News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 8, 2006

University of St. Thomas presents 'Women of the World' Lecture Series

WHAT: Karima Essahel Richardson, 2004 University of St. Thomas graduate, will present a lecture titled "Transition to Modernity: Empowerment of Women in Morocco" as part of the Women of the World Lecture Series.

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 16

WHERE: Anderson Hall, Room 103
University of St. Thomas
3913 Mt. Vernon

BACKGROUND: Since his ascension to the throne in July, 1999 King Mohamed VI has taken measures aimed at improving the political, economic and social conditions of the populace. Under his political leadership, empowerment of women has undergone unprecedented changes allowing for more political participation, access to education and promotion of women's economic involvement.

Richardson, native of Morocco, graduated from UST with a Bachelor of Arts in international studies and is aspiring to earn a master's in international affairs. She earned an associate's degree in tourism and travel management from High International Institute of Tourism in Tangier. Richardson has been a member of the Houston World Affairs Council, International Studies Association Southwest and UNICEF.

Initiated by Dr. Debra Andrist, Cullen professor of Spanish, in honor of her parents, Bill L. and Gerre D. Andrist, the *Women of the World* series was inspired by Andrist's summer 2004 Fulbright-Hays summer seminar in Morocco, *The Triumph and Challenges of Women in Morocco*.

COST: Free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Dr. Debra D. Andrist at 713-525-3122 or at andrist@stthom.edu

###