FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of St. Thomas Student Turns Katrina Calamity into Success

HOUSTON (Aug. 8, 2006)—It took a catastrophic storm to bring LeDarrin Johnson to the University of St. Thomas. When Hurricane Katrina ended his studies at the University of New Orleans, Johnson came to UST to continue working towards his degree until he determined where to go next. He decided to stay put, and his decision has paid off.

The Texas Nonprofit Theatres, Inc. awarded Johnson a paid 2006 summer internship. TNT is a statewide service organization for all nonprofit theatres in Texas. Johnson began the summer working with the Arts View Children’s Theatre in Longview and then moved on to a second residency with Shakespeare Dallas, most notably known for its summer outdoor Shakespeare productions.

Professor Claire McDonald, chair of the fine and performing arts department, shares TNT’s assessment of Johnson’s talent. “UST drama is indeed fortunate that he has chosen to stay here and joint-major in drama and communication,” McDonald exclaims. “He’s a great new addition to the department and a talent to boot!”

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

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