



¡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.

May 5, 2010

Texas A&M Hispanic Network (TAMHN) Newsletter

Volume XIII



FREEDOM AND LIBERTY MAY 5, 1862 ¡VIVA EL CINCO DE MAYO!

2010 SUMMIT DATE HAS BEEN SET

Please be aware that a date has been set to host our 2010 Summit in Houston, Texas. Thank you to the Houston guys for getting this set up.

The Summit will be held on September 24-25 at the Hilton Houston Post Oak located at 2001 Post Oak Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77056-4401. Please save the date. Dr. Loftin has confirmed with us that he will utilize this opportunity to publicly address Vision 2020 and Hispanic diversity at Texas A&M in his remarks to us on Saturday. It is critical that we meet/exceed the attendance goals we set at our Regional Chair meeting on February 13th.

Thanks to you all for all that you do to serve Texas A&M and the Hispanic Network.

Francisco Maldonado
TAMHN Chair

AGGIE MUSTER:

SAN ANTONIO REGION MEMBERS MUSTER

In June 1883, Aggies gathered together to re-live their college days that eventually evolved into an annual gathering on Texas

Independence Day April 21st.

Tonight, 127 years later, we gather for our first Hispanic Aggie Muster at La Paloma Del Norte Restaurant. It was a small gathering of Aggies and family members. We sat and talked about the good old days at Aggieland, ate some great food and drank some delicious margaritas.

Remembering our Aggie brothers that have gone to be with the Lord.

I choked up when it was my turn to speak about a good friend that passed away on his senior year at Texas A&M (18 years ago). His name was Miguel (Mike) A. Perez from Weslaco, TX. His older brother and I were roommates in College Station. Being from the Rio Grande Valley myself, I came to know the Perez family very well and they welcomed me with open arms. Mike was like my younger brother, he was very proud to be an Aggie and was so much looking forward to graduating and start living life. We had some good times together, going out, drinking some cervezas and just having fun. Tonight, the good times we shared came back like it was yesterday. Here's to you Mike, you were here in spirit with us.

Can't wait until next year for our second Aggie Muster.

Mike A. Garcia, 82

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TAMHN Website

www.tamhn.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On page 11 of the Spring 2010 issue of Spirit (the A&M Foundation Magazine) we are reminded that high school dropouts in the class of 2012 will cost the state of TX between 5.6 & 9.6 billion dollars.
- **NOTE!!! MAY 1 IS THE DEADLINE FOR ADMITTED STUDENTS TO ACCEPT THEIR OFFER ONLINE!**
- 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/download/pscphone.pdf

SAN ANTONIO TAMHN 2010 FUND RAISER ENDS

And now for the results of San Antonio Region's only fund-raising drive of the year—selling tickets to the AT&T Golf Tournament on 23-25 October.

The main way we raise sufficient funds to support our projects is to ask our entire membership for a donation to purchase tickets to this October event. Every dollar we sell will be returned to us. Thus, the more we sell, the more we get back. Additionally, the top four organizations in ticket sales will receive a "bonus" check of \$10,000, \$5000, \$2500, or \$1250.

TAMHN has been fortunate to receive a "bonus" check the past three years. In 2006 we received an amount equal to our ticket sales (\$2100) plus a matching amount of \$2100 for a total of \$4200. In 2007, in addition to receiving back the \$4025 we sold in tickets, we also received an additional "bonus" amount of \$5,000, because our organization sold the second highest amount of tickets, for a total check of \$9,025. Last year, although we raised more donations

(\$5600), we finished third and received a smaller "bonus" amount (\$2500) for a total of \$8100. This year, we sold \$6640 (towards our goal of \$7,000) worth of tickets, which was good enough for a second place "bonus" check of \$5000, meaning AT&T will give us a check for \$11,640.

This was a great effort by the 12 TAMHN Aggies (14% of our membership) who contributed to this effort. First place went to The Child Guidance Center of San Antonio, who sold \$15,000 worth of tickets and it will receive the first place "bonus" check of \$10,000. Third place went to the Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries for its \$4020 in ticket sales, which earned it a "bonus" check of \$2500. Fourth place went to the Boerne Champion High School Swim Team for its \$3540 in ticket sales, which earned it a "bonus" check of \$1250. Remember, every dollar we received from AT&T will be used to recruit Hispanic students to A&M. This was a win-win situation for everybody.

Thanks again!!

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY MOVES INTO RANKS FOR TOP 20 NSF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

The National Science Foundation has named Texas A&M University as the only new member of the NSF's annual list of the Top 20 Academic Research Performers in the United States.

Texas A&M joins an elite list including such standouts as the Johns Hopkins University, Ohio State, Penn State, Duke University, Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)—and is the only Texas institution to rank in the NSF's Top 20 for 2009.

Each year, the NSF surveys 690 U.S. institutions and ranks them according to their research and development expenditures in science and engineering. For 2008, Texas A&M's research expenditures increased by 6.99 percent to \$582 million. This pushed Texas A&M up two places on the 2009 NSF list from No. 22 to No. 20, displacing Washington University (St. Louis, Mo.), which had been a member of the NSF Top 20 since 1999.

The NSF ranked Texas A&M at No. 22 in 2008, based on the university's 2007 research expenditures of \$544 million.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, Texas A&M's vice president for research, said the university is determined to reach the NSF Top 10 within the next few years.

"By joining the NSF Top 20, Texas A&M takes a significant step toward its goal of ranking among the top 10 research universities in the United States," Seemann said. "It is notable that Texas A&M advanced its research activities in a year when four of the NSF's Top 20 institutions for 2008—Duke, Ohio State, Florida and Washington (St. Louis)—reported declines in their research expenditures for the NSF's most recent survey."

Dr. Seemann announced Texas A&M's entrance into the top 20 universities in the nation in terms of National Science Foundation (NSF) expenditures. Dr. Seemann was interviewed by WTAW-AM Radio (Bryan-College Station ABC News affiliate) on October 23, 2009, and discussed the achievement, as well as other recent strides by Texas A&M research faculty and the exciting future of research at Texas A&M.

TAMU ESTABLISHES SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR NEW CORPS COMMANDANT

The historic role of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University makes the search for a new Commandant an important focus for the university community. As "Keepers of the Spirit," the Corps of Cadets is vital to both the present and future of Texas A&M. The next Commandant of the Corps of Cadets must be a visionary leader who will uphold the proud traditions of the Corps while preparing its members for critical roles of leadership in the 21st century. I envision a Corps of Cadets that excels academically, produces leaders of character, plays pivotal roles in student organizations across the campus, and embraces its special place in the university.

I am pleased to announce members of the Search Advisory Committee for the next Commandant of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets:

GEN Hal Hornburg '68, USAF (ret), Chair

RADM Robert "Bob" Smith III '61, USN (ret), Vice Chair

Ms. Hilary Albrecht '12, 2010-2011 Speaker of the Student Senate

Cadet Major Ben Flores '10, Commander, Squadron 3, Corps of Cadets

Ms. Kathryn Greenwade '88, Vice President for Communications and Human Resources, The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University

Mr. William "Bill" B. Heye Jr. '60, Chairman, Signalogic, Inc.

Dr. Mark Hussey '79, Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Cadet Colonel (Select) David Keim '11, 2010-2011 Commander, Corps of Cadets

Dr. Pamela Matthews, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies

Mr. Matthew "Matt" P. Segrest '95, Principal, Alamo Manhattan

Mr. Matthew Whiteacre '82, Senior Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution

Mr. C. J. Woods, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

For much of its history, the Corps of Cadets was led by an active-duty Army officer with the rank of Colonel. Beginning with the appointment of MG Thomas G. Darling '54, USAF (ret) as Commandant of the Corps of Cadets in 1987, the Commandant was a university employee and reported to the Vice President for Student Affairs until 2008. After discussions with the Corps Board of Visitors, individuals within the Corps of Cadets, and many people across the university community, this reporting relationship will revert to what was previously in effect with the recruitment of the next Commandant. However, just as it was during the tenure of President Gates and Interim President Davis, the Commandant will continue to play an important role on our administrative team, attending regular meetings of the President with the Vice Presidents and of the Provost with the academic leadership.

The Position Description for the Commandant will be posted online at tamujobs.tamu.edu in the upcoming days. I ask that you give your full support to the Search Advisory Committee as the members work to identify candidates for this important position on our campus.

Dr. Loftin
President, TAMU

Communications Committee

Looking for Hispanic Aggies, former students or current students, interested in joining our committee and helping with the Newsletter and the website. Contact Christina Galvez. at Suvorov1@cox.net.

TAMHN Regions

Region web pages are in need of updating. Please review your region pages and provide the webmaster with updates to ensure your information is current.

We're on Facebook!

Thanks to Andres Perez, we are up on Facebook. The Facebook page will give us a platform to get feedback from members and interested parties. Of course the main goal of our Facebook page is to reach out to anyone interested in the network and re-direct them to the website. Check it out at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-AM-Hispanic-Network/115863145108600?v=photos#!/pages/Texas-AM-Hispanic-Network/115863145108600>



The Texas A&M University chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) was recipient of the "Chapter of the Year" award during the MANRRS 25th Annual Career Fair and Training Conference held in Orlando, Fla. Thirteen members of the chapter attended this event which hosted student competitions, workshops on career and professional development and an extensive career fair with recruiters from academia, industry and government. For more information on the group, go to manrrs.tamu.edu.

HISTORY OF CINCO DE MAYO

The 5th of May is not Mexican Independence Day, but it should be! And Cinco de Mayo is not an American holiday, but it should be. Mexico declared its independence from mother Spain on midnight, the 15th of September, 1810. And it took 11 years before the first Spanish soldiers were told and forced to leave Mexico.

So, why Cinco de Mayo? And why should Americans savor this day as well? Because 4,000 Mexican soldiers smashed the French and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 at Puebla, Mexico, 100 miles east of Mexico City on the morning of May 5, 1862.

The French had landed in Mexico (along with Spanish and English troops) five months earlier on the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the newly elected government of democratic President (and Indian) Benito Juarez. The English and Spanish quickly made deals and left. The French, however, had different ideas.

Under Emperor Napoleon III, who detested the United States, the French came to stay. They brought a Hapsburg prince with them to rule the new Mexican empire. His name was Maximilian; his wife, Carolota. Napoleon's French Army had not been defeated in 50 years, and it invaded Mexico with the finest modern equipment and with a newly reconstituted Foreign Legion. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States was embroiled in its own Civil War.

The French Army left the port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City to the west, as the French assumed that the Mexicans would give up should their capital fall to the enemy- as European countries traditionally did.

Under the command of Texas-born General Zaragoza, (and the cavalry under the command of Colonel Porfirio Diaz, later to be Mexico's president and dictator), the Mexicans awaited. Brightly dressed French Dragoons led the enemy columns. The Mexican Army was less stylish.

General Zaragoza ordered Colonel Diaz to take his cavalry, the best in the world, out to the French flanks. In response,

the French did a most stupid thing; they sent their cavalry off to chase Diaz and his men, who proceeded to butcher them. The remaining French infantrymen charged the Mexican defenders through sloppy mud from a thunderstorm and through hundreds of head of stampeding cattle stirred up by Indians armed only with machetes.

When the battle was over, many French were killed or wounded and their cavalry was being chased by Diaz' superb horsemen miles away. The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen. This grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla, essentially ending the Civil War.

Union forces were then rushed to the Texas/Mexican border under General Phil Sheridan, who made sure that the Mexicans got all the weapons and ammunition they needed to expel the French. American soldiers were discharged with their uniforms and rifles if they promised to join the Mexican Army to fight the French. The American Legion of Honor marched in the Victory Parade in Mexico, City.

It might be a historical stretch to credit the survival of the United States to those brave 4,000 Mexicans who faced an army twice as large in 1862. But who knows?

In gratitude, thousands of Mexicans crossed the border after Pearl Harbor to join the U.S. Armed Forces. As recently as the Persian Gulf War, Mexicans flooded American consulates with phone calls, trying to join up and fight another war for America.

Mexicans, you see, never forget who their friends are, and neither do Americans. That's why Cinco de Mayo is such a party- a party that celebrates freedom and liberty. These are two ideals which Mexicans and Americans have fought shoulder to shoulder to protect, ever since the 5th of May, 1862. ¡VIVA! el CINCO DE MAYO!!

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