Chad Berg Nominee Statement

1. Scholarship  Throughout my time at UST, I have achieved a 4.0 GPA.
2. Leadership  Founder and 4-year President of the Summit Singers All Male A Cappella Group
3. Campus Involvement  Executive Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG)
4. I served two years as a student leader through St. Thomas Activities and Recreation (STAR): Finance/Large Events Intern and Tommies After Dark Intern.
5. I have performed with the UST Chamber Singers for four years.

In the 2+ years that I have known Chad, he has continually exemplified himself as a student who is committed to the ideals of the Tommie Award. Chad is a hard-working, 4.0 GPA student who excels in the classroom because of his intelligence and his desire for knowledge. In addition to his stellar academic record, Chad maintains himself as a real ambassador and example to the campus through his involvement and leadership. As the founder and president of the Summit Singers, he shows his dedication and leadership capabilities through effectively leading rehearsals, scheduling events, and devoting hours of time to arranging music for performances. As a member of the group, I have a first-hand perspective of this exceptional behavior that he exhibits. In addition, Chad also sings in the UST Chamber Singers and has been heavily involved in STAR and USG, of which he is the current Executive Vice President. Since he has begun working for USG, I have begun to better understand the role of USG in accommodating to the needs of students because Chad has made these needs his primary focus. For all of these reasons, I would like to nominate and wholeheartedly recommend Chad Berg as a candidate for the 2015 UST Tommie Award.

- Jacob Goodwin, Friend

I have known Chad for over three years now and feel I can speak to his character as young man who truly represents the Tommie Award. A very driven and well-spoken student, Chad has excelled in all his courses, and had even greater success applying his knowledge of finance and economics to several prestigious on-campus positions and off-campus internships and jobs. However, I know him best through our collegiate music careers. To me, Chad's most outstanding accomplishment at St. Thomas is founding and leading the university's all-male a cappella group, the Summit Singers. I was recruited by Chad to join the group during our freshman year and have been able to be by his side as he has built the group from a disheveled mess of ten young guys with great potential to a widely recognized and immensely talented vocal ensemble at UST. Watching his ambition and persistence to make this group succeed has
been inspirational. Chad is a "driver" in his leadership style and rarely settles for anything less than the best. A great organizer, he spent countless hours of his free time creating music for the group, teaching at rehearsals, and planning and executing concerts. It's a leadership style that is not aggressive, but is only appreciated when his followers realize the great heights they can reach with Chad in the lead. It's the kind of style that would make me love to go into business with Chad because I am always confident that I can count on him to execute. How he manages to progress further with the Summit Singers with his other on-campus involvement is beyond belief. He has spent his undergraduate years with some of the most influential groups on campus: last year as the Finance and Large-Events intern for STAR and this year as Vice-President of Undergraduate Student Government, and continues to look for new and creative ways to positively impact the student body beyond his basic job duties. To draw from the university's mission, Chad is most definitely working skillfully to advance the common good at St. Thomas and I know he has great plans to do the same outside of college. Because of this, I strongly believe that Chad Berg represents the best of what it truly means to be "a Tommie" and deserves to be the recipient of the 2015 Tommie Award.

- Jack Tousignant, Friend

As a university that "educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely and work skillfully to advance the common good," I can't think of a student who more aptly reflects the accomplishment of these ideals than Chad Berg. Since his matriculation in the fall of 2011, Chad has been completely immersed in the life of our campus, making his mark as a leader and innovator, and leaving a legacy that will benefit the campus for years to come.

Chad is a masterful scholar. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA with a double major in Financial Management and Economics is remarkable in itself, but doing so while participating so fully in other campus and community activities is extraordinary. Chad takes the skills and understandings he's gleaned from his major areas of study and applies them immediately to the leadership positions he's held on campus. Nowhere is this more evident than in his STAR intern positions and this year's position as Executive Vice President of USG.

Chad's leadership and involvement in the UST community does not stop with student government organizations. His diverse array of activities includes work on the Board of Trustees Finance Committee, Catholic Men's Leadership, KUST Radio and intramural sports. Those of us who know Chad often iterate the phrase "how does he do it all?" But we know how and why he does it all; he does it all because of his deep compassion for others and his perpetual attitude of service.

Nowhere are these qualities better exemplified than in his work with the Summit Singers. Chad saw a need in the fall of 2011; though the university had several large choral ensembles, it did not have any singing organizations
devoted to popular music. Chad had a vision for the institution -- an a cappella men's group that sings arrangements of pop tunes. Three years later, the number of St. Thomas students, faculty, and alumni who have been touched by performances of the Summit Singers is countless. Not only is Chad the vision behind the group and the group’s president, he writes most of the group’s arrangements as well. And Chad's attitude of service permeates this organization. The Summit Singers visits public schools, sings for campus events, and raises money for charitable organizations. Truly, this group is Chad Berg's legacy. I envision its existence for many years to come.

Certainly, Chad has met and surpassed the scholarship, leadership, and campus involvement criteria set forth by the Student Affairs Office for Tommie of the Year. But Chad is more than a list of qualifications. Those of us blessed to know Chad are better people because of the example he sets. We are calmed by his attentive presence; we are inspired by his selflessness; we are raised up by his commitment to bettering others; and we are comforted knowing that this next generation of leaders counts Chad among its ranks. I am honored to know Chad and to have had him for a student during his four years at UST. I can't think of a better way to honor all that he has done at UST than by electing him Tommie of the Year.

- Angela Broeker, Professor