



News Release

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

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**U.N. FOUNDATION OFFICIAL GILLIAN SORENSON:  
'UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS: COMMON AND  
DIVERGENT INTERESTS'**

HOUSTON (Sept. 18, 2006) — Gillian Martin Sorenson, senior adviser and national advocate to the United Nations Foundation and former Assistant Secretary-General, will speak at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon, on the University of St. Thomas campus. Her topic: "The United States and the United Nations: Common and Divergent Interests." The UST Center for International Studies sponsors her visit.

Sorenson has spent most of her career working in the foreign policy arena, especially where the United Nations is concerned. Issues she deals with include terrorism, epidemics, flows of refugees across borders and other international matters for which the United Nations must serve as the central forum for action.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed her to Assistant Secretary-General for external relations, a position she served in from 1997 to 2003. Outreach to civil society, including non-governmental organizations around the world, was her chief responsibility. She was the contact point for the Secretary-General in relations between the United Nations and parliamentarians, the academic world, religious leaders and other groups committed to peace, justice, development and human rights. As a member of the Secretary-General's inner circle, she played a role in his communications strategy as well as schedule planning.

more

University of St. Thomas/Sorenson/2222

Prior to that assignment, Sorenson served from 1993 to 1996 as special adviser for public policy to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and during the 12-year period from 1978 to 1990 as New York City Commissioner for the United Nations and Consular Corps, head of the City's liaison with the world's largest diplomatic community.

Sorenson is a graduate of Smith College and studied at the Sorbonne. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Women's Forum and the Women's Foreign Policy Group. She previously served as a board member of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting on appointment by the President of the United States.

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

**###**