

The Robert E. Dennard Visiting Scholars Program is supported by the Robert E. Dennard Memorial Fund, the D. Gordon Rupe Foundation, The St. Mark's Parents' Association, and the Margaret McDermott and Ida Green Lectureship Fund. The program provides a series of visits by noted professionals who will speak, teach, and communicate their experiences to the teachers and students of St. Mark's School of Texas.

Mr. Robert E. Dennard served on the St. Mark's Board of Trustees from 1964 until his death in 1982.



10600 PRESTON ROAD  
DALLAS, TX 75230-4000  
214.346.8000

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

THE ROBERT E. DENNARD  
VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ROBERTA MAILER, DIRECTOR  
214.346.8130  
[mailer@smtexas.org](mailto:mailer@smtexas.org)

A black and white photograph of a large, modern brick building with a prominent tower and arched windows, viewed through a glass and metal frame. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

**The Robert E. Dennard  
Visiting Scholars Program  
2001-2002**

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

## LUIS RODRIGUEZ

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10-11, 2001



After spending his youth as a gang member in Los Angeles, Luis Rodriguez wrote *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in LA*, in part to dissuade his own son from gang involvement. He dedicated this autobiographical account to twenty-five friends killed in gang violence. Having authored several award-winning volumes of poetry and two other books for young people, Rodriguez travels throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Latin America reading, lecturing, and conducting workshops. He has visited juvenile facilities, prisons, schools, community centers, Indian reservations, and youth programs. Additionally, he is founder and director of Tia Chucha Press; founder of Rock a Mole, which promotes performers of hip hop jazz and rap music and produces urban youth arts festivals in Los Angeles; a founder and board member of Youth Struggling for Survival, featured in the 1997 PBS-TV series "Making Peace;" and a founding member of League of Revolutionaries for a New America. With St. Mark's students, Mr. Rodriguez will describe his personal experiences and conduct poetry-writing workshops before speaking to area teachers at the St. Mark's Teacher Institute on October 12.

## HOMER H. HICKAM, JR.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2002



Best-known to St. Mark's students as author of *Rocket Boys: A Memoir* (retitled *October Sky*) and hero of the movie "October Sky," Homer Hickam realized his dream of becoming a NASA aerospace engineer. As NASA Payload Training Chief for the International Space Station Program, he trained American crews that deployed and repaired the Hubble Space Telescope and those who conducted the Solar Max repair mission as well as Japanese crews for Spacelab-J. At St. Mark's, he will describe his high school years in a declining West Virginia coal-mining town when he and friends dreamed of careers with NASA while teaching themselves to build and launch their own increasingly sophisticated rockets. His memoir *Rocket Boys* was selected by *The New York Times* as a Great Book of 1998 and topped its bestseller list for three weeks. Now a free-lance writer who publishes extensively in many periodicals, Mr. Hickam has also written the best-selling military history *Torpedo Junction*, the techno-thriller *Back to the Moon*, and *The Coalwood Way*, which recollects his senior year in high school and chronicles the struggles of West Virginia coal miners.

## JAN MARK SLOMAN

TUESDAY-THURSDAY, APRIL 2-4, 2002



Based in Dallas, where he has long held the title of Principal Associate Concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Jan Mark Sloman has also spent extended time internationally as concertmaster of orchestras in Florence, Italy, Lugano and Geneva, Switzerland, and Melbourne, Australia. In those organizations and as guest concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony, he has worked with many of the world's most prominent conductors, including Carlos Kleiber, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Chailly, and the DSO's Andrew Litton. During the past decade, Mr. Sloman's attention has increasingly turned to teaching, both on the adjunct faculty at SMU and as founder and director of The Institute for Strings (TIFS). Through his institute, experienced professional musicians teach dedicated strings students the technical discipline and interactive skills that chamber music demands. The success of his students at major conservatories and competitions has brought Mr. Sloman increasing national recognition as a teacher of and mentor for the next generation of strings musicians. On April 5, "An Evening of Music" presented by Jan Sloman will culminate his visit to St. Mark's.