



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STEPHEN THOMPSON A HUGO MANN AWARD RUNNER-UP
FROM UST'S CENTER FOR BUSINESS ETHICS**

(HOUSTON, April 21, 2006) -- A 1987 New York Times headline described the present crop of business executives and their practices as "a generation of ruthless management." The Times' writer, Steven Prokesch, stated, "The new order eschews loyalty to workers, products, corporate structure, businesses, factories, communities, even the nation. All such allegiances are viewed as expenditures under the new rules. With survival at stake, only market leadership, strong profits, and a high stock price can be allowed to matter."

Better management techniques can be found, and the annual Hugo Mann Awards reward graduate students through an essay contest for their thoughts and opinions. German businessman Hugo Mann inspired the cash awards.

Stephen Thompson, who plans to graduate in December with a Master of Business Administration, recently won runner-up in the Hugo Mann Ethics Award Essay contest. His essay involves the free flow of "non-fearful communication" and how it strengthens an organization. He used Southwest Airlines and its chairman, Herb Kelleher, as an example. Kelleher believes, as did Hugo Mann, that each person in an organization has equal value.

"During hard economic times, Kelleher chose to use his employees' ingenuity and skill to surpass the competition, rather than slashing benefits and issuing layoffs. Southwest Airlines is one example of how dignifying employees at all levels and listening to their ideas can create an efficient and profitable system which enables good corporate citizenship in social, economic and environmental contexts," Thompson wrote.

Thompson earned his undergraduate degree in communications from Texas A&M University and chose to attend graduate school at the University of St. Thomas Cameron School of Business in order to stay close to his family.

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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