News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UST Presents Internationally Acclaimed Novelist Bapsi Sidhwa

WHAT: The University of St. Thomas' Women, Culture, and Society Program presents internationally acclaimed novelist Bapsi Sidhwa on "South Asian Women Talk: Exploring the Female Characters in *Cracking India*, *Water* and *An American Brat*." Sidhwa will sign books at 7 p.m.

WHEN: 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at West Alabama

BACKGROUND: Bapsi Sidhwa, called "Pakistan's finest English-language novelist" by The New York Times, is known for novels that chronicle the history of the Indian subcontinent. She has published five novels: *An American Brat*, *Cracking India*, *The Bride*, *Crow Eaters* and *Water*. Her anthology, *Beloved City: Writings on Lahore*, was published last year. She has been translated into several languages.

Among her many honors Sidhwa received the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest national honor in the arts, the Bunting Fellowship at Harvard, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award and the LiBeraturepreis in Germany.

Sidhwa was on the advisory committee to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Women's Development, and has taught at Columbia University, University of Houston, Mount Holyoke College and Brandeis.

Cracking India was made into the film, *Earth*, by Canadian director Deepa Mehta. Sidhwa's newest novel, *Water*, is based on the film by Deepa. Sidhwa's play, *An American Brat*, will be produced by Stages Repertory Theater in Houston spring 2007.

COST: Free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Elsa Zambosco-Thomas at 713-525-3123.

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