

Longest-serving staff member honored

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While most of us only spend four or five years of our lives at the University of St. Thomas, one beloved staff member has spent many more than the standard four years. Betty Kaffenberger has recently earned the honor being of the longest-serving staff member in UST history. She has spent fifty years of her life serving the University in a variety of capacities, beginning when she was nineteen years old. "I heard about the University of St. Thomas while I was in Business College, and the position came open and I came and interviewed and got the job. I came because they were having their first capital campaign and I came as the secretary for the person that was directing that campaign," said Kaffenberger. The position for secretary for the capital campaign was suppose to only last for three months, however Kaffenberger stayed on for much longer than that.

While Kaffenberger has worked in nearly every administrative office on campus, she came back to the University after her retirement to work on a project that is particularly close to her heart. Kaffenberger's years of service to the University have afforded her a extensive knowledge of it's history and she puts this knowledge to good use in her work in the archives. "Of course, that's my love- working in the archives. I'm extremely proud to have been a part of the University of St. Thomas for all these years. It is very rewarding to see the campus grow from only one block bordered by Montrose, Yoakum, Sul Ross, and West Alabama to what it is today," commented Kaffenberger.

Certainly fifty years of involvement with the University has provided a vast array of memorable events, moments, and people, but Kaffenberger did have a few favorite memories from her years at UST.

One person that had a particular impact on her was Fr. Guinan, who founded UST. "Fr. Guinan was such a dedicated person. Even though he was involved in an automobile accident and ended up in the hospital for several weeks, every day I went up to the hospital. He had a student assistant that read him his mail and Fr. Guinan dictated letters back to me," explained Kaffenberger.

One of the most memorable, fun events in the history of the University was what Ms. Kaffenberger explained as a turtle race. "In the early years, we had what we called visitation days, when the high schools would send students on campus. We had a little event we called a 'turtle race.' They had a parade, and then they would form circle in front of what is now O'Rourke. They would have a big circle drawn on the ground and all these small turtles were placed in the middle- you'd have your name on a turtle. They'd face all of these



PHOTO BY SHANNEN GARZA

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

UST's longest-serving staff member, Betty Kaffenberger

turtles in the middle of the circle and the one that came out first was the winner. I think I'll always remember that- it was such a fun thing to do," said Kaffenberger. Fifty years of viewing changes in both the University and the world around it has provided Kaffenberger with a wisdom that current UST students

would all benefit from. When asked if she had advice for current students, Kaffenberger replied, "I guess the most important thing is to remember the University that teaches such faith and ethical values, whether you're Catholic or not. They teach wonderful faith and ethical values. Always remember that."