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### **Guerin Prep Prom Goers Met “On the Red Carpet”**

“Midnight in Paris,” this year’s Junior-Senior Prom at Guerin College Preparatory High School, actually began “On the Red Carpet” at 4:30 p.m. April 30 at the River Grove high school.

Hours later, the Prom’s King and Queen—Seniors Hugo Diaz and Jenny Dankowski, both of Chicago—were crowned in the shadow of an Ice Sculpture of Paris’ Eiffel Tower at the Marriott O’Hare Hotel at 8535 W. Higgins.

For the second year in a row, the school hosted the red carpet event to provide plenty of photo opportunities for family and friends.

The school also offered bus transportation to the prom, which was held at Chicago Marriott O’Hare located at 8535 W. Higgins. The bus also took students to an after prom event at the ESPN Zone downtown.

In preparation for the prom, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) helped to sponsor Operation Prom on Wednesday, April 28, a program developed by local advocate Anne Bleicher. A two-car crash involving Guerin Prep prom goers was re-enacted for the entire student body. The crash resulted in the death of one of the students as well as a 14-year-old passenger in the second car. It also resulted in the arrest of the Guerin Prep student who was driving under the influence.

During an assembly following the re-enactment, a series of speakers presented information on the dangers of drinking and driving as well as sharing their first-hand experiences of the effects of driving while intoxicated.

Lieutenant Keith Aller of the River Grove Police Department covered the costs and sanctions involved in receiving a DUI. He cautioned that one drink coupled with bad choices could cost \$6,400.

## 2—Guerin Prep Prom '10

Dr. Hallen Akbarnia, an emergency room doctor from St. Francis Medical Center, explained what it is like to take care of victims of car crashes as a result of someone driving while intoxicated. She shared her own pain of having her EMT partner be killed by a drunk driver.

Marti Belluschi, well-known advocate for traffic safety who has served as the executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and as the DUI Prevention advisor for the Illinois Secretary of State, told students she knows more than anyone ever wants to know about the effects of drinking and driving. She shared her own story of being involved in a horrific accident caused by a drunk driver while she was a high school student. She told students, "If you could hear the pain.....the screams you would never drink and drive."

On Thursday, April 29 during an assembly, Kurt Gubitza, a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State Jesse White spoke to the students. Besides drinking and driving, he covered other safety issues like wearing seat belts and not texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.

The theme of both days was to urge students to make good choices in order that they "**P**lease **R**eturn **O**n **M**onday."