

## University of St. Thomas Places Third at Regional Mock Trial Tournament



Shown above from l to r: Pat Cox, Jason Cox, Christopher Dupree, Jacqueline Hinojosa, Selina Contreras, Kelly Heallen, Noel Rodriguez, Shawna Boothe, Katherine Witty, Mary Green, Travis Wooten.

The University of St. Thomas Mock Trial Team placed third overall at the 2010 Houston Regional Mock Trial Tournament, hosted by Houston Baptist University on Feb. 7. For the second year in a row, the team qualified for the Opening Round Championship and will compete in St. Louis in March.

UST faced 21 teams at the regional competition. The members of the 2010 Fighting Celts team are Mary Green, Shawna Boothe, Katherine Witty, Travis Wooten, Noel Rodriguez, Christopher Dupree, Jacqueline Hinojosa and Selina Contreras. The coaches are Kelly Heallen and Jason Cox, with help from Jeremy Heallen and Pat Cox.

UST Senior Shawna Boothe won an All-Regional Attorney Award for her roles as a prosecuting attorney and as a defense attorney. She was the only competitor to win recognition for dual attorney roles.

Last year, the UST team placed fifth at regionals and advanced to the Opening Round Championship in Memphis.

Charles Rice Young, associate professor of political science and the director of UST's Prelaw Program, said that success on the mock trial team has translated to success in law school for many of UST's past mock trial members.

"Of our previous three teams, 12 of those students went on to law school, several of whom are going to graduate this year. Our UST graduates are taking the Houston legal community by storm," Young said.

Upcoming Events



Opera

Join the UST music program for an evening of scenes from classic opera, operetta, and musical theatre including *Handel's Giulio Cesare*, *Lehár's The Merry Widow*, and more. Performances are free and open to the public at 7:30 p.m., **Feb. 26** and **27**, and 3 p.m., Sunday, **Feb. 28**.



'59 Pink Thunderbird

The UST drama program presents "59 Pink Thunderbird," at 8 p.m., **Feb. 24**, **25**, **26**, **27**, **March 3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, and is held upstairs in Jones Hall Theatre. Tickets cost \$5 for UST students, faculty or staff; \$10 for non-UST students or senior and \$15 for the general public. Call 713-525-3520.



Jazz of WWII Concert

The music program of the Fine and Performing Arts Department presents the Jazz of WWII Concert, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, **March 2**, in Cullen Hall.



Faith and Culture Open House

The Master of Arts in Faith and Culture Open House will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, **March 4** in Malloy Hall. The overall MA program, academic requirements, course objectives, application procedures and deadlines will be discussed. RSVP online: [www.stthom.edu/cfc](http://www.stthom.edu/cfc).

## Simon, Calasanz Reign As Mardi Gras Royalty

Selected as exemplary models of the University's mission to educate leaders of faith and character, UST students **Lukas Simon** and **Emily Calasanz** will reign as this year's Mardi Gras King and Queen at the 60th Mardi Gras Gala "Court of Diamond Jubilee," on Tuesday, Feb. 16.



In their role as the "royal couple," Simon and Calasanz will carry on the time-honored tradition, and have the opportunity to express their gratitude for scholarship contributions on behalf of the student body.

Simon, a junior, balances the challenging major of bioinformatics with serving as the Celts men's soccer team captain and goal keeper.

Calasanz, a senior biology major, is a recipient of the President's Scholarship and the Elizabeth Ann Peavy Endowed Scholarship in Biology. Emily demonstrates leadership in organizations such as Tri-Beta, the biology honor society, and the UST chapter of the American Chemical Society.

Read the complete story at [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu).

## New Philosophy BA/MA Available in Fall 2010

The University of St. Thomas Center for Thomistic Studies will offer a five-year combined Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts degree in philosophy beginning in fall 2010.

The UST BA/MA program in philosophy provides a strong curriculum of study based upon the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

The program will also prepare students for doctoral programs, law school and other professional studies. Admission to philosophy Ph.D. programs is extremely competitive and students can significantly improve their academic profile with an MA degree. Writing samples, GRE scores and letters of recommendation are all likely to improve. Students with a 3.5 GPA in philosophy and 3.3 overall GPA are eligible to apply in their junior year. The application process requires two letters of recommendation from philosophy faculty. The GRE is not required for admission to the program. Students will be eligible for regular UST financial aid and the Cullen Undergraduate Scholarships in Philosophy.

For information go to [www.stthom.edu/cts](http://www.stthom.edu/cts) or contact the Center for Thomistic Studies at [sommers@stthom.edu](mailto:sommers@stthom.edu).

### Don't Forget to Apply for Graduation by March 1

Application forms and instructions for May and August graduation are available at [www.stthom.edu/graduation](http://www.stthom.edu/graduation). Call 713-525-2152 for more information.

## Six-Part Lenten Lecture Series Examines Catholic Liturgy



St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) celebrating Mass (Carlow Cathedral, Ireland) (Photographer: Andreas F. Borchert)

The University of St. Thomas Department of Theology will host the Lenten Lecture Series on Wednesdays during Lent beginning Feb. 17. The lectures will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Scanlan, Jerabeck Center. The series presents selected topics concerning the liturgical system of the Catholic Church.

### Lecture Schedule:

1. **Feb. 17:** Fr. Janusz Ihnatowicz  
“Christ the High Priest of the Christian Cult”
2. **Feb. 24:** Sr. Madeleine Grace  
“Facing East: A Liturgical Practice That Needs Revisiting?”
3. **March 3:** Dr. Christopher Evans  
“Augustine, Liturgy, and the Word”
4. **March 10:** Dr. Paul Hahn  
“The Development of the Divine Office”
5. **March 17** Fr. Leon Strieder  
“The Eastern Rites”
6. **March 24:** Fr. Milad Yaghi  
Maronite Liturgy

### Sign up for Lenten Service Project

Campus Ministry will host the Lenten Service Project Program every Friday (except March 19) during Lent. The group will volunteer at St. Dominic Village, a retirement community, for two hour shifts. Students meet in the Campus Ministry Office in Crooker Center. Contact Fr. Mike Buentello, CSB, for more information at 713-525-6981.

### Upcoming Lenten Lectures

#### **Christ the High Priest of the Christian Cult**

Fr. Janusz Ihnatowicz, professor emeritus of Theology, will present, “Christ the High Priest of the Christian Cult,” at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17 in Scanlan.

In the wake of Vatican II, the liturgy became subject of many disputes. A fundamental disagreement about the nature of the liturgical celebration is at the root of many of these disputes. Vatican II, in its theological definition of the Liturgy, makes the concept of Christ the High Priest its foundation. This concept is what distinguishes Christian liturgy from every other form of worship. The lecture develops this concept and shows consequences for the understanding and celebration of the Catholic liturgy.

#### **Facing East During Prayer**

Sister Madeline Grace, CVI, associate professor and Scanlan Chair of Theology, will present, “Facing East: A Liturgical Practice That Needs Revisiting?” at 7:30 p.m., on Feb. 24, in Scanlan.

Pope Benedict XVI points out that Christians find Christ in the symbol of the rising sun. Praying toward the east means that we go to meet the coming Christ. The liturgy, turned toward the east, effects entry in procession toward the New Heaven and the New Earth. It is the prayer of the pilgrim in hope. Some may question what a common turning toward the east would do to that which has so often been emphasized since Vatican II, that is, active participation; yet does active participation necessarily mean something external? What is the essential core of common worship? How might turning toward the east influence this core? This presentation is meant to provide a balanced evaluation of liturgical worship in light of enriching practice today.

## UST Hosts Black History Month Lectures, Exhibit Tours, More



In observance of Black History Month, the University of St. Thomas will host two lectures which celebrate African-American heritage.

**Naomi Mitchell Carrier** will sign copies of her book, *Go Down, Old Hannah: The Living History of African American Texans*, at 7 p.m., **Feb. 17** in Doherty Library. The 15 living history plays in *Go Down, Old Hannah* cover subject matter ranging from slave celebrations, family breakups, and escapes, to the Civil War, emancipation, and Reconstruction. There is even information on the Underground Railroad from Texas to Mexico. Carrier's plays have been performed for historic sites and museums throughout the state since 1994.

Carrier, a teacher, researcher, playwright, pianist, composer and actress, has worked for 30 years as a classroom teacher and performer to bring a fresh perspective to Texas history.

The St. Martin de Porres Society, Black Student Union and Social Justice Program at the University of St. Thomas will host a Black History Month lecture by **Catherine Straight**, senior assignment editor at *USA Today*, from 6 to 8:15 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26, in the Menil Museum Foyer, 1515 Sul Ross. The lecture will be followed by a brief tour of the Menil's African Art Exhibit. Straight will speak about the importance of mentorship, and the journey from her small hometown in Mississippi to working for one of the most widely-read newspapers in the country.

Named in honor of one of the most beloved Catholic saints, the St. Martin de Porres Society was formed to maximize alumni participation among African Americans at UST. The Society also aims to support the recruitment, retention, development and graduation of UST's current and prospective African-American students in the surrounding Houston community.



## Former UST Professor Discusses Evolution, Love of Written Word



Join author and former UST professor **Dr. Mylène Dressler** for a lively exploration and discussion of the continuing power of the written word in our evolving language culture. Dressler's lecture, "For the Love of Writing: Honoring, Teasing, Commanding the Written Word," will be held from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25 in Malloy Hall 020.

She will delve into questions such as what is happening to the written word right now, and where can the study of writing take us? What forms of writing will be essential to 21st century literacy and success ... and which will fall by the wayside? Which will endure as a result of humankind's centuries-old fascination with what words can accomplish, our continued awareness of the power of language? Do we honor the written word less than we used to, or are we experimenting, celebrating and seizing it with more vigor than ever before?

Dresser, award winning novelist and author of *The Medusa Tree*, *The Floodmakers* and *The Deadwood Beetle*, is a past recipient of the Fulbright Fellowship, the Carson McCullers Fellowship and the Paisano Fellowship in Literature. She leads workshops in writing, creativity, and the art of the novel. Her flash nonfiction Web site, American Stories NOW, accepts submissions from student and emerging writers.

The event is co-sponsored by Writing in All Disciplines Committee and the Mendenhall Achievement Center. For more information, contact Dr. Jerry Kramer at 713-525-2144.

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