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UT Austin HSC Hosts 3rd Annual Fundraising Dinner

On December 2, 2006, The University of Texas at Austin chapter of Hindu Students Council hosted its 3rd annual fundraising dinner. One of only two fundraisers throughout the year, the dinner brings in finances to support this unique chapter-whose membership, projects, and events are all free to students and the public. Approximately fifteen percent of the UT Austin student population is Asian American, with eight percent being Indian American. With a total student population of 50,000, there are over 4000 Indians on the UT campus of which a majority are of Hindu faith. Hindu Students Council is an organization dedicated to promoting Hindu culture as well as religion for these students and the community. The UT Austin chapter accomplishes its mission through its meetings, service projects, and events such as Navratri, Diwali, and Holi. Held at Masala Wok, an Austin area Indian Restaurant, the fundraising dinner attracted over fifty prominent members of the Indian American community. To start the night, chapter core officers set up a welcome table and greeted guests. UT Austin Chapter Coordinator, Neha Verma, welcomed the community as well as special guests for the night-Mr. Vijay Pallod, HSC National Treasurer, and Mr. Ravi Ragavan, senior National HSC member. While appetizers were served, core officers Anupama Atluru and Nikhil Nayak gave a brief, ten-minute presentation on HSC-its history, mission, meetings, events, and finances. Guest speaker, Mr. Vijay Pallod then divulged on the importance of HSC for current and future generations. At its conclusion, bowls of rice, naan, saag paneer, and other traditional Indian cuisine were brought out by active HSC students as dinner was served. Following



dinner, the audience was entertained by a North Indian classical music group, Riaz, composed of four active HSC students, including Southwest Regional Coordinator Varun Mehta. The vocals and sound of the harmonium and tablas were coupled with claps from the crowd. While enjoying sweet rasmalai, guests listened to chapter Fundraising Chair and Treasurer, Anupama Madabhushi, speak on the topic of funding and the importance of community support, with a chapter annual budget of over \$10,000. At the end of the dinner, guests mingled and talked to core officers and HSC students about their experiences. Attendees filled out donation cards with any amount they wished contribute in support of HSC and its mission of promoting Hindu culture and religion. For the 3rd straight year, the event was deemed a great success by attendees as well as officers. UT Austin Website: <http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/hsc> Chapter Coordinator: Neha Verma: hsc_cc@yahoo.com

"HSC is an international forum providing opportunities for students and youth to learn about Hindu heritage and culture."

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