



News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UST offers advice on college financial aid
at Fat FAFSA event**

WHAT: Fifth annual University of St. Thomas Fat FAFSA, an opportunity for current high school students and their families, current college students and prospective graduate students to complete steps one and two of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and interview educational loan providers.

WHEN: noon – 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Jerabeck Athletic Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon
Parking available in Moran Center, 3807 Graustark

BACKGROUND: The University of St. Thomas Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will host the fifth annual Fat FAFSA, an annual festive Mardi Gras-themed event dedicated to promoting student participation in the financial aid process and early completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (February is Financial Aid Awareness Month).

Student loan providers, community leaders and the UST Financial Aid's professional staff will be on site to provide information on the FAFSA process, scholarships, grants, student and parent loans, college work study and loan consolidation. Computers will also be available for students who want to apply for aid and for graduating seniors who need to complete their exit counseling.

"February is an ideal time to start applying for financial aid," said Scott Moore, UST dean of scholarships and financial aid. "Applying early is always important because grant money is always processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Timing is even more important this year given the current economy. Even students who already have financial aid need to remember to update their FAFSA form every academic year."

Students planning to graduate from college in May 2009 should not miss the Fat FAFSA event. University students planning on graduating from college in May 2009 can have the opportunity to ask lender representative vital student loan questions and complete the Student Loan Exit Interview. This is one step that is often overlooked when degrees are confirmed. A delay in completing the Student Loan Exit Interview could result in an

institution holding your transcript. In today's competitive job market delays can cost that picture perfect job of a life time.

The event features traditional Mardi Gras fare including king cakes and red beans rice. Houston-based "indie pop" band Wild Moccasins will perform live during the event. Guests can participate in fun inflatable "jousting" and try their hand at catching fists full of flying cash in the FAT FAFSA Famous Money Machine.

COST: Free and open to high school and college-age students and their families.

FOR INFORMATION: Contact Scott Moore at the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at 713-525-2151.

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