

ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

April 2007

Plans for new campus parking ramp continue to take shape

The northeast tower on a new parking ramp at St. Thomas will be constructed of Mankato-Kasota stone and glass and will feature a gable in order to resemble the architecture of other campus buildings.

The gabled tower will enclose the elevator and primary stairwell for the 704-car ramp, which St. Thomas proposes to build in 2008-2009 on the tennis courts near the southwest corner of Cretin and Grand avenues.

Architects from Ryan Companies, the Minneapolis-based contractor for the project, came up with the gable design after hearing from members of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) that the ramp should have an attractive façade, especially facing Cretin.

The northeast tower gable will be similar to the gables on Owens Science Hall to the north and on the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity several hundred yards to the west. Gables are a distinguishing characteristic of the Collegiate Gothic architecture on the St. Thomas campus, and these three gables will be visible simultaneously



An artist's rendering shows how the ramp would appear at the intersection of Cretin and Grand avenues, looking south.

from Grand, to the east.

The ramp's façade will feature alternating sections of limestone-colored precast concrete and thin-set dark brick, resembling both the Mankato-Kasota stone exterior of Owens and the darker brick exteriors of McCarthy Gymnasium to the west and the apartment buildings across Cretin to the east. The brick and lighter-colored sections will be offset two feet to create a contrasting façade.

One level of the ramp will be below grade and the other four levels will be above grade, with

the top deck of parking at 33 feet above grade. The ramp will be constructed to allow the addition of one or two levels (150-300 cars), although St. Thomas has no plans for any such expansion at this time. The university's Special Condition Use Permit allows a ramp height of up to 60 feet.

City officials are requiring a traffic analysis to address the project's impact of more vehicles entering the south campus at Cretin and Grand and more pedestrians crossing Cretin

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UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

Around the University of St. Thomas

Three UST students win prestigious national scholarships

Three of the nine college students from Minnesota who were awarded prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year are students at St. Thomas. Juniors Nathaniel Brandt, Lindsey Hines and Christian Lytle will receive the \$7,500 scholarships. A fourth St. Thomas nominee, Joseph Dubis, received honorable mention in the competition. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.



UST School of Law gets first U.S. News ranking

The University of St. Thomas School of Law is in the third tier

among 184 law schools ranked by U.S. News & World Report magazine. The 2007 rankings were announced March 30. St. Thomas joins three other Midwest law schools – Creighton University in Nebraska, Drake University in Iowa, and William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul – in the third tier.

This was the first year the St. Thomas law school was eligible for inclusion in the magazine's rankings. It earned full accreditation from the American Bar Association in February.

The St. Thomas School of Law welcomed 120 students when it opened in 2001; it now enrolls 439.



Irish poet wins 11th annual O'Shaughnessy Award

Poet Seán Lysaght of Fahy, County Mayo, recently received the 11th annual Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry

from the UST Center for Irish Studies.

The \$5,000 award, established in 1997, honors Irish poets. The award is named for Lawrence O'Shaughnessy, who taught English at St. Thomas from 1948 to 1950, formerly served on the university's board of trustees and recently retired as head of the I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation.

Lysaght's most recent collections of poetry, *Scarecrow* (1998) and *Erris* (2002), were published by The Gallery Press, an independent Irish publishing company.



UST poet publishes fifth book

Dr. Leslie Adrienne Miller, who has taught at UST since 1991, is the author of a new poetry collection. *The Resurrection Trade* was published by Graywolf Press this month and is available for \$14 at local bookstores.

Give new UST international students a 'home away from home'

The UST Office of International Student Services invites you to join its CultureLink Friendship Family Program.

This program connects new international students with American families. The program promotes cultural exchange and helps international students find a "home away from home" during their time at St. Thomas.

Friendship Families enjoy many international experiences, cultural learning opportunities and invitations to international events at St. Thomas. "Their" international students also have a unique opportunity to learn about

American life and traditions. The program allows a flexible time commitment to fit into participants' busy schedules.

CultureLink participants provide no housing, financial assistance or employment to international students; they do, however, get together with the students at least once a month, help them adjust to American and university life, participate in special events and generally introduce them to life in Minnesota.

"Participation in Friendship Family Program is one of the most unforgettable memories of my experience at St. Thomas,"

said Gulbahar Abdurasulova, an undergraduate student from Turmenistan. "The program helped me integrate myself into a larger community than just being on campus. While being thousand miles away from my family at home, I had a family in Minnesota that was always there for me."

For more information and an application, send e-mail to oiss@stthomas.edu or call (651) 962-6650. You also can apply online on the CultureLink Web site, www.stthomas.edu/oiss/culturelink. Please note that the application deadline for fall semester is May 1.

Over the back fence



By John Hershey, Neighborhood Liaison

The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory

Committee was established almost three years ago as a result of a 2004 agreement that permitted St. Thomas to develop the blocks bounded by Cleveland, Cretin, Summit and Grand avenues. WSNAC immediately established three working subcommittees that meet regularly to address a wide variety of concerns and issues. Meetings are open to all interested residents.

WSNAC and its subcommittees have been quite active and have served as venues for positive "town and gown" cooperation. For example, WSNAC played a major role in establishing the Summit Avenue pedestrian crossing plan. Here's an update on some recent subcommittee activities:

- The Traffic, Parking, Safety and Student Relations Subcommittee spearheaded a modest funding request for the city to improve, for safety purposes, Summit Avenue

boulevard lighting between Cleveland and Cretin avenues. The city recently determined that the area did not meet its current lighting standards. The request, co-sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, is not to overwhelm the area with bright light but rather to meet existing safety standards.

The same subcommittee also convenes semiannual meetings of UST officials, St. Paul police leaders, committee members, city council representatives and neighbors to address "livability issues." The meetings generate a framework for coordinated responses to disturbance reports. The group met in September, reconvened in January and plans a follow-up session in June.

Many thanks to the subcommittee, co-chaired by Jim Sachs and Tim Mulrooney, for its work on these issues.

- The Housing Subcommittee has been busy planning a second annual community forum, hosted by St. Paul City Council members Jay Benanav and Pat Harris, to inform residents about the recent changes in city ordinances which now require inspection of – and assignment of certificates of occupancy to – single-family and duplex rental units. Representatives from UST, the city's new

Department of Safety and Inspections and community council organizers will be on hand afterward to address specific individual concerns. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, in 3M Auditorium of Owens Science Hall on the St. Thomas campus at the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin avenues. Visitors without university parking permits may park in the lots behind the building that evening, but please avoid metered spots or restricted areas such as fire lanes.

- Finally, the Campus Development Subcommittee has worked on the design for the proposed UST parking ramp to be built on the current site of the St. Thomas tennis courts. The subcommittee's suggestions have greatly improved the design and appearance of the building while also adding green space to the project. Thanks!

If you have questions about WSNAC's work, please consult our Web site, www.wsnac.net. Of course, I'm always available to talk and to listen.

John Hershey has been the university's St. Paul neighborhood liaison since 1998. He welcomes neighbors' calls at (651) 962-6123.

Parking ramp: Traffic analysis report to be presented at May 8 meeting

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between the south and main campuses.

SRF Consulting Inc. did traffic counts on Cretin, including turning movements, in March and will present its findings and recommendations to WSNAC in

May. The public is invited to the meeting, which will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, in Room 155, Murray-Herrick Campus Center.

If construction begins in May 2008, the ramp could open by the summer of 2009. St. Thomas needs to construct the ramp to

replace parking spaces that will be lost to construction of a new student center on the northeast corner of Cretin and Summit.

Preliminary plans call for construction of a new student center in 2010-2011, with opening in fall 2011.

At St. Thomas

*Join the St. Thomas community for these speakers, events and performances.
For more information, call the number listed with the event or (651) 962-6400.*

April 25-29

Theater: The joint Theater Department of the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine presents Tina Howe's 1983 play, "Painting Churches." In this comic drama, a daughter helps her aging parents move out of their house while struggling to remain focused on her work as a painter. She does so by painting a portrait of her parents, depicting their decline but also preserving a part of her past.

Performances are 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, April 25-28, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 29, in Frey Theater at the College of St. Catherine, 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission and free for students, faculty and staff with ID from the Associated Colleges of the Twin cities (St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Augsburg College, Macalester College and Hamline University).

Seating is limited. For reservations, call The O'Shaughnessy ticket office at CSC, (651) 690-6700.



April 28

Conference: A conference about women in the Catholic Church, "Women, Church and Society: Leadership and Justice," will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Coeur de Catherine Student Center at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. The conference, open to the public, is presented by the Archdiocesan Commission on Women, and St. Thomas.

Sister Margaret Guider, O.S.F., of the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, will give the keynote address, "Voices, Visions and Vexations: Women Engaging the World Church." Other sessions will cover topics such as immigrant women, domestic violence, peacekeeping, women in the early church and more.

Cost for the daylong conference,

including continental breakfast, snacks and lunch, is \$75, \$25 for students. For information visit www.archspm.org/spmewn or call (651) 291-4513.



April 28

Information session: The St. Thomas School of Engineering will host an information session about its graduate programs, "Energize Your Career," at 9 a.m. in Room 127, O'Shaughnessy Science Hall.

Graduate engineering offerings include master's degrees in manufacturing systems engineering and master of science degrees in manufacturing systems, technology management, and engineering.

Learn more about the programs and meet faculty, staff and alumni. To register, visit the School of Engineering Web site, www.stthomas.edu/engineering, and click on the "Graduate" tab, or call (651) 962-5756.



April 29

Benefit concert: The 60-member St. Thomas Liturgical Choir will give a concert, "Sing for Sudan," to benefit Catholic relief efforts in Darfur.

Admission is free, and a free-will offering will be collected for the relief efforts. Contributions made payable to "University of St. Thomas Liturgical Choir" also may be sent to the University of St. Thomas, Mail # 4039, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

The performance will include works by Mozart, Moses Haugen, James Callahan and David Haas, and works composed for the choir throughout its 30 years of service to worship and the arts.

The Liturgical Choir was founded in 1977 and has earned acclaim for its work locally, nationally and internationally. Conducted by founder Robert Strusinski, the choir again has

been invited to sing at the Vatican's Christmas liturgies next December in St. Peter's Basilica.

Learn more about the choir by visiting www.stthomas.edu/liturgicalchoir or call (651) 962-6572.



May 12 and 19

Commencement: The UST School of Law holds commencement exercises May 12, and undergraduate, graduate and College of Business ceremonies are May 19 on the St. Thomas' St. Paul campus. Graduates invite their guests to these events.

Time to register kids for summer camp

The 24th annual Summer Day Camp at St. Thomas' McCarthy Gym runs from June 18 to Aug. 10.

Camp sessions offer children ages 3-12 a variety of activities that focus on recreation, the natural world, diversity, environmental issues and the arts.

One- and two-week sessions and extended day options are available, and a free junior counselor program is designed for boys and girls 13-16 (bonus: a 25-use card for McCarthy gym is given to those who complete the junior counselor program).

To register, call (651) 962-5933. Hurry! Sessions are filling fast.