News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Un Carnaval de Estrellas: The University of St. Thomas Celebrates Mardi Gras

HOUSTON (March 8, 2006) The 2006 University of St. Thomas Mardi Gras Celebration, themed *Un Carnaval de Estrellas*, grossed $800,000 almost double last year's tally of $440,000.The money funds University of St. Thomas scholarships. The event, held on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006, at The Hobby Center, is a University tradition reaching back to the school's founding in 1947.

"The breathtaking results, magnificent menu and decorations were all thanks to our co-chairs Michael and Lucia Cordúa, and their team of volunteers," said H. Ken DeDominicis, UST's vice president for Institutional Advancement. "Due to the generosity of more than 400 donors, including four major underwriters Odis and Carol Peavy, Pat and Debbie Moran, Trini Mendenhall Sosa and Raye White, many talented and dedicated students will have scholarship money available to them."

Other revelers included Fayez Sarofim, Trini Mendenhall Sosa and Frank Sosa, Cathy and Giorgio Borlenghi, Dr. Camilo and Aurora Barcenas, George and Madelyn Farris, Joe and Merrill Hafner, Bruce and Beth Hotze, Bruce and Suzanne Wilkinson, Frank and Gloria Kalman and Mario and Fryda Guajardo.

The gala celebrants gave a standing ovation to this year's honoree, Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, who announced his retirement earlier that day. At the gala, the University announced the establishment of the Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Endowed Scholarship.

Archbishop Fiorenza served as leader of the 1.3 million Roman Catholics in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston since 1984. "The University of St. Thomas celebrates Archbishop Fiorenza's love for Catholic education and his leadership in our community," said Dr. Robert Ivany, University president. "In honor of his devotion to our community and to the University of St. Thomas, the University wanted to establish a scholarship fund that would last in perpetuity. This scholarship will support various students and programs at the University."

Walter Suhr and his band, Mango Punch! provided the evening's musical entertainment. Suhr graduated from UST in 1989 and Lucia Cordúa in 1985.

The University is a private institution committed to educating leaders of faith and character.