



THE TREMONT HOUSE

A Wyndham Grand Hotel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mardi Gras Parade Raises \$70,000 for Sea Aggies

GALVESTON ISLAND, Texas (March X, 2016) – More than \$70,000 was raised for the George P. Mitchell Society of Texas A&M University at Galveston through ticket sales for the second annual Texas A&M Mardi Gras Parade Viewing Event, underwritten by The Tremont House, A Wyndham Grand® Hotel. Guests were treated to custom A&M Mardi Gras beads, dinner, cocktails, live music by The Line Up and a premier view of the Momus Grand Night Parade.

Last year, the hotel transitioned its famous Mardi Gras ball to a new era in memory of hotel owner and 1940 Texas A&M University graduate George P. Mitchell. 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 his close tie to the university, The Tremont House now underwrites the event so all proceeds can benefit the George P. Mitchell Society of Texas A&M University at Galveston. A Mardi Gras ball and parade viewing party had been presented by George and Cynthia Mitchell and the Mitchell family since the opening of The Tremont House and revival of Mardi Gras in 1985.

As a result of the partnership with The Tremont House to host the A&M Parade Viewing Party, TAMUG's George P. Mitchell Society is now endowing two new scholarships. In addition, campus Excellence Initiatives may now come to fruition.

Honorary chairs for the event were Rear Admiral Robert Smith III, USN (Ret) and Mrs. Mary Sue Smith, Senator A.R. "Babe" Schwartz and Mrs. Marilyn Schwartz, and the late Mrs. Kris Anne Vogelpohl, Member Emerita of the TAMUG Board of Visitors. Co-chairs for the event are Mrs. Marilyn McFatrige, Mrs. Phyllis Milstein, Mrs. Marie Robb and Ms. Kelly Teichman.

"We are proud to continue to support Texas A&M University at Galveston through this Mardi Gras event at The Tremont House," says Complex General Manager Steve Cunningham. "Mr. Mitchell loved Texas A&M University and we are proud to underwrite this event for his prized alma mater."

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 including scholarships to recruit and retain outstanding students, campus beautification, recognition of outstanding staff and faculty and intercollegiate competition for student teams. In Academic Year 2015/2016, the George P. Mitchell Society awarded its first ever Endowed Scholarship to a Ball High School 2015 graduate. Through the generosity of the Mitchell Society and patrons of the Mardi Gras Viewing Party, the intent is to offer at least one George P. Mitchell Society scholarship annually to a deserving Galveston Island student.

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 Gras 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 Grand

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About Mardi Gras! Galveston

Mardi Gras, the traditional festival of feasting and merrymaking that precedes the season of Lent, was first publicly observed on Galveston Island in 1867. Following a sabbatical imposed in 1941 by war and challenging times, Mardi Gras! Galveston was revived in 1985 by Galveston-born preservationist and developer George P. Mitchell. The largest celebration of its kind in Texas and the third largest in the nation, Mardi Gras! Galveston brings the island's streets to life with parade viewers shouting for beads, lively tunes played by the colorful marching bands, and the infectious merriment that dominates the island for two full weeks. For details, visit <http://www.mardigrasgalveston.com>

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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