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Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network NEWS & EVENTS



A Message From Our Chair



Dear Fellow Longhorns,

As they say, where does the time go? Here we are end of 2016 and gearing up for another Year!

We held our annual FIESTA fundraiser event for the 15th straight year, Friday- Oct. 14, 2016 and it was the most successful to date. Appropriately, we had a “Quince” theme, complete with a silent and live auction, the Loteria game, and a resounding performance by our beloved UT Longhorn Band. Pictures are up **on our website** so you can see what fun was had!

Please be on the lookout for next year’s annual FIESTA- we’d love to have you attend and support our Scholarship Fund. We’ll be sending out **SAVE THE DATE**

next summer for you to place on your calendars.

As we near the end of 2016, I wanted to give a special Congratulations to the Fall 2016 University of Texas at Austin students who participated in the UT Latino Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony is a unique one-of-a kind graduation ceremony that offers UT students the opportunity to walk the stage with their parents, honoring their parent's support during their years of studying. A special way of sharing this significant milestone with their loved ones who sacrificed so much is endearing to be a part of. To us, family is everything and I was honored speak on behalf of the Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network to our graduates and their families.

In this newsletter please enjoy the profiles of our alum and student chapters, and don't forget to send our Communications Chair, Cynthia Ramos, or myself any suggestions you have for upcoming profiles alums. We also thank you in advance for any end of year donations or contributions. Your generosity is appreciated!

As a reminder, HAN's mission is to connect Hispanic alumni, the Texas Exes, and the Hispanic community on campus. If you have any ideas on what we can do to better connect with one another, feel free to contact me at casi@utexas.edu.

As we finish out this year, let me add a heartfelt wish of health, happiness and peace to us all. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Hook 'em, Horns!!

Casilda (Casi) Clarich, HAN Chair
Chair, Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network

Casi@utexas.edu

ALUMNI PROFILE

Alumni Profile: José E. Limón

BA Philosophy '66

MA English '69

Ph.D. Folklore/Cultural Anthropology '78



José E. Limón is the retired Notre Dame Foundation Professor of American Literature Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame and former Director of its Institute for Latino Studies. He is also the Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor of American and English Literature Emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin where he began teaching in 1978. He also served as Director of the University's Center for Mexican-American Studies from 2000-2011.

Limón graduated with the BA in philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin (1966). At that time he also co-founded the campus Mexican-American Youth Organization. Later, he also received the MA in English (1969), and then the Ph.D. in folklore/ cultural anthropology (1978). Professor Américo Paredes directed his doctoral work. Limón also assisted Paredes in the founding of the Center for Mexican-American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. His academic interests include cultural studies, American literature, Mexican-American literature, anthropology and literature, US-Mexico cultural relations, critical theory, and folklore and popular culture. In 1987-88 he was a fellow at the Stanford Humanities Research Center. The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded him a research fellowship in 1994, and he received another research fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for 1997-98.

Limón has published on a variety of topics in US-Mexico cultural studies in a wide range of scholarly journals and in four books. The first, *Mexican Ballads, Chicano Poems: History and Influence in Mexican-American Social Poetry* (University of California Press, 1992), received an "Honorable Mention" award for the University of Chicago Folklore Prize for a "distinguished contribution to folklore scholarship," while his second book, *Dancing with the Devil: Society and Cultural Poetics in Mexican-American South Texas* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1994) was named as the

winner of the 1996 American Ethnological Society Senior Scholar Prize for “a vital and contentious contribution to ethnology.” A third book, *American Encounters: Greater Mexico, the United States, and the Erotics of Culture*, appeared with Beacon Press in 1998. Most recently he has published a book-length study of his mentor, *Américo Paredes: Culture and Critique* (University of Texas Press, 2012). He has also edited the writings of Jovita Gonzalez, Texas historian and folklorist, in two volumes, *Caballero: A Historical Novel* (Texas A&M University Press, 1995) and *Dew on the Thorn* (Arte Publico Press, 1997). He is working on a book in progress, *Hispanic Self-Fashioning: The Making of a Mexican-American Middle Class Identity*. Twice nominated for major undergraduate teaching excellence awards, Professor Limón has also directed thirty PhDs to completion in English, anthropology, American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin with the great majority of these now holding tenure-track positions in Research I universities.

He has presented many public lectures at leading universities including Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan, California at Berkeley, the University of Virginia, the University of Chicago, Indiana University, UCLA, the University of Madrid, Emory University, and the University of Bielefeld, Germany. In 1998-99 he served as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar lecturing at liberal arts colleges across the nation. Texas Monthly magazine selected him as one of its annual “twenty most influential Texans” for its September issue of 1999, and on April 15, 2000, he was also inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters.

STUDENT PROFILE

Student Profile: Juan Gomez
Subiendo Academy Alumnus '13
Mechanical Engineering, c/o 2018



In 2013, Juan Gomez prepared to attend the Subiendo Academy, but he wasn't really excited about the summer program he lined up at The University of Texas at

Austin. In fact, he almost didn't apply because it was hosted by the McCombs School of Business and that's not what he wanted to study; he wanted to be an engineer. This Bogota, Colombia native is now a 3rd year mechanical engineer in the Cockrell School of Engineering and has taken this campus by the horns.

These days you'll often see Juan leading admission tours on campus and talking about UT to prospective students. He reflects that his favorite college experience has been working as a Student Ambassador with the Office of Admission. Juan said, "I have met some truly remarkable people and have the honor of being the first experience a student has with the University. The highlights of my job is truly having conversations with these students, getting to know them and being able to share my own experience and relate it to something they want to experience once they get here to UT."

Juan learned at Subiendo that it's best to step outside of your comfort zone as often as one can in order to get more out of your experiences. By taking a chance on Subiendo, he learned so many valuable lessons. Juan said, "I don't know where I would be if I had not participated. In fact, I loved it so much, that I decided to come back as a Team Leader year after year, and I was able to give the same experience I had as a participant to the students." When he thinks about how he's exhibited leadership in college, you only have to look at his induction to the Texas Blazers, the official hosts of the University. This organization is committed to service with high standards of academics, leadership and spirit support of the University, with a commitment to mentor and tutor students at Eastside Memorial High School.

With graduation just a few years away, Juan's goals include working in the tech industry using both his mechanical engineering skills and computer science background to work with emerging technologies. When asked what advice he would give to a future Subiendo student, he says, "Be open minded. Subiendo is the first step in a much bigger world full of diverse people with unique perspectives. Being open minded allows you to stay true to your opinion while still considering and appreciating the opinions of others."

Juan took a chance on a summer program that has prepared him for his time on the 40 Acres. If you know of any high school juniors who might benefit like Juan, encourage them to apply to Subiendo. The application is open through January 31 at SubiendoAcademy.org.

FIESTA!

Fiesta 2016 was a huge success!

Our signature fundraising event, Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Fiesta, celebrated it's "Quince" this year. The planning committee pulled out all the stops to make this the best one yet. The event was held, Friday October 14 at Etter-Harbin Alumni Center with 225 alumni and friends in attendance and over \$23,000 raised. Highlights of the evening included a silent & live auction, loteria, raffles, highlighting current and past scholarship recipients and special recognition of past HAN Chair, Teresa Arnold. A

special raffle was held for a prototype of the Longhorn Loteria game being developed to benefit the Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network's scholarships.



Fiesta Committee setting up before the event



Raffle winner, Diana Mil



Chair, Casilda (Casi) Clarich, honoring past Chair, Teresa Arnold



The "Brindis" table celebrating the evening's success

YEAR-END GIVING

Donate to support HAN Scholarships

Looking to make a year-end charitable donation? **As a member of the Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network, you know the powerful impact your financial support can provide to our students. Please consider an end of year donation or contribution to the Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network's Scholarship Endowment for the Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Challenge Grant Scholarship.** Our scholarship is designed to award deserving Hispanic student who are entering freshmen at the University of Texas at Austin and demonstrate academic excellence and financial need. Recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for four years of undergraduate work while maintaining a minimum grade point average.

[Click here to donate!](#)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Happy Holidays!

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season. We hope to see you as a member next year.

Peace, from the Membership Committee

For membership, contact Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza at **siempreamalia@gmail.com** .

ALUMNI OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Nominate a worthy alumnus

The Alumni Outreach Committee is looking for amazing Hispanic alumni to feature in future newsletters or articles of interest to our members. For submissions please contact Cynthia Ramos, Alumni Outreach Chair at **TexasExes_HAN@yahoo.com** .

VOLUNTEER CALL-OUT

Help out the HAN!

See the list below of Committees and their respective Chairs. If you're interested in volunteering, contact the Chair directly. We're always looking for new, innovative ideas and welcome your time and commitment. We hope you do get involved!

- Student Outreach - Leticia Acosta (**leticia.acosta@mcombs.utexas.edu**)
 - Service Project Outreach - Edna Butts (**ednabutts@gmail.com**)
 - Membership - Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza (**siempreamalia@gmail.com**)
 - Alumni Outreach - Cynthia Ramos (**TexasExes_HAN@yahoo.com**)
 - Fiesta Committee – Erica Saenz (**ericasaenz@austin.utexas.edu**)
 - Scholarships – Mark Trevino (**mtrevino57@yahoo.com**)
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If you wish to get involved with the network, please contact Casilda (Casi) Clarich, HAN Chair, at Casi@utexas.edu.

ASSOCIATION CONTENT



License Plates

Stand out in traffic while showing your pride with a Texas Exes license plate! [See them here.](#)

FLYING LONGHORNS



Kentucky Derby

Join the Texas Exes for an all-inclusive Kentucky Derby tour experiencing the beauty of horse country, the Kentucky Bourbon trail, and the wonder of race day. [Learn more.](#)

THE HOOK



Can You Dig It?

Did you know UT has a huge collection of dinosaur bones gathered back in the 1930s that are now being unsealed? In Episode 90, we visit the vertebrate paleontology department at the Pickle Research Campus. [Read more.](#)

FAN MAIL



Little Longhorn Dressed for Gameday

Tiny Texan Asher Aguero shows off his team support on Longhorn gameday. Parents Brooke, BA '04, and Jacob Aguero, BBA, MPA '04, Life Members, shared the photo. [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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