



# THE NETWORK

## Promoting Hispanic Diversity

The mission of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network is to serve as an advocate and support group on Hispanic concerns and issues at the University and local communities within the larger Association of Former Students organization. The Texas A&M Hispanic Network shall dynamically work towards increasing the number of Hispanic students attending Texas A&M University (TAMU), and enhancing their experience, education, and quality of life on campus.

October 1, 2007

Texas A&M Hispanic Network (TAMHN) Newsletter

Volume I

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greetings from the Executive Committee of your Texas A&M Hispanic Network. We are all very excited about the start-up of this newsletter and hope we will be able to publish a monthly newsletter with updates on events that relate to our TAMHN mission, and most importantly, news from the various regions on activities in your areas.

We believe we can all learn from each other and share and compare good ideas on how we can best work at recruiting more Hispanics to attend A&M both at the undergraduate and graduate level. This newsletter may be a good vehicle to do just that. To ensure success, we need input from the regions, as well as from the standing committees. If you have recently hosted an event, or have one coming up, please submit a short write-up on your event, and if you have pictures, even better.

The Communications Committee has a team to organize and distribute the newsletter electronically and to post it on the website.



**Dr. Paredes, Commissioner of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, addresses TAMHN members at annual Summit**

We have some young new joins in the network, and they bring an enthusiasm that some of us old timers have to just sit back and admire. News from throughout the state network will hopefully generate new volunteers, and already, students at A&M are asking how to join our network once they graduate.

**Henry Ortega '62**  
Chairman

## SUMMARY OF PAREDES' PRESENTATION

Dr. Raymond A. Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, provided an inspiring presentation to members of TAMHN at the annual Summit on 14 September 2007 at College Station.

Democracy is dependent on a well-informed and enlightened population so they can choose their leaders properly. How well we educate Hispanics will have a major impact on the future of Texas and the Nation. The future of both depends on whether Hispanics can carry the load academically.

The growth of diversity in the faculty and staff at TAMU can only occur through a well thought out and coordinated plan. A&M needs to make all Deans accountable for the diversity of their faculty. They need to be more aggressive in their recruitment of Hispanics, just as aggressive as coaches are when they recruit good

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## NEW TAMHN OFFICERS

The Texas A&M Hispanic Network elected new officers at the Sept 07 Summit held in College Station, Texas. By acclamation of the members in attendance, the following Aggies have assumed the duties as the newest leadership of our network:

### Chairman

Henry Ortega '66 of San Antonio  
[henry.ortega@c-b.com](mailto:henry.ortega@c-b.com)

### 1st Vice Chair

Rene Enriquez '88 of Houston  
[rene\\_enriquez@yahoo.com](mailto:rene_enriquez@yahoo.com)

### 2nd Vice Chair

Eddie Garcia of Corpus Christi  
[garciae@ft.newyorklife.com](mailto:garciae@ft.newyorklife.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

David Reta '77 of San Antonio  
[classicpaint@hotmail.com](mailto:classicpaint@hotmail.com)

### Ex Officio

David Flores '96 of Houston  
[davidvflores@gmail.com](mailto:davidvflores@gmail.com)

Congratulations to all, and let's provide them all the support possible to help our network achieve its mission of increasing diversity at our great Alma Mater.

## NAME THE NEWSLETTER

Name the TAMHN Newsletter and earn bragging rights! Send submissions to Christina Galvez at [Suvorov1@cox.net](mailto:Suvorov1@cox.net). The winner will be announced in the next newsletter, which will don the new name. Good luck!

## Summary

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athletes.

Dr. Paredes, who also addressed the TAMHN membership at last year's conference in San Antonio, provided statistics that show that the Hispanic community has to do more themselves to increase the high school graduation rate and encourage and open doors for more Hispanics to attend four-year universities. He mentioned the need for all of us to set the standards high and to stress academic success and achievements over academic survival. He also pressed the faculty at A&M to encourage more of its Hispanic graduates to go to grad school.

**Note:** To view the recommendations from the 2007 Summit, go to the TAMHN website [www.tamhn.org](http://www.tamhn.org).

## News from Texas A&M University

### 22,000 APPLY FOR INCOMING FRESHMAN CLASS

There are 46,612 students enrolled at Texas A&M this fall, a new record that surpasses last year's previous high by more than 1,200 students. The 8,083-member freshman class selected from more than 22,000 applicants, is the largest in school history and one of the largest in the nation. More than 25 percent of those freshmen are the first in his or her family to attend college. Texas A&M continues to be a national leader in enrolling students in that category.

Men continue to outnumber women in the overall student body- 24,746 to 21,866- but the incoming freshman class once again includes more women than men, by a total of 143.

A record 5,292 Hispanic students are enrolled this fall, for an increase of 351 over last year, and African-American enrollment stands at 1,419, for a 64-student increase.

Once again, more than one

out of every four freshmen at Texas A&M is the first in his or her family to attend college. Officials noted the university is a leader nationally in enrolling students in that category- in keeping with its land-grant heritage of appealing to students and families of modest means.

Hispanic enrollment at the incoming freshman level is 1132, up slightly- by 30 students- but since the overall freshman class was larger, the actual percentage for Hispanics in the fish class decreased.

## COUNCIL ON CLIMATE AND DIVERSITY

TAMU Interim President Davis recently announced the formation of a new Council on Climate and Diversity to advise him and other senior administrators on ways of attracting and retaining culturally diverse students, faculty, and staff to Texas A&M and to strengthen, sustain and promote our diversity efforts in support of Vision 2020.

The Council is under the leadership of Dr. Tito Guerrero, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity. Among the various members assigned to the council are Dr. Linda Castillo- Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, Dr. Elsa Murano- Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and Dr. Rogelio Saenz- Professor of Sociology.

New TAMHN Chairman, Henry Ortega has requested that President Davis consider including a TAMHN member to the Council.



David Flores, Leonardo Hernandez, Henry Cisneros, Dr. Paredes, Greg Garcia, Chancellor McKinney & Rolando Santos

## TAMHN/ PRESIDENT DAVIS MEETING SUMMARY LETTER

Dear President Davis:

Thank you for meeting with Robert Gonzales, Hector Gutierrez, Leonard Hernandez, Rudy Reyna, and me from the Texas A&M Hispanic Network (TAMHN) prior to our Summit on September 13, 2007. This letter is my report of our meeting. I hope you took away from our session that each of us is dedicated to joining you in true Aggie fashion to address how Texas A&M University can be true to diversity as one of its core values.

First, let me state that we support and adhere to Imperative #6 in Vision 2020, where Texas A&M made a commitment to being a leader among educational institutions of higher learning in promoting diversity in its student body, faculty, and staff. We believe achieving this diversity includes a special commitment to historically discriminated-against groups, such as Hispanics. We recognize the progress initiated by Dr. Robert M. Gates and continued under your leadership. Without this institutional commitment, Hispanics will not be represented on Texas A&M's campus in meaningful numbers.

Second, not only does our University's future, but as Henry Cisneros eloquently emphasized in his remarks, that of our State and Nation's, depend on Texas A&M producing leaders trained in an environment that encourages wide exposure to the ideas and mores of students, faculty, and staff as diverse as this Nation of many peoples. Simply put, in the context of higher education, diversity across our college campuses is a compelling state and national interest.

Third, the TAMHN believes Texas A&M needs our contributions and support in order to successfully attract



**Aggie student Mariachi band serenade Hispanic network members at closing reception of 2007 Summit**

more high quality Hispanic students. We need look no farther than to the university located in Austin, Texas, to understand how much work we still have to do. A report by the Office of Admissions at the University of Texas indicates 19.7% of the incoming freshman class this fall are Hispanic (1475 out of 7485), which was ahead of Texas A&M's 14.0% (1132 out of 8083). It is a very sobering fact that for five consecutive years, the University of Texas has been able to attract many more Hispanic freshman students with a much smaller freshman class.

Consequently, the TAMHN must be a "tipping point" and inspire others to join you in your efforts to make diversity at all levels at A&M a priority. In this regard, the following are the action items we took away from our meeting that require our joint attention.

### TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AND OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

#### Study on Yield

- What was the process used for the study?
- When will the results be ready?
- Are the results also broken down by college, region, or PSC?
- Why has the yield been flat the last three years?

#### VP's, Deans and Department Heads

- What is their accountability to diversity? Or is there a "report card" for each Department and College?
- What are your recommendations to engage them in Vision 2020 Imperative #6?
- Why was their attendance at the Summit so low?

#### Prospective Student Centers

- What are the yield numbers by region?
- What is the racial make-up of the PSC's and might there be a correlation to yield?
- How can we get grants from Gear-Up and Upward Bound to fund them?

#### Vision 2020

- When is the next meeting?
- Out of 280 on the original committee, there were only 3 internal and 3 external Hispanics. What is being done to diversify the committee?
- Is there a written plan for implementing Vision 2020? If so, where is it? If not, who is writing it?
- What is the yield goal for incoming Hispanic students? The 14% we currently get? The 20% t.u. currently gets? The 30% TAMHN goal? Or, some higher number based on THECB?

#### Top 10%

- Now that session is over, what is the University's position on the Top 10% rule?

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## Letter

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### Phone-a-Fish Campaign

- With the list provided from the University, TAMHN commits to conduct a phone campaign to call each admitted Hispanic student. We will also coordinate with MALFA and PHN in this initiative.

### Recruiting Events

- With the continued support of the University, TAMHN commits to hosting a recruiting event in each region, during the Spring, where there will be representatives from the President, Admissions, Financial Aid, Corps of Cadets, and other on campus organizations.

We believe significant steps must be taken with the items we have identified above in order to achieve real diversity. We recognize in order for us to be completely effective, we must coordinate and establish liaison with several offices



Former Aggie Band Commander, Henry Cisneros (right) was introduced by current Combined Band Drum Major, Cadet Valdez (mid left) at the Summit. TAMHN Chairman David Flores (left) and Association of Former Students Executive Director Porter Garner (mid right) also present

on campus. We need to be better informed about A&M's and each college's diversity initiatives. Nothing could be better than all of us working together with the same purpose, energy, and commitment. In this regard, we need your personal endorsement to facilitate our next Chair, Henry Ortega's, introduction with each Dean in the immediate future.

In summary, we began our efforts because of the encouragement we received from Dr. Gates. We recognize your personal sincerity and dedication as now the lead "ant on the march" to continue to make a difference. Your strong comments at the Summit re-energized us to assist you and our alma mater accomplish its goals in Imperative #6. Working together will bring us success.

In the Aggie Spirit,

**David V. Flores '96**  
**Texas A&M Hispanic Network**  
**Ex-Oficio- Past President**



Rolando Santos '78 of Eagle Pass, Texas, currently Senior Vice President for International Relations for CNN, motivates the crowd with stories of lessons learned as a Hispanic cadet in the Aggie band

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*Newsletter volunteers welcome*