News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UST Presents Irish Archaeologist Speaking on "Stories from a Sacred Landscape, from Pagan Country to Christian Ireland"

WHAT: Archaeologist Caimin O'Brien, Archaeological Survey of Ireland, will give a lecture entitled "Stories from a Sacred Landscape, from Pagan Country to Christian Ireland." The lecture is sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum, UST Program in Archaeology, The Friends of Archaeology, The Irish Society and the Irish American Cultural Institute.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, 2007

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

BACKGROUND: In his talk, O'Brien will cover the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and its impact on the existing beliefs of the Irish in pre-Christian Ireland. He will explore the impact of Christianity on the art, architecture and folklore of Ireland over the last 2000 years. He also will explore whether the Irish gave up their pagan beliefs and adopted Christianity or they adapted Christianity to their existing pre-Christian rituals and beliefs.

O'Brien is an archaeologist with the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, which is a section of the National Monuments Service of the Irish Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. He graduated from University College Galway with a degree in archaeology and earned an M.Litt. in Medieval History at Trinity College Dublin.

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He has written two books on medieval Irish churches of County Offaly, which includes famous monastic sites such as Clonmacnoise and Durrow, both of international importance. Caimin has recently completed a book entitled *Stories from a Sacred Landscape: From Croghan Hill to Clonmacnoise* about the Medieval Irish Church.

COST: Free and open to the public. No RSVP or tickets sold; first-come, first-served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.

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