

ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

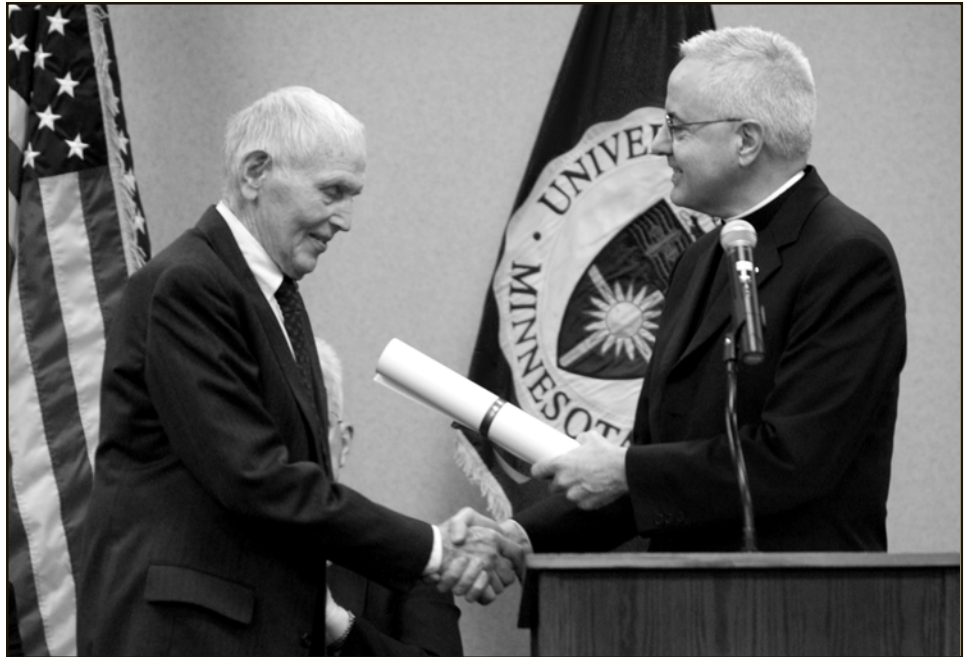
November 2006

Harry McNeely Jr. honored at McNeely Hall dedication

Dedication ceremonies for McNeely Hall, St. Thomas' new business education building, were held Oct. 18. Located on the southwest corner of Summit and Cleveland avenues, McNeely Hall is now the primary home for the undergraduate-level programs offered by St. Thomas' College of Business, which was renamed the Opus College of Business on the following day.

The McNeely dedication ceremony included remarks by Dr. Christopher Puto, dean of the College of Business; Father Dennis Dease, St. Thomas' president; Harry McNeely Jr., a member of St. Thomas' Board of Trustees since 1969; Father Edward Malloy, a member of the Board of Trustees and president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame; and Archbishop Harry Flynn, chairman of the Board of Trustees and archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The university bestowed an honorary doctor of laws degree on McNeely, who was honored as a "highly principled business executive and philanthropist." Over the years he has helped support faculty development



Father Dennis Dease, president of St. Thomas, presented an honorary degree to Harry McNeely Jr., a longtime member of the St. Thomas Board of Trustees, at the dedication of the new McNeely Hall on Oct. 18.

programs and the creation of graduate programs in business at St. Thomas. As a member of the second of three generations in his family's business, he helped establish the university's Center for Family Enterprise.

The building is named in honor of McNeely's parents, Harry McNeely Sr., a 1908 graduate of St. Thomas, and his wife, Adelaide. A bust of the couple is located just outside one of the Summit Avenue entrances to the new building.

Harry Sr., who died in 1968, founded the St. Paul Terminal Warehouse Co.

The new hall opened Sept. 6. Its 19 classrooms are said to be among the most technologically advanced in the country. Beneath McNeely Hall is underground parking for 117 cars.

The university thanks the many city officials, neighborhood councils and organizations, and individuals involved in planning for the new facility.



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

Around the University of St. Thomas

2006 Campus Security Act Report available

The 2006 Annual Campus Security Act Report is available through the St. Thomas Department of Public Safety. This report includes campus crime statistics for the most recent three-year period and a broad range of institutional policies concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other important topics. A copy of the report can be sent at your request. Contact the Department of Public Safety, Investigations Division, Mail 4081, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105, or call (651) 962-5100. The report also is available online at www.stthomas.edu/psps/



Undergraduate enrollment peaks

Another large freshman class this fall helped to give the University of St. Thomas its highest undergraduate enrollment on record. A 4 percent undergraduate increase offset a 3 percent decrease at the graduate level to give St. Thomas an overall increase this fall of 1 percent.

Total enrollment this fall is 10,712 students, up 71 from last year. Undergraduate enrollment is 5,807, an increase of 223. Graduate enrollment is 4,905, a decrease of 152. This marks the second-consecutive year of slight overall growth, after three years of slight declines. St. Paul campus enrollment is 7,036, well under the enrollment cap of 8,750 established by the 2004 Conditional Use Permit.

This year's freshman class of 1,299 is the second-largest on record. Last year's freshman class

was 2 percent larger, at 1,325. Contributing to this year's undergraduate record are 1,464 sophomores, 1,350 juniors and 1,477 seniors.



UST senior finalist for 'Academic Heisman' award

St. Thomas wide receiver/kick returner P.J. Theisen is among 17 college football players from all divisions named as finalists for the Draddy Award, also known as the "Academic Heisman," presented by the National Football Foundation.

Theisen will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship from the National Football Foundation and will be honored at a black-tie dinner Dec. 5 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. The Draddy winner and recipient of the \$25,000 scholarship will be announced that night.



Services held for John Pates, neighbor, 'Voice of St. Thomas'

A funeral Mass was held Oct. 27 at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church for John Pates, 92, a longtime neighbor and member of the St. Thomas community.

Pates earned the moniker "Voice of St. Thomas" as an announcer for campus athletic events from 1940 to 1983. He announced all but one of the St. Thomas home football and basketball games over those 43 years and was named to St. Thomas' Athletic Hall of Fame. When he retired in 1983, college officials unplugged his microphone, had it gilded and presented it to him as a gift.

Pates also worked at St. Thomas for nine years, from 1974 to 1983, as a member of the development staff and as a special assistant to

the president.

Pates attended the Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Grade School, Cretin High School and the College of St. Thomas.

Pates, whose wife, Marie, died in 1998, is survived by sons John Richard, Kevin and David; daughters Suzanne Marie Pates, Linda Trenter and Sheila Danielson; sister Mary Galligan; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



UST law school again ranked in Princeton Review

For the second year in a row, the University of St. Thomas School of Law has been ranked the No. 1 law school in the country for "Best Quality of Life" among students, according to the Princeton Review.

And for the first year, the school also earned a No. 10 ranking nationally in the category of "Professors Rock (Legally Speaking)."

The rankings, found in Princeton Review's 2007 publication of *The Best 170 Law Schools*, are based on student surveys and institutional data. Princeton Review surveyed 15,000 law school students, asking them to rate their schools on several topics and report on their experiences at them.

The university itself was included in Princeton Review's 2007 *Best 361 Colleges* rankings, where it was one of 163 colleges named a "Best Midwestern College."

For more information on the Princeton Review rankings, visit www.princetonreview.com.

Over the back fence



**By John Hershey,
Neighborhood Liaison**

The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory

Committee (WSNAC), created by the August 2004 agreement St. Thomas reached with the city and various neighborhood groups, continues to work diligently.

Composed of two members each from the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland community councils, the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and Neighbors United, and five members of the St. Thomas community, WSNAC now meets on the second Tuesday of each month during the academic year.

We are vocal and opinionated. We listen and discuss (and sometimes argue) as we remember that we are “charged with resolving university/community problems and providing a channel for communications on campus master planning and development, and to enhance university/community relations.”

We have addressed and continue to deal with a variety of issues and strive as often as possible to find the “win-win” situation, one that best suits neighborhood and university goals. Though we have a code

of bylaws and a voting structure, we work very hard to arrive at decisions by consensus, through give and take.

For example, WSNAC worked with the university and Opus Northwest representatives to formulate a construction management plan for the new McNeely Hall that abated noise, mitigated dust and designed truck traffic routes. The result? My office received very few construction-related complaints and the business building opened on schedule.

The committee met many times as a group and with traffic consultants, landscape and Opus architects and many city agencies as we evaluated the pros and cons of the newly implemented Summit-Cretin pedestrian management plan. When we suggested a change that required significant additional funding, we put our money where our mouth was and contributed \$15,000 toward the project. The result? Though no one could arrive at an absolutely perfect resolution, we now have a plan that is safe and is working.

As the UST Child Development Center was getting ready to open, the committee expressed concerns about Finn Street traffic patterns and drop-off parking. Our constructive contributions made for safer arrivals, departures and parking. We also helped limit traffic disruption. We continue to study Finn traffic as the street now serves as the entrance to the newly created McNeely Hall

parking ramp. We plan to evaluate traffic patterns this year and will work with the city when curbs are constructed, if the street is widened and if new parking and traffic patterns become necessary.

WSNAC is a working committee. We take our charge seriously. We also strive to address issues of mutual concern in sensible ways and have opened up lines of communication. Our input has helped to improve St. Thomas’ plans. As a WSNAC co-chair, I thank the committee for its work on behalf of my neighborhood and the university that I represent.

If you would like to learn more about WSNAC activities and agendas, visit our new Web site at www.wsnac.net. It contains meeting times and locations, subcommittee definitions and meeting information, annual reports, meeting minutes, bylaws and contact information. I encourage you to check it out and, if you wish, to attend a meeting or two. Our subcommittees especially welcome more participants and your ideas.

Of course, I hope it goes without saying that if you would like to talk more about WSNAC, please feel free to call me at (651) 962-6123. I also serve as primary contact person and I’m even learning how to manage the Web site. I’m happy to talk – and to listen.

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.

Nov. 15-19

Theater: The joint Theater Department of the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine present "The Dining Room," a 1982 play by A.R. Gurney. This collection of 18 vignettes provide glimpses into the human condition and the joys, sorrows, love and sadness that accompany family life. The play visits a host of characters, but the setting – remains the same.

The play is scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in Foley Theater at St. Thomas.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission and free for students, faculty and staff with ID from the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities consortium. Seating is limited. For reservations, call The O'Shaughnessy ticket office at St. Catherine, (651) 690-6700.



Nov. 15

Great Books Reading Group: Do you like reading and discussing books? Join the university's Great Books Reading Group.

Each month the group reads and discusses a book. This month's selection: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond's 2005 book, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*.

The Great Books Reading Group will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 388 of Owens Science Hall. Refreshments are served, and books are available at the St. Thomas Bookstore.

For more information, call Dr. Thomas Tommet, (651) 962-5211.



Nov. 29

Music: The university's African Music Ensemble, conducted by Sowah Mensah, will give a free fall concert at 8 p.m. in Brady Educational Center auditorium.

For a list of all concerts sponsored by St. Thomas' Music Department this



Annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony is Nov. 28

Join the St. Thomas community at the Summit Avenue arches on the St. Paul campus for the 10th-annual Christmas tree- and crèche-lighting ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

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 hot

chocolate and holiday treats.

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!

semester, visit www.stthomas.edu/music and click "events."

Need more info? Call (651) 962-5850.



Dec. 1

Literary discussion: Dr. Brenda Powell, UST English Department, will lead a book discussion on *The Handmaid's Tale*, the provocative 1985 novel by Canadian author Margaret Atwood.

The discussion is part of the Feminist Fridays discussion series sponsored by the university's Luann Dummer Center for Women.

Participants will receive a free copy of the novel, so sign up in advance by calling the women's center, (651) 962-

6119. Bring your lunch to the discussion; beverages and dessert will be served.



Dec. 15

Commencement celebration: UST's winter commencement celebration begins with a 1:30 p.m. Mass in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas, followed by baccalaureate ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. and ceremonies for recipients of graduate degrees at 7 p.m.

The celebration, open only to graduates and their guests, also signals the end of the fall semester and the beginning of winter break. January Term classes begin on Jan. 2, 2007, and spring semester classes begin Jan. 29.