



## GAP EDUCATES UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON STUDENTS

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON (UH) had their first Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) experience when CBR Mid-America office arranged the display on November 16-18, 2009. Pro-Life Cougars were the student sponsors and our partners at the Houston Coalition for Life also participated. The day before GAP, we trained 30 local volunteers in a session entitled “Creating Dialogue on Campus.”

GAP was held at the busiest location on campus—Butler Plaza in front of the M.D. Anderson Library. The dean of students emailed notice of GAP to UH’s 35,000 students: “The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) is a traveling photo-mural exhibit organized by the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform. ... Because of the potentially controversial nature of this exhibit, which shows graphic images of fetuses being aborted during various stages of development, the university is informing the campus community in advance.” We were thankful for the free publicity!

Pro-abortion students came to shout tired slogans such as “Not the church—not the state, women must decide their fate,” but they did try a new one: “The international community supports abortion.” One student kept screaming “Abortion isn’t genocide!” Eventually, Alanna Campbell from our CBR Canadian affiliate engaged this young man in conversation. Other students joined in the discussion that centered on his inability to see the unborn as fully human. After a time he laughed and complimented Alanna by telling her, “I like the fact you know what you are talking about and can explain it to me.” He admitted his friend works in an abortion clinic. When he left the display he said, “I really respect you and what you all are trying to do.” Alana’s gentle spirit exemplified how effectively our volunteers witnessed to all the students.

Student responses once again confirmed that GAP is



**Student volunteers at the University of Houston GAP display, pictured from left: Shayne Rodrigues, Christine Verduzco, Kristine deMatta (president of Pro-Life Cougars) and Ruth Bernay**

an effective “weapon of mass instruction.” One male student was preoccupied with when the embryo becomes a person; he finally revealed that he had experience with three abortions, including his girlfriend’s. We trust that GAP will prevent a fourth abortion.

One male student told us, “Thanks for being here.” After we had taken down the display the last day and it was growing dark, this student was still standing in the midst of fellow students debating abortion. Many other students thanked us for coming to their school. Our team collected the names of 164 students who want to join Pro-life Cougars. That’s a tremendous measure of success!

### CBR Pro-Life Student Leadership Conference

**CBR** SOUTHEAST HOSTED THE FOURTH Annual National Pro-Life Student Leadership Conference (SLC) on September 19, 2009

at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Students for Life of America is the cooperating sponsor of the “Winning Hearts and Saving Lives on Your Campus” conference. Most of the 102 attendees were students, representing 28 different universities and colleges. Attendance has grown steadily since 45 students first attended in January 2006.

This year, pro-life student clubs came from Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and California. A highlight of the weekend is the Friday night cookout, which is held on a farm owned by CBR supporters. This family has adopted many children, including some with special needs, so their testimony is a powerful example to the students.

Speakers include CBR staff members and representatives from other pro-life groups. Main sessions of the conference included: A Vision for Transforming Your Campus, Develop Your Group Goals, Recruiting Members, Raising Money, and a Leadership Structure to Accomplish Your Goals.

Two faculty advisors attended and they asked if future conferences might include workshop sessions to train faculty advisors. CBR-Southeast is considering that request as well as how to better obtain commitments from student attendees to host our Genocide Awareness Project on their campuses. Since GAP is so effective in changing people’s minds about abortion and saving babies, that’s a key goal for the SLC.

## Resisting Advice from the Devil

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PREGNANCY issues for many pro-life people is a case where a baby is diagnosed in utero with a condition that is considered terminal—one where the baby is expected to die in the womb, during birth or soon thereafter.

The devil is in the medical community when he speaks through physicians, genetic counselors, insurance providers and other persons who believe a “quality of human life” ethic. Consider the pressure this woman must have been facing when she visited our [www.AbortionNo.org](http://www.AbortionNo.org) website:

I do not believe in abortion as a general rule. I recently found out that my baby has anencephaly. The safest option is to have an elective abortion for myself; either way, my baby will die within hours of birth IF carried to full term. I think this is a great website for women who



### Listening intently at the Student Leadership Conference in Knoxville, TN

would have a normal, healthy child. I have two- and three-year-old children and would not give them up for anything in the world. This pregnancy was planned and wanted by both my husband and me but I have to do what is best for my body at this point. (26-year-old female, Altamont, IL, December 15, 2009 website survey)

CBR’s director of Crisis Pregnancy Outreach quickly emailed her back from her cell phone:

Thank you for visiting [www.abortionNo.org](http://www.abortionNo.org) and giving us your personal feedback. I am a registered nurse with many years’ experience working with all types of pregnancies. I helped open Choices Medical Clinic in Kansas. They have an excellent perinatal hospice program and they can be a help to you even over the phone. They have a team of experts to help families whose babies are diagnosed in utero with terminal conditions. All services are free. Visit [www.choicesmc.org](http://www.choicesmc.org) to learn more about perinatal hospice and to see the video about it.

Our website is not designed solely for women and families with normal, healthy pregnancies. People see the abortion images and recognize abortion is an act of violence which kills a baby. It doesn’t matter what their circumstances are or even what language they speak.

You mentioned that you’d previously seen abortion images in church. To you and your husband, I pose this question that I’ve posed to countless people:



*“I really respect you and what you all are trying to do.” –University of Houston student who had moved from screaming “abortion is not genocide!” into lengthy conversation with a GAP staff member.*

“What does God think about abortion?” He who created all of us has a purpose for this precious child of yours. Even if your child dies in the womb or soon thereafter, let it be God’s timing and not your own. As a friend of mine told the geneticist who strongly urged her to abort her baby who was diagnosed with Trisomy 18, “I am NOT going to decide the day of my baby’s death!” God honored Sarah and her husband for trusting Him and He healed their son. He was born healthy and beautiful. But even if God had chosen another path for them, they were willing to accept it.

No mother or father wants to be told that their born or preborn child is very ill or disabled. My heart goes out to you at this very difficult time. But the answer is not to have your child killed. God desires that you trust Him and that you love, care for and welcome this child for whatever days God gives him. You can build sweet memories of holding and kissing your child, rather than having an abortion on your conscience. Proverbs 16:25 tells us, *“There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way to death.”* Don’t choose that way, but instead the way of life. ...

Our staff began to pray for this family and Lois followed up with another email which provided this woman with helpful links for her specific situation, <http://perinatalhospice.org/> and <http://www.anencephalie-info.org/e/index.php>. The latter website was founded by a Swiss mother who carried to term Anouk, a daughter with anencephaly.

Lois responded to the woman’s statement: “I have to do what is best for my body at this point” by telling her accurate information about anencephaly not being dangerous for the mother. We wrote:

Unfortunately, many medical personnel are focused on quality of life and they give terrible advice to parents of babies with difficult diagnoses. They tell you to have your baby aborted and they try to scare you into thinking the baby will somehow harm you. ... The stark reality is medical insurance companies don’t want to pay the higher expenses associated with a pregnancy or birth that is not “normal.” Geneticists routinely push parents to abort such children based on their own biases against disabled preborn people. Their counsel comes from the devil, not from God.

In contrast, here is a passage from Scripture which was deeply meaningful to Anouk’s mother: *“Now when this corruptible is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

...Please cancel this abortion appointment. You have time to change your mind. Don’t let anyone rush you or push you into a decision that you will regret. Your preborn child wants you to hold him and give him love like you give to your born children. ...

This mother has not yet replied, so we don’t yet know the outcome. To further help our readers discuss this concern with others, we share a portion of an article written by Fr. Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life and a CBR board member. It’s entitled: “Why Carry a Dying Child?”

Why should a baby who will die shortly be brought to term? Because we love that child for as long as that child lives, whether life be measured in decades or minutes. Why should we be there for anyone who is suffering? Why should we share in their pain? Why should we stay up all night for a sick toddler? Why should we wait by the bed of a loved one in the hospital? Why should we accept death for anyone, including ourselves?

The alternative to accepting death is to try to control it by giving ourselves the authority to take life before life will make too many demands on us. Hence we have abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Just take control. Don’t let life hit you too hard. Eliminate the suffering by eliminating the person. ... <http://www.priestsforlife.org/columns/columns2002/02-05-06carry.htm>

*Editor’s Note: Excerpts from quoted e-mail messages may be edited for grammar, punctuation, syntax, spelling and/or length.*

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*“Why should a baby who will die shortly be brought to term?  
Because we love that child for as long as that child lives, whether  
life be measured in decades or minutes.” –Father Frank Pavone*



Throng of University of Houston students came by the GAP display and many stopped to participate in discussions about abortion.

## Events

- Jan. 22 – Wash., D.C., March for Life GAP & RCC display

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for student groups to sponsor GAP on their campuses.
- Pray for pregnant women to resist bad medical advice.

Thank you for faithfully helping us as we press on in 2010. *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

I Peter 3:12

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