

# ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

November 2008

## Strong enrollment, cost-cutting aid university in troubled national economy

As is the case with many other colleges and universities, a troubled national economy is having an impact this fall at the University of St. Thomas.

Despite a strong financial performance in the fiscal year that ended June 30 and record undergraduate enrollment this semester, St. Thomas faces challenges in balancing this fiscal year's budget as costs climb for health care, food, materials, energy and financial aid.

Early projections indicate the university will pay up to \$3.2 million more for those items in its \$187 million operating budget, which the administration developed last fall and the Board of Trustees approved in February.

"St. Thomas is doing very well on one hand, thanks to strong enrollment across the board," said Mark Vangsgard, vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer. "We set records this fall for credit hours (up 1.5 percent) and undergraduate enrollment (6,164 students), we had our fourth-consecutive freshman class of 1,300 students and our retention rate remains over 87 percent on the undergraduate level.

"Inflation, however, is hurting us," Vangsgard acknowledged.

The university is beginning to implement a number of cost-saving measures, including delaying some new hires, deferring maintenance spending, reducing temperature settings in buildings, swimming pools and

water heaters, and reducing other noncompensation expenses.

"Each day adds a new variable we need to think about and deal with," Vangsgard said. "We will manage what we can, delay what we need and cancel what we must in order to balance the budget."

### Join Tommies for Homecoming Nov. 7-9

University of St. Thomas alumni and students look forward to the university's annual homecoming-reunion celebration Nov. 7-9, and family fun is in store for friends and campus neighbors, too:

- **Homecoming parade:** The parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, along Summit Avenue between Fry Street and Cretin Avenue. Watch for floats, bands, cheerleaders and, of course, the St. Thomas mascot.

- **Food festival:** The annual "Taste of Saints" food fest will feature treats served by more than 40 student clubs and organizations. Have lunch before the football game from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, on the main campus

quadrangle. Kids' activities and live music keep everyone entertained.

- **Football game:** The Tommies take on the Royals of Bethel University at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, on Palmer Field at St. Thomas' O'Shaughnessy Stadium. Gates open at noon. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and free with a UST ID.

- **Homecoming-Reunion Mass:** Join the St. Thomas community for Sunday worship. Mass begins at 11 a.m. on Nov. 9 in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

For more info about UST homecoming and reunion activities, call the St. Thomas Alumni Association at (651) 962-6430.



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

# Around the University of St. Thomas

## **Annual Campus Security Act Report available**

The 2008 Campus Security Act Report is available through the St. Thomas Public Safety Office. This report includes campus crime statistics for the most recent three-year period and a broad range of institutional policies concerning campus safety. These policies pertain to alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, crime reporting, sexual assault and other important topics.

To see a copy of the report, visit the Public Safety Web site, [www.stthomas.edu/psps](http://www.stthomas.edu/psps), and click "Campus Security Act Report."



## **University to partner with Opus Prize Foundation to award \$1 million gift**

St. Thomas will serve as a partner with the Opus Prize Foundation to award a \$1 million gift next year to an individual or organization whose faith-based, entrepreneurial leadership helps people in need to transform their lives.

The gift will be awarded in October 2009 by the foundation, after an 18-month effort with St. Thomas to identify a worthy recipient. Two other individuals or organizations will receive \$100,000 each.

The Opus Group, a national real estate development company based in Minnetonka, established the foundation in 2004 to further humanitarian efforts of the prize recipients and to inspire people's service to others.

While the foundation works with Catholic universities to make the award, recipients may have

roots in any faith.

Previous partners have been the University of San Francisco, Marquette University, the University of Notre Dame, Catholic University of America and Seattle University.

"From establishing an innovative public health program for the poor in Brazil to addressing the overwhelming poverty of farm works in central Florida to tackling youth illiteracy in India, Opus Prize winners have dedicated their lives to help transform the lives of others," the foundation says.

To read more about the Opus Prize, see [www.opusprize.org](http://www.opusprize.org).



## **Center celebrates 25 years of international education**

St. Thomas' International Education Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The center sprang from the Foreign Studies Office in 1983.

Championed by Dr. Paul Schons, professor of German, the center became a full-time office providing students with the opportunity for international experiences through study abroad and exchange programs.

Today, St. Thomas remains among the leading American institutions for study abroad. More than half of St. Thomas undergraduates participate in academic programs outside the United States.



## **UST awards honorary degree to Irish author, commentator**

Irish author, critic and commentator Declan Kiberd gave a lecture and received an honorary

doctor of humane letters degree from St. Thomas on Oct. 29.

Kiberd delivered the university's Daniel W. Hardy Memorial Lecture, named in memory of a longtime benefactor of UST's Center for Irish Studies. Hardy, of St. Paul, was a 1974 alumnus.

Kiberd, chair of Anglo-Irish literature and drama at University College Dublin, is best known for his 1995 book, *Inventing Ireland*, which offers a postcolonial interpretation of Anglo-Irish literature and culture. He is considered Ireland's foremost public intellectual and is a frequent commentator on Irish public and cultural affairs.



## **School of Law again recognized by Princeton Review**

For the fourth consecutive year, the Princeton Review's annual survey of law schools lauds the UST School of Law.

Princeton Review's 2009 publication, *The Best 174 Law Schools*, includes rankings based on student surveys and institutional data. St. Thomas ranks No. 2 nationally for "Best Quality of Life." This category of the annual survey is based on "student assessments of: whether there is a strong sense of community at the school, how aesthetically pleasing the law school is, the location of the law school, the quality of the social life, classroom facilities, and the library staff."

The School of Law's dean, Thomas Mengler, called the ranking "a reflection of the kind of community we have created and maintain here."

## Over the back fence



**By John Hershey, Neighborhood Liaison**

It's November, when we celebrate Thanksgiving.

For what am I thankful? The surprisingly robust tax bills we lucky St. Paulites paid this year, or that I bought a new transmission for the car? Or am I thankful that we now have a new car, courtesy of the kid who crashed the one with the new transmission?

I'm a lucky guy, the father of two sons in college! One left to study in Ireland and promptly lost his bank draft. The other arrived for his first year at a West Coast university and got Lyme Disease.

As long as I'm on a roll here, I could tell you how my fence fell down in a wind storm, about the surprise "fixes" on our 80-year-old house or about the several canceled vacations this year.

And, of course, like millions of other lucky guys in America, I've definitely bid farewell to the dim hope of an early retirement. This fall gave the wallet a twitch, didn't it?

A few weeks ago, in the wake of a particularly ugly weekend's worth of party house complaints, I was feeling quite curmudgeonly when I heard a friend had lost his job. I paused and said a brief prayer for him, tilted my chair and kicked my feet up on my desk.

I remembered a quote by Canadian poet Robert Service (1874-1958), who said, "Be master of your petty annoyances and conserve your energies for the big, worthwhile things. It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out – it's the grain of sand in your shoe."

All of a sudden, the world didn't seem so bad. I hadn't lost my home to catastrophe. I have a family who loves me, teenage sons who still talk to me, aren't addicted to technological devices and pause to chat after supper. My dog greets me with unquestioned fidelity each day I return from work. I have a quiet and steady faith.

I have neighbors who offer assistance without my asking. I can go trout fishing and I even spent a few beautiful fall days casting in the rivers of Yellowstone National Park. I can still afford to fix the things that break. I have the privilege of choosing a grocery store to patronize. I can buy fresh produce at the farmer's market or pick apples in an orchard or take a walk by the river.

I have a purpose when I get up in the morning. I live in a community that cares about quality-of-life issues and have the chance to feel needed. In my job, I can serve the university and the community simultaneously. People ask me for my opinions on stuff and even listen when I give them. Sometimes I can help people who aren't as lucky as I am.

This month – and especially on Thanksgiving Day – remember how much there is to be grateful for. Our gratitude helps us see the "mountain ahead" much more clearly. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Mark your calendar for UST Christmas concert Dec. 7 at Orchestra Hall

A University of St. Thomas tradition spanning two decades gets an even bigger stage this year with a national public television audience.

The University of St. Thomas will present its 21st annual Christmas concert, "Hodie Christus Natus Est (Christ is Born Today)," at 4 and 7:30 p.m. performances Sunday, Dec. 7, in Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis.

Twin Cities Public Television will present the concert as "A St. Thomas Christmas," a one-hour holiday special, at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, on KTCA Channel 2 and other times to be

announced.

Nearly 200 of the nation's public television stations – 65 percent – have given early indications that they plan to carry the show, too.

The concert, with a program of choral and instrumental music for the Advent and Christmas seasons, features nearly 300 student performers in seven of the university's vocal and instrumental ensembles: Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Liturgical Choir, Women's Choir, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble and Handbell Choir.

The program features English favorites, such as "Greensleeves,"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Carol of the Bells," as well as Christmas music from all over the world, and concludes with an audience sing-along of the joyful "Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing."

All concert proceeds will benefit St. Thomas music ensembles' international performance tours.

Purchase tickets at the Orchestra Hall Box Office online at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org) or by phone order at (612) 371-5656 or 1 (800) 292-4141. All seats are \$15 plus a nominal Orchestra Hall transaction fee. (Please note: The concert is open to adults and children over 6.)

# 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.

## Through Jan. 2, 2009

*Exhibit:* "Inside Out: Releasing the Creative Spirit Through Facilitated Art" is an exhibition of more than 60 works of pottery, woodworking, weaving, painting, drawing and photography by artists with disabilities, courtesy of Midwest Special Services.

MSS is a Twin Cities-based organization supporting adults with disabilities and their families in meeting the challenges of vocational education, employment and community access.

See the exhibit, in the Lobby Gallery of O'Shaughnessy Educational Center, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and noon to 10 p.m. Sundays.

Need more information? Call the UST Art History Department, (651) 962-5560, or visit [www.mwsservices.org](http://www.mwsservices.org).



## Nov. 5

*Solemn vespers:* The university welcomes neighbors to its annual solemn vespers for All Souls' Day at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

This ecumenical service of liturgy and music has roots in a centuries-old tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. All Souls' Day is an opportunity to remember the dead and celebrate the communion of saints.

Father Dennis Dease, president of St. Thomas, will lead the service, and the St. Thomas Women's Choir, under the direction of Dr. Angela Broeker, will sing.

Those present will be invited to sign a book of remembrance in honor of deceased members of the St. Thomas community – students, faculty, staff, alumni and benefactors, their family members and friends.



## You're invited: Annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony is Dec. 4

Join the St. Thomas community at the Summit Avenue arches on the St. Paul campus for the 12th-annual Christmas tree- and crèche-lighting ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 4.

The ceremony also will feature music and readings to herald the holidays.

The outdoor ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m.; a reception follows with cookies and cocoa.



Savor the beginning of Advent and one of the prettiest times of year at St. Thomas. Thousands of outdoor Christmas lights decorate the grounds, and the tradition of a Nativity scene on the St. Paul campus dates back more than 50 years. Join us!

*Speaker:* Dalia Mogahed, senior analyst and executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, will give a free talk, "Who Speaks for Muslims? What a Billion Muslims Think," at 7 p.m. in 3M Auditorium of Owens Science Hall at St. Thomas.

Mogahed is co-author of *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think* (Gallup Press, February 2008). Her analyses have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy magazine, Harvard Review, the Middle East Policy Journal and other publications.

GCMS is a nonpartisan research center dedicated to providing data-driven analysis on the views of Muslim populations around the world.

For more information, call UST's Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center, (651) 962-5650.



## Nov. 19-23

*Theater:* Students from St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine will stage "Godspell," the 1970 rock musical about the power of faith, at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Nov. 19-22, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, in Foley Theater on UST's St. Paul campus.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission and free with a college ID from one of the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities – St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Augsburg College, Hamline University and Macalester College. Seating is limited. Reservations will be taken at The O'Shaughnessy ticket office, (651) 690-6700.

The musical concludes the university's 30th annual Sacred Arts Festival. For information on all festival events, see [www.stthomas.edu/saf](http://www.stthomas.edu/saf).