



News Release

Contact: Tom Overton
713-525-3105
overtot@stthom.edu

Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRENCH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS STUDY ABROAD

HOUSTON (Sept. 21) - Annie Polo and Lin Cheng, junior International Studies majors, have received the French Endowed Scholarship which grants both students \$2,000 for this fall semester and \$1,300 each for Spring.

At the end of last year Alliance Française awarded Polo a \$3,000 scholarship to study abroad in France over the summer. She was one of six Houston university students, and the only student from St. Thomas, to win this scholarship award.

Polo chose to study in Nice, a picturesque town on the French Riviera in the south of France, for eight weeks. There she attended classes during the day and traveled around the country in her spare time outside of the classroom. "It was a great experience for me because my French really improved, and I had a lot of fun at the same time," said Polo.

Every year a UST French language student receives a scholarship from the Alliance Française program for study in Paris or a city of choice. With the help of UST professor and program chair, Dr. Rolande Leguillon, Polo in addition to the Alliance Française scholarship received an in-house department scholarship along with Cheng to help continue her studies at St. Thomas.

Polo and Cheng both have bilingual backgrounds, learning English as a second language from their native Spanish countries. Polo was born in Madrid and lived there until she was 11 years old. Cheng was born in Colombia, and grew up in Africa where she learned English before moving to the United States when she was 10.

"I like that UST is a small university. I feel like it is easier to get help from professors that way. Also, I like where UST is located. It's in a big city, where people are in touch with what is going on in the rest of the world. I feel like it is a good university for international studies," said Polo.

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

###