



Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network NEWS & EVENTS



A Message From Our New Chair

On behalf of the Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network (HAN), I would like to thank Teresa Arnold for her leadership and support during her tenure as Chair these past several years. Thank you, Teresa, for directing and influencing our Chapter and for helping us build a stronger Network. We'll miss your beautiful smile and just know you are missed! We look forward to continue working with you.

Moving into our Fiscal Year of 2015-2016 as your new HAN Chair, I am very excited to be introducing a few new announcements aimed to further engage YOU, our alumni, in a way that will renew your passions and interests.

Whenever I run into a Texas Ex, they inevitably say they want to volunteer and help, but they're not sure how or what to do. Well, we heard you! As a result of your interests, we have added two new Committees: Fundraiser Committee and Service Projects Committee. Both committees have been established to address your passions: raising funds for student's education and serving the community.

I am looking forward to working with anyone who has the will and desire to help us as we strive to become a Texas Ex organization exemplifying value, respect, and excellence in our actions and best practices in the years to come. Contact us if you're interested in

volunteering for any of these efforts.

We will continue our successful practice of informing you of programs and events via the quarterly e-newsletters, quarterly social networking functions, and annual events. Speaking of annual events, please join us at our upcoming Austin annual **FIESTA Fundraiser Friday, Sept. 25th** and our **FIESTA tailgate Saturday, Sept. 26th at the CMAS Building on UT Campus**. Erica Saenz and Cisco Guzman are both leading the charge for these events and doing a fantastic job. Let's rally behind them, show our support, and help raise scholarship dollars for our students!

Finally, this will be an exciting year for our Chapter, and I would like to personally thank each of you who have contributed in some way, big or small, to making a difference in our community by staying active within our Texas Exes organization. I am looking forward to an exciting year!!

Proud To Serve,

Casilda (Casi) Clarich

Chair, Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network

Casi@utexas.edu

Hook 'em, Horns!



Left to Right: Teresa Arnold/Past Chair, Hook 'Em, Casilda Clarich/Current Chair, Juanita Baldwin

ALUMNI PROFILE

Alumni Profile: Consuelo Suarez Lopez, BM '56



Consuelo Suarez Lopez's favorite University of Texas memory occurred at her first Longhorn football game. "How did I ever get here?" mused Consuelo as she joined thousands of other roaring fans at Memorial Stadium. In 1955 there were very few Mexican-American women in Consuelo's shoes.

The answer to that question captures the wonder of Consuelo's improbable life journey and a life-changing stop at the University of Texas.

To say that her route was implausible is an understatement. Born to Mexican immigrants Manuel and Feliza Suarez in Robstown, she attended a Mexican-American only elementary school. But by the time she reached partially integrated Robstown High School she established herself as the family's trailblazer. The fifth born child in her humble family, she was the first of her siblings to graduate high school and the first to attend and finish college. After graduating third in her class at the age of 16 in 1952, she was resigned to skip college and apply to business school for secretarial training. Her Robstown band director, the renowned Harold Luhman, appreciated her academic and musical potential and helped her obtain a scholarship to the Del Mar College music department in Corpus Christi.

Once enrolled at Del Mar College, she soon found employment with Dr. Hector Garcia, the visionary physician who founded the American G.I. Forum. Working for Dr. Garcia she learned about his selflessness and his tireless advocacy for civil rights.

At Del Mar she moved from second chair to first after legendary clarinetist Henry Cuesta ventured out on his legendary career. Cuesta was eventually featured as part of the Lawrence Welk Orchestra.

Consuelo transitioned from the Del Mar music program and enrolled in summer classes at UT in the summer of 1955. She attended classes in the fall of 1955, spring of 1956 and graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor of music education at the end of the 1956 summer session. In the spring of 1956 she received permission from the administration to take a grueling course load of 20 hours.

During her tenure on the UT campus she performed with the University Symphonic Orchestra under the direction of Dr. R. Bernard Fitzgerald. She also pledged Sigma Alpha Iota, a professional musical fraternity. More importantly, she was awarded Dean's List recognition, with publication of that feat to her hometown newspaper.

Like many students of the time, she lived at a co-op on campus where she shared chores and duties with other residents. She found work at the music building box office under Lillian Sellers.

The Texas campus brought the beginning of familial riches when fellow music student Elpidio Lizcanco introduced Consuelo to Longhorn band member Gregorio Lopez Jr. of Laredo at the Alba Club. This social club started in the fall of 1946 when Mexican-American students banded together to promote cultural and social interests and to confront the discrimination faced by Spanish-speaking people in the state. The club's sponsors were education professor Dr. George I. Sánchez and history professor Dr. Carlos E. Castañeda, the two references given to Consuelo by Dr. Hector Garcia before she left to Austin. Consuelo and Gregorio danced that evening and began a relationship that would bud into a marriage that continues 58 years later.

With her Texas diploma in hand Consuelo began her teaching career with a two- year stint in the Austin Independent School District. There she taught beginning band and strings at seven Austin schools with Maxine Williams, wife of famous composer and Texas music professor Clifton Williams. Among her students was a son of Texas governor Allan Shivers.

Consuelo fondly remembers her clarinet professor John McGrosso co-signing a \$250.00 car note and her soon to be husband Gregorio teaching her how to drive a standard transmission on the perilous sloping streets of Austin.

After a short move to Waco, her next teaching assignment was at Laredo Independent School District where she completed a 40 year career in music education. During her 30 plus years in Laredo she taught close to 6,000 students, and nary a day goes by that she doesn't run into one of those students, now productive citizens in this border town. Bobby Castro, once her elementary student and now the band director of the sweepstakes winning Laredo Martin High band says of Consuelo "By far she is the best teacher I ever had. I have pictures to prove that she saw something in me and that she found a way for me to participate in every play and every concert when I was in elementary school. She is a big influence on me being the band director at my alma mater. At a young age I knew she really cared for her students. And now I find myself emulating how she cared about each one of her students and how brought us the joy of music. I did ten years of elementary music because I wanted to be like her." "She continues to be my inspiration," said Castro.

In Laredo, Consuelo and Gregorio raised and educated five loyal Texas fans, four who also attended the University of Texas. Her adult children Armando, Stephen, Michael, Gregorio and Cindy each have their profound links to the university. And the love of the University of Texas has percolated down to their thirteen grandchildren.

Outside work and home, Consuelo served as president of the Laredo chapter of the American Association of American Women and the Tuesday Music and Literature Club. She was a regent of the Catholic Daughters -St. Mary Magdalene Court. She was also a twelve year member of Casa Misericordia (Domestic Violence Shelter, a member of Laredo- Webb County Retired Teachers of Association and Delta Kappa Gamma. She and her husband Gregorio have both been recognized as volunteer of the year at the domestic violence shelter.

Her weekends were full of service at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church where she taught religion classes and served as choir director for more than 20 years.

Now 80 years old, Consuelo summarizes her University Texas legacy in this simple description. "It became an example for the rest of the family; no one had ever attended college before."

And what did she teach her students, family and friends?

"Nothing is impossible."

SUBIENDO: THE ACADEMY FOR RISING LEADERS

Student Profile: Megan Maldonado



Since arriving to the University of Texas campus in 2012, Megan Maldonado has worked tirelessly to make the most out of her undergraduate experience. As a senior, she has made the Dean's List for the past three consecutive semesters and will graduate in May with an impressive 3.7 GPA. This Houston native is no stranger to a big city, but her sites have always been set on exploring the world to gain perspective and to truly put her International Relations and Global Studies major to work. In 2015, not only did she take her first flight out of Texas to attend the McDonald Cadet Leadership Conference at West Point Military Academy where she was selected as one of two students to represent UT, but she now has stamps in her passport. After spending part of her summer in China on a study abroad program and completing a service learning opportunity in the American Embassy in Uzbekistan, Megan is currently studying abroad in Mexico.

As a Rapoport Service Scholar, she has completed over 200 hours of community service each of the last three summers and has stated, "That discussing some of the most difficult social issues in our society with the eleven other Rapoport Service Scholars

restored my faith in humanity. I learned so much from these individuals by hearing their perspectives, experiences, and goals.”

When talking of her own goals, she is focused on humanitarian relief and development in regions of the world where it’s needed. She aims to find organizations that address the issues plaguing humans around the world. She lights up about the possibility of interning with the UN Women’s Council to focus on the potential of adolescent girls to end poverty, participate in their regional economy, and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in Africa. “Every leader needs help taming their idealism, so I plan to further my education by attending graduate school and gaining more experience by serving in the Peace Corps.”

Megan reflects, “The Academy led me to really view myself as a leader and reassured me that I had the skills and potential to accomplish my goals. Some of my greatest mentors and role models are all people I have met through Subiendo. Those relationships have become an invaluable component of my support system by encouraging and pushing me to reach my fullest potential.”

JOIN US

Hispanic Alumni Fiesta Weekend!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 6:30 p.m.

@ ETTER-HARBIN ALUMNI CENTER | 2110 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78712



Join us on Friday, September 25, 2015 at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center at 6:30pm in Support of the Hispanic Texas Exes Challenge Grant Scholarship at the 14th annual Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Fiesta!!! Then join us Saturday, September 26, 2015 for a pre-game tailgate party in the Gordon-White Building. Celebrate the new Center for Mexican-American Studies home three hours before kickoff.

Register online [here!](#)

The Hispanic Alumni Network Fiesta provides an opportunity for Hispanic and all alumni and students of the University of Texas to gather and socialize while helping to raise money for our scholarship fund. Festivities will include...

- *Dinner and Entertainment*
- *Auctions*
- *A Raffle and Loteria*
- *A chance to support scholarships for deserving Hispanic students!*

All proceeds from raffle, loteria, live and silent auctions will go towards scholarships

Ticket info:

Starting on 9/19/2015, tickets for adults are \$100

- Children under 2 are free, and only \$35 if under 18!

If you are unable to attend the Fiesta, please **donate to the scholarship fund** or sponsor a table for \$750.

Questions:

If you have any questions please contact Brian Peterson at **brian.peterson@texasexes.org** or (512) 840-5616.

Then join us the following day, Saturday, September 26, three hours prior to kickoff at the GWB Patio on 24th and Whitis for food, beer, music and fun. Learn more info at **utexas.edu/cola/cmas/events**



SUBIENDO

After Subiendo, What's Next?

In 2012, after three years of successful academies and a large class of longhorns stepping onto campus that year, the time had come to launch a student organization that could foster additional leadership training while providing support and encouragement on a college campus. The Subiendo Longhorn Chapter (SLC) was launched to bring together both alumni of the Subiendo Academy and the team leaders who mentored them. Students discovered they were not only eager to be connected with each other on a more frequent basis, but they were keen to find their place on campus.

Today, with over 100 members and growing, the SLC provides leadership opportunities for students to take on volunteer projects with different organizations in Austin, establish mentorship with each new incoming freshmen class, and coordinate events where students can meet with business professionals. Through mentorship, students help each

other acclimate to the environment of the university, offer good advice on studying, and above all, provide guidance. To continue with leadership training, once a month the organization gets together with a speaker from the Austin community from various sectors to talk about leadership, work ethic and how they can get involved with projects they are passionate about. Past speakers include representatives from Southwest Airlines, Austin Startup Games, Goldman Sachs and P&G. Last year, a tour of Google Austin was organized to provide an opportunity to learn more about company culture and values.

The Subiendo Longhorn Chapter has created a sense of community and has even helped past alumni with jobs and internships along the way. Nothing is more gratifying than to see members of the SLC who have graduated and return to campus to give back to the younger longhorns. Learning how to network was established at the Academy, but today they are putting those skills to good use. If you wish to get involved, email subiendo@austin.utexas.edu.

Plans are underway to start the Subiendo Vaqueros Chapter at UT Rio Grande Valley this fall.



SAVE THE DATE

Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Presents: 3rd Annual Technology Symposium

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 8:00 a.m. - Noon

@ JJ PICKLE CAMPUS | 10100 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78758



Tech Thought Leaders Sharing Business Insights; State of STEM; Keynote by Ramón Baez, CIO of HP

In allegiance to deliver value to all members and non-members, the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) proudly invites you to its 3rd Annual Technology Symposium, which will be held Thursday, October 8th, 8:00 a.m. - noon at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus 10100

Burnet Road, Austin.

The purpose of this event is twofold: 1) to share industry trends and their respective impact on small businesses and 2) to discuss the importance of pursuing the technology jobs of tomorrow through STEM based careers in the Hispanic Community. You won't want to miss it! To register, click on gahcc website. www.gahcc.org

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Lifelong Learning at UT

(This article is of particular interest to alumni in or near Austin Texas)

John Theiss, Ph.D. (UT OLLI, Quest Program Member and Volunteer)

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UT is a member-directed, self-supporting program where many members volunteer to serve on committees which plan enrichment lecture programs, seminars, socials, and field trips. The committees work closely with the UT OLLI program professional staff at the Thompson Conference Center (TCC). There are five programs within UT OLLI and each welcomes folks with the leisure time to enjoy learning from the many remarkable people in our community with expertise to share. Our members come from widely diverse vocations and have many diverse interests.

UT OLLI and each of the participating programs comprise a community of adults who continue to seek learning opportunities to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Our members come from a wide variety of educational and professional backgrounds, and have a vast array of interests in the arts, science, technology, politics, and history. We work together to develop curriculum to meet this variety of interests. Our goal is to provide members, with continuing intellectual growth in a campus environment.

Membership is limited to folks who have free time on weekdays. The programs meet on

one or several days per week and for three 6 week sessions per academic year. The cost per program varies depending on the degree of program autonomy and utilization of TCC resources. Registration for these programs is currently only available in April, so you have plenty of time to check them out. You can access detailed information about each program at the [UT OLLI webpage](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Join the HAN Committee

As Chair of the HAN Membership Committee, my main responsibility is to receive names of potential members to the HAN Committee and carefully review their qualifications and interests and recommend them to serve on the HAN Committee.

Nominations can be received by self-nomination or recommendation from a HAN member. In addition to all your benefits you enjoy with being a member of the Texas Exes you also have the opportunity to serve on the following committees:

- Alumni Outreach - Publishes quarterly e-newsletters, holds quarterly networking happy hours
- Fiesta - Annual fundraising event to raise money for scholarships held in the Fall.
- Finance - Handles all the financial matters of the HAN Committee
- Membership - Reviews and recommends members to serve on HAN Committee
- Student Outreach - Welcomes new students through various activities and programs
- Scholarship - Reviews applications and recommends and selects Hispanic scholarship recipients

We also encourage you to [view our webpage](#) and to [like us on Facebook!](#)

*Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza,
Chair - Membership Committee*

FOLLOW US

Get Involved!

If you wish to get involved with the network, know an amazing Hispanic alumnus we should feature, or have an article to contribute to a future newsletter, please contact Cynthia Ramos, Alumni Outreach Chair at TexasExes_HAN@yahoo.com.

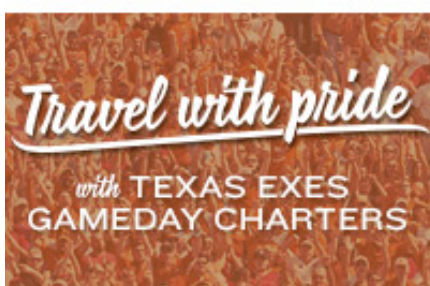


RING WEEK

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
ETTER-HARBIN ALUMNI CENTER
2110 SAN JACINTO BLVD.



TEXASEXES.ORG/CLASSRINGS



Ready for TX-OU?

Travel with the Texas Exes to Dallas to cheer on the Horns. **Limited seats remaining - book today!**

FLYING LONGHORNS



Cuban Discovery

Cuba's turbulent economic and political past and vibrant, culturally rich present unfold on this rare, enriching journey. **Learn more.**

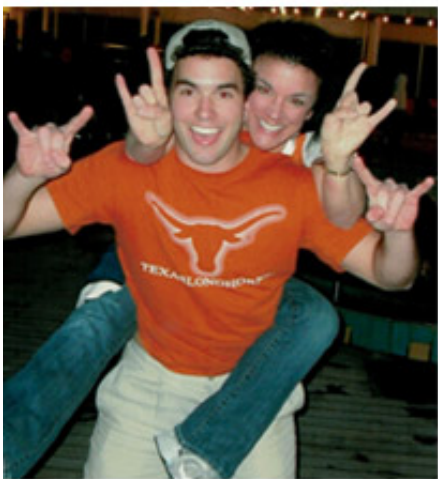
THE ALCALDE



11 Takeaways From Meeting New Interim AD Mike Perrin

UT president Greg Fennesz introduced new interim AD Mike Perrin, BA '69, JD '71, Life Member, following the resignation of Steve Patterson. Here are 11 takeaways from Perrin and Fennesz' remarks at the press conference. **Read more.**

FAN MAIL



Cruising Horns

Michelle Babin Coyle, MEd '07, Life Member, shared this photo from a family cruise with her son, David Babin, BS '14, Life Member. [See more Longhorn Fan Mail here!](#)

Email your fan photos to us at alumninotes@texasexes.org, and check out Fan Photo Fridays on our [Facebook page](#).



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