



Celebrating with Irish Flair: Heart & Heritage Gala

Living up to all the anticipation and underscored by irresistible Irish tunes, the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas-Houston celebrated its Heart & Heritage Gala on Nov. 22 at the elegant Houstonian Hotel. Guests at the gorgeous annual fundraising event were eager to honor Fr. James Murphy, CSB, for his heartfelt dedication to quality education for all students and his Irish heritage. Fr. Murphy serves as the third president of St. Thomas High School and is a UST Board of Directors member as well as a cherished friend of the Center for Irish Studies.

As the evening unfolded, delighting all in attendance, Mistress of Ceremonies Lisa Malosky kept the highly spirited event moving. Guests dined on delicious fare, found themselves enthralled by the Clann Kelly Dancers and Irish music by Beyond-the-Pale, laughed at Fr. Kevin Storey's humorous "roast and toast" of Fr. Murphy and demonstrated their shared support for the Center's work.

By the night's end, over 300 friends of the University and the Center raised more than \$390,000 at the lively gathering. The funds will go toward a united goal of supporting the Center's academic programming, study abroad opportunities and student scholarships.

Friends at Every Turn

Robert Hull, Consul General of Ireland-Austin, joined us as a special guest.

Meanwhile, within that ballroom filled with friends were **Margie M. Harris, MBA '86, and her husband, Mark J. Harris**, who chaired the special evening. **Bishop Brendan Cahill, STD '85, M. Div.'90**, served as Honorary Chair.

Sr. Lauren Beck, C.V.I., president of Incarnate Word Academy, blessed the evening's dinner, festivities and the Center's work.

As the evening drew to a close, the spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose remained, confirming the community's commitment to the Center for Irish Studies' mission.