

UST Students Attend March for Life in Austin, Washington D.C.



A group of 34 University of St. Thomas students traveled the weekend of Jan. 21-23 to Austin and Washington D.C. to witness their commitment to the protection of human life in front of the United States Supreme Court and the Texas State Capitol.

Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, and Marianne Ivany accompanied 12 Celts for Life members to Washington D.C. on Friday, Jan. 21. Families from Little Flower Parish in Bethesda, Md., where Father Mark Ivany is the parochial vicar, generously provided accommodations for UST students.

Their whirlwind weekend trip included attending the Students for Life of America conference, the March for Life opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Verizon Center Youth Mass and Rally and the March for Life.

The Austin March for Life contingent consisted of 22 UST students from Celts for Life and the Knights of Columbus who joined forces to stand up for life. Their one-day trip included Mass at San Jose Catholic Church, the pro-life march to the steps of the Capitol, and a gathering of youth and diocesan seminarians hosted by the Catholic Longhorns for Life and the Office of Pro-Life Activities and



Chaste Living.

UST student Mayra Morales, attended the March for Life in Washington for the first time.

“It’s important for us to be present at the March for Life because it’s imperative that we stand up for our beliefs and act upon them,” Morales said. “It’s crucial to have a voice because even one person can make a difference.”

The March for Life has been held annually since 1974 in protest to the Supreme Court’s 1973 decision to legalize abortion through the *Roe v. Wade* case. Students interested in becoming involved with the student pro-life movement on campus should contact the Celts for Life president, Emilie Bierschenk, at biersce@stthom.edu for more information.

UST Increases Financial Aid Budget by 21 Percent

As the cost of higher education continues to increase across the nation, The University of St. Thomas remains committed to providing an accessible and affordable private, liberal arts education to all students.

To meet growing student financial need, UST has increased the financial aid budget 21 percent for a total of \$9.2 million for the 2011-2012 academic year. This marks an unprecedented increase in available scholarships in grants in recent years. In the 2010-2011 academic year, UST awarded \$7.586 million in institutional scholarships and grants. In addition, \$75,000 has been earmarked for Continuing Student Scholarships, which offer scholarships to continuing students who have completed at least one academic year with a 3.0 grade point average, but who were ineligible for scholarships when they entered as freshmen. This incentive will recognize their hard work and commitment to earning a St Thomas degree. Applications for Continuing Student Scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year will be available in June of 2011.

Scholarships have also been restructured to reflect an increase in award allocation. The following categories of institutional aid will be available: Presidential Excellence Scholarship (\$14,000), Basilian Distinguished Scholarship (\$11,000), UST Achievement Scholarship (\$9,000), and Celt Award (\$7,000). These new designations will not affect the awards for scholarships previously granted to students who enrolled before the 2011-2012 academic year.



Eve Uprisings in

The University of St. Thomas International Center will host “Contagious Uprisings in the Middle East” on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011 in Jones Hall. Fr. Apostoli is considered one of the world’s foremost experts on the apparitions of the Virgin Mary. Panelists include Fr. Apostoli, Fr. Sindelar and Fr. Aiello. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Theology Department at 713-525-3582.

Fatima for Today

The University of St. Thomas Chi Rho Fraternity Club will host “Fatima for Today,” on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011 in Jones Hall. Fr. Apostoli is considered one of the world’s foremost experts on the apparitions of the Virgin Mary. Panelists include Fr. Apostoli, Fr. Sindelar and Fr. Aiello. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Theology Department at 713-525-3582.



What St. Be

Dr. F. Russell Benedict, Director of the Center for the Study of the Modern World, will be speaking at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011 at St. Thomas Center for the Study of the Modern World. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Center for the Study of the Modern World at 713-525-2155.

Basketball Schedule Changes

Come and cheer the Celts men’s basketball team for the last home game of the season on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011 for the last men’s basketball home game at the University of St. Thomas. The game against Arlington Baptist College on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, has changed from 3 p.m. to 2 p.m. The game against the University of New Orleans on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011, has changed from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21 instead of the scheduled Wednesday, Feb. 23 game.



Texas Job F

UST and Houston Community College are co-sponsors of one of the largest job fairs in the area. The fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011 at the Houston Recreation Center. The fair is a free service for the community and is open to all. For more information, contact the UST Office of Career and Professional Development at 713-525-3582. Visit www.CeltsofStThomas.com for more information.

Shop at Ten Thousand Villages to Support MicroCredit



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES®

Find a unique gift for your Valentine, support fair-trade artisans and the University of St. Thomas Social Entrepreneurship Program at Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages, 2424A Rice Blvd. in Rice Village. Fifteen percent of net sales of items purchased between 6 and 8 p.m. Friday, **Feb. 11**, will benefit the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

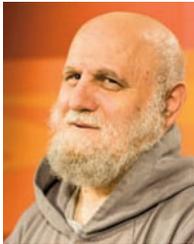
The UST Social Entrepreneurship Program (formerly MicroCredit Program) assists

impoverished individuals around the globe with starting loans to launch income-generating businesses. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit, self-supporting, non-governmental, and fair trade organization, designed to benefit artisans, not to maximize profits. They market hand-made products (Valentine gifts, jewelry, toys, musical instruments, household accessories, and home décor) from artisans in low income countries and provide consumers around the world with products that have been fairly purchased from sustainable resources.

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Egypt, Tunisia

ty of St. Thomas Center for al Studies will host a panel discussion, "Harbingers for Change in and the Region?" at 6 p.m., on , in Ahern Room of Crooker Center. e Dr. Nivien Saleh, Professor Richard da Araissi, Bilateral US-Arab Chamber The event is free and open to the e information, call 713-525-3536.



Benedict Taught the Dark Ages

l Hittinger will speak about, "What St. aught the Dark Ages – His and Ours," Thursday, Feb. 24 on the University ampus, Jones Hall. The event is John Paul II Forum for the Church in rld and the Center for Thomistic ture is free and open to the public. mation, contact Dr. John Hittinger at



Fair

ouston Area Cosortium of Career ll host the 19th Annual Texas Job Fair, st college job fairs in Texas, from 10 n Tuesday, Feb. 8 in the University of tion and Wellness Center. Guests can 100 different employers offering jobs UST will provide a free shuttle event. For more information, contact Career Services at 713-525-3160 or Careers.com.

Mike Ricks Named UST Women's Basketball Coach

Dr. The University of St. Thomas has appointed Mike Ricks as the coach of the women's basketball team, set to take the court for the first time in the 2011-2012 season. Ricks will recruit and coach the inaugural intercollegiate women's basketball team at UST. UST competes in the Association of Independent Institutions conference in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.



Ricks joins the full-time coaching staff at UST after spending the past two seasons as an assistant coach with the UST men's basketball team. He is no stranger to success in coaching after leading Kingwood's Northeast Christian Academy to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) State Basketball Tournament four times. He was also part of three state championship teams as a high school coach. Most recently, Ricks served as the Northeast Christian's athletic director and head boys' basketball coach. He also coached the varsity girls' basketball team. In 2010, he led the NCA Warriors to a 30-10 record and a TAPPS AA State Championship. Ricks also reached the 100-win milestone as a high school varsity coach. Under Ricks' three-year leadership, the varsity girls' record was 81-34.

"Mike's energy, enthusiasm and passion for the University of St. Thomas and women's basketball are obvious when you meet him," said UST Athletic Director Todd Smith. "When we began our search for our first women's basketball coach we wanted someone who would build a lasting foundation for the program while recruiting and developing outstanding student-athletes; Coach Ricks is that person. He has won state championships at the high school level and will now bring his coaching and mentorship to UST."

UST Students, Faculty Provide Free Tax Preparation

For the 28th consecutive year, more than 50 University of St. Thomas accounting students, alumni and volunteers are providing free tax preparation through the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) in north Houston from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturdays Jan. 29 through April 15. Preparers will offer free tax assistance and electronic filing at the MD Anderson YMCA, 705 Cavalcade, near the Irvington intersection.



Volunteers will be available beginning at 9 a.m. on the following Saturdays: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 26 April 2, 9. Appointments are not accepted on Saturdays; guests will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. Arrive before 12:30 p.m., as each return takes about an hour to complete. Weekday tax return assistance is available by appointment only on Monday through Thursday 4-8 pm; call the YMCA at 713-697-0648 for a weekday appointment. For more information on this service or its schedule, contact Ramon Fernandez at 713-525-2103. Read full story at www.stthom.edu.

Volunteer For Day of Service

Dr. Robert Ivany invites the campus community to roll up their sleeves and get to work at the President's Day of Service from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, **Feb. 12**.

All Celts – students, alumni, faculty, staff and families – will have the chance to work side-by-side and support the University without leaving campus. The day will begin with breakfast with Dr. Ivany in Crooker Center. All projects begin at 9 a.m. Service projects include: Project Linus and Hug Pillows, making fleece blankets and pillows for children in area hospitals; refurbishing the wood benches throughout the UST campus and indoor painting projects.

To sign up for projects, visit www.stthom.edu/dayofservice, e-mail mail to: dayofservice@stthom.edu or call Heath Whitaker at 713-525-3801.



Turtle Race Tradition Continues

The University of St. Thomas Alumni Association will host the 2nd Annual Turtle Races immediately following the UST vs. Arlington basketball game on Feb. 19 on the Campus Life Mall. Come cheer on the turtles as they “speed” across the finish line. Enter to win door prizes and stick around for a post-game party in the Old Bookstore to celebrate the Celts' victory and the race winners!



Schedule

- 2 p.m.: Men's Basketball Game –UST vs. Arlington Baptist College, Jerabeck Gym
- 3:15 p.m.: 2nd Annual Turtle Races, Jerabeck Gym
- 3:45 p.m.: Post-Game Party, Old Bookstore. Food and beer will be provided. Please bring your I.D.

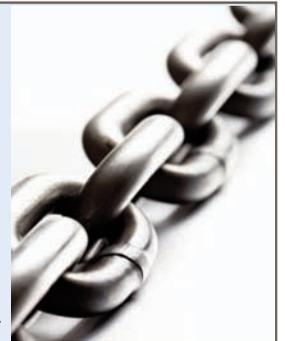
For more information, check out the Alumni Association Facebook event page www.facebook.com/USTalumni or contact Monica Longoria, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, at 713-942-3407 or longormr@stthom.edu.

Panel Discusses Houston's Role in Human Trafficking

The University of St. Thomas Center for International Studies and Students Working Against Trafficking (SWAT) will host, “Human Trafficking: The Issue and Responses,” at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 10 in Ahern Room, Crooker Center, 3909 Graustark. Speakers include Dr. Thang D. Nguyen, executive director of Boat People SOS; Terrence O'Rourke, assistant county attorney and CIS professor; Linda Geffin, chief of special prosecution, Harris County Attorney's Office and Morgan K. Zamora, Students Working Against Trafficking (SWAT) president.

Houston is used as both a destination and transitional location for human trafficking. UST's Social Entrepreneurship Program and SWAT are working together with YMCA International to create a microfinance program that benefits victims of human trafficking in Houston. Their goal is to empower the victims and give them the resources and training they need to run a successful business and give them real world skills they can use to better their lives and future.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Betsy Jose-Thota at 713-525-3533 or josethb@stthom.edu.



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