

THE BEAR FACTS

School's largest fund-raiser set for Feb. 18

Jeans, Jazz & Bruin Blues \$10,000 Draw Down celebrates its 24th straight year

By **KELLYN PAIGE**
The Bear Facts

Fellowship, fun, food, prizes and \$10,000 in cash – all are part of the 2017 Draw Down, Saint Joseph Catholic School's largest fund-raiser of the year set for Saturday, Feb 18. Tickets are \$130 for two people. A limited

number are still available for the event. The Draw Down is expected to sell out; any one interested in purchasing tickets should contact the school at (601) 868-4800.

"This year, they have a new logo, new decorations, a new layout at the event, and live music," said Becky Adkins, who coordinates alumni affairs and works with the Saint Joseph Parent As-

sociation.

While at the Draw Down, guests will dine on gourmet food prepared by the Knights of Columbus of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Guests also will enjoy an open bar as well as a wide variety of desserts.

Other attraction will include silent and live auctions that will feature such high-profile items as a 2017 Chevrolet Malibu LS 24-month prepaid lease; a Walt Disney World trip for a family of four; a six-night trip to Punta Cana, Dominican

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THE BEAR FACTS & BRUIN NEWS NOW SPECIAL REPORT COMMITTED TO SERVE

Reaching others through hours



Photo by Collin Ledbetter/The Bear Facts

Members of the BruinTHON Committee discuss plans for the event which is set for after school on Friday, April 7, in the Saint Joseph gym. Volunteers for the event receive service hours. From left are Isabel Loya, Jackye Gregory, Tess Lott, Alvin Barnes and Aaron Ray.

By **John David Topik**

Even though it's not until April, a group of Saint Joseph Catholic school students have been at work since last fall planning the school's largest event to help a key community organization – the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital.

BruinTHON, which began life as the Saint Joseph Dance Marathon, has raised thousands of dollars for the Batson Children's Hospital – including more than \$12,500 last year.

"BruinTHON and other Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathons such as Rebelthon at Ole Miss are integral to the success of Batson Children's Hospital," said Mrs. Mary Banks, the campus minister and service coordinator for Saint Joseph.

"Without fund-raising from local communities, Batson would not be able to provide the necessary level of care and support to its

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Filippenko inspires Bruin students

By **GARRET GROVE**
The Bear Facts

A world-renowned astrophysicist spent one day last month inspiring Saint Joseph students to search the stars and become excited about science.

Alex Filippenko, an Oakland, Calif., native, talked to students, faculty, parents and guests about his love of science. He also participated in the blessing of the school's new telescope as well as visited the Millsaps College campus.

Mr. Filippenko's Jan. 26 and 27 visit to the Saint Joseph campus was long in the planning. First, there was a meet-and-greet for anyone able to attend on Jan. 26.

The approximately 35 people who attended were primarily Saint Joseph parents and friends of the school. Several students also attended.

Before Mr. Filippenko spoke, he toured the school's remolded science classrooms; he was impressed with the school's equipment and students' learning opportunities. He liked the biology classroom because he thought the integration of art and life science was great.

Some of those who attended the meet-and-greet got autographs and took pictures with Mr. Filippenko.

The next morning, at about 9:30 a.m., students, teachers and Mr. Filippenko himself attended Bishop Joseph Kopacz's blessing of the school's new telescope at Hulett Observatory. Mr. Filippenko then joined the bishop as he

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Photo Special to The Bear Facts
Alex Filippenko is interviewed by Bruin News Now following his Jan. 27 talk on campus.

Annual program honors African American contributions

By **KILAND HARRISON**
The Bear Facts

Saint Joseph students are hard at work preparing for Saint Joseph's annual Black History Month program set for Monday, Feb. 27.

Black History Month is a time set aside to honor the lengthy accomplishments of African Americans.

Black History month originated in 1926 when historian Carter G. Wood-

son announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week" In 1976, then President Gerald R. Ford recognized Black History Week as Black History Month.

The annual Black History Month program at Saint Joseph helps to draw attention to important



CRYSTAL THOMAS

events in the nation's past. This year's program is coordinated by Ms. Crystal Thomas, Saint Joseph's biology teacher.

"It is important for us to do a Black History Program because it helps to shine a light on important African American figures," Ms. Thomas said.



ALVIN BARNES

This year's event will feature quotes from famous athletes, musicians and entrepreneurs all of whom have had a profound affect on American history.

The program allows the students of Saint Joseph to display their various talents. Student participants go as far as dressing like the famous person.

"I really enjoyed getting the chance to dress like Tupac Shakur and read one of his songs," said Douglas Watson, who participated in last year's

program. "And I look forward to doing something like that again this year."

Senior Alvin Barnes who helped direct the program last year said it is "just really great to see everything come together from the first practice to the final performance."

There was a lot of time and effort that went into making last year's program a success. And it all started in Ms. Thomas' room, where students were hard at work perfecting every little detail.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The first football player on a Wheaties box was Walter Payton of Columbus.

THE BEAR FACTS

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