



News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**University of St. Thomas Raises \$800,000 for Scholarships at 58th Annual Mardi Gras Gala**

**HOUSTON (Feb. 20)** – The stars were out on the night of Feb. 5 as the University of St. Thomas 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, dining on filet mignon and donning masks and beads as they helped raise \$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 all others who help make a faith-based college education possible.

Cora Sue and Harry Mach of Mach Industrial Group chaired the event. Mrs. Mach sits on the board of directors for the University. This year’s honoree was Houston Chronicle President and Publisher Jack Sweeney, who helped create UST’s award-winning “Shining Star” logo.

Donors bid in a live auction featuring a dinner with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and weeklong stays in private homes 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 St. Thomas education possible for themselves and others.

Serving as Mistress of Ceremonies at the black tie event was former local news anchor Shara Fryer. The Champion Sisters and the Richard Brown Orchestra performed while a magician and a juggler entertained.

