

ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

September 2005

Neighbors invited to tour Selby Hall residence

University neighbors are cordially invited to an open house at St. Thomas' newest student residence, Selby Hall.

The event, from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, is a way to say "hello" and thank campus neighbors for putting up with many months of dust, noise and the general inconveniences construction brings.

Tour the new building, stay for a visit and meet some of the 418 students who live there. If you

haven't been in a university residence hall lately, you'll want to go back to college! Some of the new hall's amenities: five study rooms, including one with "smart" features, such as a projector for Powerpoint presentations, wireless technology throughout the building, air conditioning, card access and ground-level security screens, a sprinkler system, full carpeting, quick-moving elevators and – drum roll, please – free laundry facilities.



Neighborhood open house
Selby Hall
5-7 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 28
Bring the family!

Join Tommies for Homecoming-Reunion Weekend Oct. 14-16

Alumni look forward to getting together, and family fun's in store for friends and campus neighbors, too, at St. Thomas' annual Homecoming-Reunion celebration. The following events are open to the public and take place on St. Thomas' St. Paul campus beginning Saturday, Oct. 15:

Homecoming parade: UST students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and neighbors are welcome to line the Summit Avenue parade route between Snelling and Cretin avenues for the annual homecoming parade. It begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

Kids are invited to decorate

their bikes, trikes or wagons and ride in the parade, too. Streamers and balloons will be provided. Kids and parents should arrive at the corner of Summit and Cleveland avenues at 10 a.m. The little ones will join the parade on Summit Avenue from Cleveland to Cretin avenues.

Taste of Saints: Enjoy foods served by more than 40 student clubs and organizations at this annual food festival between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday on the campus quadrangle. Children's activities and live music rev up the crowd, too!

Homecoming football: The Tommies take on the Royals of

Bethel University at 1 p.m. on Palmer Field at O'Shaughnessy Stadium. Gates open at noon. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free for UST students, staff and faculty with St. Thomas ID.

Homecoming-Reunion Mass: University friends and neighbors are welcome to join the UST community for Sunday worship on Oct. 16. Mass begins at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

For further information about Homecoming-Reunion Weekend activities, please call the St. Thomas Alumni Association, (651) 962-6430.



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

Around the University of St. Thomas

Responding to hurricane disaster

The celebration that usually accompanies a new academic year is tempered by news of those suffering along the Gulf Coast from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

The university contacted all of the families of students, including two first-year students from New Orleans, in the affected areas, and has assisted victims with prayers, contributions and offers to assist students.

The university's Enrollment Services office has organized a \$5,000 fund drive, and several other departments and student groups initiated other drives for food, funds and clothing.

Dr. Thomas Rochon, executive vice president and chief academic officer, said St. Thomas is offering classroom seats to Twin Cities students who originally had enrolled to study at Gulf Coast colleges and universities that have been forced to close. St. Thomas also is matching institutional financial aid offers made by the closed universities.



UST appoints director of institutional diversity:

Dr. Lawrence Potter Jr. began work Aug. 22 as executive director of institutional diversity at St. Thomas.

Potter was director and associate professor of Africana studies and English at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he also coordinated multicultural student achievement programs.

With doctoral and master's degrees in English from the University of Missouri, he is the author of *Insider/Outsider or*

Enigma? Reclaiming Harlem's Forgotten Genius, to be published in January by the University Press of Florida.



Row, row, row your boat: Four St. Thomas alumni and a current student participated in the National Rowing Championships July 20-24 in Indianapolis.

Four alumni claimed gold in two events, silver in three and fourth place in one.

While rowing is a club sport at the university, this year marked "one of the largest contingents of current and former student participation in the national championships and reflects the continuing course of growth for the team," said Timothy P. ("Patrick") Johnson, head coach of the UST Crew Club.



U.S. News ranks St. Thomas in annual survey: U.S. News & World Report has ranked UST in the third tier of its National Universities category in the magazine's 2006 "America's Best Colleges" survey.

There are 248 American universities, 162 public and 86 private, in the National Universities category. The only other Minnesota school in addition to St. Thomas in this category is the University of Minnesota. These schools offer a wide range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees.

Other third-tier Catholic universities included DePaul in Illinois, Duquesne in Pennsylvania, Seton Hall in New Jersey and St. John's in New York.



Hot giveaway: If you thought you were seeing purple at the Minnesota State Fair, you may have experienced a bout of "heat exhaustion." Volunteers at St. Thomas' state fair booth gave away 75,000 purple tote bags – reportedly the hottest freebie at Minnesota's Great Get-Together. Daily supplies of the bags ran dry by noon each day.



Community servants: Among St. Thomas faculty and staff recently named to community and church boards, councils and commissions were:

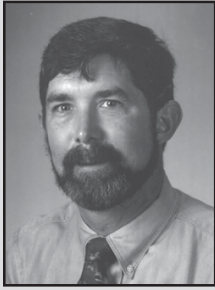
- Doug Hennes, vice president for university and government relations, appointed by St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly to the board of directors of the St. Paul RiverCentre Convention and Visitors Authority.

- Dr. Barbara Shank, dean of the UST School of Social Work, appointed by Archbishop Harry Flynn to a three-year term on the Commission on Women of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

- Susan Spray, director of corporation and foundation relations, appointed to the Minnesota Literacy Board.

- Dr. Victoria Young, a member of the university's Art History Department faculty, appointed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty to the Governor's Residence Council. The council develops and implements a restoration plan for the governor's residence and solicits contributions to restore, maintain, improve and furnish it.

Over the back fence



By John Hershey, Neighborhood Liaison

As most of you are aware, a highlight of last summer's

agreement by St. Thomas, the city of St. Paul and three neighborhood groups was a plan to increase owner occupancy of housing in the St. Thomas neighborhood. Over the next 12 years, the university will purchase and rehabilitate 30 homes currently used as student rental properties and return them to single-family ownership.

Importantly, we are obligated to place restrictive covenants on the homes we sell, which limits the ability of new owners to rent to college students. This aspect of the agreement has significantly altered my job description. I feel like I've become an instant real estate agent and I'm now learning about the process.

This much is very clear to me: Easy money is not the goal of this plan. Most of the homes need repairs and remodeling, which often are costly, to make them

attractive to single-family owners. New owners tend to steer clear of restrictive covenants. And affordable pricing is of paramount importance to families. These challenges notwithstanding, the university is committed to making the plan work. It's part of being a good neighbor.

Here's an update on our progress so far:

- In January, the university purchased 2038 Portland Ave., a vacant rental property. After rehabilitation, we sold it to an incoming professor and his family.
- In May, the university purchased a small rental home at 75 S. Cleveland Ave. After repair, we put it on the market in May. While it is currently still for sale, we do have a contingent offer from a retired couple. I'm hoping for the best!
- In June, the university purchased two more properties: 163 N. Cleveland Ave. (on the corner of Selby and Cleveland) and 1892 Ashland Ave. The Cleveland property needed extensive work. Urban Projects has completed repairs, and the home should be on the market by the time you read this column.

There's a good result for "the Ashland House," as it's come to be known, too. Over the seven years that I have worked at St. Thomas, complaints

about that house had accounted for the largest of the 500 "problem house" files that I keep in my office. Not surprisingly, the home needed extensive work. So the university partnered with HomeVestors Inc., which purchased the property and did significant repairs. They practically took the house apart, and now it looks like new. As of Aug. 31, it is occupied by its new owners: a young married couple and their dog, Maggie. Just today, I received a highly complimentary letter from the buyers, indicating their delight and satisfaction with their new purchase.

At this writing, university officials are evaluating the financial stakes of our project, while I continue to look for legitimate opportunities to purchase more properties. Should you wish to find out more about what we're doing or are aware of a rental house that may be available for purchase near campus, please feel free to call me at (651) 962-6123 or send an e-mail to jwhershey@stthomas.edu.

In the meantime, if you told me at this time last year that we'd be this far along with the project, I wouldn't have believed you. Four down and 26 to go.

Sacred Arts Festival explores expressions of faith in Abrahamic traditions

The University of St. Thomas will host its 27th annual Sacred Arts Festival Oct. 20-Nov. 25.

This year's festival explores expressions of faith rooted in the Abrahamic traditions.

Events include:

- Art exhibits: Works by Hend Al-Monsour, Oct. 20-Nov. 25, Room 102, O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center; works by Chillon Leach and Sandra Brick, Nov. 1-25,

O'Shaughnessy Educational Center foyer. Opening reception: 4-5:30 p.m. Nov. 2.

- Discussion with the artists: 12:15 p.m. Nov. 11, Luann Dummer Center for Women, Room 103, O'Shaughnessy Educational Center.
- Prayer: Evening Prayer for All Souls Day, 5:30 p.m., Nov. 2, Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.
- Film: "Le Grande Voyage," 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9, O'Shaughnessy

Educational Center auditorium.

- Organ recital: Award-winning Hungarian organist László Fassang, 8:15 p.m. Nov. 14, Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.
- Theater: Three short plays, "Voices of Women From the Abrahamic Faiths," 7 p.m. Nov. 16-19, Foley Theater. \$5. Reservations: (651) 690-6700.

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.

Sept. 21

Information session: The UST School of Education will host an open house for prospective students from 5 to 7 p.m. in Room 201, Opus Hall, on St. Thomas' campus in downtown Minneapolis. Faculty members and current graduate students will discuss and answer questions about the school's doctoral, master's, licensure and certificate programs in education, leadership and organization development.

Info: (651) 962-4878.



Sept. 29

Interfaith dialogue: The Jay Phillips Center for Jewish-Christian Learning presents a discussion on the challenges of interfaith relations facing Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities.

The panel discussion, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in UST's O'Shaughnessy Educational Center, marks the 40th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* ("In Our Time"), a Second Vatican Council declaration on the relationship of the Catholic Church to non-Christian religions.

Info: (651) 962-5780.



Oct. 4

Information session: St. Thomas' Master of Arts in Art History program hosts information sessions for prospective students on two campuses:

- 12:15 p.m. in Room 450 of Terrence Murphy Hall on UST's downtown Minneapolis campus
- 6 p.m. in the Luann Dummer Center for Women, Room 103, O'Shaughnessy Educational Center, on the St. Paul campus.

Choose the session that's most convenient. Each is free. Learn about the program's faculty and students, degree and nondegree courses of study, admission and application requirements,

fellowship and assistantship opportunities, course content and interdisciplinary opportunities.

The 12-course M.A. program admitted its first students in 1998. It provides professional preparation for academic, museum and teaching careers in art history.

Info: (651) 962-5640.



Oct. 6

Holocaust survivor reads: Felicia Weingarten, author of *Ave Maria in Auschwitz: The True Story of a Jewish Girl from Poland* (DeForest Press), will read from her new book at noon in 3M Auditorium of Owens Science Hall.

Weingarten, who lives in St. Paul, was a teenager in 1939 when Nazis walled Jews into a ghetto in her hometown, Lodz, Poland. She later was sent to four concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, from which she was rescued in 1945.

Info: (651) 962-5730.



Oct. 8

Gallery crawl: Visit art exhibits at six local colleges and universities – St. Thomas, Augsburg College, the College of St. Catherine, the College of Visual Arts, Concordia University and Macalester College – during "Art Attack: A Six-School Gallery Crawl," from 6 to 9 p.m.

Start in the lobby gallery of UST's O'Shaughnessy Educational Center, then take a free shuttle bus from gallery to gallery, and enjoy refreshments and music along with exhibitions.

Info: (651) 962-5560.



Organ recital: Dr. David Jenkins, liturgical music director at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, will give a free recital at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel at the seminary, 2260 Summit Ave.

Jenkins will play works of Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Norholm, Nielsen and Langlais.



Oct. 12

Information session: The St. Thomas College of Business hosts an information session and open house about its evening UST MBA program.

The session, free and open to all prospective students, will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. in Room 155 of Murray-Herrick Campus Center on the St. Paul campus.

The program is designed to meet the needs of working professionals and emphasizes approaches and solutions to relevant business issues.

Can't make it that night? Other sessions will be held Oct. 5, 8 and 19 and Nov. 2 and 16 on UST's campus in downtown Minneapolis.

Info: (651) 962-4200.



Oct. 19-22

Theater: The joint Theater Department of the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine present "An Inspector Calls," J.B. Priestley's award-winning 1946 drama.

The plot centers on the visit by a mysterious police inspector to a wealthy and apparently respectable family in pre-World War I England. Investigating the death of a poor and unknown girl, he uncovers their secrets and hypocrisies and shows that they all had a hand in the girl's death.

All performances begin at 7 p.m. 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).

Reservations: (651) 690-6700.

