FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLORIA PORTELA TO CHAIR UST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GEORGE DEMONTROND TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR

HOUSTON (May 5, 2006) — The University of St. Thomas Board of Directors elected Gloria M. Portela as its chair, and George A. DeMontrond III will serve as vice chair. Both terms begin July 1.

Portela, senior counsel in the Houston office of Seyfarth Shaw, LLP, also is the founding partner of the office and formerly served as its managing partner. She is a mediator specializing in employment and ERISA cases, including multi-party and class action work.

Portela is the first Hispanic woman to chair the board. A native of Havana, Portela came to the United States in 1961. She is bilingual in Spanish and English. She received her B.A. magna cum laude from Loyola University of Chicago in 1973 and her J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1976.

Portela lectures extensively and has published numerous articles, including “Let’s Make A Deal” in Texas Lawyer; and “Mediating Employment Disputes,” Just Resolutions, American Bar Association Section of Alternative Dispute Resolution, October 1999. She has also co-authored the chapter “Employment and Labor Disputes” in the book Alternative Dispute Resolution: the Litigator’s Handbook, published by the American Bar Association’s Litigation Section in 2000. Her past government service includes: the Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission (1993 to 1995); the Commission on Workforce Quality and Labor Market Efficiency (1988 to 1998); the Texas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission (1984 to 1986); and the Civil Rights Reviewing Authority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1981 to 1983).

She is also a director of Bowne & Co., Inc. (BNE-NYSE); and Houston Grand Opera. She is a founding fellow and past governor of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. She was one of the founders of, and served as special counsel to, the Texas Employment Law Council from 1984 to 1986. In 1992, she was named one of the nation's best employment litigators by the National Law Journal.

George A. DeMontrond III, President, DeMontrond Automotive Group, Inc., DeMontrond AutoCountry, Inc. and DeMontrond Motor Corporation, earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1976 from the University of Texas School of Law. He graduated with High Honors from the B.S.E. Basic Engineering Program at and earned at AB in Economics at Princeton University in 1976.

DeMontrond served on the successful $65 million capital campaign team for the University of St. Thomas and co-chaired the UST Athletics Advisory Council, providing leadership to initiate intercollegiate athletics for UST in the fall of 2006. George and Marilyn DeMontrond chaired the Ethical Leadership in Action award luncheon program in 2004. Both are active boosters of the University of St. Thomas.

DeMontrond is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the State Insurance Board, and most of the councils, dealer associations and advisory board related to the automobile industry. He is a board member of Charter Bank and vice chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Conventions, Tourism and Entertainment and a member of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board, and other transportation-related entities.

DeMontrond also serves as a board member of the Houston World Affairs Council, the Center for Houston's Future, Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, American Leadership Forum, the Board of Governors of the Houston Grand Opera and the Super Bowl XXXVIII Board of Directors.

The Houston area car dealer also led the bidding process for Houston's quest for the 2012 Olympics.

DeMontrond and his wife, the former Marilyn Gracey, have also led numerous charitable efforts.

University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

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