



Engagement: UST as a Global Village

So, what does the Freshman Odyssey have in common with the Student Lounge and the Campus Life Mall, volunteering and Service Learning? They are all designed to improve student engagement. Student engagement resonates with increasing frequency as various entities use it as one benchmark of educational quality.

“Engagement is a critical factor in the educational process because the more time and energy students devote to desired activities, the more likely they are to develop the habits of the mind that are key to success after college,” says George Kuh, director of National Survey of Student Engagement, and a higher education professor. “In addition, engagement is positively related to grades and graduation, outcomes that everyone agrees are important.”

The NSSE annually provides comparative standards for determining how effectively colleges contribute to learning. Five areas of performance measured include: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student faculty interaction, enriching

educational experiences and a supportive campus environment. Among the many findings of the NSSE are these:

- The 54 percent of all first-year students who took a first-year seminar were more likely to use campus services, were more satisfied with college, and gained more in terms of personal and social development.
- Students who worship frequently engage in other spiritually enhancing practices and participate more in a broad cross-section of collegiate activities.

“Improving the level of engagement for our students at UST requires that all areas of campus work together,” said Dr. Steve Sutton, vice president for Student Affairs. “Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs and all other support functions must collaborate to create meaningful and diverse experiences for our students. Through careful planning and assessment, we can continue to craft a community that encourages each student to become ‘engaged’ somehow in our campus.”



UST Remembers Dr. Janice Gordon-Kelter

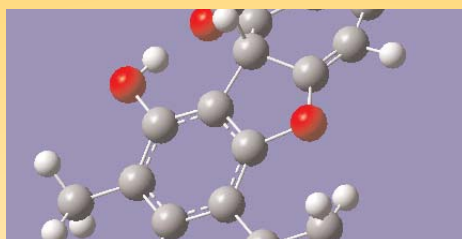
The campus community learned on Jan. 6 that Dr. Janice Gordon-Kelter died while vacationing in Paris, France.

Dr. Gordon-Kelter had been dean of the Master in Liberal Arts Program since 2001 and was the director of that program since 1997. Additional positions she held at the University included dean of Special Sessions and Programs, coordinator of the Compressed Track, assistant professor of History, coordinator of Academic Services in the Adult Degree Completion Program and research/grant associate in the Office of Institutional Advancement. Dr. Gordon-Kelter joined the University in 1991.

The University of St. Thomas has established the Janice Gordon-Kelter Memorial Scholarship in her honor. The scholarship will benefit adult, non-traditional students. Donations in her name may be made care of Donald Lewis in Institutional Advancement.

A memorial service was held for her in the Chapel of St. Basil on Feb. 3, and the Friends of the Library held a reception afterwards in her honor.

To learn more about the legacy of Dr. Janice Gordon-Kelter visit stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/features.

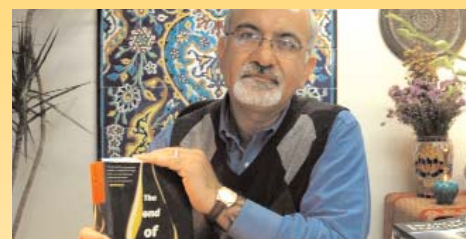


Chemistry Department Receives Grant

The Chemistry Department has been awarded a \$115,520 grant by the National Science Foundation for a project titled “FTNMR Instrumentation and Modeling Software for Undergraduate Instruction in Chemistry.” Chemistry Professor Thomas Malloy is the principal investigator for the grant, along with co-investigators, Drs. Gerald Gries, John Palasota and William Tinnerman. The department will use the funds to purchase a nuclear magnetic resonance instrument and incorporate it into virtually every chemistry course UST offers.

“The NMR instrument gives our students an essential tool to yield detailed information about molecular structure,” Malloy said. “Students majoring in chemistry will have the scientific knowledge necessary for functioning effectively in the modern world. Students will experience an education balanced between theory and practice that will prepare them for graduate study in science or the health professions and will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment.”

For more information visit stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/features.



Energy Crisis Focus of Global Energy Series

As the global energy crisis becomes more pressing, UST faculty and students are becoming more involved in finding a solution. Dr. Mehdi Noorbaksh, assistant professor of international studies, has created a course that focuses on global energy and global health. “The course incorporates issues that are globally important and gets the students involved,” Noorbaksh said.

It is the second year for the course, which brings eight speakers from prominent oil companies from around the world to lecture as part of the “Global Energy Series.” The Series will bring players from Schlumberger, BP, Chevron, Simmons and Company International, ExxonMobil and Koch.

“This course lays the foundation for understanding the rudiments of global energy, addressing the current state of affairs and the dynamic between security and supply,” senior IS major, Salomon Medina said.

The students, with Dr. Noorbaksh, compile a weekly Global Issues Bulletin that features articles and links to Web sites from the world of energy. For details visit stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/features.

Crumpets, Teachers and Tea: Students Cross Pond



Early education students (from left to right): Linh Hoang, Rosie Robleto, Holly Minchew, Jeanette Kutach, Ana Lerma and Professor Dr. Rick Krustchinsky braved wet climes in pursuit of education preparation.

Education students from UST recently touched ground back in Houston after a 13-day study abroad trip to the United Kingdom. The trip was designed to gain first-hand experience of the country's education systems for a course exploring curriculum issues in England. As part of their itinerary, the students visited American Community Schools Cobham International School, one of three London-area independent schools that teaches children of many Houston-area executives transferred overseas on business. The annual trip, organized by

Dr. Rick Krustchinsky, professor of elementary education, was designed to give students preparing for careers in early childhood education the opportunity to learn about the British curriculum model and explore strategies of teaching.

This winter, almost 50 UST students participated in study abroad programs, the largest group of students to do so during the winter break in study abroad history at UST. Dr. Jim Barloon also participated in the London trip. For more information go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/features.

Chesterton's Take on the Bard Elucidated



G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), monumental man of letters, wrote 100 books, including masterpieces of literary criticism on Browning, Blake,

Dickens and Chaucer. He was commissioned to write a book on Shakespeare but died before the book was written. However, his thousands of essays are full of references to the Bard, and so it is possible to speculate on Chesterton's unwritten book. President and co-founder of the American Chesterton Society, Dale Ahlquist, will discuss the book on Shakespeare that Chesterton did not write at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. The lecture is sponsored by the English Department. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Dr. Kerry MacArthur at 713-525-3176. For more details go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events.

East Coast Choppers: Gindy Discovers "Gateway"



University of St. Thomas' **Holly Marie Gindy** was among 30 students from several universities across the United States who participated in the New Jersey Dental School's annual "Gateway to Dentistry" program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. This intense two week program was designed to introduce undergraduates to the wide range of career options associated with the dental profession. Over the winter break, Gindy attended lectures and worked closely with many dentists and fellow dental students to gain valuable hands-on experience.

Gindy, a second year pre-dental student pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration, credits the challenging classes at UST to her success in the dental program. "The classes here are designed to keep you working and studying all the time, and that definitely is the best way to prepare for any type of graduate school," Gindy said. For more details go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/features.

ViewPoints



"Moving Up, Moving On: How to Manage an Ethical Career"

In these ethically challenged times, learn how to manage an ethical career with Br. Leo V. Ryan, CSV, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7 in Ahern Room, Crooker Center.



"The New Feminism of Pope John Paul II: Vision and Challenge"

Mary Ellen Bork is the keynote speaker for the Second Annual Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture in Catholic Studies at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8, in Jones Hall.



"Liberating Fiction of Community in Brian Friel's play The Freedom of the City"

Northern Irish literature specialist Dr. Richard Rankin Russell will present this lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in Cullen Hall.



2006 Aquinas Lecture

Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J., will deliver the 2006 Aquinas Lecture on the topic of "Apologetics of Thomas Aquinas," at 7:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in Jones Hall.

For complete calendar listings go to www.stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/news/.

Events

Thursday, Feb. 9

Colloquium 12:30 p.m.
Sullivan Hall

Monday, Feb. 13

Grief and Loss Support Group 3-4:30 p.m.
Second Floor of Jerabeck Center

Tuesday, Feb. 14

12-2 p.m., 5-7 p.m.
Fat FAFSA
Campus Life Mall

Thursday, Feb. 16

12:30 p.m.
Colloquium
Sullivan Hall

Women of the World

7-9 p.m.
Anderson Hall, Room 103

Awareness in Action Week Feb. 13-18 at **UST**

stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events

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