



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UST'S CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT**

HOUSTON (Jan. 24, 2006)—The Chemistry Department at the University of St. Thomas has been awarded a \$115, 520 grant by the National Science Foundation for a project titled “FTNMR Instrumentation and Modeling Software for Undergraduate Instruction in Chemistry.”

The department will use the funds to purchase a nuclear magnetic resonance instrument and incorporate it into virtually every chemistry course St. Thomas offers. The NMR instrument is the only type of instrument required by the American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training for certification of degree programs.

This instrument will yield detailed information to students about the structure of molecules and their surroundings. The principles behind NMR spectroscopy underlie the application of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in the medical field.

“As a process, chemistry is concerned with the tools and techniques of investigating matter, the interpretation of the results of these investigations and the various models used to explain the experimental results,” Dr. Thomas Malloy, Cullen Trust/Welder-Mitchell Chair of Chemistry said.

“The NMR instrument gives our students an essential tool to yield detailed information about molecular structure, i.e. how atoms are arranged in molecules. The NMR is very sensitive to the environment surrounding molecules.

“Students majoring in chemistry will have the scientific knowledge necessary for functioning effectively in the modern world. Students will experience an education balanced between theory and practice that will prepare them for graduate study in science or the health professions and will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment,” Malloy said.

The 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.

For more information contact Dr. Thomas Malloy at 713-525-6916.

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