



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS STUDENTS TRAVEL ACROSS THE POND TO OBSERVE THE BRIT'S TAKE ON EDUCATION FIRSTHAND

(HOUSTON) March 24, 2006 – Education students from Houston-based University of St. Thomas recently touched ground back in Texas after a 13-day trip to the United Kingdom, 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 ACS Cobham International School, one of three London-area independent schools that educates the 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 young students about monumental historic people, places and events.

While visiting the London-area ACS campus, Dr. Krustchinsky and his students were given presentations by ACS teachers from around the world who shared their experiences as educators working in a classroom of multi-national students. The University of St. Thomas education majors used these presentations and their other experiences in the UK to complete a series of 10 projects exploring various topics related to British curriculum, international education standards, and early childhood learning.

The journey across the pond was much more than a scholarly exercise for the university's senior education majors, as Dr. Krustchinsky has had a number of former students find employment as teachers in the UK, and some amongst the group are pursuing careers teaching overseas. Dr. Krustchinsky has taught University of St. Thomas graduates who've gone on to secure teaching jobs in British schools, from Liverpool in the north of England to Kingston, a suburb just outside of London.

"ACS International Schools proved to be the perfect opportunity for the teachers-in-training to compare and contrast British teaching methodology with the curriculum and techniques they are familiar with in Texas," Dr Krustchinsky explains.

"Because so many ACS International School students are American, and specifically from the Houston-area, my students and I were exposed to a unique comparison between the British and American teaching styles. My students were able to meet with ACS teachers from both the UK and America and discuss the commonalities and differences between ACS's international curriculum and what a child might experience in a Texas school."

More

“We were honored to have Dr. Krustchinsky and his class spend time observing the ACS early childhood center and engage our teachers in an informative and thought-provoking discussion about their work at the University of St. Thomas and their views on the variations in education styles across borders,” said Malcolm Kay, Superintendent of ACS International Schools. “These insights were as valuable for my staff of teachers as much as for the visiting students. I hope the visiting scholars left ACS with the understanding that incorporating elements of their local Texas curriculum with proven international methods offers young children the best elements of any early learning program.”

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Note to journalists

Event photograph available upon request:

Photo identification: University of St. Thomas early education students. (from left to right) Linh Hoang; Rosie Robleto; Holly Minchew; Jeanette Kutach; Ana Lerma; and University of St. Thomas professor Dr. Rick Krustchinsky

Suggested caption: University of St. Thomas education students cannot escape the rainy London weather during a recent trip to study international early learning methods as ACS International Schools in the UK.

About University of St. Thomas/Houston

The University of St. Thomas/Houston is an independent, Catholic, coeducational university that has a strong tradition in and commitment to the liberal arts, which is reflected in the core curriculum required of all undergraduate students. UST is located near Houston’s downtown in the heart of the city’s cultural and recreational district, and has served the city and region for over fifty years. The University enrolls 3,776 students. Of these, 3,095 are campus-based undergraduate and graduate students. UST is committed to becoming a great Catholic university with a focus on undergraduate education, and is taking the steps necessary to prepare for and hand over such an institution to the next generation. For more information, go to www.stthom.edu.

About ACS

ACS International Schools were founded in 1967 to serve international and local communities. The schools are non-sectarian and co-educational (day and boarding), enrolling approximately 2,300 students aged 3 to 18 years.

Each school offers a fully international curriculum including the International Baccalaureate. All schools have state-of-the-art facilities and an on-going programme of building investment with impressive grounds. The strong core academic programme and extensive arts, sports and cultural activities support the school’s student-centred philosophy.



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