

Navigating a new city, the cold climate, living with the Felician Sisters and daily reflections on her work at Salt + Light – Gautreau recorded them all in her blog, acajunincanada.blogspot.com.

“I had no previous experience with broadcast journalism, and I had never really considered a career in broadcast before this internship,” she said. “Finding a job in the journalism field is tough. You have to be as developed and diversified as you can be. With this experience, I am more prepared for future job opportunities.”

Beginning with administrative support tasks such as addressing Christmas cards, Gautreau quickly proved herself at Salt + Light and was given more challenging tasks such as writing scripts. Before the end of her internship, she was selected to host Zoom, a five-minute news show that highlights Canadian and international news with a Catholic perspective.

Aside from the professional skills she gained at Salt + Light, Gautreau said studying abroad was an experience in personal growth.

“This experience has helped me grow in my faith by showing me that I can have higher expectations in a professional environment. So many people search for jobs with financial priorities, but I have seen there is more to your career than what you earn in your paycheck. After working at Salt + Light, I have seen a workplace where people live their faith, and that makes all the difference.”



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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