

UT student crowned Miss Asian American Texas

AUSTIN—Allyn Hoang, a broadcast journalism student at the University of Texas in Austin, won this year's Miss Asian American Texas contest.

Representing Vietnam, Miss Hoang got the nod of the judges over 15 candidates from other Asian countries—including the Philippines, China, India, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Sri Lanka—in a pageant held at the Austin Convention Center on Aug. 11, 2007.

Aishwarya Raju of Sugar Land, representing India, was first runner-up. She also won the talent competition by her rendition of an Indian dance.

Tawn Le of Austin, representing Vietnam, was second runner-up. Together with Krystal McDaniel (Thailand), Le was voted by the contestants as Miss Congeniality.

Jade Maharlika Brewster of Austin, representing the Philippines, was third runner-up. She also won an award for best heritage representation.

Ana Baladad of Mesquite, representing the



ALLYN Hoang (3rd from right), representing Vietnam, poses with the other winners after being crowned the 2007-08 Miss Asian American Texas. From left are Mia Baladonado (Philippines), Miss Texas Bluebonnet; Ana Baladad (Philippines), 4th runner-up; Tawn Le (Vietnam), 2nd runner-up; Ms. Hoang; Aishwarya Raju (India), 1st runner-up; and Jade Maharlika Brewster (Philippines), 3rd runner-up.

Philippines, was fourth runner-up. She also bagged the Miss Asian American Texas Princess and Miss Dedicated awards.

In pursuit of her career as a journalist, Allyn Hoang began working with NBS Universal at the age of 17. She travels to New York City often to experience television at the network level. Allyn enjoys working with NBC's critical-

ly acclaimed drama, "Friday Night Lights," as well as contributing to MTV. Allyn takes pleasure in working with the Asian American Community, most notably hosting events and performing magic shows.

The other winners and their awards are Mia Baladonado of Austin (Philippines), Miss Texas Bluebonnet and leadership award; Stephanie Ho (Viet-

nam), Miss Texas Bluebonnet and best in gown; Loris Tran (Vietnam), best cosmetic choice award; Limin Shen (China), scholastic award; Varapon Konkeattikul (Thailand), best smile; Stella Huang (Taiwan), best in grace and poise; Tina Marie Hogue (Korea), best cultural presentation; Natalie Lyons (Sri Lanka), best in stage presence; and Uyenvy Tran

(Vietnam), outstanding community service award.

The Miss Asian American Texas pageant aims to foster unity, understanding and camaraderie among Asian Americans in Texas and increase awareness of the diversity and strengths of the Asian American community. The pageant also seeks to provide opportunities for contestants as well as volunteers to further develop leadership and interpersonal skills through individual and group activities including community relations, public speaking, and other events.

Allyn Hoang won a grand prize that includes a \$2,000 scholarship, crown, trophy, sash, and other awards. She will carry the title for two years, during which time she will represent the Asian American community in her new leadership role. She will also represent the Asian American community of Texas in a national pageant in California.

The finalists won cash scholarships. Special prizes were given to the other winners.



WILLIE REVILLAME

TV host cleared of liability in stampede

MANILA (Reuters)—Philippine prosecutors cleared the host of a popular daytime television show of any criminal liability over the death of 71 people during a stampede to get onto the program last year, the justice secretary said.

Raul Gonzalez said on Aug. 24 that Willie Revillame, host of "Wowowee," should not be blamed for causing the stampede out-

See **WOWOWEE**, p. 38

VOICE & PIANO LESSONS

For Beginners to Advanced

By **RUTH FONCECA SMITH**

Ruth Fonceca Smith is an exceptional, well known Soprano Concert Soloist, Concert Pianist and a well-trained Music Teacher in the field of anatomy and physiology. She was trained by Fides Cuyugan Ascencio, a world-renowned stage and TV personality, and was a regular performer in Ms. Ascencio's "Sunday Sweet Sunday" on national television. Ruth F. Smith also trained with Dr. Nobleza Pilar, who has a Doctorate in Vocal Pedagogy—vocal anatomy and physiology.



A word from Ms. Ruth F. Smith: "I listen, and I hear your children. Then I enjoy developing their potential talent into artistry."

Her students are developed to achieve their highest level of performance skills. She is proud to acknowledge the achievements of her students.

Other students are being prepared for auditions and performances. Ms. Ruth Fonceca Smith would like to thank the parents for all their support in this development.

RUTH FONCECA SMITH

Concert Soloist:

- Bayanihan Dance Troupe, Philippine Women's University • Top Businessmen, Dignitaries and Ambassadors of Asia
- Seventh Fleet, IMF-World Bank Conferences in the Philippines • Opening of Asian American Studies Center, U of H Hilton • Civic and Business Leaders of Houston • Philippine American Friendship Society

Music Director and Pianist: Clark Air Force Base (United States Air Force)

20 years of teaching experience in the U.S.

Phone: 281-345-4034 • Email: belcanto7@gmail.com



New students are very much welcome. Call 281-345-4034 or 832-515-8629.