

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tremont House Mardi Gras Party Given to Sea Aggies

GALVESTON ISLAND, Texas (Oct. 1, 2014) – Mardi Gras at The Tremont House will have a little more maroon this year, as the hotel transitions its famous Mardi Gras ball to a new era in memory of hotel owner and 1940 Texas A&M University graduate George P. Mitchell. The first A&M Mardi Gras Parade Viewing Party benefitting the George P. Mitchell Society of Texas A&M University at Galveston and underwritten by The Tremont House, A Wyndham Grand® Hotel, is set for Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 beginning at 6 p.m. in The Tremont Ballroom.

Mitchell, who passed away on July 16, 2013, donated the land for Texas A&M University at Galveston's main campus in his father's name and has been recognized as the most generous donor in Texas A&M University history. In tribute to this close tie to the university, The George P. Mitchell Society of Texas A&M University at Galveston is now the beneficiary and host of this legendary party which had been presented by George and Cynthia Mitchell and the Mitchell family since its start in 1985.

"We are excited and grateful for this opportunity," says Admiral Robert Smith III, CEO of TAMUG, "This generosity will enable us through the George P. Mitchell Society to provide scholarships and initiatives for excellence."

The A&M Mardi Gras Parade Viewing Party will take place entirely in the Tremont Ballroom and offer dinner, open bar, live music and a premier view of the Momus Grand Night Parade as it passes in front of the hotel. Guests will have the option to watch the parade from the ballroom balcony or on the street level in a gated viewing area. The Tremont House is donating the venue, staff and food and beverages enabling all proceeds to benefit the school.

Honorary chairs for the event are Dr. and Mrs. William Merrell and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Murphree. Dr. Merrell is a TAMUG professor and George P. Mitchell '40 Chair in Marine Sciences and Mr. Murphree is chairman of the TAMUG Board of Visitors and CEO of The Southern Funds Group.

"We are excited about this new tradition of Mardi Gras at The Tremont House and we are pleased with our long term partnership with Texas A&M University at Galveston," says Complex General Manager Steve Cunningham. "Mr. Mitchell would smile knowing that our ballroom will be filled with Aggies and supporters of his prized alma mater."

To purchase tickets or a table, please call Clayton Easley or Kathey Walker at 409.740.4411 or email <u>event@tamug.edu</u>. Table discounts are available to George P. Mitchell Society members.

The Tremont House, A Wyndham Grand® Hotel, celebrated its first Mardi Gras Ball and Hotel Grand Opening on Feb. 16, 1985. As The Tremont House approaches its 30th Anniversary, the hotel plans to revive old practices, pass on current rituals, and create new traditions for the future.

About the George P. Mitchell Society

The George P. Mitchell Society is comprised of individuals and organizations who want the Galveston campus of Texas A&M University to thrive and grow as the only maritime university on the Gulf Coast and one of the premier ocean-front universities of the world. The society supports various efforts in Galveston from campus beautification, to intercollegiate

competition for student teams, and recognition of outstanding faculty, staff and students. Following the lead of George P. Mitchell, the members provide the necessary private support that gives TAMUG the financial and intellectual ability to increase the margin of excellence beyond what can be achieved with State and tuition support alone. For more information, visit <u>www.tamug.edu/develop/Campaigns/MitchellSociety.html</u>.

About The Tremont House

The Tremont House, A Wyndham Grand® Hotel, is owned by the Cynthia and George Mitchell family as part of Mitchell Historic Properties. The Tremont House is a 119-room boutique style hotel located in the heart of The Strand National Historic Landmark District and Galveston's Downtown Cultural Arts District. The hotel is in the heart of the Mardi Gas Uptown Entertainment district and features 14,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, a bistro-style café, fitness center and two bars for entertainment – the 1888 Toujouse Bar and The Rooftop Bar. For reservations, call (409) 763-0300 or visit www.TheTremontHouse.com.

About Wyndham Hotels and Resorts

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About Galveston Island

Galveston Island is a historic beach town located on the Gulf of Mexico just 50 miles from Houston. The island offers 32 miles of beaches, a variety of family attractions, one of the largest and well-preserved concentrations of Victorian architecture in the country, and Texas' premier cruise port. For more information on Galveston Island visit www.galveston.com or call 1-888-GAL-ISLE.

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