



Tomorrow's Leaders of Faith and Character

University of St. Thomas and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Schools Office recently invited students to participate in this year's second annual UST/Archdiocesan essay contest. Students from grades 3-12 wrote about someone associated with their school who is a leader of faith and character. The University received 1,051 essays from students at 26 schools. A University committee read the essays and awarded first-, second-, and third-place awards to 48 students. The University invited principals, students, recognized

leaders and parents to Mass, an awards ceremony and luncheon held on campus Jan. 31. More than 500 attended. Dr. Robert Ivany, University president, along with Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza and Sally Landram, superintendent of Catholic schools, handed out the awards.

Third-place high school winners received a \$500 one-year scholarship to UST; second-place winners received \$1,000 scholarships; and the first-place winner received a \$2,000 one-year scholarship. For more details go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/features.



Left: Dr. Ivany and two students; Above: From left to right; Sally Landram; Thomas Kelleher (third-place, 9th grade); Xavier Kelley (second-place, 9th grade); Austin Ayoub (first-place, 11th grade); Christina Perez (third-place, 11th grade); Lisa Houlton (second-place, 10th grade); Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza



Plenty of Love as UST Gets Its "Just Desserts"

Enjoy sweet temptations and the sounds of New Orleans jazz at the Student Government Association's "Just Desserts" Valentine's Day Benefit for hurricane relief efforts. Among the temptations will be a chocolate fondue fountain. Compleat Cuisine is catering this "delightful" event.

The event will be held 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, in the Alumni Lounge, Crooker Center, 3909 Graustark. Sweethearts over 21 bring IDs. Students are encouraged to bring donations that will be collected for hurricane relief efforts. This is just one of the many relief efforts the University has initiated to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

In conjunction with "Just Desserts" the Black Student Union will sponsor "speed dating" at the event. Those who are looking to make a match, join in the festivities. To find out more, pick up invitations during the club fair and Fat FAFSA event on Feb. 14, from noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., on the Campus Life Mall. For more information contact Angie Montelongo at montela@stthom.edu or at 713-525-3572.



Woman of the World: Vanessa Abahashemi

This year's Women of the World Lecture Series will feature UST graduates who will speak about Thailand, Morocco and Egypt. Lectures will be from 7-9 p.m., Feb. 16, March 16 and April 20, in Anderson Hall, Room 103.

Vanessa Abahashemi will kick off the series on Feb. 16 with a recount of her 10-month experience in Thailand. She will talk about beaches, temples, festivals, food, massages and how to live it up in Thailand.

Abahashemi graduated from UST in 2003 with a double major in French and Business Administration. After her studies, she taught English conversation to high school students in France. Her love of adventure and curiosity took her to Thailand where she taught English to locals.

The "Women of the World" lecture series was initiated by Dr. Debra Andrist, professor of Spanish, after she returned from a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship in 2004. The series highlights the accomplishments of women from around the world. For more information go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events.



Fat FAFSA Covers Campus in Beads

In recognition of Financial Aid Awareness Month and in an effort to enhance and promote student participation in the financial aid process, the University of St. Thomas Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and Council of Clubs present Fat FAFSA, a financial aid fair. The fair will be from noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, on the Campus Life Mall.

Student loan lenders will be on hand, as well as computers for students needing to apply for aid or graduating seniors needing to complete exit counseling. Food, music and a parade will also mark the event in honor of Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Fat FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) will also feature a club fair that will showcase more than 30 clubs and organizations, as well as feature an art exhibition in the old bookstore in Crooker Center. Fat FAFSA is free and open to the public. For more information contact Scott Moore at the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at 713-525-2151. For more details go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events.

Awareness in Action Week Reveals UST True Colors



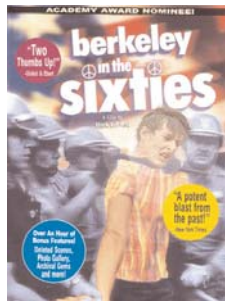
In an effort to engage, inform and motivate UST students and community members, the Office of Volunteer Opportunities has created Awareness in Action Week, a week of service activities from Feb. 13-18. The week will end with the second annual President's Day of Service on Feb. 18. All events are free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP contact Ellie Collier at 713-525-3801 or ellie@stthom.edu.

Hunger Banquet

Seth Wispelwey, Southeast One Campaign Fellow, Bread for the World, will speak at the Oxfam/One Campaign Hunger Banquet at 5:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center. Ramon Fernandez, UST assistant professor of accounting and community volunteer, will narrate this unique, interactive event where participants will experience the challenges of the less fortunate. Join these campaigns and individuals in their quest to end poverty, hunger and social injustice.



"Berkeley in the Sixties"



At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, the film "Berkeley in the Sixties" will be shown in Cullen Hall. After the film, activists, Dr. Craig Oettinger, associate professor,

University of Houston-Clear Lake, and Deloyd Parker, Jr., founder, SHAPE Community Center, will discuss the impact that the student protests at Berkeley had on the free speech movement and subsequent campaigns for human rights.

Paper Houses Across the Border

From 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, Bob Decker, founder, Paper Houses Across the Border, will speak in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center about weekend mission trips to Del Rio/Ciudad Acuña to better the lives of those who live in cardboard houses. Lunch will be served.

President's Day of Service

Awareness Week will close with the President's Day of Service from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. The campus community will participate in a variety of service projects. Meet at Crooker Center Cafeteria at 8 a.m. for breakfast, then be bussed to one of four projects and return to campus at 12:30 p.m. for lunch. Houston Habitat for Humanity, the Houston Zoo, The Children's Museum and an on-campus craft project will offer the opportunities for service.



Ochoa Travels To Hong Kong to Lend an Ear

Composer and UST adjunct professor, **Dr. Ron Ochoa**, will participate as an adjudicator at the 58th Annual Hong Kong Schools Music Festival slated for Feb. 20-March 25. Kindergarten through high school students will compete for



certificates of honor, proficiency and merit. More than 1,000 sessions of three-hour competitions will be held everyday. Adjudicators from all over the world are invited to participate in this competition. "Going to Hong Kong will give me a chance to experience a different culture and see how they're experimenting with western music," Ochoa said.

Ochoa is well recognized as a composer and musician. His music is featured in an award-winning documentary film by director Peter Josyph. "Liberty Street: Alive at Ground Zero" focuses on life after 9/11 at 114 Liberty Street. The film won Best of Fest for Feature Documentary at the Putnam Country Film and Video Festival and was screened in January at the Two Boots Pioneer Theatre in New York City.

This spring Ochoa is also serving as a visiting professor in electronic music composition at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

ViewPoints



"Chesterton on Shakespeare"

Dale Ahlquist, president of the American Chesterton Society, will speak about "the book on Shakespeare that Chesterton did not write" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Cullen 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 Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Jones Hall.



Fifth Annual Social Justice Seminar Series

Deacon Joe Rubio of Catholic Charities will lead a panel presentation titled "Immigration Reform: What does it Mean?" from noon-2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, in Ahern Room, Crooker Center.

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

Events

Monday, Feb. 13

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

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Worth the Wait 8-9:30 p.m.
Guinan Hall

Thursday, Feb. 16

Colloquium 12:30 p.m.
Sullivan Hall

"A Scientist Goes to Desert Storm" 7-9 p.m.
Ahern Room, Jerabeck Center

Spring Preview & Overnight Visit

Spring Preview gives prospective students the chance to attend individualized sessions tailored to their needs, attend a question and answer session with admission counselors and take a tour of campus. Spring Preview is held in conjunction with the overnight visit, which allows future students to stay the night in our Guinan or Augustine halls to experience campus life first-hand.

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