Dear Parents,

It's winter break season at STU, and at schools across the country. Parents and families everywhere are welcoming, or have welcomed, students home for holiday break. And, while it is a joyous occasion, there are adjustments that parents, families, and students should expect to make, for this visit to be as stress free as possible. Parents and families may be surprised to learn that the student they knew and dropped off at STU in the fall, is not the person who shows up to spend a couple of weeks with the family during the break.

The Parents and Families Program encourages you to take a moment, in between the hustle and bustle of the season, to visit with Dr. Judy Bachay, Professor of Education and Counselor Education as she imparts some parental and family advice for welcoming your student back into the nest for a couple of weeks. She has some very important things to say about your expectations and potential student behavior. We thought about editing her message to make it shorter, however what she has to say is worth the listen. Feel free to listen in snippets as you have time. You will be glad you did!

In other news, catch up on upcoming spring events and happenings on the STU campus. The topics in this newsletter could also be a source of keeping the lines of communication open between you and your student.

STU wishes you and yours the best Christmas and New Years Holiday Season ever. Enjoy!

Parenting Your College Student on Winter Break with Dr. Judy Bachay
membership to the STU Parents Association to make sure you don't miss any updates!

Quick Links

2014-2015 Academic Calendar
Financial Aid
FREE Tutoring Services

Save the Date for Homecoming & Parent and Families Weekend!

February 6 - 7, 2015

Homecoming week at STU begins on Monday, February 2nd. Parent and Families Weekend dovetails on homecoming week, and takes place on Friday, February 6th through Saturday, February 7th. A Bobcats Serve Day, Homecoming Mass, a special Alumni Speaker, Homecoming Basketball Game, as well as the Proud Parents & Families Dean’s List and Student Leadership Recognition Brunch are all in the final planning stages for this special weekend.

If you would like to make hotel arrangements, click here to see which hotels are closest to campus. If you decide to book with the closest hotel, Don Shula’s Hotel & Golf Club Miami Lakes, you can receive the corporate rate by calling reservations and mentioning that you would like the St. Thomas University rate. The customer service agent will be able to provide you with the corporate rate details.

We hope that you will make plans now to attend. Stay tuned for additional details and updates after the holiday break!

Congratulations Graduates!

Winter Graduation Ceremony

Finally! On December 20th, up to 250 graduates will walk across the stage at the Fernandez Family Center for Leadership and Wellness to
receive their hard earned degrees from each of our five colleges and schools, including the St. Thomas University School of Law. Winter graduations are special because they are the most intimate of our yearly graduations.

It's a day that parents, families, friends, students, and everyone here at STU has been looking forward to with great anticipation. While we are a little saddened that your student may depart from our everyday presence, we are excited about the leadership differences that they are going to make in the world. Congratulations are also in order for parents and families. We recognize that without your support, this day would not have been possible. We want you to know that once students, parents, and families have been a part of the Bobcat family, we never let you go. ONCE A BOBCAT, ALWAYS A BOBCAT!

We invite you to honor your graduate, by giving them a little piece of STU to take with them in the form of the STU Specialty Licence Plate gift certificate. A specialty license plate could be a great graduation, holiday, birthday, or just because gift. Check it out today!

![STU Specialty License Plate](image)

**New Cyber Security Master's Degree at STU**

**Training Leaders to Combat Data Theft**

The holidays often present a time for discussions about personal and educational goals. This is especially true if your student is getting close to graduation, or has just recently received an undergraduate degree.

As your student considers next steps, we wanted to let you know about a new graduate business degree program. STU's Cyber Security graduate degree is on the cutting edge of reality. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that this job market will grow by 37% through 2022, and at a much larger rate than any other occupation. Just think about the recently publicized breaches of JP Morgan Chase, Home Depot, and the United States Postal Service. According to the Identity Resource Center, in 2014 alone, more than 1 million records were breached, just in the financial industry. Across all industries, more than 81 million records have been breached. The Occupational Outlook Handbook reports that the median wage for Information Security Analysts is $86,170 per year.
If you or your student would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity, you can contact STU's School of Business at business@stu.edu, or contact the Dean directly at 877-788-7526.

**Senior Parents Give - STU Parents Fund**

Supporting STU's Annual Fund

This year every senior has been given the opportunity to honor the commitment the university has to helping students just like themselves reach their educational goals, by giving a senior class gift. Each STU senior has been asked to contribute $20.14 to the annual fund to commemorate their senior year. It's a small amount, but many small gifts can make one big difference in our Annual Fund. Would you consider matching a senior student's gift of $20.14? Or, even exceeding a senior student's gift?

**A Senior 2014 Parents & Families Gift** will help the university to continue it's commitment to provide institutional scholarships to more than 90% of the student body each year.

Whether you choose to support the Annual Fund with $10, $100, or $500; every dollar you contribute will help a student to open windows of opportunity for themselves, and develop their leadership skills to benefit our global community for life.

Click here to support the **STU Parents Fund** today! If you are making a **Senior Parents Gift** for the class of 2014, just let us know by putting a note in the comments section of the form. Thank you for helping us to help students.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday, April 13, 2015**

**1:30 PM - Shotgun Start**

**Trump National Doral**

**Miami, Florida**

**ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY**

**FORE the LOVE of EDUCATION**

**2015 Golf & Tennis Tournament**

**Interested in the Golf & Tennis Tournament?**

Learn more about registration and sponsorships here.

The STU campus is alive with many exciting developments, too
numerous to list here. To stay abreast of the latest news and events, visit our website at www.stu.edu where you can learn about all the latest STU news. To stay connected with the Parents and Families Program, complete our Parents Association Signup Form and like us on Facebook.

We’re looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline House
Corporate and Foundations Relations Officer