

Contact

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For the **Class Notes** section, we welcome alumni news and photos, including career changes, marriages, births, memberships and honors. Please send this information to Susan M. Smith by fax, mail or e-mail (see above).

Information Update

Please keep us informed of any change in address, employment or contact information by completing the form on Page 3. Include the e-mail address (home or business) at which you prefer to receive news about St. Thomas University. Please send by fax, mail or e-mail to Carla Valeriani at: cvaleria@stu.edu. Thank you!

Contact is also available
online at:
www.stu.edu/alumni

Contact

Basketball is Back !

Former Miami Heat Coach Will be Spokesperson

The long-awaited news was announced at a February 22 press conference. Not only will basketball return to STU in the 2007-2008 season, but former Miami Heat Coach Stan Van Gundy will be the advisor and spokesperson for STU basketball and all Bobcats athletics programs.

And that is not all...the University will move up from the NAIA to the NCAA.

Coach Van Gundy will co-chair the hiring committees for both the men's and women's head basketball coaches.

Also on the hiring committees will be Msgr. Casale as co-chair; Jorge de Cespedes STU trustee, co-owner of the Charlotte Bobcats and President and COO of Pharmed Group Corporation; Carol Williamson of Williamson Cadillac; former STU Basketball Coach Ken Stibler and other leaders in Miami's business and sports communities.



L to R: Stan Van Gundy, Msgr. Casale and Jorge de Cespedes

Former Bobcat Coach, Ken Stibler, and alumni who played on the school's once fabled basketball team attended the press conference, along with faculty, students and STU board members.

"It is a great honor to join St. Thomas University, Msgr. Casale and so many of Miami's community leaders in re-establishing Bobcat basket-

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Women's Leadership Golf Tournament

Join us at Miami Shores Country Club for STU's first-ever Women's Leadership Golf Tournament. Leave work early Friday, April 7, and come out on the golf course and enjoy our wonderful South Florida sunshine and good company. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m.

We welcome golfers of every level. You don't have to be Annika Sorenstam to sign up! And for those who want to get some last minute tips, local golf pros together with the STU men's golf team will hold a pre-tournament clinic from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

All funds will go towards STU institutional scholarships. Women from throughout South Florida's business, philanthropic, education, professional golf and health care communities have already signed up.

Prizes will be presented at the dinner following the tournament and Tail, Inc. will present an exclusive fashion show with a first look

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"Super Saturday" Gala

Football and our home town of Miami Gardens will be the twin themes for STU's Third Annual "Leaders for Life" Award Gala. We will relive the era when the Miami Dolphins trained on our campus and look forward to the 2007 Super Bowl that will take place at Dolphins Stadium.

We will honor two STU "All Stars" – the Honorable Shirley Gibson, Class of 1981 and 2003, Mayor of Miami Gardens, and Michael Kelly, Class of 1994, President of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee XLI. As graduates of our public service

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Michael Kelly



Mayor Shirley Gibson

Class Notes

1975

Michael Manguso, B.A., After 29 years with the Florida Department of Corrections, Michael recently accepted a position as Chief Policy Analyst in the Public Safety Unit of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget. He says he knows Dr. Helen Jacobstein (his professor of political science) would be proud!

1981

Jeffrey Wander, B.S., Criminal Justice, and Masters in Public Administration/Management (1984), has announced his candidacy for Florida House of Representatives District 120. He is a retired City of Miami Police Sergeant, veteran of Vietnam (U.S. Army) and Desert Storm (U.S. Air Force), married to Martha Villamil and they have three children, Marcus, Matthew and Meagan.

1982

Juan Alborna Salado, B.A., Political Science and Communications, is the



Director Editor General of a literary magazine in Spanish on the internet named Literarias Siglo XXI (www.literarias.org). In addition,

Juan recently published a book *El Oro de Manny Plaza: Operacion Cancro*.

Ervin Gonzalez, B.S., Political Science, was selected as one of the Top Lawyers in the Nation in 2005 by *Lawyers Weekly*. During 2005, Gonzalez spent a total of 13 weeks in trial, an impressive amount of time that resulted in an equally impressive number of verdicts.

Terry Lannon, B.A., Sports Administration, recently moved to the North Georgian Mountains after living in Florida for the past 16 years. Terry took a position as Director of Parks and Recreation for Habersham County this past January. He and his wife Diana have three children Jaclyn, 23, Michael, 21 and Nicholas, 14. He is an avid fisherman, still playing league and tournament softball and enjoys following his hometown Steelers and Pens.

1990

John Dedo, M.S., Sports Administration, is now working for Radio Disney-Sacramento as a Sales Representative/Marketing Consultant. He wrote, "This was a great opportunity that I could not turn down. With my kids reaching prime Disney ages, I should have a good pulse for potential advertisers for the station. I am excited about working for a station that has such a great name, produces an awesome product for kids and families, and is active in the community."

1991

Mitch Hardin, M.S., Sports Administration, has accepted a new professional opportunity as Chief Operating Officer with American Youth Football headquartered in South Florida. Mitch wrote, "I'm thrilled to return full-time to the "sports" world and at the same time, doing something that will be truly rewarding in many aspects." He plans to telecommute from a new home base in the Tampa/St. Pete or Sarasota areas.

1995

Ignacio R. Castro, B.A., Human Services, of the US Navy has returned to sea aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk. The aircraft carrier was deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

1996

Dan Axman, M.S., Sports Administration, and Sandra Axman are the proud parents of Dylan Noah Axman. He was born November 12, 2005 and weighed 6 pounds, 1 oz, and was 19 / inch long.



Ricky Zambrano, B.A., Sports Administration and M.S., Management (2000), is the head soccer coach at Thomas University in Thomasville, GA. Ricky is the former STU soccer coach.

1997

Thomas Lyons Carr III, M.S., Management, is currently in his final semester (research project) of a professional degree of Applied Scientist in Engineering Management with a specialty in Crisis, Emergency and Risk Management at George Washington University's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Yvonne Gabbidon-Atkins, M.S., Sports Administration, and her husband had a baby boy in June and named him Donovan James Atkins.

1998

Fernando Hernandez, B.A., Communication Arts and M.S., Management (2000), announces that he has started a proofreading/editing and translation service. He will proofread term papers, essays, reports, etc., and provide translation from Spanish to English and English to Spanish of non-technical documents. He is also an adjunct professor at a local university.

Class Notes

2000

Carlos Chuman, B.A., Business Administration and M.B.A. (2003) is District Manager of Shamrock Corporate Housing in South Florida. The company was awarded Corporate Housing Providers Association 2006 “Best Provider of the Year” Award. The award was presented at CHPA’s annual conference in Newport Beach, CA, in February.

Holly Prentice-Murray, M.S., Sports Administration, has accepted a new job as Meeting Service Manager for PRIME. Her responsibilities at PRIME, an accredited provider of medical and professional education, will include the coordination and management of all regional and national educational symposia.

2001

Craig Skilling, M.S., Sports Administration, was promoted to coordinator of the Sports, Entertainment and Event Management Program at Johnson & Wales University.

2003

Chris Francis, M.B.A., Sports Administration, is the new Guest Services Coordinator for the Miami Heat and American Airlines Arena.

Doug Harris, M.S., Sports Administration, has joined Collegiate Images (CI) as Account Manager and will serve as the day-to-day contact with CI’s service accounts such as CSTV, ESPN/ABC, Intersport, NBA TV and Thought Equity. Doug previously worked with the Florida Marlins Community Foundation where he built and managed relationships with sponsors and donors.

Erin Rafter, M.S., Sports Administration, left her position as Marketing Coordinator for Notre Dame Sports Properties and returned to South Florida. She is currently the Senior Director of Client Services for Entertainment Benefits Group focused employee benefit and incentive programs. EBG works with Companies nationwide and is the exclusive provider of the Corporate Discount Program for the Walt Disney World Resort. Erin is very happy to be back in South Florida where her parents Bud (Biscayne College ’73) and Kathy (Barry University ’73) also reside.

2004

Kourtney Gallivan, M.S., Sports Administration, began her new job at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL, as an Exercise Physiologist in the Cardiac Rehab Program on January 9.

Tiffany Mosby, M.S., Marriage & Family Therapy, has been working with Battelle and the Centers for Disease Control in St. Louis as a Field Interviewer conducting psychological/mental health research. Tiffany also works with the Missouri Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and was elected their Student Associate Representative.

Jeremy Sturgeon, JD/MS, Sports Administration, passed the NJ Bar Exam and is now a licensed and certified attorney. He was previously working for CNBC in Northern NJ (very close to NYC).

2005

Pierre Maignan, M.S., Sports Administration, is working with International Apparel Group/World Indoor Soccer League/Taylor Made Promotions. The company was started by former Miami Dolphin player Oronde Gadsdon.

STU Alumni Update Form

Name: _____

Year Graduated: _____ Major: _____ Degree: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____ Title: _____

Work Address: _____

News for Contact: _____

Please fax to the Office of University Advancement at (305) 628-6703 or mail to 16401 NW 37th Ave., Miami Gardens, FL, 33054

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Visits Campus

St. Thomas University School of Law kicked off its 2006 Distinguished Speaker Series February 22 with a speech by author and political activist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Kennedy discussed the important role politics plays in preserving the environment and securing the nation's resources for future generations.

"We did not inherit the environment from our ancestors," said Kennedy. "We borrowed it from our children." He spoke about the role the government plays and the delicate balance that must be maintained between those who want to use our nation's resources and those who fight to preserve them. "There is no civil right more basic than the right to a healthy environment", he continued. "If we want to protect our community we must protect our environment."

Kennedy, a Democrat, concluded his speech by pointing out that the environment is non-partisan and belongs to all Americans. He then urged the audience to join his Republican "cousin", California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Republican friend, Arizona Senator John McCain, in a virtual march against global warming by going to www.StopGlobalWarming.org.

"As a man who has devoted much of his life to protecting our natural resources, Mr. Kennedy is a paradigm of the ethical, professional and philanthropic spirit that is at the core of the Law School's mission," said law school dean Bob Butterworth. "It was my great honor to welcome Mr. Kennedy to our campus and my sincerest hope that his visit inspired our community to continue the public service that has become our heart and hallmark."



Robert Kennedy, Jr. talks to STU law professor Sandra Ruffin

Walk For Immigrant Justice



Professor Anthony Vinciguerra, second from left, with STU students at the Walk for Justice

Pax Christi, the new STU student organization, participated in the Archdiocese of Miami's Catholic Charities Legal Services Second Annual Walk for Justice and pro-immigration rally held February 18 at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami.

STU Basketball, continued from page 1

ball," said Coach Van Gundy. "By lending my name and support to these programs. I hope to help build great teams and bring additional support and attention to the school, the students and South Florida basketball."

The teams will play their first two seasons off campus until the completion of the new Fernandez Leadership and Wellness Center, the new building funded by a \$3 million gift from Mike Fernandez, chairman of MBF Healthcare Partners.

Coach Van Gundy will advise on the design of the new athletics center and help raise additional funds for its construction.



STU Basketball Alumni: L to R: Ed Barnes ('82), Coach Stibler, Rod McCarthy ('73) and Ken Tanke ('74) with his son

Sister Helen Prejean Returns to STU

Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, world-renowned author and activist, made her second visit to the STU campus January 23. Before a standing-room-only crowd in the Chapel of Saint Anthony she spoke about her work with death row inmates and her commitment to abolishing the death penalty at state and national levels.

Sister Helen came to STU at the invitation of Dr. Thomas Ryan, Chair of the Religious Studies Department. He grew up in New Orleans and was teaching high school there and living at the St. Thomas Housing Project where he met Sister Helen. She had given up teaching grade school and had moved out of the housing project to devote herself full time to the abolition of the death penalty. They were both members of Pax Christi, a group working for peace and justice by applying Catholic principles to everyday life.

It was at this time she befriended a prisoner on Louisiana's Death Row and became his spiritual adviser, worked to prevent his execution, and finally walked with him to the electric chair. Her best-selling book about the experience, *Dead Man Walking*, was published in 1993 and Susan Sarandon starred in the Oscar-winning movie based on the book.

If possible, she speaks with even more passion and dedication than on her first visit in 1997. Despite her earnestness, however, she spoke with humor and self-deprecation. She admitted

that the real hero of the story was the father of the victim killed by the prisoner she had befriended. He had found it possible to forgive his son's killer.

Since then she has accompanied four more men to their deaths. Published in 2004, her second book, *The Death of Innocents*, deals with her realization that some of those executed were not guilty.

As a result of Sister Helen's visit, a Pax Christi group, the National Catholic Peace Movement, has been founded at St. Thomas University. The first meeting was held February 9.



Sister Helen Prejean

14th Annual Communications Workshop

Eric Reid, the play-by-play announcer for Sun Sports Network, was awarded "Communicator of the Year" January 31.

"It is a real honor to be a part of the St. Thomas University community," said Reid who enjoys the interaction with the students and coming back to the university and seeing where it all begins. Reid has spoken to STU's Sports Administration classes over the past couple of years.



Eric Reid

The topic discussed was: *Does the Media Distort the Truth?* Panel participants included Reid, Michael Kelsey, senior director for ESPN Outdoors and STU Communications Art Alumnus, Tracey Fields, WLRN Florida Journalist, Jazz Show host and visiting professor and Dr. Tom Brezenski, of the STU Political Science Department. Richard Raleigh, Professor of Communication Arts and English, served as the moderator.

Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program



Almost 100 mentees from 12 schools across Broward & Miami-Dade Counties that participate in the Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program visited the STU campus November 18.

Alumni News

Mid-Atlantic Alumni Association Capitol Reception



Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick '85 gives tour of Capitol building to Mid-Atlantic Alumni Association



Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick '85 and Alyson Sherman '87.

visit to the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. It was here that Congressman Fitzpatrick gave a brief talk on the workings of the U.S. House of Representatives and his impression of President Bush's latest State of the Union Address and how he'd like to use 29 key points of the speech to help push legislation through Congress.

Congressman Fitzpatrick also talked about his experiences as a freshman member of Congress, including his experience in obtain-

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More than 30 alumni and friends of St. Thomas University attended the Mid-Atlantic Alumni Association Chapter Capitol Reception February 16. Held in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building, the reception was organized by Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick ('85), R-Pennsylvania. This was the third event for the Chapter and a special thank you goes out to Congressman Fitzpatrick and his staff for their help in securing the Gold Room for the event.

After the gathering in the Gold Room, Congressman Fitzpatrick led reception attendees on a behind the scenes tour of the U.S. Capitol. Stops included the Rotunda and National Statuary Hall, where Congressman Fitzpatrick explained the history behind many of the statues donated to the Capitol and pointed out areas where former Presidents sat during the early days of the Capitol. The highlight of the evening was a surprise



Jose Lebron '84, STU President Msgr. Casale, Lisa Ponzio '85, Brian Fitzmaurice '84, and Stanley Grabowski '00 (Law)

STU Alumnus Learns Life Lessons from Hurricane Katrina

Vince Granito, '86, Associate Athletic Director of Internal Operations at Tulane University and resident of Jefferson Parish in New Orleans, learned life lessons this past summer.

Vince, his wife, who grew up in New Orleans, and their four children drove to Memphis to wait out the storm. They continued on to Ohio to stay with his sister when they realized it would be awhile before they return to New Orleans.

Thursday after the hurricane he got back in touch with Tulane University's Athletic Department when they had their first conference call. The president of the university decided they would continue sports if they could do it at no cost. Ultimately four universities stepped up and housed the athletic teams for Tulane:

Louisiana Tech, SMU, Texas Tech and Texas A&M. Vince found out that he would be working out of Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, with six of Tulane's athletic teams. He flew from Cleveland to Houston rounding up the athletes that were going to be training out of College Station and bused them to College Station from Houston..

The Wednesday following Labor Day Vince drove eight hours to check on his house. He found there had been six inches of water in his house and started ripping out the flooring to try to slow the growth of mold. Almost everything in the house was destroyed due to water damage or mold, including his wife's wedding dress and family pictures. "It breaks our hearts but you realize its just

stuff," he said.

He eventually moved the family to Texas where they lived in assisted housing for two weeks in Houston before they found a house 70 miles from College Station.. He commuted every day to be with his family.

By December Tulane University decided it would re-open. The Granito family moved back to New Orleans and spent their first night at their house Christmas Eve. Throughout the house they had to rip out 4 feet of sheet rock, from the floor up, and spray the mold to kill it off.

"I've learned to take things one day at a time," Vince said., "You can't take things for granted because your life can change in one day."

Capitol Reception, *continued from page 6*

ing his fifth floor office in the Longworth House Office Building. The Congressman was busy with an orientation session when the office lottery took place so he sent a friend as his proxy. There were 37 offices up for grabs and the Congressman got the last choice, a choice he is quite pleased with.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter will get together again Saturday, April 8 when the Miami Heat take on the Washington Wizards at the MCI Center. A limited number of tickets remain for the game. If you you are interested in attending, please contact Alumni Association Director Jerry Bernfeld at (305) 474-6857 or jbernfeld@stu.edu. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Mid-Atlantic Alumni Chapter in front of a painting of George Washington in the Capitol Building

Women's Golf Tournament

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at their latest golf apparel. A silent auction will include fashion, golf vacation, and sports packages.

"This tournament not only provides scholarships for our students, it also gives them first hand examples of the type of leaders they can become," said STU President, Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale.

Pat Ford Ahr, member of STU's President's Board of Advisors, is chairperson of the Women's Golf Committee and has put tremendous effort into organizing this fun event.

Williamson Cadillac, Laquer Corporate Realty, Tail, Inc., and Miami-Dade County are among the event sponsors.

Miami Shores Country Club is located at 10000 Biscayne Blvd. The golf tournament will be a scramble format.

Sponsorship fees start at \$250 per person. For more information, please call Gigi Laudisio at (305) 628-6796.

Leaders of the Philadelphia Chapter Meet

Alumni living in and around Philadelphia and southern New Jersey will soon have a St. Thomas University Alumni Association Chapter to call their own. Plans are underway to launch the chapter by early summer with an event in the Philadelphia area. Alumni Association Director Jerry Bernfeld met recently with Craig Chindemi '82, Rodger Bailey '87, Joe Cooney '68 and Marty Mack '85 to discuss plans for the chapter. Possible ideas for an inaugural event include attending a Phillies game, attending a game at one of the local minor league ballparks or a social gathering at an area hotel. If you are interested in helping with plans for the Philadelphia Chapter, please contact Alumni Association Director Jerry Bernfeld at 305-474-6857 or jbernfeld@stu.edu.

"Super Saturday" Gala

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and sports administration programs respectively, they represent two academic areas where STU continually produces outstanding graduates.

Mayor Gibson was a Miami-Dade police officer for sixteen years, elected to the public offices of Miami-Dade Community Council #3 and Miami-Dade's Democratic Party Executive Committee.

Kelly has plenty of experience in Super Bowl planning. He was President of the Jacksonville Super Bowl XXXIX Host Committee in 2005, and Executive Director for the Tampa Bay Super Bowl XXXV Host Committee in 2001.

The Gala will kick off with a tailgate reception, followed by a sports-themed dinner, a live auction of five great packages, including a luxury cruise and a major Super Bowl package. In keeping with the football motif, dress will be "skybox chic."

"Super Saturday" Gala is all about having fun while raising money for scholarships. Today, many of our students are the first in their families to attend college and almost 98% need financial aid in order to graduate.

We invite all STU alumni and friends to be a part of this exciting event. We anticipate up to 500 business and social leaders will attend and support our students.

STU's "Super Saturday" Gala will be held Saturday, April 29, at Miami's downtown Hotel Intercontinental.

Tickets are \$500 each. For more information on tables or sponsorships, please call Gigi Laudisio at (305) 628-6796.

GIVE ONLINE TO THE ANNUAL FUND

As you read on the front page of Contact, basketball is back!! St. Thomas University/Biscayne College will now be competing in the big leagues.

We need your assistance. Not only to expand our sports teams, but also to continue to improve our academic programs. As an Alumnus, your legacy to the University is supporting the students that come after you. Almost 98% of our students require financial assistance to complete their education – your annual support helps to provide each student an average of \$6,000 a year toward the cost of tuition.

Scholarships are a vital gift. Your contribution to the Annual Fund has great impact. Please visit www.alumni.stu.edu/makeagift and help us continue to “develop leaders for life.”

ARE YOU E-CONNECTED?

Don't miss out on what's happening with the STU Alumni Association. If you haven't yet signed up at www.alumni.stu.edu, you're missing out on chapter events in New Jersey, Washington, DC and, coming soon, Philadelphia and New England. Please make sure you register an e-mail address to begin receiving updates. If you have signed up, we hope you're enjoying our monthly e-mail newsletter and other updates that come your way.

It has been brought to our attention that our e-mails may be blocked by certain spam blocker programs. To make sure you receive our e-mails, please white list [e-mail.imodules.com](mailto:imodules.com) in your spam blocking program. This will allow all e-mails from your Alumni Association to go through to your inbox, guaranteed to be spam free.

Upcoming Events

STU Distinguished Speaker Series

March 16, 2006, Law School Moot Court Room

Patricia L. Bellia, Lilly Endowed Associate Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School will speak on “*The Future of Surveillance Law*.” Prof. Bellia worked for three years as an attorney-advisor in the Office of the United States Department of Justice.

Opening of Patou Art Exhibition

Cocktail Reception April 6, 6-8 p.m.

Sardinas Art Gallery

Meet the artist Patou who grew up in Provence, France, and now lives in Florida. Her work is exhibited in Italy, France, Switzerland and throughout the United States. The exhibition continues through May 31, 2006.

Hispanic Communications Colloquium

“Nuevos Horizontes”

Bobcat Hall of Fame, April 8, 2006, 9 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Speakers will include communications professionals Mario Beguiristain, Aida Levitan, Cesar A. Pizzaro, Pam Silva, Richard Pineda and Gloria Ruiz, STU Department Chair of Communications and English. The topics are "Hispanic Marketing and Advertising New Trends," "Alternative Venues for Journalism and Public Debate," and "Opportunities in Hispanic Media "

Women's Leadership Golf Tournament

Friday April 7, 2006 (See page 1 for more details)

STU's "Pro Bowl" Gala

Saturday, April 29, 2006 (See page 1 for more details)



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