



Just Desserts and Music Benefit Evacuees

Months after one of the most destructive storms in U.S. history tore through New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts continue at the University of St. Thomas.

Campus Ministry will sponsor a volunteer relief trip to New Orleans during Spring Break, March 4-10. UST students will work with Operation Helping Hands of Catholic Charities to help with clean-up of neighborhoods and homes. Cost per person is \$200 for travel, food and lodging. Contact Campus Ministry for more information.

Another effort was the Student Government Association and Student Affairs' Just Desserts Valentine Day Benefit, which provided aid for Hurricane

Katrina survivors. Led by Houston area musician Kelly Dean, the band Storm Surge performed. The band recently became the musical home of several displaced New Orleans musicians. Houston Area Musicians March for Evacuee Relief provides opportunities for musicians to meet the needs of evacuees' hearts and souls. Check out its Web site at hammerkatrina.org.

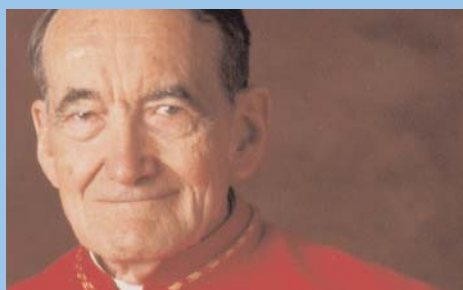
"Even though we are a few months past the disasters, our students continue to be concerned about individuals impacted by the hurricanes," Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Sutton said. "These student events demonstrate how we can combine fun with community service."



Phi Sigma Tau Valentine Fundraiser
Christina Ayad and Betty Fesseha



Storm Surge at "Just Desserts"

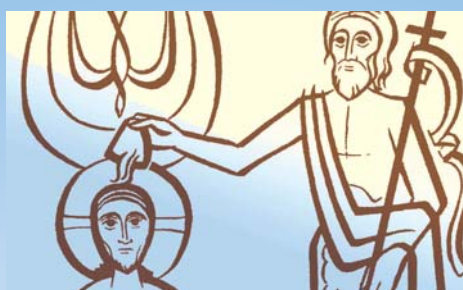


Cardinal Dulles Speaks on St. Thomas Aquinas

A very Cardinal Dulles, S.J., the Laurence J. McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham University, will deliver the 2006 Aquinas Lecture on the topic of "The Apologetics of Thomas Aquinas." Sponsored by the Center for Thomistic Studies, the lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Jones Hall.

Cardinal Dulles, who is the past president of both the Catholic Theology Society of America and the American Theological Society, will summarize the main elements of St. Thomas Aquinas' method of establishing the credibility of the Christian religion, as well as look at current objections to the Thomistic proofs for the existence of God and to the biblical miracles.

Cardinal Dulles will be the celebrant and Fr. Anthony Giampietro will be the homilist for this year's **Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas** at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 21, in the Chapel of St. Basil. Traditionally the University opens the spring semester with the Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas. For more information visit stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events/.



Lenten Lecture Series

The Theology Department and Veritas Catholic Bookstore host the 18th Annual Lenten Lectures at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 1-April 5. For 17 years, Wednesdays in Lent have been highlighted by a series of lectures at the University. Started and co-sponsored by Mrs. Margaret Hotze of Veritas Catholic Bookstore and hosted by UST's theology department, the series has covered a wide range of topics important to Catholic life. This year's topic, "The Sacrament of Baptism," is central to an enriched understanding of the Catholic faith. The first two of the six lectures are:

March 1 "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit within the Sacrament of Baptism" by Fr. Daniel Callam, CSB, Jerabek Center, Scanlan Room.

March 8 "Baptism within the Thought of Pope Benedict XVI" by Fr. Stephen Penna of the Diocese of Saskatoon, Canada, UST's Jones Hall.

Free and open to the public. For information about the remaining lectures, visit stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events/.



Immigration Reform

The first program in the University of St. Thomas' fifth annual Social Justice Seminar Series will be from noon-2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, in Ahern Room, Crooker Center, 3909 Graustark.

The program will include a discussion on immigration reforms and a panel presentation led by **Deacon Joe Rubio** of Catholic Charities titled "Immigration Reform: What Does it Mean?" Panel members will include Wafa Abdin, an immigration attorney from Catholic Charities, Stephen Carattini from Catholic Charities and Benito Juarez, director of the Mayor's Office on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

Among the questions to be addressed by the seminar are: what changes will occur with immigration reform; what can people expect; will there be a wall along the U.S. - Mexican border; will there be jail time for priests, physicians, social workers, teachers and others who render aid to undocumented persons; and can comprehensive reform deal with the reality of the immigration crisis in our nation?

The series is sponsored by the UST Social Justice Committee. For more information go to stthom.edu/ia/publicaffairs/events/.

Get Your Heart Thumping on Fitness Day

The Recreational Sports Office, along with the Health, Promotion & Wellness Office, will be celebrating National Intramural-Recreational Fitness Day, on Wednesday, Feb. 22, with multiple events throughout the day.

The first event will be a Fitness Walk. Participants meet on the Crooker Patio at 12:30 p.m. before the half mile walk. Following the walk, healthy refreshments will be served. The first 75 people to register will receive a free t-shirt. Register with Matt Gustafson at 713-942-5036.



The next event will be the UST Polar Bear Club at 3 p.m. The Jerabeck pool will be the place for a chilly swim and a chance to win prizes. The first 30 people to take the icy plunge will also get a free t-shirt.



The Cardio Combo Class is next up on the agenda at 5:30 p.m. The class will be held in the dance room on the second floor of Jerabeck Center.

Then at 7:30 p.m., come and support the women's club volleyball team as it hosts North Harris College in the Jerabeck gym.

The final event of the day is free bowling. This event is sponsored by the Student Activities Board. Bring your friends along to Palace Lanes for an intramural bowling tournament. Sign up for a lane in the Student Activities Office in Crooker Center. Lanes are limited, so sign up early. As an added bonus, transportation will be available for 20 students. Sign up for transportation in the Student Activities Office.



For more information contact Matt Gustafson at gustafm@stthom.edu or 713-942-5036.

Filing for Free with Fernandez's Finance Students

For the 23rd year, more than 50 UST accounting students, alumni and volunteers are providing free tax preparation through the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) in north Houston from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. on Saturdays Feb. 18, 25, March 18, April 1 and April 15. Preparers will offer free tax assistance and electronic filing at the MD Anderson YMCA, 705 Cavalcade. UST employees and students are invited to attend.

"This site is managed and run completely by UST students from start to finish," said Accounting Professor Ramon Fernandez, who oversees the VITA program for UST. "We are also Houston's only 100 percent computerized VITA sites, providing free electronic filing and transmission from the site itself."

"We will do Forms 1040EZ, 1040A, and even the long form 1040. We will do itemized deductions (Schedule A), interest and dividend income (Schedule B), simple capital gains and losses (Schedule D), and most of the credits such as: earned income credit, child tax credit, education credits

and dependent care credit," Fernandez said. "We generally cannot do more complicated returns like self-employment income (Schedule C), rent and royalty and K-1 income (Schedule E) and the like."



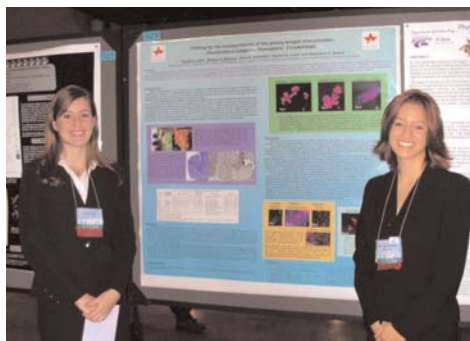
Bacteria on Bugs Benefits Blancas and Clark

Rachel Clark and Melissa Blancas, working with Dr. Rosie Rosell in biology, presented the results of their research at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Ft. Lauderdale in December 2005. They competed against mostly graduate students and post-doctoral researchers in the

President's Prize Competition and won a second place prize in the Physiology Poster Section.

Their research focuses on the bacteria that live within insects called Glassy Winged Sharpshooters. These insects are pests of grapes and have caused millions of dollars of damage in California vineyards.

Clark, Blancas and Rosell used the laser scanning confocal microscopy and transmission electron microscopy facilities at Baylor College of Medicine to microscopically identify several different species of bacteria associated with these insects. This basic research focuses on gaining an understanding the bacteria present in the insect, which ultimately can be used to determine ways to control these insect pests.



Rachel Clark and Melissa Blancas

ViewPoints



Theology at the Lab

The Chi Rho Theology Club will host Sr. Paula Jean Miller, FSE, as she presents "The Theology Behind Natural Family Planning" at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at the Black Labrador, 4100 Montrose.



UST Day at Houston Habitat for Humanity

Help build homes for families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Saturday, Feb. 25. To sign up call the Office of Volunteer Opportunities at 713-525-3801.



Laurels Literary Magazine

Laurels is taking submissions for the Spring 2006 edition. Submit artwork, poetry or any form of literary work by emailing laurels.mag@gmail.com or contacting Janet Lowery at 713-525-3177.



World Culture Movie Series

The film, "The New Rulers of the World," which examines labor issues in Indonesia, will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Anderson Hall, Room 103, 3913 Mt. Vernon.

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

Events

Monday, Feb. 20

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

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Mathematics/Science Lecture Series 3 p.m.
Anderson Hall, Room 103

Wednesday, Feb. 22

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

Saturday, Feb. 25

Spring Preview 9:30a.m.-2 p.m.
Cullen Hall

Publications Win Awards

The 21st Annual Admissions Advertising Awards presented a gold award to Public Affairs for its Just for You! publication for new and returning students. The same entity gave awards of merit to the UST Magazine (Publications office), UST Shining Star CD (Publications office) and to the Insider publication (Public Affairs). Additionally, the Texas Public Relations Association will present an award of merit for the Insider in late February.

Star View is published by the Office of Public Affairs as a means of informing the UST community about University and campus news.

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