

Crystal Ball fundraiser dazzles

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The first Crystal Ball lived up to its billing last week with a party space decorated to the hilt in sparkling ornaments, silvery embellishments and, yes, crystals.

The River Oaks Country Club ballroom has never dazzled more than under the spell of designer **Darryl Murchison**, who worked his magic for the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine gala.

Contributing brilliant high wattage of their own were ball chairs **Maryann** and **Jodie Hoffer**, **Suzanne** and **Jack McCrary**, and **Sylvia** and **John Sullivan**, who oversaw the evening that raised close to \$400,000. The funds will support the second-year geriatrics fellowship program at Baylor.

The evening honored the late **Roy Huffington** and the late **Phyllis Gough Huffington** and their family, represented by their daughter, **Terry Huffington**, and son, **Michael Huffington**. In addition, three foundations were recognized — the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation, the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Isla Carroll Turner Friendship Trust.

Wining, dining and dancing to the sounds of the Richard Brown Orchestra were guests including **Margaret Williams** and **Jim Daniel**, **Joanne King Herring**, **Bob Jones**, **Maria** and **Neil Bush**, **Randa** and **Charles Williams**, **Zarine** and **Meherwan Boyce**, **Andy** and **Dr. Del Delery**, **Suzanne** and **Ali Ebrahimi**, **Frann Lichtenstein**, **Gail** and **Jenard Gross**, **Brad Wyatt**, **Donatella** and **Fred Beckenstein**, and **Betty** and **John Hrcir**.

Season's greetings

The receiving line was long and festive at Wortham House last week when University of Houston System Chancellor and central campus president **Renu Khator** and husband **Suresh Khator** welcomed more than 500 guests for the annual holiday open house.

University donors, neighbors from South and North boulevards, UH friends and board members and consuls general from more than 10 countries were in the mix. They included Harris County Judge **Ed Emmett**, **Margaret Williams**, **Yvonne** and **Rufus Cormier**, **Marion Barthelme Fort** and **Jeff Fort**, **Peggy Barnett**, U.S. Rep. **Gene Green** and wife **Helen**, **Sushila** and **Durga Agrawal**, **James Dannenbaum**, and **Lily** and **Charles Foster**.

Sight 'ems

Jimmy Olguin and **Susan Williams** celebrating their engagement Friday night at the newly opened Mo's ... A Place for Steaks on Post Oak where they were joined by **Ericka** and **Jeff Bagwell**. Olguin, Momentum Jaguar's sales manager, presented Williams with a whopping canary yellow diamond earlier in the day. Filling out the restaurant crowd were **Kara** and **Ray Childress** at one table and sports announcer **Craig Roberts** and TABC's **Richard Willis** dining at another with Mo's owner **Johnny**

“V” **Vassallo**, visiting from his home base in Milwaukee. ...

Tennessee Titans head coach **Jeff Fisher** and defensive backs coach **Chuck Cecil** having dinner at Del Frisco’s Double Eagle Steakhouse Saturday night. On Thursday, the **Houston Texans** offensive line including **Chris Myers, Chester Pitts** and **Eric Winston** chewed the beef in the private Coulter Room.

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Attorney **Donn Fullenweider** at River Oaks Country Club celebrating 50 years as a member of the bar, his new partnership with **Randall Wilhite** and the renaming of his law firm as Fullenweider Wilhite. Fullenweider, who represented **Suzanne Saperstein** in her divorce last year from **David Saperstein**, is one of only nine attorneys in the Hall of Legends of the State Bar of Texas. ...

Jewelry designer **Matthew Campbell Laurenza** at Neiman Marcus, where he was the toast of a reception hosted by Martha Turner Properties agents **Ruthie Porterfield** and **Barbara Goot Gamson**. Admiring his M.C.L. line were **Jana Giammalva, Martha Turner, Rochelle Pye, Dancie Ware** and **Karol Barnhart**. ...

Phyllis Ullman celebrating her birthday at Tony’s with 23 friends, including **Evelyn Leightman, Gaylon Gullquist** and **Libby Marvins**.

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