



View



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Mardi Gras Gala Rewards Students

The stars were out on the night of Fat Tuesday, Feb. 5, as UST hosted its annual Mardi Gras Gala to raise money for the Fr. Francis E. Monaghan Scholarship Fund.

More than 500 guests celebrated UST's time-honored tradition at the Corinthian, donning beads and masks and dining on filet mignon as they helped raise approximately \$800,000 for the education of current and future UST students.

This year's theme, "An Evening of Stars," celebrated the University's donors, benefactors and others who help make a faith-based college education possible through their work and donations.

Houston Chronicle President and Publisher Jack Sweeney, who

helped create UST's award-winning "Shining Star" logo, was this year's honoree. Cora Sue and Harry Mach chaired the event.

Donors bid in a live auction for prizes that included a dinner with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and weeklong stays in France, Mexico, England and other locations. A silent auction was also part of the festivities.

UST seniors Grover Green and Meris Chaumont, who won the honor of this year's student king and queen, greeted attendees and later gave speeches thanking donors for making a UST education possible for themselves and others.

Serving as Mistress of Ceremonies was former local news anchor Shara Fryer.

Mardi Gras King and Queen

Wearing capes and crowns, Green and Chaumont fulfilled their duties as this year's Mardi Gras king and queen, representing UST student scholarship winners.

They were each nominated by either a student, faculty or staff member. Those who nominate a student must submit a short essay explaining why the person should be considered for king or queen and how that person is a leader of faith and character.

During an interview conducted by a panel of judges to determine the next royal couple, Chaumont spoke about her love of UST and her desire to give back through service, as well as her Cajun background. Chaumont, who received the Fr. Francis E. Monaghan Scholarship, will graduate in May 2008 with a degree in theology.

Green, a joint major in history and theology, also received the Monaghan scholarship along with four others. He chose UST because of its rich Catholic tradition and because it offered him multiple scholarships.



Soffer Takes on New Role, Travels Abroad

Dr. Randy Soffer, lecturer of education, has replaced Dr. Emiliano Gonzalez, associate professor of education, as director of field experiences in the School of Education.

As director, Soffer works with other education professors to identify specific field experiences that undergraduate students need, and locates and secures appropriate classrooms for their placement. Soffer's responsibilities require him to work with school principals and to be familiar with various school districts and the needs of each undergraduate student.

"Field experience is designed to provide practical application of the theories students learn in the classroom," Soffer said. "The experience needs to match a particular course objective."

Education majors are required to complete at least 100 hours of



professional field experience prior to the capstone experience of student teaching. For three semesters beginning their junior year, students are placed in K-12 classrooms and their professional development is closely monitored.

Soffer is also a First Year Experience adviser for the School of Education and advises graduate students working on initial certification.

In January, Soffer and a group of seven UST students traveled to Jamaica for the first time as part of the University's Study Abroad program. Throughout the trip, participants lived with Jamaican families in an effort to immerse themselves in the nation's culture.

The group, which included undergraduate education and international studies majors and MLA students, participated in community service projects in the coastal town of Lucea, where they stayed.

Drama Program Stages "Sabrina Fair"

Bring your valentine to see the Romantic comedy "Sabrina Fair," at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 14-16, and Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 20-23, in Jones Theater.

The New York Times praised this 1950's gem as "a remarkably pleasant piece of theatre...a sparkling daze of incredulity and satire...a modern version of the Cinderella fable."

Set in swanky Long Island, Sabina Fairchild, the chauffeur's

daughter, becomes involved in a love triangle with the wealthy David Larabee and a rich young Frenchman, only to discover that she thinks she is really in love with David's brother, Linus.

Surprise revelations, comic twists and a fabulous group of wacky characters accompany Sabrina as she finds true love.

Admission is \$15 general admission; \$10 students, seniors & children; \$5 UST community with ID. For tickets, call 713-525-3520.

SAVE THE DATE

FOCUS: Rosary Readings



FOCUS Ministries invites the UST community to pray the rosary Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this spring in the Chapel of St. Basil. The rosary will be said at 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Play: "Traffic in Women"



The last showing of "Traffic in Women: A Retrial of the Danaids," will be at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in Jones Hall. Tickets are \$5 at the door. The trilogy of plays are written by Dr. Janet Lowery and feature Dr. Livia Bornigia.

Info Table on Chastity



The Catholic Daughters of America will have an informational table with brochures on chastity from 12:15- 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, on the University Seal. The purpose is to promote authentic love and self-respect through chastity. Desserts will be served.

Archaeology Lecture



The Friends of Archaeology will host Dr. Ana Munk speaking on "Re-membering the Saints: An Interpretation of the Early Christian *Confessio* beneath the Church of SS Giovanni e Paolo in Rome," 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, in Jones Hall.

2008 Lenten Lecture Series

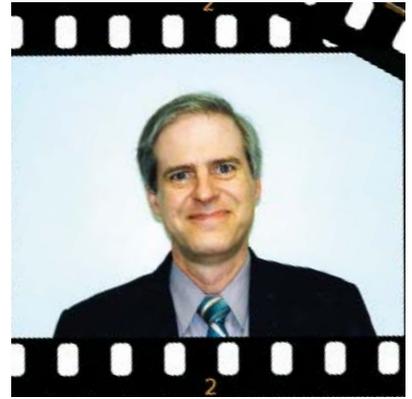
The Church and the Media

Join Dr. Paul Hahn for the second lecture of the 2008 Lenten Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Cullen Hall. He will discuss "Papyrus and Parchment: Technologies of Writing and the Bible." Dr. Hahn is an associate professor of theology at UST.

Writing goes back to the cavemen, who wrote on stone and bone. The Bible does not go back that far; but what was it originally written on? What kinds of inks were used?

How did the use of scrolls influence the actual contents of the texts? What about the modern book: how has its invention affected the Bible's transmission? This lecture will look at a rarely considered but fascinating aspect of the sacred Scriptures: how technologies for writing the Bible have affected the Bible itself.

This year's Lenten Lecture Series explores various aspects of the complex relationship between the Catholic Church and the media.



Valentine's Day "Love Wars"

Students, faculty and staff are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day by playing games at "Love Wars," 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Old Bookstore, Crooker Center.

Games will include charades, pictionary, trivia and "Name That Tune." Teams and individuals may participate. Teams must submit entries to alveya@stthom.edu.

Each member of the winning team will win a gas card, and the runner-up team will win a special gift bag. The event is sponsored by UST's REACH Peer Educators and Campus Ministry.

African American Art Exhibit

In recognition of Black History Month, during the month of February, the University will showcase works by African American artists. Artwork will be on display in the Council of Clubs Room in Crooker Center. The exhibition is part of the 12th Annual Citywide African American Art Exhibition, sponsored by the Museum of Fine Arts.



The annual Texas Job Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Jerabeck Center Gym. This is the largest college job fair in the Houston area, attracting approximately 130 employers wanting to fill full-time positions and internships. The event serves first year students through graduate students, from all majors. The fair can also function as a resource for freshmen and sophomores trying to determine career paths. Students should bring résumés and dress in business attire.

For more information and a listing of participating employers, visit the Career Services' Web site, www.stthom.edu/career and look in the announcements section.

TEXAS JOB FAIR



UST Students Get a Lesson in the Law



Back row l to r: Emily Cook, Jared Jordan, Merari Zambrano; front row l to r: Jeff Yurcak, Jessica Spofford, Elizabeth Oaxaca and Robert Andrade. Students not pictured: Chance McMillan, Joe Konkel, Katherine Taylor

University of St. Thomas prelaw students will experience the judicial system first-hand as they compete against 12 schools in the American Mock Trial Association's Southern Regional Mock Trial Tournament on Feb. 23 and 24 in Dallas. This is the second time UST has participated in the event.

This year, 11 students will play the roles of attorney or witness in a criminal trial. The participants are separated into two groups—prosecution and defense. The defense advocates are Chance McMillan, Robert Andrade and Elizabeth Oaxaca. Their witnesses include Jessica Spofford, Emily Cook and Katherine Taylor. Advocates for the prosecution side will be Jeff Yurcak, Jared Jordan and Emily Cook, with witnesses played by Joe Konkel, Steven Vaughn and Merari Zambrano.

UST adjunct professor and

practicing attorney Jeremy Heallen is the team's head coach while his wife, Lisa Linney, also an attorney, serves as an assistant coach. Additional volunteers include attorneys Kelly Heallen and Jason Cox. Rick Young, associate professor of political science, is the faculty adviser.

Linney said she works with the students to develop their forensic skills and coaches them on how to best present their arguments and how to question witnesses.

"I tell them where to stand in relation to their witnesses in order to emphasize important information that the witnesses are giving," Linney said. "The lawyer's presentation has to be interesting. It has to grab your attention. It's a performance."

Heallen and Linney helped coach the students in the 2007 competition. That year, the team

narrowly missed participating in the national tournament by one ballot, which is, according to Young, "pretty impressive," considering UST's one team was up against larger universities with at least two teams. This year, he said, he hopes UST makes it to the nationals.

All competitors were assigned the same court case, chosen by the American Mock Trial Association. This year's case involves a female social worker who was stabbed with an HIV-infected needle. The defendant has already been found guilty of infecting her and opposing teams are arguing to determine his punishment. The AMTA has dedicated the case to the early pioneers of AIDS research.

Participation in the mock trial event is the prelaw capstone experience. Last year, more than 80 percent of UST prelaw students who applied to law school were accepted. The tournament is sponsored by Southern Methodist University.

Star View is published by the Office of Public Affairs as a means of informing the UST community about University and campus news.

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