



¡ADELANTE!

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.

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Texas A&M Hispanic Network (TAMHN) Newsletter

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TEXAS A&M HISPANIC NETWORK POSITION PAPER ON THE TOP 10% LAW

BACKGROUND: Between 1990 and 1995, Texas A&M University used race as one of several admissions factors for its entering freshman classes. As a result, in 1995 both the number (892) and percentage (14.7%) of Hispanics in the freshman class were all-time highs for Texas A&M.

Then in March of 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit ruled in the Hopwood case that any consideration of race in order to achieve a diversified student body at a public university was not a "compelling governmental interest" under the Fourteenth Amendment. Therefore, any attempt by a public university to consider race as an admissions factor was unconstitutional.

As a result of this decision, the numbers and percentages of Hispanic in the entering freshmen class at Texas A&M immediately declined to 713 and 11.2% six months later in September 1996.

Recognizing the decrease in the number of minority students at most public institutions across the State of Texas, Senator Royce West and Representative Irma Rangel introduced and the Texas legislature passed the Top 10% law in May 1997, effective for the academic year 1998-1999. The law is quite simple: Texas students in the top 10% of their high school class are automatically admitted to any public institution in the State.

However, before this law could take effect and reverse the downward trend in the admission of minority students, the A&M Hispanic freshmen statistics for 1997 hit a low of 607 and 9.7%. As the Top 10% law took effect, its intended purpose- keeping public institutions in Texas racially and

geographically diverse – had a positive impact on Texas A&M. By 2004, A&M showed marked improvement when the number and percentages of Hispanic freshmen rose to 865 and 12.2%. By the fall of 2008 the figures were 1327 and 16.3%, both all time highs for Texas A&M.

Since the Top 10% law became effective in 1998, the percentage of Hispanic freshman admitted to Texas A&M on the basis of the Top 10% law has fluctuated between 42% and 57% of the total number of Hispanic freshmen enrolled each year. Overall, the

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HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO



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TAMHN Website

www.tamhn.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Access the **Texas A&M Scholarships and Financial Aid** website at www.financialaid.edu/psc. In addition, a list of the **Prospective Student Centers** along with their phone numbers is posted at www.tamhn.org/downloads/pscphone.pdf

- Christina, **webmaster and newsletter editor**, is back up and running but the turnaround is not as fast as before. Her new arrival is quite a handful and wants her attention all the time. So her free time is quite limited for the time being. In addition, her husband has orders to Quantico and she will be leaving sunny CA at the end of June. So there may be some downtime during her travels. She will try to connect while in San Antonio for 5 weeks. If there is anything that is time sensitive, please note that in any submissions or call her. Her cell phone number is (415) 533-8242 and will not change with her move.

Paper

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percentage of all freshmen admitted to Texas A&M on the basis of the Top 10% law has fluctuated between 40% and 50% each year.

The Top 10% rule has come under fire from officials at the University of Texas at Austin, who say that because demand for admission is so high there, they will soon only admit freshmen under this rule. "This is a capacity issue for us, we simply do not have the room to take all the Top 10% students. We are admitting over 80% of our Texas students on one criterion. It has become a crisis for us, not just in the future, but right now," said UT President Bill Powers.

Responding to this criticism of the Top 10% law, Senate Education Committee Chair Senator Florence Shapiro introduced Senate Bill 175 in the current legislative session. Shapiro's bill would cap admissions at all state public institution under the Top 10% rule to 50% of the incoming freshman class. Admissions would start at the top down: first, the Top 1% graduates would be admitted, then the Top 2% graduates and so on until the cap of 50% is reached. The rest of the applicants would be placed into the general application pool.

SB 175 passed the Senate Higher Education Committee on a vote of 4-1, and is now before the full Senate for further consideration. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Representative Dan Branch. House Bill 52 would require public institutions to reserve not more than 40% of its freshman capacity to Top 10% students. Both bills have been introduced in previous sessions of the legislature and not passed.

TAMHN POSITION ON SB 175 AND HB 52: On 30 December 2007, the leadership of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network (TAMHN)* met with Texas A&M president-elect Elsa Murano in San Antonio, Texas. At the meeting TAMHN stated its position on the Top 10% law.

First, TAMHN supports Texas A&M's use of the Top 10% law as a recruitment tool to improve student body diversity in order to achieve Imperative #6 in Vision 2020.**

Second, TAMHN opposes any attempt by any session of the State Legislature to repeal or cap the Top 10% law.

Since December 2007, more support for placing a cap on the Top 10% law has been generated in the legislature. It appears there is a good chance cap legislation will pass in some form during the current legislative session. Recognizing that the legislature may impose a cap on the Top 10% law, TAMHN is also aware that any cap is primarily designed to address the admissions problem at the University of Texas at Austin, which does not exist at any other public institution. Consequently, TAMHN modifies its second position point, above, as follows:

Second, if the legislature imposes a cap on the Top 10% law, TAMHN encourages the legislature to also give the Board of Regents of each public institution the option to implement the cap or decline to do so in the best interest of that institution.

*A group of approximately fifty Hispanic Aggie graduates met with officials from Texas A&M University in San Antonio, Texas, on May 31, 2003, to form the Texas A&M Hispanic Network. The Network discussed what it could do to ensure A&M

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FUTURE AGGIE BORN!



Gabriel Leonidas '31 was born to Richard, Christina '93 and Dulcinea '25 Galvez on Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, CA on January 23, 2009 at 12:41 AM, weighed in at 8 pounds & 10 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Paper

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was the best model in the State and Nation to educate and develop Hispanic leaders of the future. At the time, A&M's entire student body was only 8% Hispanic. The Network agreed to partnership with A&M on its diversity efforts to improve this percentage in increments of two to three percent each year, until the percentage roughly reflected the proportion of Hispanics in the population of Texas.

This partnership began in earnest on 21-22 April 2004 when over 300 Hispanic graduates of Texas A&M gathered on the campus at College Station for its first annual Summit with President Robert W. Gates and his staff.

The mission of the Network is to serve as an advocate and support group on Hispanic concerns and issues at Texas A&M University. The Network works with the Texas A&M Prospective Student Centers located across the State towards increasing the number and percentage of Hispanic students attending Texas A&M, and enhancing their experience, education, and quality of life on campus.

** In October 1997, Texas A&M University President Ray Bowen proposed that A&M strive to be recognized as one of the top ten public universities in the United States by the year 2020. A task force of 260 prominent Aggies and friends of A&M from both on and off campus surveyed where A&M stood and what it needed to do to achieve this lofty goal. This was the foundation for Vision 2020, Texas A&M's road map into the future,

composed of twelve "Imperatives."

Having seen the adverse effects that Hopwood had at A&M in the fall terms of 1996 and 1997, Vision 2020 deliberately made "Diversity" one of its twelve imperatives, specifically Imperative #6. Vision 2020 stated "Texas A&M University must attract and nurture a more ethnically, culturally, and geographically diverse faculty, staff, and student body." Further, it went on to say, "affording educational opportunity to all racial and ethnic groups is critical to the future of Texas."

The task force then established a fair and reasonable target that A&M should reach for, in order to achieve meaningful student diversity. That goal was to attain in each freshman class the same percentage of minority Texas high school graduates who were college-bound, which for Hispanic students was approximately 29%. Imperative #6 of Vision 2020 was a resounding call for educational opportunity at Texas A&M for all minorities in the State of Texas.

On May 28, 1999, the Board of Regents of Texas A&M approved all twelve Imperatives of Vision 2020 and in its Approval Resolution charged all future Regents, Chancellors, Presidents, administration, faculty, staff, students, and former students to make a personal commitment to its success.

Approved by:
Henry C. Ortega, Class of 1962
Chair, Texas A&M Hispanic Network

NEWLY ELECTED TAMHN OFFICERS

Henry Ortega, President
Rene Enriquez, Vice President
Eddie Garza, Secretary
Oscar Pena, Treasurer
David Flores, Ex-Officio

SCHOLARSHIP REFERRALS AND WEBSITES

The following links are useful scholarship and financial aid links that can help prospective students who wish to attend TAMU:

Scholarship Searches

www.fastweb.com
www.fastaid.com
www.finaid.org
www.srnexpress.com
www.saafdn.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.military.com
www.scholaraid.com
www.collegenet.com
www.petersons.com
www.salliemae.com
www.free-4u.com/
www.absolutelyscholarships.com
www.collegeforTexans.com
www.wiredscholar.com

General Financial Aid & College Information

www.students.gov
www.back2college.com
www.collegexpress.com
www.collegeaid.com
www.college.com
www.princetonreview.com
www.collegeispossible.org
www.collegefortexans.com
www.applytexas.org

Special Sites

www.free-4u.com/ (Minorities)
www.hsf.net (Hispanics)
www.blackexcel.org (African Americans)
www.aihec.org (American Indians)
www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html (Student athletes)
<http://www-p.afsv.af.mil/clubs/> (AF Clubs)

Military and Federal Organizations

www.legion.org (American Legion)
www.seabee.org (Seabee Memorial Scholarship)
www.nmcrrs.org (Navy/Marine Corps Relief)
www.aerhq.org (Army Emergency Relief)
<http://www.gocoastguard.com/scholarships.html> (Coast Guard)

Total Enrollment By Ethnicity by Level

UPDATE: Best Colleges for Making Money

In the end, it looks like the Aggie grads are getting a better deal than the Bulldogs.

The Best Colleges for Making Money

Students Face Steep Curve in Landing Private Loans When Buying Tuition Insurance
 SmartMoney recently published a ranking of colleges that used a new way to measure the best schools: Comparing the amount that graduates earned down the road against published tuition costs. But after we received an inquiry from another school, No. 1-ranked University of Georgia said it inadvertently provided some incorrect information about its tuition.

The result: No. 2-ranked Texas A&M moves up to the top spot among schools that have the best "payback" ratio, followed by the University of Texas

(Austin) and Georgia Tech. University of Georgia falls to No. 4. None of the other rankings were affected.

Using a survey from PayScale.com, an online salary database, SmartMoney took the median salaries that graduates were earning three and 15 years after graduation then divided those salaries by the cost of a degree obtained in 2005 and 1993, respectively. But a University of Georgia spokesman said that, when he supplied the school's tuition costs, he did not take into account the school's switch from a quarterly system to a semester system in 1998. That lowered the tuition figures in our original calculations, inflating Georgia's payback ratio.

"We regret the error and apologize to SmartMoney and to the other institutions in the ranking," said Vice President for Public Affairs Tom Jackson.

For the complete story, revised to reflect the updated rankings, see "The Best Colleges for Making Money."

David C. Schwartz

Regional Financial Aid Advisor Austin/Central Texas Texas A&M University

Undergraduate								
Fall	1-White	2-Black	3-Hispanic	4-Asian	5-Am. Indian	6-Int'l	7-Unknown	Total
2002	30,312	883	3,302	1,177	189	493	419	36,775
2003	29,716	854	3,364	1,126	179	520	307	36,066
2004	29,197	836	3,604	1,165	193	535	202	35,732
2005	29,030	960	3,984	1,288	181	513	110	36,066
2006	28,946	1,045	4,335	1,449	199	489	117	36,580
2007	29,170	1,094	4,657	1,627	214	496	99	37,357
2008	29,363	1,215	5,188	1,759	222	578	105	38,430

Master's								
Fall	1-White	2-Black	3-Hispanic	4-Asian	5-Am. Indian	6-Int'l	7-Unknown	Total
2002	2,508	78	246	105	11	1,795	79	4,822
2003	2,751	96	276	118	7	1,688	78	5,014
2004	2,708	128	329	129	7	1,510	78	4,889
2005	2,680	156	321	133	11	1,300	68	4,669
2006	2,685	153	340	153	11	1,451	46	4,839
2007	2,848	156	341	150	20	1,807	43	5,365
2008	2,909	151	383	168	12	2,121	55	5,799

Doctoral								
Fall	1-White	2-Black	3-Hispanic	4-Asian	5-Am. Indian	6-Int'l	7-Unknown	Total
2002	1,283	87	141	53	9	1,391	29	2,993
2003	1,299	100	151	57	11	1,580	31	3,229
2004	1,274	126	184	61	7	1,612	39	3,303
2005	1,266	134	207	74	11	1,592	45	3,329
2006	1,308	154	232	83	17	1,614	44	3,452
2007	1,238	162	248	80	16	1,533	38	3,315
2008	1,250	193	258	82	20	1,470	34	3,307

Professional								
Fall	1-White	2-Black	3-Hispanic	4-Asian	5-Am. Indian	6-Int'l	7-Unknown	Total
2002	444		25	14	2		8	493
2003	448	1	34	10	2		9	504
2004	459	4	29	13	1		5	511
2005	454	3	30	16	1	1	9	514
2006	447	3	34	17	1		7	509
2007	441	1	36	18	2		7	505
2008	437	1	38	18	2		7	503

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