



5 – 7 June 2026  
on the campus of  
St. Thomas University  
Houston, TX

[www.gulfcoastirish.org](http://www.gulfcoastirish.org)



Updated: 5/15/26



# Getting Started – On Arrival

- Lots of street parking available but avoid ticketing, especially on Friday AM.  
See the “UST Free Parking” slide on page 8.
- Garage parking is paid parking; park first, pay at exit.
  - Pay to exit with your overnight room card, a token or credit card. (Tokens are better value than CC.)
  - Collect prepaid exit tokens at check-in or purchase them at the Cruinniú store (Strake Hall 101).
- Campus lodging check-in: Thursday, 2:30pm-5:00pm at the Guinan Residence Hall foyer.
- Check-in for all others: Friday, 8:00am-8:45am Friday in the Cullen Hall lobby.
- Friday prepaid breakfast: 7:30am-8:30am in the Champions Lounge at Crooker Center.



*Welcome to the 7th annual **Gulf Coast Cruinniú!***



# Quick References

- Classes are held in four UST buildings, mostly in Strake Hall.
- Cruinniú Office: Strake 102.
- Student lounge and expanded store: Strake 101
- Cruinniú website: [www.GulfCoastIrish.org](http://www.GulfCoastIrish.org)
- Cruinniú Facebook Group: [Gulf Coast Cruinniú](#)
- UST Campus Security: (713)525-3888
- UST Guest Wi-Fi: **USTGuest**, no password required.
- Your longest walk on campus is little more than 5 minutes.

# Thursday and Friday Schedule:

Day	Time	Event	Location
<b>Thursday (4 Jun)</b>	2:30pm - 5:00pm	On-campus Lodging Check-in	Guinan Residence Hall foyer
	7:00pm - ??	Cruinniú Kick-off Session	Hugh O'Connors Pub
<b>Friday (5 Jun)</b>	7:30am - 8:30 am	Breakfast	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
	8:00am - 8:45am	Check-in	Cullen Hall Lobby
	8:45am - 9:15am	Welcome - meet the instructors	Cullen Hall
	9:15am - 9:30am	Break	Coffee Service in Cullen Hall lobby
	9:30am - 10:30am	Class 1	Various - see details (same throughout)
	10:30am - 11:00am	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge - Strake 101
	11:00am - 12:00pm	Class 2	Same as Class 1
	12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch Break	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Class 3	Same as Class 1
	2:30pm - 3:00pm	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	3:00pm - 4:00pm	Irish Journeys	Various - see details
	4:00pm - 4:15pm	Break	---
	4:15pm- 5:30pm	Campus Sessions	Various - see details (same throughout)
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Dinner Break	---
	7:00pm - 9:30 pm	Céilí featuring the All-Star Céilí band!	Jerabeck Activity & Athletic Center
	9:45pm - ???	Pub Session - instructor moderated	Hugh O'Connors Pub
	9:45pm - ???	Onsite Session	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center

# Saturday and Sunday Schedule:

Day	Time	Event	Location
<b>Saturday (6 Jun)</b>	7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
	8:30am - 9:30am	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	9:30am - 10:30am	Class 4	Same as Class 1
	10:30am - 11:00am	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	11:00am - 12:00pm	Class 5	Same as Class 1
	12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch Break	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Class 6	Same as Class 1
	2:30pm - 3:00pm	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	3:00pm - 4:00pm	Irish Journeys	Various
	4:00pm - 4:15pm	Break	---
	4:15pm - 5:30pm	Campus Sessions	Various
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Dinner Break	---
	 7:30pm - 9:30pm	All-Star Concert	Jones Hall
	9:45pm - ??	Pub Session - instructor moderated	Hugh O'Connors Pub
9:45pm - ???	Onsite Session	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center	
<b>Sunday (7 Jun)</b>	7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
	8:30am - 9:30am	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	9:30am - 10:30am	Class 7	Same as Class 1
	10:30am - 11:00am	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	11:00am - 12:00pm	Class 8	Same as Class 1
	12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch Break	Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
	1:30 pm - 2:30pm	Class 9	Same as Class 1
	2:30pm - 3:00pm	Break	Coffee Service in Student Lounge
	3:00pm - 4:00pm	Irish Journeys	Various
	4:15pm - ??	Farewell Session	Hugh O'Connors

# University of St. Thomas (UST) - 1 of 2



- **Campus:** 3800 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX  
(Yoakum Blvd. is central to campus)
- **Guinan Residence Hall (35)**  
Lodging, check in Thursday afternoon
- **Cullen Hall (21)**  
Friday morning check-in and welcome
- **Jerabeck Activity & Athletic Center (30)**  
Friday night Céilí
- **Jones Hall (14)**  
Saturday night All-Star Concert



General

# University of St. Thomas (UST) - 2 of 2



## Student

### • Classrooms

- Strake Hall (15)
- Malloy Hall (11)
- Welder Hall (13)
- Robertson Hall (43)

### • Crooker Center (29) prepaid meals

### • Guinan Residence Hall (35)

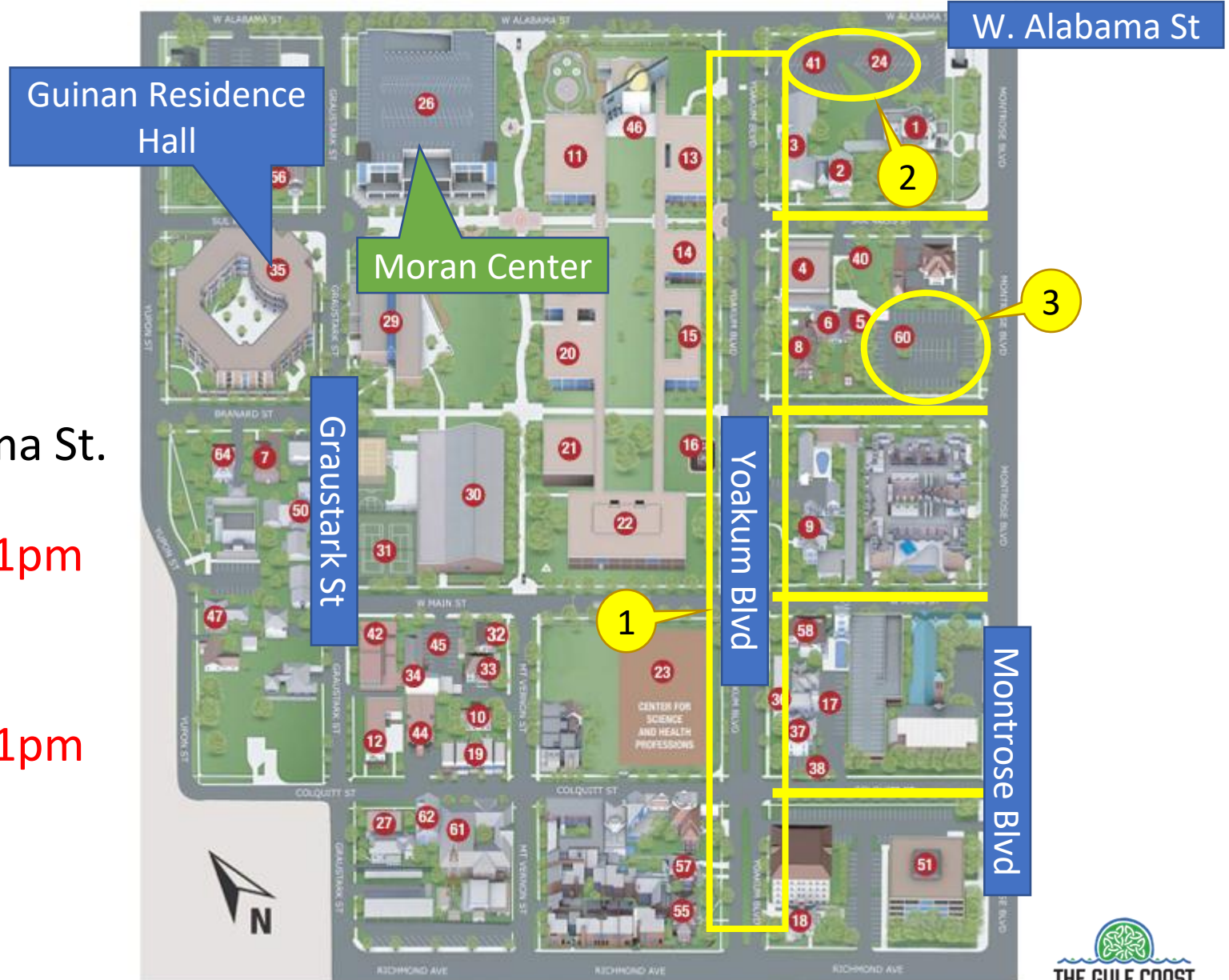
### • Moran Center (26)

Paid parking & Campus Police



# UST Free Parking

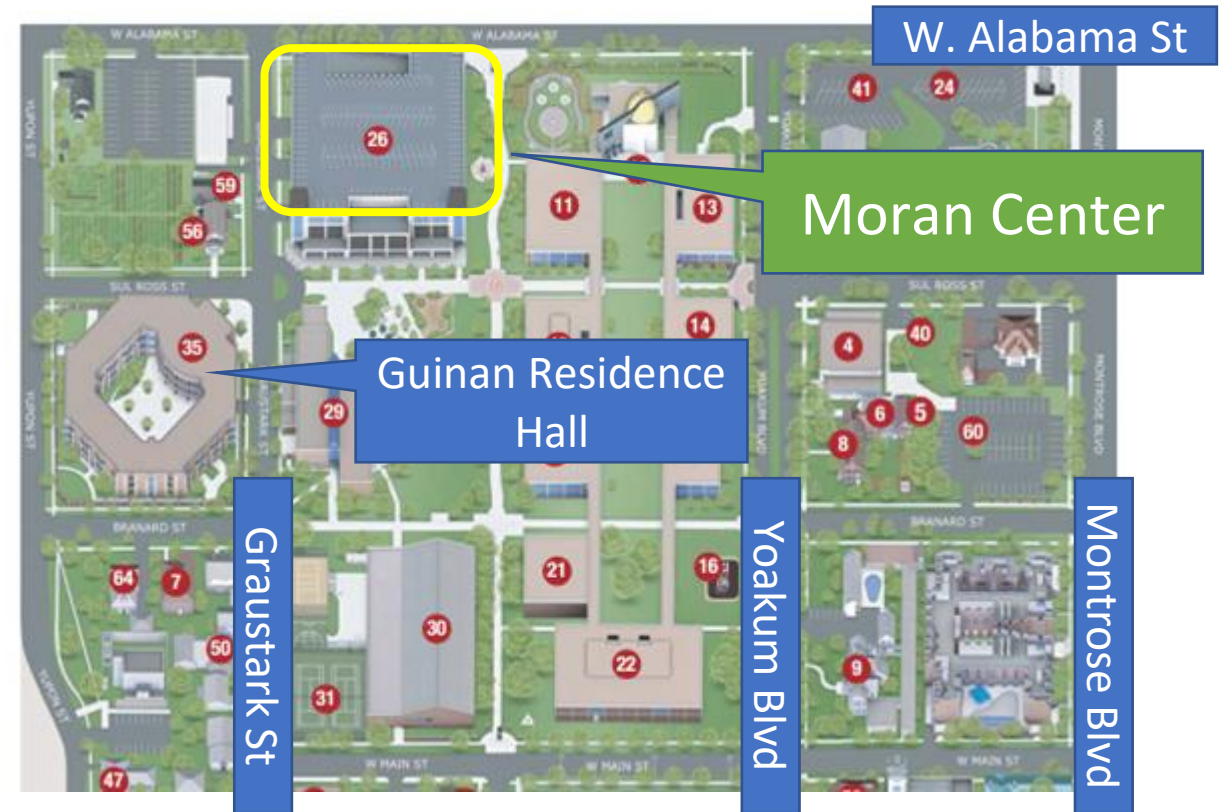
1. Along Yoakum and side streets between Yoakum & Montrose  
**No Parking on Montrose**
2. Two lots (#41 & #24) off W. Alabama St. near Montrose Blvd.  
**DO NOT park here Friday before 1pm**
3. Lot #3 on Montrose Blvd.  
**DO NOT park here Friday before 1pm**



# UST Paid Parking

## Moran Center (enter on Graustark St.)

- **Pre-paid weekend parking:**
  - If you are residing on campus, parking access will be added to your room card
  - Others will receive exit tokens for use over the weekend at check-in
- **Pay to exit**
  - You can park here before you check in
  - Exit with room card, token, or credit card; 1 token or \$10 by credit card.
  - You can purchase exit tokens, 2 for \$10, at the Cruinniú Store (Strake 101).
- There are two EV charging stations in the Moran Center



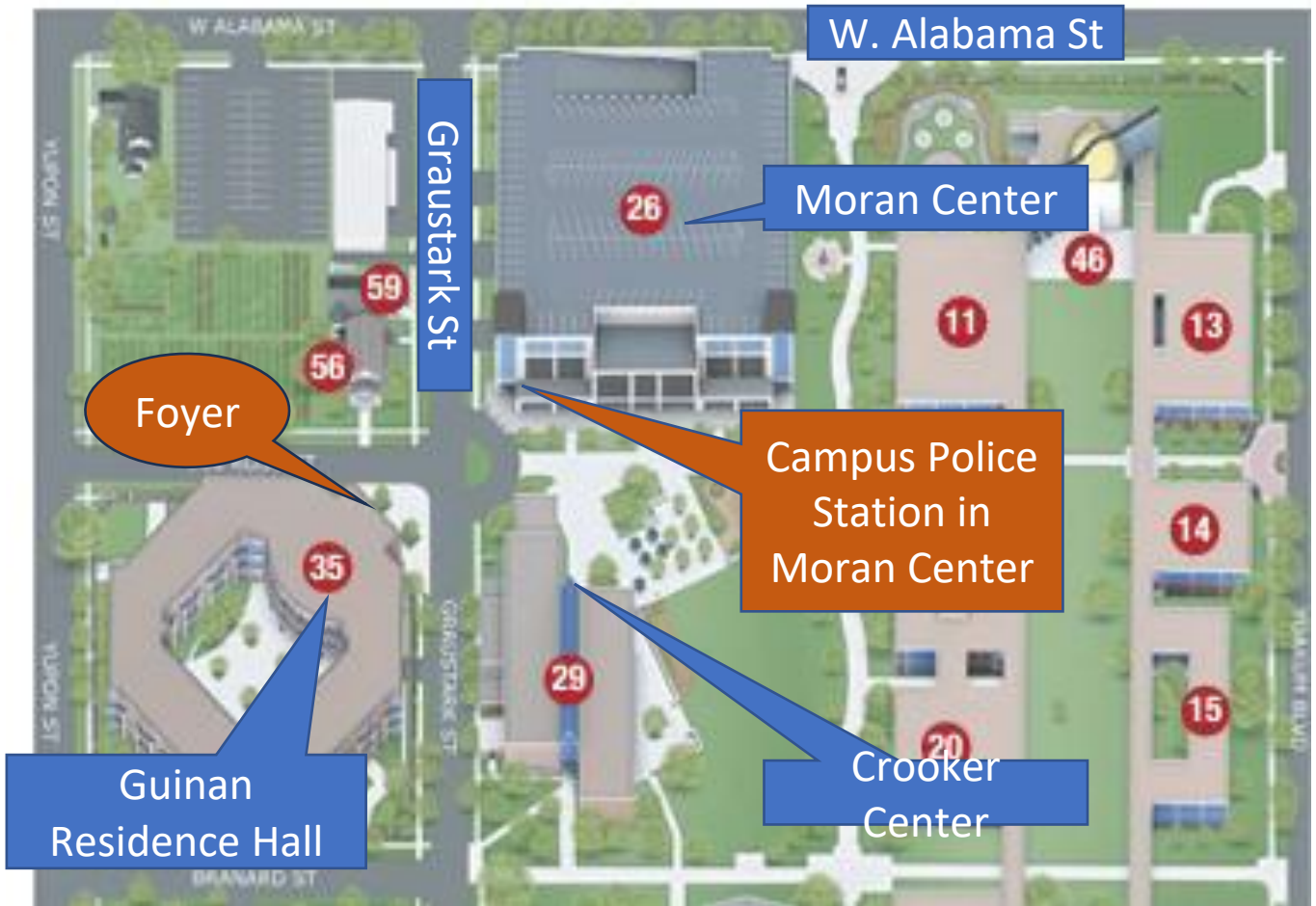
# Staying on Campus

- **Guinan Residence Hall (35)** (pre-registered) campus lodging
- **Moran Center (26)**, suggested overnight parking for overnight stay – prepaid weekend parking pass available with registration, or purchase 2 exit tokens for \$10
- **Crooker Center (35)** – in Champions Lounge, dining hall for pre-ordered UST breakfast & lunch, **no walk-up service.**

Dining @ Champions Lounge:

Breakfast: 7:30am-8:30am

Lunch: 12:00pm-1:30pm



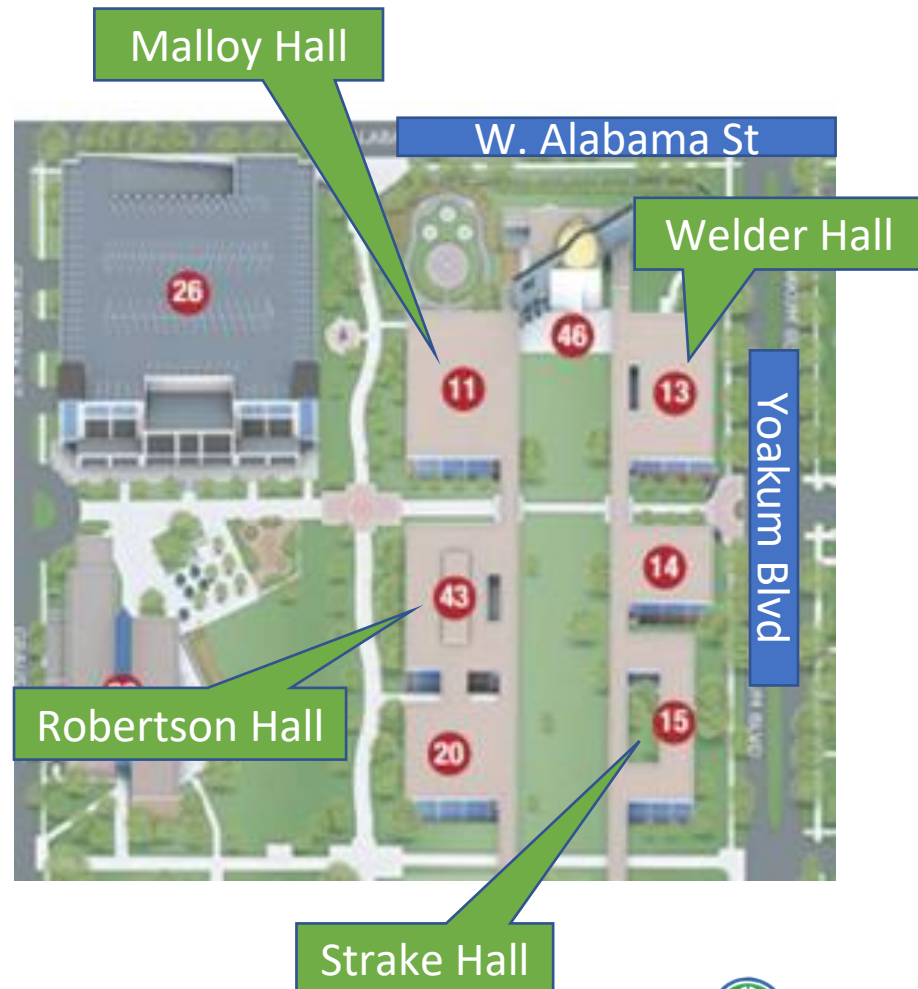
Campus lodging check in:  
Thursday – 2:30p-5p  
@ Guinan Residence Hall foyer  
Arriving late?: contact [louvain@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:louvain@gulfcoastirish.org)



# Classroom Assignments

Instrument	Room #	Instructor
Banjo/Mando Fundamentals	Strake 206	Brian Shaw
Banjo/Mando Int/Adv	Malloy 016	Cathal Hayden
Bodhrán Fundamentals	Robertson 213	Robert Shaddox
Bodhrán Int/Adv	Welder 220	Colm Phelan
Concertina	Malloy 245	Caroline Keene
Fiddle Fundamentals	Strake 201	Katie Geringer
Fiddle Int/Adv	Robertson B114	Liz Knowles
Flute	Strake 207	Kieran O'Hare
Guitar	Strake 106	Nathan Gourley
Harp	Strake 107	Kim Robertson
Pipes	Welder 117	John Liestman
Song	Strake 202	Éilís Kennedy
Whistle	Strake 204	Kathleen Conneely

**3 classes each day on Friday, Saturday & Sunday:  
9:30am-10:30am, 11am-12pm, 1:30pm-2:30pm**

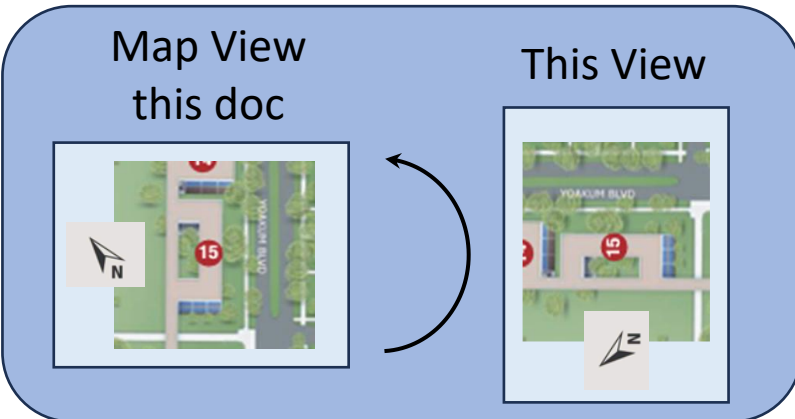
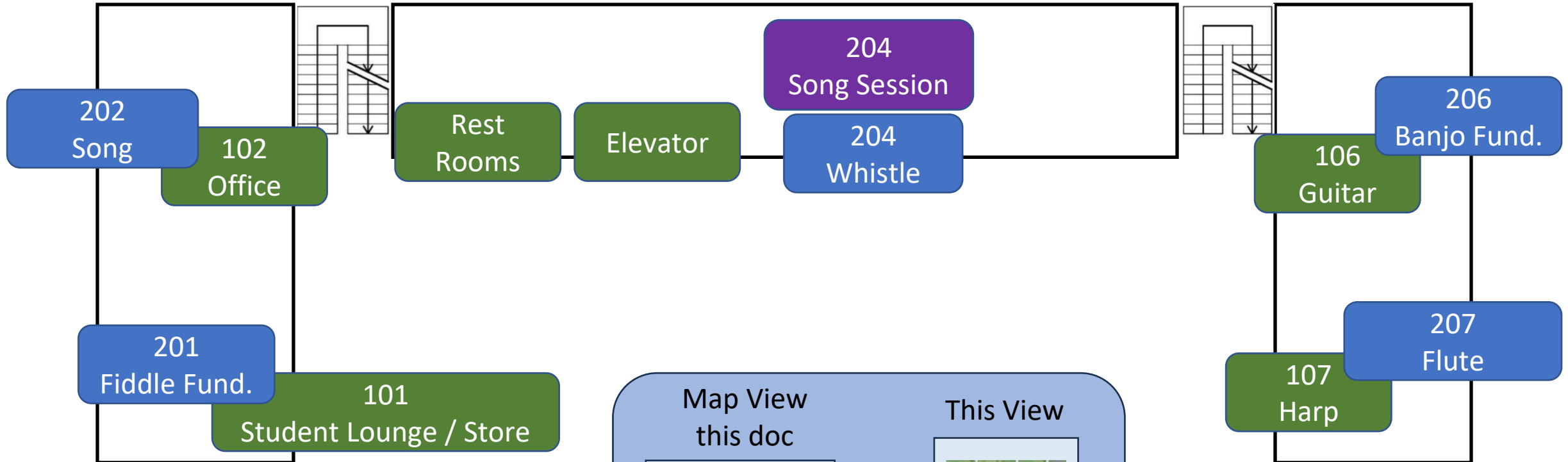
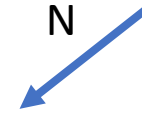


# Harps are special!

- A convenient location to drop off your harp is Strake Hall 102, right across the courtyard from your classroom.
- Drop off at Yoakum Blvd., south of Alabama, at the Branard St. intersection.
- Look for the path onto campus that borders Strake Hall.
- Campus security will lock the harp classroom after the last class Friday and Saturday. Most people store their harps there overnight in the cases.
- The harp classroom, Strake 107, is close to the Cruinniú office and Student Lounge/Store (Strake 102 & 101, respectively).
- If you're staying overnight on campus, you may wish to take your harp with you. It's about a 5-minute walk from the classroom.

# Strake Hall Room Assignments

(100's ground floor, 200's 1<sup>st</sup> floor)



# Room Assignments not in Strake Hall

(Directions to assigned rooms will be posted at building entrances.)

## Malloy Hall:

016  
Banjo I/A

245  
Concertina

016  
Irish Journeys - "B+"  
(Saturday only)

016  
Fast Session

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## Welder Hall:

117  
Pipes

220  
Bodhrán I/A

117  
Irish Journeys - "A"

117  
Moderate Session

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## Robertson Hall:

B114  
Fiddle I/A

213  
Bodhrán Fund.

B114  
Irish Journeys - "B"

B114  
Slow Session



# Classroom Access

- Classrooms will be opened at 9am each morning (that's 30 minutes before the first class) and will be locked at 3pm each afternoon (30 minutes after the afternoon class). **Classrooms will not be locked between classes.**
- **Where to leave your instrument during lunch:**  
You can bring it into Champions Lounge, please leave against a wall. You may also drop off your instrument at the GCC OFFICE (Strake Hall Room 102) in exchange for a claim ticket to be used at pick up.
- Each class will have a **Point Person** who will assist the instructor throughout the weekend and will communicate any announcements to the class. If you have any Cruinniú-related questions or needs, do not hesitate to talk to your Point Person.



# Céilí – Friday evening 7-9:30, in the gym

- Larger space: the Jerabeck Activity & Athletic Center
- Éamonn de Cógáin – the Céilí King – will be our caller
- Free entry for Cruinniú registrants
- Guest fee is \$10
- We're expecting a good crowd in a new spacious venue



Jerabeck Activity & Athletic Center



Our caller is sponsored by UST.



# Sessions at Hugh O'Connors

We begin and end @ Hugh O'Connors on Dincans

- 5010 Dincans St, see map on next slide

Open sessions each day

- Thursday evening (opening event) starting at 7pm
- Friday evening (after the Céilí) starting at 7:30pm
- Saturday (after the Concert) starting at 9:45pm
- Sunday farewell (closing event) starting at 4:15pm

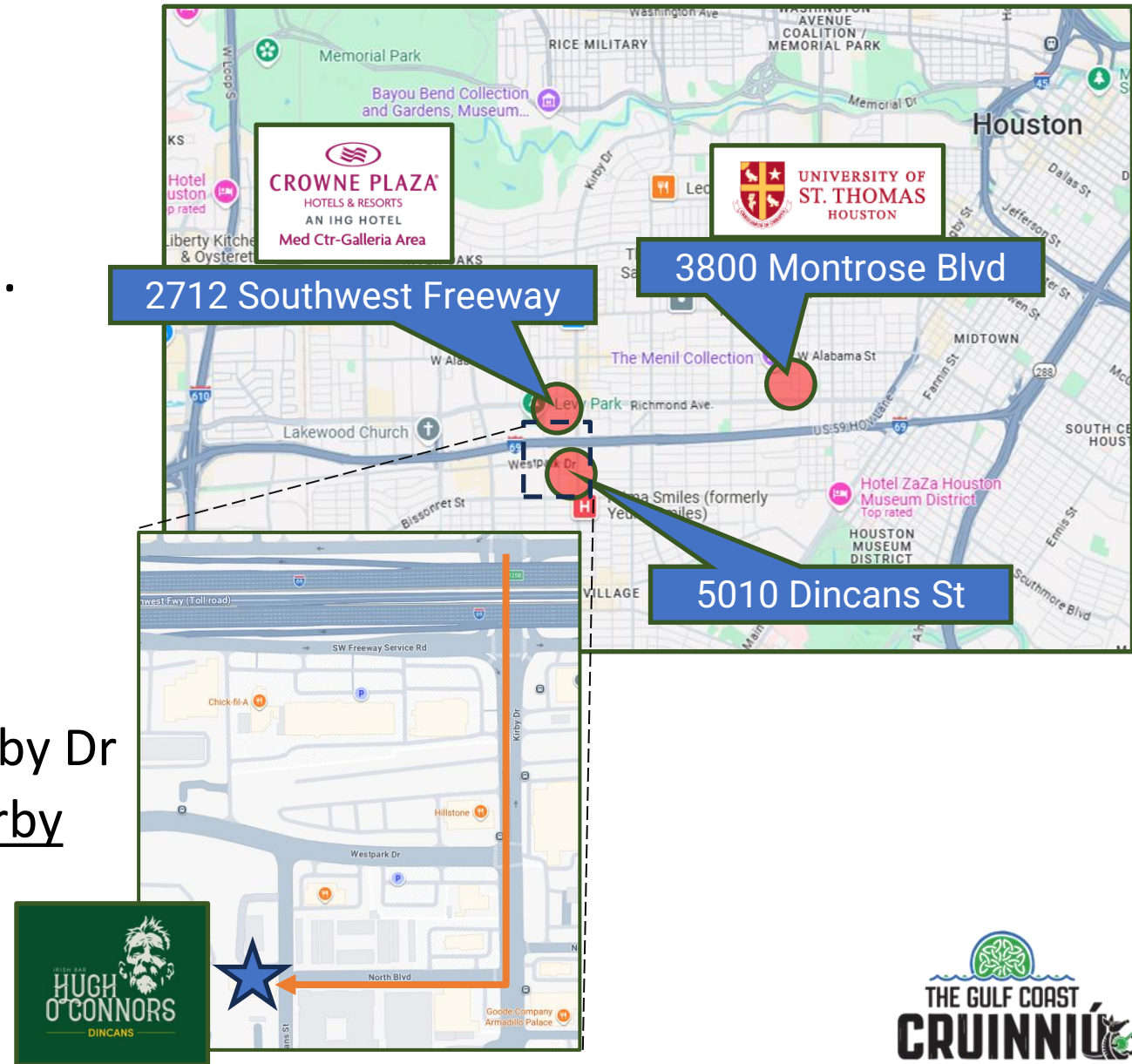


<https://dincans.hughoconnors.com/>



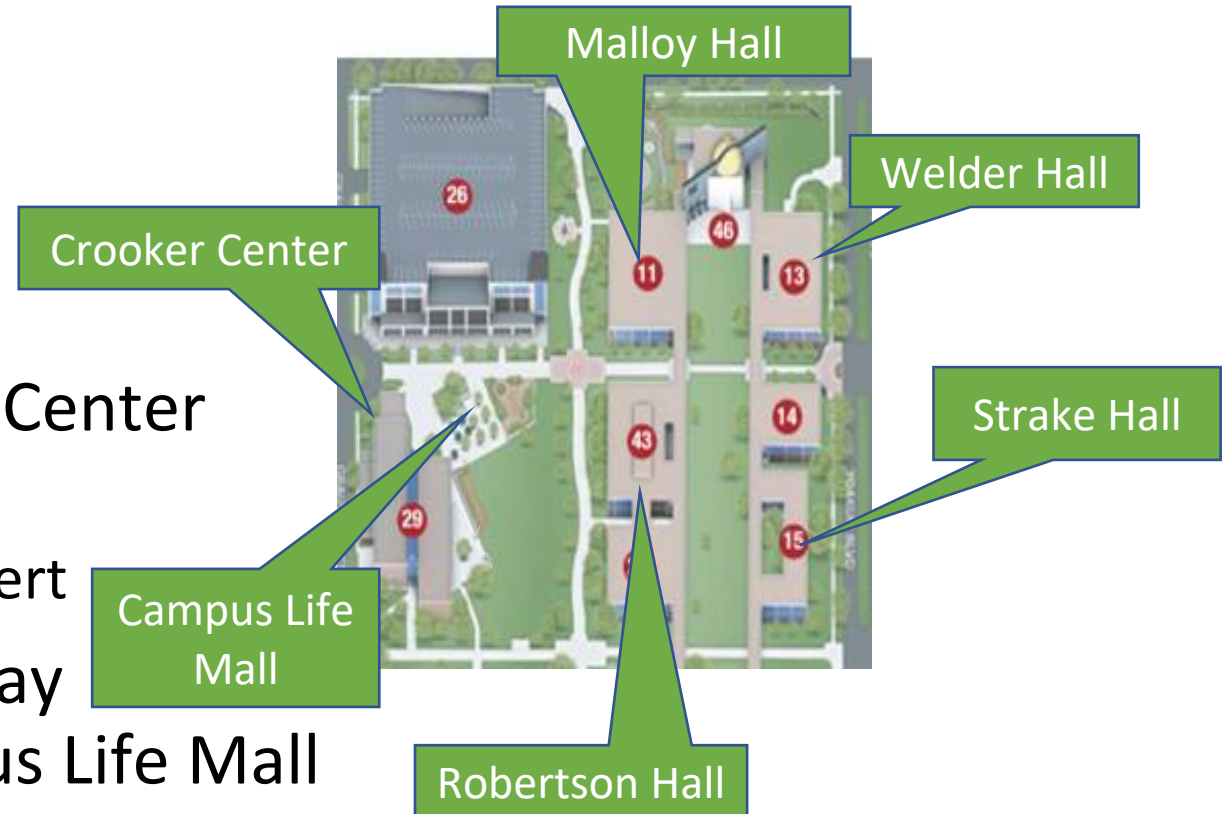
# Hugh O'Connors on Dincans St.

- There's more than one Hugh O'Connors.  
This location is @ 5010 Dincans St.
- Small parking lot but ample street parking along Dincans St.
- Food is delivered to your table by **On the Kirb**
  - Scan the QR Code on your table
  - Located around the corner at 5004 Kirby Dr
  - <https://www.onthekirb.com/upper-kirby>



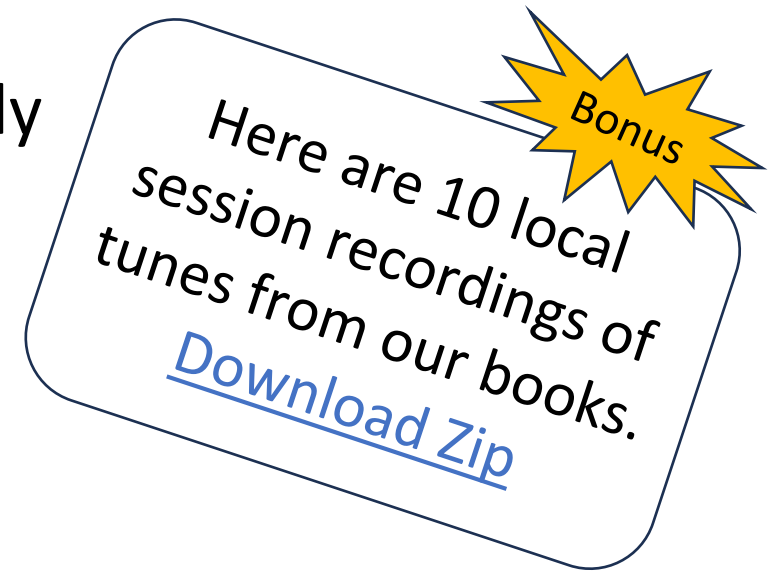
# Sessions on Campus

- Interest-based afternoon sessions (4:15pm-5:30pm) Friday & Saturday
  - **Slow** – Robertson B114
  - **Moderate** – Welder 117
  - **Fast** – Malloy 016
  - **Song** – Strake 204
- **New!** General evening session in the Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
  - Friday after the Céilí
  - Saturday after the All-Star Concert
- **New!** Informal al fresco (outdoor) may happen anytime on the Campus Life Mall



# Local Session Sets & Tunes

- Katie Geringer has collected sets that are currently played in the Houston area (McGonigal's Mucky Duck, Hugh O'Connors & Chelsea Wine Bar).
- Chase Collins created the Tune Book which groups tune sheet music into these sets.
  - Here are their results (PDF): [Local Tune Book](#)
- Michael Eskin (author of ABC Transcription Tools) used his talents to provide us an interactive version of our Tune Book. This book includes tablature, a robust midi track, and a tune trainer. He provides two formats:
  - Online version: [Run from Michael's web site](#)
  - Interactive PDF for offline use: [Download his PDF](#)  
(Note: click on sheet music title to open midi player)



# Flying In?

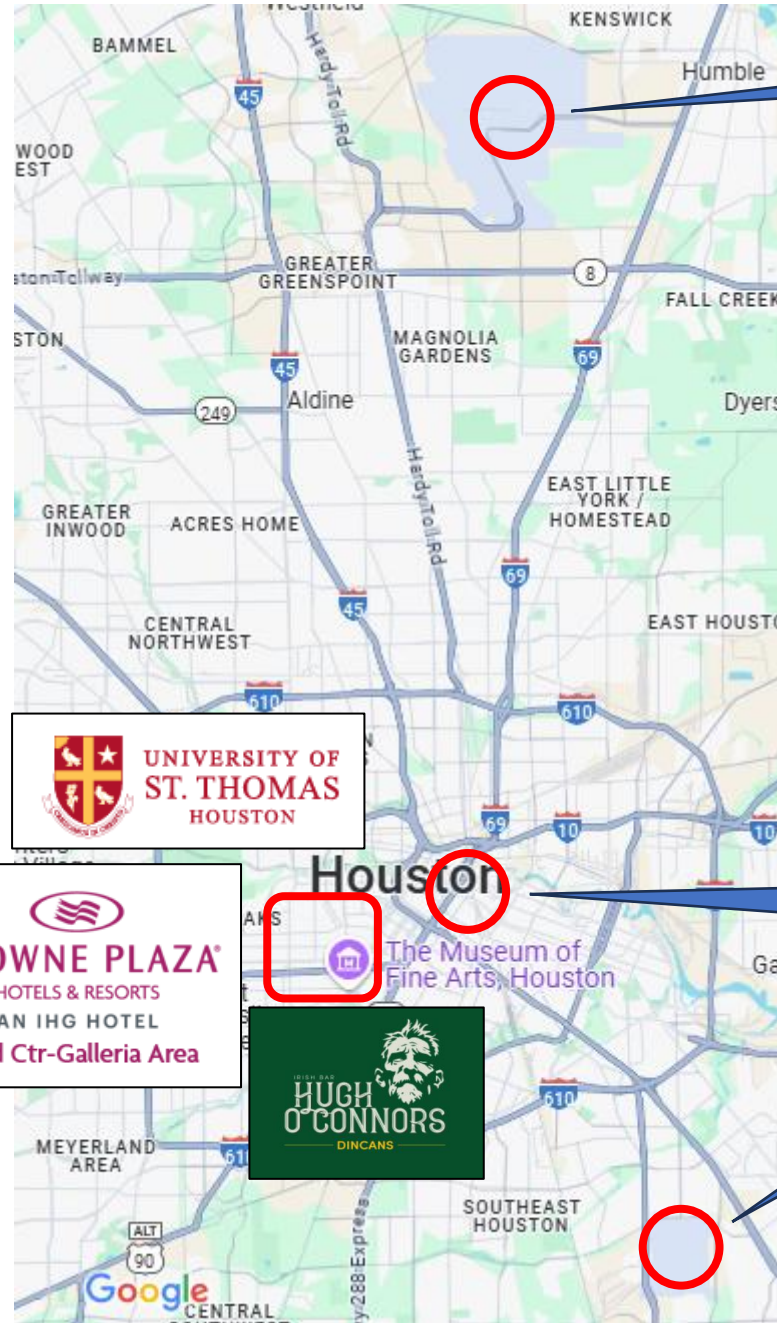
There's a Houston Metro bus route to consider – METRO 500 Downtown Direct.

This runs nonstop between IAH Terminal E, Level 2 (Departures) outside Door E-201 and the George R Brown Convention Center.

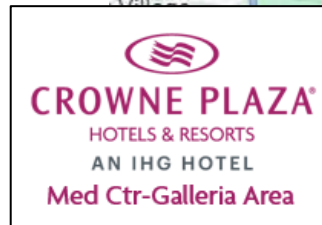
Operates every half hour, 7 days a week from 5:30a-8pm. \$4.50 one-way!

Rideshare service is also available from there... METRO 500 also serves Hobby Airport (HOU)

Details on the 500 route, including payment methods, can be found at:  
<https://www.ridemetro.org/riding-metro/transit-services/park-and-ride-bus/route-details/500-downtown-direct>



IAH George Bush Intercontinental Airport



GRB Convention Center

HOU William P. Hobby Airport



# Friday Irish Journeys 3pm-4pm in the room shown

Appreciating Traditional Irish Music is a journey. Our instructors present their personal insights from their own journeys.

A. Liz Knowles – Practice of Practice: In between a Traditional and Classical Approach

Welder  
117

B. Kieran O’Hare – The Curious Adventures of a Really Old Tune

Robertson  
B114

(A – improving performance, B – Irish culture/background)

[\[link to descriptions\]](#)

# Saturday Irish Journeys 3pm-4pm in the room shown

Appreciating Traditional Irish Music is a journey. Our instructors present their personal insights from their own journeys.

A. John Liestman & Brian Shaw – Picked Instrument Nerd Talk  
(PINT)

Welder  
117

B. Éilís Kennedy – Introduction to Singing in the Irish Tradition

Robertson  
B114

B+. Caroline Keane – The Making of Rise; Tradition and the  
Female Creative Voice

Malloy  
016

(A – improving performance, B – Irish culture/background)

[\[link to descriptions\]](#)

# Sunday Irish Journeys 3pm-4pm in the room shown

Appreciating Traditional Irish Music is a journey. Our instructors present their personal insights from their own journeys.

A. Liz Knowles – Duchas as an “Irish” approach to improving your playing (Duchas means building or strengthening intuition)

Welder  
117

B. Kieran O’Hare – More Than Meets the Ear

Robertson  
B114

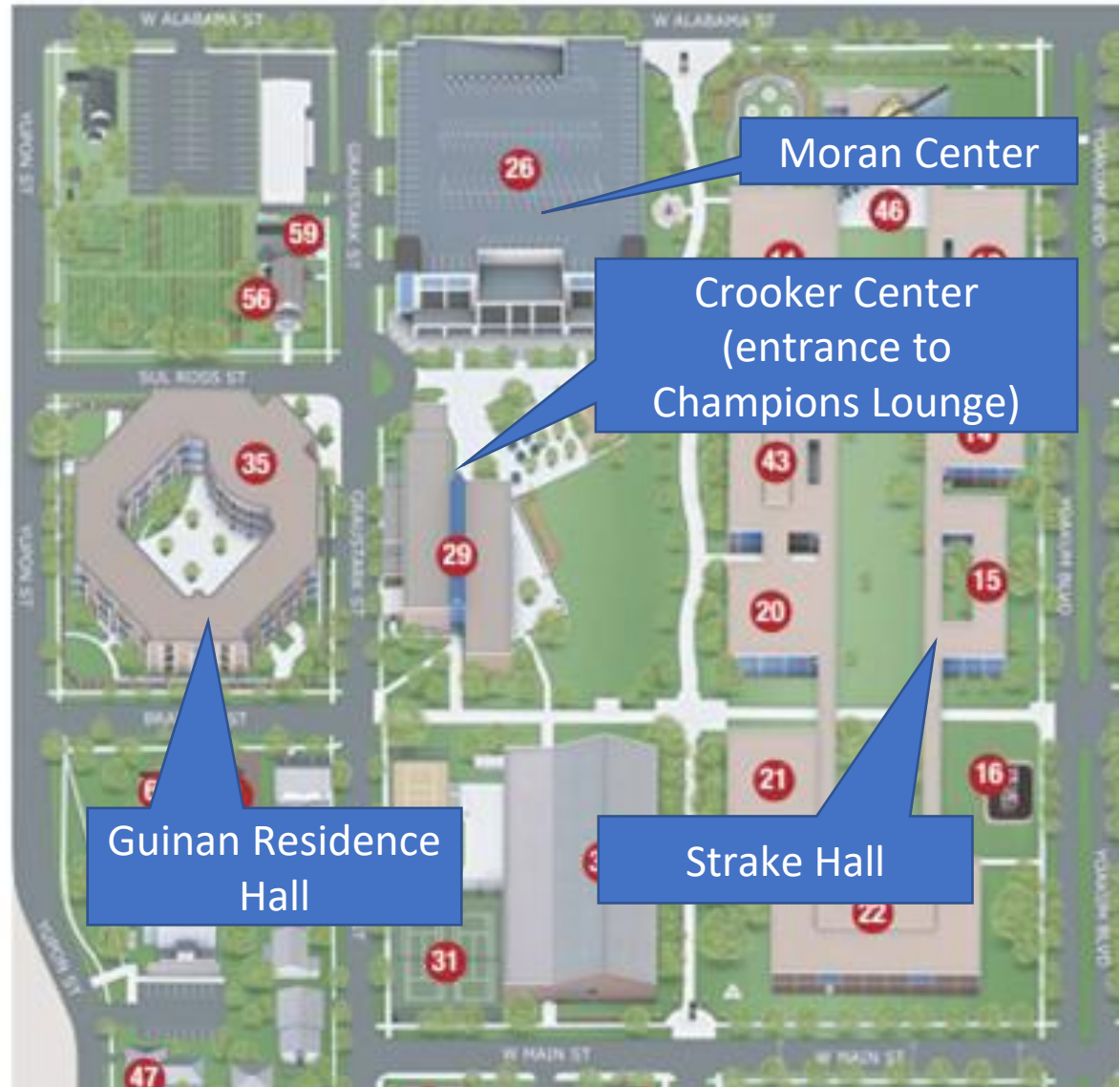
(A – improving performance, B – Irish culture/background)

[\[link to descriptions\]](#)

# Meals on Campus

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Champions Lounge in Crooker Center
- Breakfast from 7:30am-8:30am and lunch from noon to 1:30pm.
- This service is available for preordered meals only; no walk-up service is available.

We provide several water stations. Bring your favorite water bottle with you for convenient refill – or purchase your next favorite at the Cruinniú Store.



# Local Dining

- Montrose is a lively neighborhood with many eateries around UST, the Crowne Plaza hotel and Hugh O’Connors on Dincans
- Here’s a list of nearby restaurants from the April 2025 issue of The Cruinnews:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rzA6-1pbDcinJP6T6Mahovntm4TsV1SD/edit?usp=drive link&oid=106581894998756829950&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rzA6-1pbDcinJP6T6Mahovntm4TsV1SD/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=106581894998756829950&rtpof=true&sd=true)

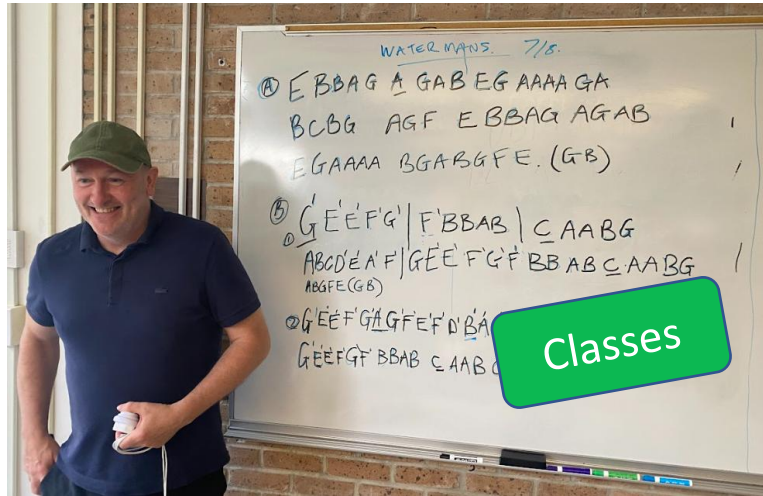


# Final Notes

- **UST Campus Security:** (713)525-3888
- Campus Police Department: located in the Moran Center
- Gulf Coast Cruinniú issues: Talk to our staff, visit our office - 102 Strake Hall, or email [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org).
- Buying instructor CDs or enjoying beverages/snacks at the Céilí or concert? We have credit card readers and accept cash as well.
- We have a good number of students and instructors staying at our host hotel, the Crowne Plaza Med Center-Galleria; consider carpooling.
- Using a recording device in your class? Make sure you have enough storage, sufficient battery charge and your instructor's permission.



# Scenes from 2025



Seventh Annual



THE GULF COAST  
**CRUINNÍÚ**



Irish Trad on the Third Coast