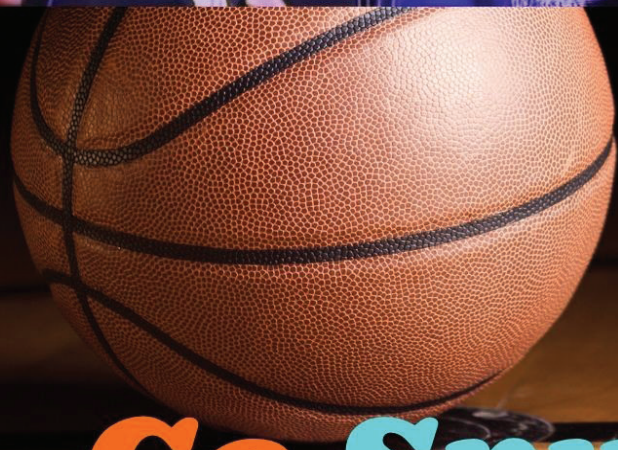


La Voz Newspaper

Informando a la comunidad

SAN ANTONIO SPURS HEADED TO NBA FINALS



Volume 21 Number 6
June, 2026

Go Spurs Go!

MONTSERRAT for TEXAS

Educator, Dreamer, Labor Leader, & Fighter for Texas House District 49

ABOUT Montserrat Garibay

I came to this country as a little girl with my mom and my sister, undocumented, not speaking a word of English. My mom worked three jobs and told us that education was the one thing no one could ever take away from us. That belief shaped my life.

I graduated from **Austin** public schools, did my basics at **ACC**, and completed both my bachelor's and master's degrees at **The University of Texas**. I became a bilingual pre-K teacher in **Austin ISD** and spent eight years in the classroom.

When the **Texas Legislature** cut funding for full-day pre-K, I called **Education Austin** and asked what was being done. The response: What are you ready to do? We organized parents, teachers, and professors. We met with school board members and spoke out at **Austin ISD** meetings. When the state failed our children, **Austin's** school board stepped up and funded the entire program. That experience transformed my life and taught me the power of collective action. I carry those lessons to this day.

I went on to serve as **Vice President of Education Austin** and later as **Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO** — the first Latina ever elected to that role — representing more than 250,000 working Texans.

In the **Biden-Harris Administration**, I served as **Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education**, where I worked to expand opportunities for more than five million students nationwide and helped secure student loan forgiveness for one million public servants.

I have lived in House District 49 for more than fifteen years. I have served on the boards of **American Gateways** and **Austin Voices**. I met my husband, **Gilbert**, when we were both students at **ACC**. This is my community. These are my neighbors.



SOBRE Montserrat Garibay

Vine a este país cuando era una niña pequeña con mi mamá y mi hermana, indocumentada, sin hablar una palabra de inglés. Mi mamá trabajaba en tres empleos y nos decía que la educación era lo único que nadie podía quitarnos. Esa creencia moldeó mi vida.

Me gradué de las escuelas públicas de **Austin**, hice mis estudios básicos en **ACC** y completé tanto mi licenciatura como mi maestría en la **Universidad de Texas**. Me convertí en maestra de preescolar bilingüe en el **Distrito Escolar Independiente de Austin** y pasé ocho años en el aula.

Cuando la **Legislatura de Texas** recortó los fondos para el preescolar de jornada completa, llamé a **Education Austin** y pregunté qué se estaba haciendo. La respuesta: ¿Qué estás lista para hacer? Organizamos a padres, maestros y profesores. Nos reunimos con miembros de la junta escolar y hablamos en las reuniones del **Distrito Escolar Independiente de Austin**. Cuando el estado falló a nuestros niños, la junta escolar de **Austin** intervino y financió todo el programa. Esa experiencia transformó mi vida y me enseñó el poder de la acción colectiva. Llevo esas lecciones hasta el día de hoy.

Continué sirviendo como **Vicepresidenta de Educación en Austin** y luego como **Secretaria-Tesorera de la AFL-CIO de Texas** — la primera latina en ser elegida para ese cargo — representando a más de 250,000 trabajadores texanos.

En la **Administración Biden-Harris**, serví como **Subsecretaria Asistente en el Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos**, donde trabajé para expandir oportunidades para más de cinco millones de estudiantes en todo el país y ayudé a asegurar la condonación de préstamos estudiantiles para un millón de servidores públicos.

He vivido en el Distrito 49 de la Cámara durante más de quince años. He formado parte de las juntas directivas de **American Gateways** y **Austin Voices**. Conocí a mi esposo, **Gilbert**, cuando ambos éramos estudiantes en **ACC**. Esta es mi comunidad. Estos son mis vecinos.

LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS WE TRUST

ENDORSE MONTSERRAT FOR HD49

CHRONICLE
 Austin American-Statesman
 TEXAS AFL-CIO
 ANNIE'S LIST
 UNIVERSITY DEMOCRATS
 TEXAS
 WORKING FAMILIES PARTY
 DHF

César Blanco
 Mary González
 Armando Valle
 Celia Israel
 Dalia Garza
 Vanessa Fuentes
 Chito Vela
 Zo Quadi
 Stephanie Chankumbhar
 LaRessa Quintana
 Fernando de Urioste
 Arati Singh

Wendy Davis
 Miguel Cardona
 Greg Casar

Marc Weasay
 John Bucy III
 Ramón Romero, Jr.
 Erin Zwiener
 José Garza
 George Morales
 José Voldesquez
 Mike Stogal
 Sean Hassan
 Julie Ann Nitsch
 Andrew Gonzales

JUNTOS FOR JUSTICE, UNIDOS FOR CHANGE!

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Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a **La Voz**. In this issue you will find a number of interesting stories and articles. But first I want to raise the issue of why do you read **La Voz Newspaper**? After all, what you find in the pages of **La Voz** are not the latest of what is going on in the world. So why spend your time going through thye pages of this publication?

I'll share with some folks have told me when I asked them this same question. They said, what they find in **La Voz** are stories about people and issues that rarely show up any whaere else. They also tell me that when they pick up other publications they rarely read about **La Raza** and if they do it usually involves crime, violence or other things negative.

I agree with them. It is rare when you find negative stories about **La Raza** in the pages of **La Voz**. That's intentional on my part. I tell people, if you want to read negative stories about **La Raza**, you will have to go some where else.

Enough about this. Let me call to your attention saome of the stories in this month's issue of **La Voz**. You will find a tribute story on **Roberto Martinez** who passed away on May 3rd. **Mr. Martinez** was a good friend of mine and I used to attend his breakfast meetings at **Amaya's**. He wit and insight will be missed.

Another person who passed away that I knew in **Houston** was **Dr. Richard Tapia**. He was indeed a man of many talents and he loved classic cars. You will find his story on pages 20 and 21 along with photos from way back.

The other big story in thissue is the 30 plus **University of Texas** students who have recently graduated with the **Center for Mexican American Studies**. Entre nosotros, cuando un miembro de la familia earns a college degree, the whole family gts bask in the glow of the accomplishment because in different ways, they too have sacrificed to help insure that family member with a degree was able to succeed. Read their short stories and see if you spot womething you already know.

Editorial



**Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher**



Holy Family Catholic Church

An inclusive & compassionate CATHOLIC community

Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias
M.A., M.B.A., M.Div., M.S., Ph.D.
Senior Pastor



9:00 a.m. Dialogue on Scripture & Spirituality
10:00 a.m. English Mariachi Mass
10:45 a.m. Breakfast & Mariachi
12:00 p.m. Spanish Mariachi Mass

9322 FM 812 Austin, Texas 78719
From Highway 183 going South, turn onto FM 812

For more information: (512) 826-0280
Welcome Home!

Travis County Run - Off Election Results

CANDIDATES	ELECTION DAY VOTE	PERCENT
------------	-------------------	---------

Commissioner Race Precinct # 4

George Morales III	6,686	54.86%
Susana Ledesma Woody	5,501	45.14%

State Representative District 49

Montserrat Garibay	9,879	62.27%
Kathy Tovo	5,87	37.73%

State Board of Education District 5

Allison Bush	33,270	63.71%
StephanieLimon Bazan	18,950	36.29%

Lietenant Governor

Marcos Isaias Velez	7,805	14.5%
Vickki Goodwin	45,748	85.43%

SOURCE: Travis County Office of the County Clerk



1979

Average Income	\$ 16,461
Cost of a New Home	\$ 55,000
Price of Milk	Gallon of Milk \$1.62
Dozen Eggs	\$.79
Price of Gasoline	\$.63
Hamburger (McDonalds)	\$.38
Price of a New Car (Chevrolet Bel Air)	\$3,503.00
Dow Jones Avweage	\$838.74

President of the United Dtates
Vice-President of the United States

Jimmy Carter
Walter Mondale



Roberto Ortiz Martinez

May 9, 1938 – May 3, 2026

Roberto O. Martinez went home to his Lord and Savior on May 3, 2026. **Roberto** was born in **Ozona, Texas** on May 9, 1938 to loving parents, *Samuel Luna Martinez* and **Juanita Ortiz Martinez**, who filled his childhood with warmth, guidance and quiet strength. From his parents, he learned the values of compassion, honesty, and a strong work ethic. During those early years, he developed the values that would guide him throughout his life, with an unwavering dedication to family and community. Growing up in Ozona, he spent his early childhood surrounded by the love of his family and the companionship of his five siblings. Together, they shared a close bond built on faith, love, laughter, and the simple joys of small-town life. The closeness they shared was passed down to subsequent generations, creating a strong bond that continues to this day.

In his high school years, he and his brother were proud to be **Ozona Lions**, playing football, basketball and running track. He loved to tell about the times under the Friday night lights, when he played quarterback and his older brother was the running back and the announcer could frequently be heard saying “**Martinez to Martinez... TOUCHDOWN!**”

As much as he loved **Ozona**, his desire to further his education led him to **Texas A&M University** where he became a lifelong **Aggie**. He graduated in 1960 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the **U.S Army** and continued his service in the **National Guard**. In 1965, he earned a masters degree in Civil Engineering from the **University of Texas**. He always proudly wore his **Aggie** class ring and frequently wore an **Aggie** cap which allowed him to meet and strike up conversations with fellow aggies of all ages, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

In July of 1963, he married the love of his life, **Alicia Hinojosa**. Together they built a life and created a loving home, centered on their faith in God, family and community. They enjoyed life together and especially loved to travel with friends and family.

Roberto was very proud of being a devoted and supportive husband and father to his four children. He believed that being present for his wife and children was one of the greatest responsibilities and blessings a man could have. He worked tirelessly to provide not only for their needs, but also to give them guidance, encouragement, and unconditional love. **Roberto** instilled in his children the values of hard work, integrity, faith, and compassion for others.

Roberto worked for the **Department of Transportation** as an **Engineer/Urban planner** from 1961 to 1964. He was employed as an engineer with the **U.S. Air Force** at **Bergstrom Air Force Base** from 1964 to 1975. He then worked as a **Project Manager** with the **U.S. Department of Commerce/EDA** from 1975 to 1980. **Roberto** accomplished a successful career in engineering and was most proud of partnering with **Michael Wright** and creating their own consulting firm, **Martinez and Wright Engineers** in 1980. During those years he was recognized as **Hispanic Businessman of the Year**, **Engineer of the Year** and **MWM** was named **Small Business of the Year**. Founded on honesty and integrity, their business continues to thrive 46 years later, embracing several name changes along the way, including **Martinez Wright & Mendez, Inc.** and **MWM Design Group**.



Serving others and his community was a cornerstone of his life. He spent countless hours volunteering with numerous organizations. Some of the most important to him were the **City of Austin Summer Youth Program**, **Austin Founders Lions Club**, **Hispanic Boy Scout Committee**, **Capital IDEA**, **Austin Interfaith**, **City of Austin-DSMBR**, **Austin Community Rain Gardens**, and **Texas International Misioneros de Cristo**. He was inducted into the **Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame** as a Lifetime Achiever in 2024.

Roberto's faith and desire to serve led him to be ordained as a deacon for the **Diocese of Austin** in 1998 serving at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**. He felt honored to serve the Lord and his community through his involvement in various church ministries, fostering meaningful connections with parishioners. He was especially dedicated to the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) men's and women's retreats as he often shared how powerful and life changing the retreats can be.

Of all the accomplishments he achieved, his greatest source of pride and joy was his family. Together with **Alicia**, he devoted time and support to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He never missed a birthday party, sporting/school event, graduation, or even a simple dinner or family game night. His unique relationships with each of them was cherished. Roberto lived life to the fullest until his final day. He remained active, enjoying Tai Chi, daily mass, volunteering, doing puzzles, watching the **Spurs** and **Aggies**, and he never missed an opportunity to enjoy a good meal with friends and family.



Emma S. Barrientos
Mexican American Cultural Center

Juntos de Nuevo: The Grand Opening

June 6th 11 a.m.–9 p.m.
600 River Street, Austin TX 78701



Juntos de Nuevo:

The Grand Reopening of the ESB MACC

Saturday, June 6 | 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

600 River Street, Austin, TX 7870

Emma Serrato Barrientos, a political activist, community organizer, and cultural leader, who grew up in **Galveston, Texas**. She was one of the biggest advocates for the **ESB MACC**. **Emma** worked alongside her husband **Gonzalo Barrientos**, the first **Mexican-American** state representative from **Travis County**. In 2009 when she passed away, the **MACC** was renamed the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center** in her honor.

After over three years of thoughtful renovation and expansion, the ESB-MACC welcomes the community back with Juntos de Nuevo -a day of reconnection, celebration, and cultural expression. This free family-friendly event is open to all. No tickets or RSVPs is required. We encourage you to RSVP if you would like to add the event to your calendar, get reminders, and share it with friends!

This reopening is more than a milestone. It is a celebration of identity, creativity, and the enduring cultural legacy of Austin's communities. The City of Austin's Arts, Culture, Music and Entertainment department is honored to invite you to visit the renovated Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.

Juntos de Nuevo Together Again!

On June 6th, 2026, we invite you to join us for a full day of programming!

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Welcome remarks & ribbon cutting

12:00 PM – 9:00 PM:

Live music and performances on the outdoor stage under the Zócalo

Tours of the new and renovated spaces

Hands-on arts, dance, music, theater, and
culinary workshops for all ages

Free children's art activities in the new youth classrooms

Exhibitions in the Community Gallery and the
Sam Z. Coronado Gallery

Community Resource Fair featuring local nonprofits

Artisan market highlighting local Latino/a/e entrepreneurs

Food trucks and activations on the Zocalo

Building Highlights:

19,480 square feet of new, dedicated programmatic space have been added to the facility. The Phase 2 project significantly upgrades the original 36,000-square-foot building that opened to the public in 2007.

New spaces include a Teaching Kitchen, Community Gallery, Dance Studio, Art Studio, Youth Education Classrooms, Multipurpose Rooms, Music Rooms, and Media Library.

New landscaping, a large-scale shade structure, and plants on the Zocalo have been installed.

The renovations include a newly defined perimeter and access points to the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail with security gates.

New pedestrian walking paths encourage exploration of neighboring areas and access to the Confluence.

Renovations to the auditorium include the addition of retractable seating with 194 seats, allowing for flexible configurations for a variety of performing arts programming

THE HISTORY OF THE ESB- MACC

In the early 1970s at the height of the **Chicano Movement** in **Austin, Texas, Mexican American** and Latino artists, educators, and leaders recognized a need for cultural arts space, education, and programming. With members from such organizations as the **League of United Chicano Artists (LUChA)** in **East Austin**, a myriad of Latino dance arts groups, **Chicano theater** troupes, and community organizations, this idea gained momentum.

The eventual demise of **El Centro Chicano** and the **Juárez-Lincoln Center** created an urgent need for a community cultural center, and **Austin's** artists and community leaders were eager to pursue that goal. Several Hispanic visionaries and artists approached the **City of Austin** to request support for the development of a Hispanic focused cultural arts facility.

Finally, in 1986, the **City Council** appointed a task force to determine the feasibility of building a **Mexican American Cultural Center**. It was the first of various advisory groups created to provide guidance in the development of the center. Later, the City contracted the services of a major consulting team to conduct a formal and comprehensive location, market, financial feasibility and operations study. The team's recommendations supported establishment of a center.

In 1992, the center was part of the citywide bond package put before the voters. The referendum did not pass. By 1998, the community had regrouped and with the leadership provided by Hispanic elected officials and other leaders of the community, the 1999 bond package was approved by the voters. The following year, the City authorized a professional services agreement with **CasaBella + Del Campo** and **Maru and Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon** for architectural design and construction phase services. A Master Plan for the **Mexican American Cultural Center** was also developed with input from the community and from various **Mexican American** arts organizations.

After many long years and struggles, ground broke for the **Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC)** in 2005, and, at last, the grand opening was held September 15, 2007, **realizing a nearly 40 year old dream for the Mexican American** community in **Austin**. In 2011, the center was renamed the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC)**.

This reopening is more than a milestone. It is a celebration of identity, creativity, and the enduring cultural legacy of Austin's communities. The **City of Austin's Arts, Culture, Music and Entertainment** department is honored to invite you to visit the renovated **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center**.

The University of Graduates of the Department of Mexican

**When one graduates
from college, the whole
family graduates!**



Victoria Benavides

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Mexican American and Latina/o
Studies, Distinguished Graduate

Major -
International Relations and Global Studies

Minor - Spanish

Victoria extends her sincere appreciation to **MALS** and the **UT** community. Throughout her four years at **UT**, she has had the privilege of learning in an environment rooted in compassionate mentorship and peership. Through this community, **Victoria** experienced profound personal and professional growth, discovering not only her passion for advocacy, public policy, and uplifting communities, but also a deeper understanding of her own identity.

Victoria humbly shares this milestone with her family, friends, and her two roommates, whose constant encouragement kept her afloat. Most importantly, she dedicates this degree to her parents, **Raúl** and **Melinda Benavides**, whose unconditional love and support made this moment possible.



Alondra Chavez

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Government
Major - International Relations and Global
Studies

Minor - Korean

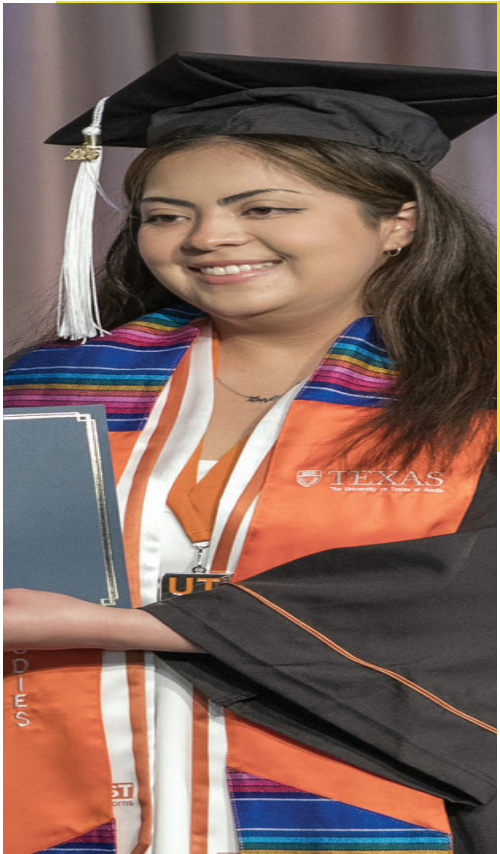
Alondra Chavez is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the **University of Texas at Austin**. She double majored in International Relations and Global Studies and Government, while also completing a minor in Korean. Throughout her academic journey, Alondra demonstrated dedication, resilience, and a passion for learning.

Alondra atribuye su crecimiento y éxito a su familia, especialmente a sus padres, quienes le brindaron el apoyo necesario para seguir sus sueños.

Alondra is deeply grateful for the professors, classmates, and friends she met at **UT**, and she values the opportunity to explore her Mexican heritage and broaden her understanding of the world.

Texas at Austin

American and Latina/o Studies



Leslie Carrillo

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Government

Minor – Sociology

Leslie would like to express her gratitude to the faculty and staff in the **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies** for welcoming first-generation students like herself. In this department, she found the sense of belonging she longed for at **UT Austin**.

Leslie también quiere dedicar este reconocimiento a su familia y a todos los que la han ayudado a llegar aquí. Especialmente a sus padres, **Selina y Ricardo Carrillo**. Quienes siempre le dieron fuerzas y esperanza de que ella se pudiera convertir en una mujer educada y exitosa



Marisol Maribel Cuevas

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Mexican American and Latina/o Studies with Honors

Minor – Law, Justice and Society

Dedicated to her family, friends, and community, **Marisol**, born in **Cd. Juarez, Mexico**, has worked tirelessly at **UT Austin** to become the first in her family to earn a college degree. Grateful to her spouse, family, friends, and mentors, she thanks the **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies** for helping her find her path, especially **Luis Guevara** and **Dr. Lydia CdeBaca** for their invaluable guidance. As she looks ahead, the future is bright. She is planning to continue her journey in immigration law, hoping to give back to her community.



Natalie Isabel Gonzales

Bachelor of Arts

Major—Government

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Natalie is a first-generation college student graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from **UT Austin**. With the support of her family, this degree represents years of hard work. **Natalie** is excited to continue her education in the **Latin American Studies** graduate program at **UT Dallas** beginning in the fall.



Emily Gonzalez

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

Race, Indigeneity and Migration

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Minor - Philosophy

From a **Willis Wildkat** to a **UT Longhorn**, **Emily** has committed her academic efforts to social justice, especially for marginalized voices and plans to continue uplifting her community. She would like to thank **Jonathan** too for his unwavering support throughout this journey.

Emily quiere agradecer profundamente a sus padres por todo lo que han hecho por ella y sus hermanos, a pesar de no tener las mismas oportunidades y tuvieron que trabajar muchísimo. Todo lo que **Emily** ha hecho es por ustedes. Si la ven volar, recuerden que ustedes le dieron las alas, siempre va a ser un águila.

The University of Graduates of the Department of Mexican



**Priscilla Guadalupe
Guerra**

Bachelor of Arts

Major - International Relations
and Global Studies

Bendecida por el sacrificio y esfuerzo de sus padres, **Priscilla** les agradece de todo corazón y les dedica este logro, porque sin ellos no sería posible. **José**, tus sacrificios por esta familia trabajando tantos años duros para darles todo nunca serán olvidados. **Priscilla** pensaba en ti todos los días, y eso le dio la fuerza para caminar aquí hoy.

Rosy, you're the best emergency contact **Priscilla** could ask for. You're the glue and brains that holds this family together. ¡Gracias por ser chingona!

Priscilla also thanks her partner **Carlos**, who has been here since the start and has always shown his commitment to her with every meal and ounce of sweat he has. Gracias por tu amor.



**Natalia Catalina
Guerrero**

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Mexican American and Latina/o
Studies, Distinguished Graduate

Major - Race, Indigeneity and Migration
Major - Government

Minor – Law, Justice and Society

Natalia Guerrero is a first-generation student from the **Rio Grande Valley of Texas**. **Natalia** would like to thank **MALS** for helping her find her path and shape her identity. Without this department, she would not be where she is today.

Natalia también le gustaría dar las gracias a sus amigos y familiares. Todo es para ustedes y gracias por sus sacrificios; sin eso, no estaría aquí hoy.



Abigail Holguin

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies
with Honors

Major – Government

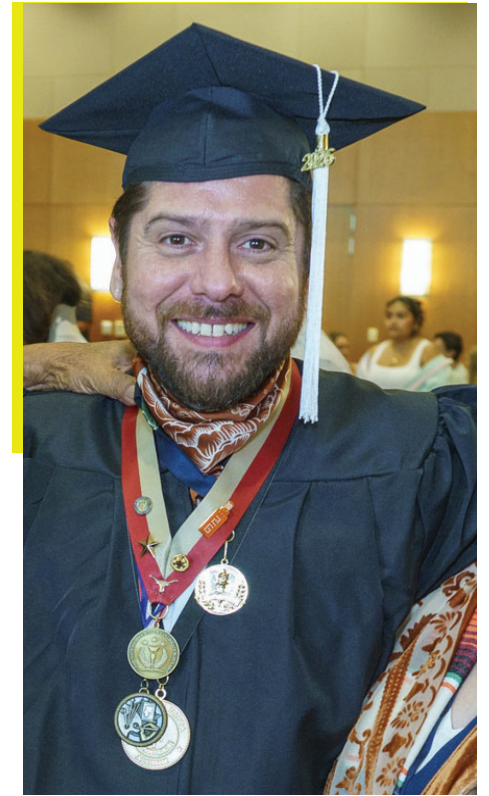
Minor - Anthropology

Certificate – Indigenous Studies

Abigail is a native of **El Paso** and grew up along the **US-Mexico** border. Growing up in a bicultural, binational community led her to want to learn more about her cultural heritage, regional history and the policies that affect border communities like hers.

Abigail would like to thank **MALS** for being her home away from home these past four years. She especially thanks the faculty and staff for making the Department such a welcoming place.

Abigail would also like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to her mother and father who have supported and encouraged her throughout her undergraduate career.



Paul Edward Kimball

Bachelor of Arts

Major –

Spanish - Latin American Studies

Major - History

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Minor – Iberian and Latin American
Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics

Paul es un estudiante bilingüe colombiano-americano de la vida interesado en la historia, la cultura y la naturaleza. Se basa en una fuerte ética de trabajo y dedicación al estudio académico que moldea sus metas, identidad y compromiso con la excelencia. Él tiene pasión por los deportes de motor y se enorgullece de ser un Longhorn.

Texas at Austin

American and Latina/o Studies

No
Photo

Fernanda Arlen Lopez

Bachelor of Journalism

Major—Journalism

Minor – Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Fernanda is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and a proud graduate of **UT Austin**. Today, she walks across this stage in deep gratitude for her parents, who came to this country with nothing, but have given her everything. Their sacrifices have shaped every step of her journey, and it is because of them that she stands here today.

To study Mexican American history, to uplift her culture, and to take up space in institutions that were not built for her is not just a personal achievement—it is an act of resistance. **Fernanda** dedicates this moment to her parents and to all who came before her, whose labor and love make achievements like this possible.



Beatriz Macias

Bachelor of Science

Major - Environmental Engineering

Beatriz wants to share her gratitude to the Latino Research Institute and to the community she has found within the **LRI** for the past year. She is extremely grateful for all the memories and love she felt while working there.

Beatriz también desea agradecer a sus padres y a sus madrinas. Se siente orgullosa de ser hija de dos inmigrantes mexicanos que se han sacrificado tanto para que ella pueda estar cruzando este escenario en este momento. El amor y el apoyo de sus padres la han guiado los últimos cuatro años y la han convertido en la mujer que es hoy.



Maya Alam Martinez

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Anthropology

Minor – Spanish

Minor - Sociology

Maya would like to thank her friends and family for their support. Her time at **UT Austin** has been marked with challenges and achievement. She looks forward to her future opportunities.



Alaiza Michell Mata 2026 STUDENT SPEAKER

Bachelor of Arts

Major-

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
Distinguished Graduate with
Special Honors

Major - Psychology

Minor – Educational Psychology

As a **Rio Grande Valley** native, **Alaiza** has dedicated her scholarship to addressing the needs of Latino students in educational contexts in a culturally receptive manner. **Alaiza** gives a special thank you to **MALS** faculty and advisors for their continued support. También le da las gracias a su familia por sus sacrificios y apoyo estos cuatro años.

The University of Graduates of the Department of Mexican



Justice Elise Morris

Bachelor of Arts

Major-

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
Distinguished Graduate
with Special Honors

Major - History

Certificate – Core Texts and Ideas

During her time at **UT Austin**, **Justice** challenged herself to write thoughtfully and creatively. From her contributions to the **LLILAS Benson Digital Collections** to articles for **Hook'd Magazine**, she sought to document and uplift her community.

Her proudest accomplishment is her thesis project. This work would not have been possible without the guidance and artistry of **Dr. González-Martin**. A warm, well-deserved thank-you to the **MALS** faculty for their tenacity, vulnerability, and knowledge. **Justice** is honored to have worked with **Dr. Rosas**, without whom the world would be grey and dull. Prof's bestowed wisdom has moved mountains!



Miranda Nava

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Psychology
Minor – Mexican American
and Latina/o Studies

Minor – Health Care Reform
and Innovation
Certificate – Spanish
for Medical Professions

Miranda agradece a su familia, en especial a su mamá, **Arminda**, a sus amigos y a **Shanta**, su mejor amiga de casi 15 años, así como a sus mentoras la **Dra. Livas**, la **Dra. Orozco-Lapray** y la **Dra. Valdez**, por apoyarla en sus desafíos académicos. En el otoño irá a la **Universidad de Texas en el Valle del Río Grande** para obtener su doctorado en psicología clínica, con enfoque en las disparidades de salud mental en poblaciones hispanas, continuando las filosofías que el departamento de Estudios Latinos y la Escuela de Ecología Humana le enseñaron. Un logro de haber empezado su educación en **Fort Worth**, descubierto su pasión en **Austin** y ahora aplicarla en sus estudios doctorales desde la frontera. Su trayectoria educativa, cada vez más hacia el sur, la acerca también a las comunidades que quiere servir.



**Estrella Laresa
Pacheco**

Bachelor of Arts

Major-

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies
with Honors

Minor- Social Work

Estrella would like to extend a thank you to **MALS** for creating a welcoming space on the forty acres and her professors for their guidance throughout her journey. As a first-generation student, **UT Austin**, provided her the opportunity to grow in her passion for social justice and the importance of using her work to voice for marginalized communities.

Estrella also thanks her aunts, uncles, sisters, her partner, and especially her parents **Marvin** and **Apolinar** for their unconditional love and sacrifices. También agradece a sus abuelos por su amor y apoyo. Este logro es un testimonio del amor y sacrificios de toda su familia. Ella los quiere mucho.



**Linda Guadalupe
Ramirez**

Bachelor of Arts

Major –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
Distinguished Graduate

Major –

Government, Philosophy, Sociology

Certificate -- Ethics & Leadership in Law,
Politics, and Government

Throughout her four years at **UT Austin**, **Linda** dedicated her time advocating for the protection of rights and the safety of the Austin immigrant community. **Linda** will continue pursuing her aspirations of becoming an immigration attorney who creates inclusive spaces that uplift the voices of marginalized groups.

Linda está muy agradecida de tener una familia tan hermosa que la anima a ser la mejor versión de sí misma. Quiere recordarle a todos que vendrán días mejores y que nunca soltemos nuestras comunidades ni la riqueza de nuestra cultura, porque en ellas vive nuestra fuerza, nuestra esperanza y nuestro futuro.

Texas at Austin

American and Latina/o Studies



**Mayahuel Alejandra
Crane Rocha**

Bachelor of Arts

Major -
Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
Distinguished Graduate

Major - Government

Minor – African and African American
Diaspora Studies

Minor - Sociology

Maya would like to thank her incredible professors and mentors who continued to foster community in the midst of confusion and fear. She would like to thank the **Latino Studies** units for their support and contribution to the **West Campus Free Fridge**, a community project **Maya** opened her sophomore year.

MALS has become home for so many, **Maya** included. They will never eliminate us. **Maya** will be pursuing a career in public interest law and will continue to ensure that community care, mutual aid, and liberation for all remain core tenets of who she is and the work she does.

Desea agradecer a su familia y amigos por su apoyo, tanto a los presentes como a los que lleva siempre en su corazón. Está eternamente agradecida por haber crecido tan conectada con su cultura y espera poder corresponder protegiéndola.



Jonathan Rodriguez

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Psychology

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Jonathan would like to thank his parents, **Juan and Rubi Rodriguez**, and his siblings, **Melissa and Daniel**, for the love and support they provided that helped him make it through college and move on to the next journey of his life. He hopes he can make them proud in his future endeavors.

He would also like to thank **Emily Gonzalez**, who, through all ups and downs, supported him unquestionably. **Jonathan** agradece a sus padres, quienes llegaron sin nada, y le dieron todo. No lo pudo hacer sin el amor y apoyo de ellos. Por ustedes, y para ustedes.



**Olivia Noelle
García Silva**

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Major - Government

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Minor - Government

Born and raised in **San Antonio, Texas**, **Olivia** has dedicated her time at **UT Austin** to exploring her passions for Government and Mexican-American and Latino studies. She would like to thank the faculty and staff of **MALS** for pushing her to think more deeply about her own culture and Latinidad as a whole. She would also like to thank her parents **Elda and Gilberto**, her cat **Nina**, and her best friend **Briana** for supporting her throughout her time at **UT**, as well as her grandma **Maria Irma** and grandfather **Geronimo**, without whose sacrifices she would not be here today.



**Danette Fernanda
Hidalgo Solis**

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Psychology

Minor -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Primeramente **Danette** quiere darle gracias a Dios por guiarla y darle la fuerza para continuar en sus estudios a pesar de las dificultades que se le presentaron. Está agradecida por el apoyo y el amor incondicional de su familia y su papá que siempre la cuida del cielo. Quiere darle gracias a su pareja **Cristopher**, por siempre creer en ella y por ser una gran motivación en su vida.

Lastly, she would like to thank **MALS** faculty and staff for giving her the opportunity to study and celebrate her community.

The University of Graduates of the Department of Mexican



Dariana Zepeda Torres

Bachelor of Arts

Major – Race, Indigeneity, and Migration
Major – Sociology

Minor –
Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Minor – Social Work

Born and raised in **Jalisco, Mexico**, **Dariana** immigrated to the **United States** at age 15. Today, she graduates with a double major in Sociology and Race, Indigeneity, and Migration. She has dedicated her academic journey to advocating for equity, social justice, and human rights. After graduation, **Dariana** will be working as a bilingual education teacher while working towards a Masters degree in Social Work.

Dariana le agradece profundamente a su familia, especialmente a sus padres, **Guillermo y Teresa**, así como a su esposo, **Alejandro**, por siempre creer en ella y brindarle amor y apoyo incondicional mientras continúa persiguiendo sus sueños.



Valeria Morales Tovar

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
Distinguished Graduate

Minor - English

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Theatre and Dance

Born in **Chihuahua, Mexico**, and raised in **Texas**, **Valeria** has spent her time at **UT Austin** studying the impact and importance of art and education. She hopes to use what she learned to advocate for young artists and advance the various expressions of joy produced by her community. In addition, she would like to send her gratitude to her parents, **Judith Tovar** and **Medardo Morales**, her brothers, and her husband, who have supported her educational journey. Their support and presence have been invaluable in giving Valeria the strength to pursue her dreams.



Valeria Azul Valles

Bachelor of Fine Arts

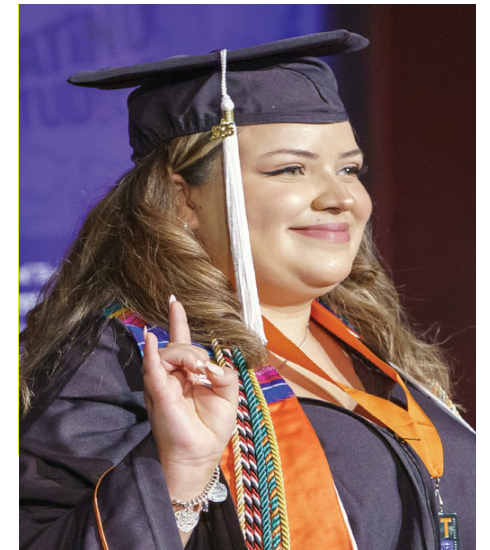
Major - Studio Art

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Valeria agradece el apoyo incondicional que su familia le ha brindado durante su tiempo en la **Universidad de Texas en Austin**. Dedicó su título a los esfuerzos y sacrificios de sus padres, **Socorro Prieto** y **Jesús Valles Salayandia**. Su trabajo como artista refleja el amor y cariño que siempre le han demostrado.

Raised in **El Paso**, and **Ciudad Juárez**, **Azul's** body of work as an artist has dedicated itself to advocating for femicide victims and uplifting the voices of Latino immigrants in the **United States**. She would like to express her sincere gratitude to the staff and faculty of **MALS** for enriching her undergraduate experience and playing a fundamental role in shaping her art practice.



Hannah Isabel Vazquez

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
Distinguished Graduate

Major - Government

Minor – Entrepreneurship

Minor –

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Born and raised in **San Antonio, Texas**, **Hannah** studied Government and Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at **UT Austin**. **MALS** was transformative for her, highlighting the importance of community advocacy and empowering her to use her voice on behalf of others.

She would like to give a special thanks to her family, **Celina Salinas**, **Noah Vazquez**, **James Sepulveda**, and **Jose Vazquez** for their unwavering support. She'd also like to thank her professors, **Wanda Hernandez**, **Maria Cotera**, and **Angie Gutierrez**, for paving the way for Latinas in higher education.

Texas at Austin

American and Latina/o Studies



Yvette Judith Vazquez

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

International Relations and Global Studies

Yvette feels immense gratitude towards her time at **UT Austin**. She would like to thank the **Latino Research Institute**, especially **Laura Esparza**, for believing in her, and **Dr. Krissia Plascencia** for encouraging her to believe she is worthy of being in any room.

Ultimately, **Yvette** owes her success to her family and recognizes that their love is the foundation of her degree. She thanks her parents for their sacrifices and her siblings for the laughs they shared that motivated her through her hardest days. To her peers, dijeron que no lo íbamos a lograr. ¡Ahorita todos están callados!



Yair Vences

Bachelor of Arts

Major - Government

Minor -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Sin el amor, esfuerzos, y sacrificios de sus padres, **Liz y Jose**, no se pudiera cumplir este día tan especial. **Yair** siempre estará endeudado con ellos por todo el apoyo que le han brindado.

Yair agradece el personal de mantenimiento y limpieza, la facultad, y sus camaradas en los estudios, quienes son las personas más valiosas de esta institución. Los esfuerzos de estudiantes anteriores hicieron que esta ceremonia fuera posible, y ahora los estudiantes prospectivos tienen la responsabilidad de seguir luchando por el conocimiento colectivo de Latinos dentro esta universidad. ¡Seguimos adelante!



Madison Paige Wright

Bachelor of Arts

Major -

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Major -

Race, Indigeneity and Migration

Born and raised in **San Antonio**, **Madison** pursued her studies by double majoring in **Mexican American and Latina/o Studies** and **Race, Indigeneity, and Migration**, with the goal of giving back to the underserved communities that shaped her upbringing. Her academic journey reflects a deep commitment to advocacy, representation, and community empowerment.

Madison would like to extend her heartfelt gratitude to her family, especially her mother, whose endless sacrifices, selflessness, and unwavering reassurance made this achievement possible. This accomplishment stands as a testament to her love



Allysa Monique Tellez

Master of Arts,

English

Master of Science,

Information Studies

Graduate Portfolio, Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Allysa was born and raised in **El Paso** and has dedicated her academic journey to increasing access to underrepresented stories within the Latine diaspora.

She is grateful to the faculty, staff, and students at **MALS** for creating inclusive spaces to learn and grow, and to **Dr. Maria Cotera** for serving as second reader for her Master's report.

Allysa also thanks her friends and family, but especially her parents, **David** and **Patricia Tellez**, for their love and encouragement, as well as her fiancé, **Mike**, for his selfless support throughout her academic pursuits.

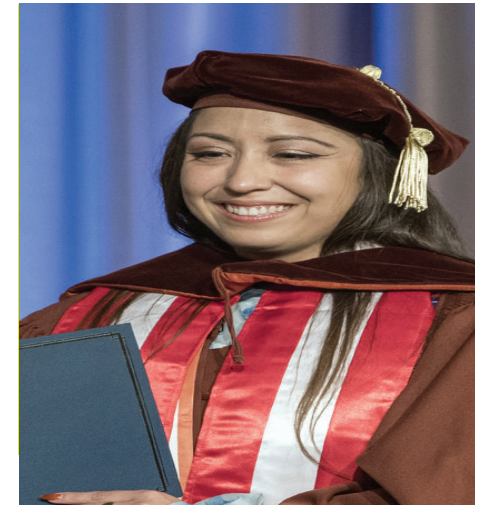
The University of

Graduates of the Department of Mexican

Graduate Students

DOCTORAL HOODING

The ritual of academic hooding for individuals receiving a Doctor of Philosophy degree symbolizes the transition from student to colleague, marking the completion of the doctoral degree and entry into a distinguished community of scholars. The act of being hooded, which originated in European universities after the 11th century, represents the symbolic passing of knowledge from one generation of scholars to the next. We welcome these five doctoral candidates into the community of Mexican American and Latina/o scholars, and we look forward to watching them excel in their future endeavors.



**Silvana Susana
Del Pozo Dueñas**

Doctor of Philosophy,

Comparative Literature

Graduate Portfolio, Mexican American
and Latina/o Studies

Graduate Portfolio, African
and African Diaspora Studies

Graduate Portfolio, Women
and Gender Studies with a specialization
in LGBTQ Studies

As a first-generation student from **Lima, Peru, Silvana** moved to **Queens, NYC** where she continued to gain a profound understanding and appreciation for the indispensable role of embodied knowledge in the everyday. She echoes these influences in her dissertation *Aesthetics of Excess in Latine and Peruvian Performances* with her commitment to inter- and multidisciplinary scholarship as a PhD recipient

in Comparative Literature. **Silvana** agradece profundamente a sus seres queridos, quienes siempre la han apoyado y dedica su tesis a su madre, **María**, por el gran esfuerzo que realizó en sacarla adelante y por los valores fundamentales que le inculcó.



Texas at Austin

American and Latina/o Studies



Andie Christine Flores

Doctor of Philosophy,

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Andie thanks **Laura Gutierrez** and **Karma Chavez** for helping to support her intellectual and artistic growth in a myriad of ways that all include having to deal with her being a little bit annoying or annoyed, but always deeply appreciative and awestruck. She also thanks the brilliant committee members from both her dissertation and master's projects for being her teachers and co-conspirators inside and outside of the classroom.

She couldn't have accomplished this without receiving constant support and encouragement from her loving parents and family; her beautiful genius friends' architecture of a love where she is seen as glittery despite all the fluorescent blighting; nor without the incredible sweetness and structure provided day after day by her perfect pets



Elizabeth Martinez

Doctor of Philosophy,

English

Graduate Portfolio,

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Elizabeth would like to extend a thank you to **MALS** for being a welcoming space for her to grow as a scholar. And give thanks to her dissertation committee members **Dr. John Morán González** and **Dr. Samantha Pinto** for their wise input, a big thank you to her outside committee member **Dr. José Aranda** for his continual support from undergraduate mentor to scholarly colleague and, lastly, a special thanks to her committee chair **Dr. Julie Minich** for extensive scholarly and emotional support throughout the dissertation process.

Elizabeth also thanks her family, husband **Ali**, and dog **Tater Tot** for their unconditional love and support!



Anahí Ponce

Doctor of Philosophy,

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Anahí dedicates this achievement to the ancestral, familial, and communal bonds that have sustained her life and her work. **Anahí** is indebted to her grandparents, to the women in her family, and to her father who have collectively taught her how to care for community and for the lands they call home.

This moment would likewise not have been possible without the antics and schemings from her friends and partner, whom she considers soulmates. **Anahí** is a fronteriza from **El Paso**, and it has been the honor of her life to imagine worlds without borders, alongside her colleagues and loved ones.



Alexandra Nicole Salazar

Doctor of Philosophy,

Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

Alexandra attributes this milestone to all the malcriadxs, her queer kin, her family, her friends, her students, her kids, her partner, her pups, the land, the birds, the water, the 956, Somi, her ancestors, her mentors, and specifically, her nephew **Charlie Salazar**, the next memory keeper.

As a lesbian Chicanita from **Pharr**, this PhD is about breaking generational curses and answering prayers from las otras. She will continue to tell stories of the malcriadxs because we should never stop talking about us. ¡Puro pinche 956!


In the Community



ABOVE: J.R. Gonzales is with Neto Longoria and María Del Carmen Unda recording a podcast episode of **Latino Business** at KKYL FM LP in Kyle, Texas. You can hear the podcast wherever you get your podcast. KKYL FM also airs **Latino Business Report** Tuesdays and Saturdays at noon.




ABOVE: Community activist **Bertha Rendon Ortiz** send her congratulations to **Mr. Jordan Ortiz** for all his outstanding achievements... PROUD of YOU!!! Way to GO Mijo may ☐ God continue to protect you on your next milestone we love you




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En la comunidad



ABOVE: Texas State Representative Lulu Flores with Christina Gonzales at the Annual Veterans Memorial Service at the former Johnson High School paying tribute to our fallen heroes.

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Austin Energy [AustinEnergy.com/Apagon](https://www.austenergy.com/apagon)

Recordando a Dr. Richard A. Tapia

Mathematician - Chicano - Tejano

By
Eugene H. Spafford and
Simson L. Garfinkel

Richard Tapia, the **Maxfield and Oshman University Professor** at **Rice University**, died on May 22, 2026, in **Houston, TX**, at the age of 87.

Tapia was a numerical optimization researcher. **President Barack Obama** presented him with the **National Medal of Science** in 2011 “for his pioneering and fundamental contributions in optimization theory and numerical analysis.

Early Years

Born in Santa Monica, CA, to **Amado Bernal Tapia** and **Maria Magdalena Angulo Tapia** on March 25, 1939, **Richard** was one of five children and the first in his family to attend college. His parents emigrated separately from **Mexico** as impoverished young people seeking education, but both ended up working rather than completing school. Not so for their children: four of the five earned undergraduate degrees, and three earned graduate degrees.

“So the roles that I identify with and make me happy are: *Chicano, Tejano, mathematician, and car enthusiast*,” **Tapia** wrote in his contribution to the **Mathematical Association of America’s Testimonios**.

Hot Rodders in the 1950s

That fourth identity—car enthusiast—was not a throwaway. He and his twin brother **Bobby** were drag racers from age 15; in 1968, the brothers set a world record in elapsed time for fuel dragster racing, traveling a quarter mile in 6.54 seconds. **Bobby** was inducted into the **National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Hall of Fame** in 2002.

Richard restored classic cars and exhibited a custom 1970 Chevelle that earned first-in-class awards at the **Houston AutoRama** and the **San Antonio** car show.



He joined his two passions in a lecture, “*Math at Top Speed: Exploring and Breaking Myths in the Drag Racing Folklore*,” delivered at universities and mathematics-awareness events for decades.

Tapia won the local **American Mathematical Society** math contest the year he graduated from high school, but his school never gave him the assembly recognition that had been promised. After graduation he worked in a muffler factory after graduation.

A co-worker from Mississippi, whose own schooling had stopped early, told him, “Richard, do not make my mistake. You are smart, go to college.”

A co-worker from Mississippi, whose own schooling had stopped early, told him, “Richard, do not make my mistake. You are smart, go to college.” That September, **Tapia** enrolled at **Harbor Junior College** in **Wilmington**, where a calculus professor urged him to attend the **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** rather than a state school. There, he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1961 and took a job at **Todd Shipyards** in **San Pedro**, working on a Navy grant to define ship hull surfaces.

Tapia returned to **UCLA** for graduate

study in 1963 and worked part-time at **IBM Westwood**, earning his master’s degree in 1966 and his Ph.D. in 1967. His dissertation, “*A Generalization of Newton’s Method with an Application to the Euler-Lagrange Equation*,” established the territory he would work in for the rest of his career.

After a year at **UCLA** as an instructor, **Tapia** spent 1968 to 1970 as a postdoctoral fellow at the **Army Mathematics Research Center** at the

University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joined **Rice University** in 1970, was tenured in 1972, and was promoted to full professor in 1976.

UCLA

He chaired the **Department of Mathematical Sciences** from 1978 to 1983. In 1991, he was named the **Noah Harding Professor of Computational and Applied Mathematics**; in 2005, he was named the **Maxfield and Oshman Professor of Engineering** and a **University Professor**—**Rice’s** highest academic honor.

Tapia’s research portfolio included authoring or co-authoring more than 100 research papers.

Tapia’s research portfolio included authoring or co-authoring more than 100 research papers. He served as editor of **SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis** (1978–1991), the **Journal of Optimization Theory**



ABOVE: A young Richard Tapia as a graduate student

and Applications (1981–1996). He supervised 38 doctoral students, and his academic descendants are present in numerical optimization research groups across the U.S. and Latin America.

“I have to serve as a role model by first being an excellent scientist.”

In talks and interviews across four decades, **Tapia** described his work using a single sentence: “*I have to serve as a role model by first being an excellent scientist.*” Excellence in the discipline was the precondition for the mentorship mission. He believed the field would not open itself to students from underrepresented communities until they saw researchers from those communities doing first-rate technical work. Therefore, he insisted on doing it himself.

ACM Fellow and **Rice** faculty colleague **Moshe Y. Vardi** observed, “Two things stood out to me about my colleague and friend, **Richard Tapia**: He was committed to the idea that the purpose of science is betterment of the world, and he did not hesitate to take an even broader perspective on that goal; and when he gave talks,

Professor at Rice University

Car Enthusiast - Author - Activist



ering Leadership Alliance programs, and founded Rice's President's Lecture Series of Diverse Scholars. The Tapia Conference biography summarized the cumulative effect: "He has directed or co-directed more under-represented minority and women doctoral recipients in science and engineering than anyone in the country."

The first Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing, sponsored by ACM and organized by the Coalition to Diversify Computing, drew 164 attendees in Houston in 2001. Now run by the Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in Information Technology (CMD-IT), it is the principal venue where the American computing community visibly does the work Tapia had been doing individually for 30 years. The Blackwell-Tapia Mathematics Conference plays the same role for the mathematical sciences.

"I first met Richard when my mother and I visited Rice after I was accepted for grad school," said Ilyia Hicks, professor and department chair of CMOR at Rice. "We knocked on his office door and spent about an hour and a half with him. He immediately enrolled me in his Spend a Summer with a Scientist program. When we were ready to leave, he told my mother, 'We will take good care of your son.' That statement perfectly describes how Richard treated every student he encountered. It is because of his mentorship that I am a professor today."

either about diversity or about math, it was not some abstract academic who was giving the talk. It was always a very personal talk."

Tapia acted on this belief at every scale. In 1972, his second year at Rice, he founded the Rice Association of Mexican-American Students (RAMAS) and became a founding member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), whose 1973 inaugural meeting in Atlantic City drew 50 young Chicano and Native scientists.

He later founded the Tapia Center at Rice, which has grown into a hub for outreach programs, including the Tapia STEM Camps for talented 8th- through 12th-graders. This effort grew from roughly 40 participants in 2015 to more than 1,200 by 2025. He directed the NSF-supported Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate for more than a decade, founded Rice's Graduate Education for Minorities and its Empow-

Valerie Taylor, ACM Fellow and president and CEO of CMD-IT, summarized the reach of his career: "Richard Tapia has had a major impact on the computing community through his research in optimization, his advocacy for increasing diversity in STEM, his tireless effort to change policy through his service on boards, such as the National Science Board, and his personal outreach to strengthen the community."

Tapia was the first U.S.-born Hispanic person elected to the National Academy of Engineering (1992), the first mathematician to hold the title of University Professor at Rice (and the sixth person in the university's then-94-year history to do so), and the first recipient of the Computing Research Association's A. Nico Habermann Award (1994). About two months before he died, the Harris County Commissioners voted unanimously to rename the Sam Houston Tollway Ship Channel Bridge in his honor.

He served on the National Science Board from 1996 to 2002 and chaired the National Research Council's Board

on Higher Education and the Workforce from 2001 to 2004. He was on the SIAM Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1992. He received the NSF's inaugural Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in 1996; the AAAS Lifetime Mentor Award in 1998; the SIAM Distinguished Service to the Profession Award and the AMS Distinguished Public Service Award in 2004; the National Medal of Science in 2011; the National Science Board's Vannevar Bush Award in 2014; the AAAS Public Engagement with Science Award in 2016; and was elected as a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society in 2021. He received eight honorary doctorates.

Tapia was predeceased by his daughter, Circee Lynn Tapia, in 1982; his sister, Ana, in 2009; his twin brother, Robert (Bobby), in April 2020; and his wife, Jean Rodriguez Tapia, in November 2022, after 63 years of marriage. He is survived by his son, Richard (Rich) Amado Tapia; his daughter, Rebecca (Becky) Anna Tapia; his sister, Rebecca Amelia



Mother's Day Reflection.....

by Victorio

Our early lives as migrants were typical for many farmworker families in those decades of the 50's and 60's. As we grew up, we kind of got used to doing with what we had and we had less than most. But one thing we never lacked was a mother who was loving, caring and supportive of her 7 children.

Ama was a great cook, and we all miss the great feasts we experienced when our family gathered at our parents' house, mostly on Sundays but she would feed you any day of the week or whenever you came to visit. The smell of homemade flour tortillas, refried beans and chiles roasting on the comal is unforgettable, but it was the sense of our family being together that was most treasured.

Ama was the glue that kept the **Rojas** family together. She was always pleasant to be around and a great conversationalist. Ama was meek and mild but had an inner strength that was just waiting to come out. And then her inner strength exploded in 1973!

Working in the fields all her life, Ama and many other farmworkers were at the mercy of uncaring farmers and mayordomos. If we spoke up for ourselves, we risked getting fired. But her involvement in **La Causa** was a life changing experience.

Ya basta! She was not going to take the abuse and injustices that farmworkers

That summer, she was arrested several times standing up for the rights of campesinos.

faced daily without a fight. And fight she did! That summer, she was arrested several times standing up for the rights of *campesinos*. She was transformed from a meek and mild mother to an assertive, fearless woman that fiercely took the fight for social justice to agribusiness, law enforcement and politicians. Ama stood tall to defend her family and fellow farmworkers. **Ama** was the best mother I could ever ask for!





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27 DE JUNIO DE 2026 ● DETALLES

Habr  instructores para ofrecer direcci n y demostrar pr cticas, personas sin experiencia est n invitados para aprender.

Este evento es para aquellos que buscan comenzar una carrera en la industria de la construcci n o que desean mostrar su experiencia en sistemas interiores. Por favor, llegue con una camisa de manga larga, pantalones y botas de trabajo.

5811 TRADE CENTER DRIVE, BLDG #8

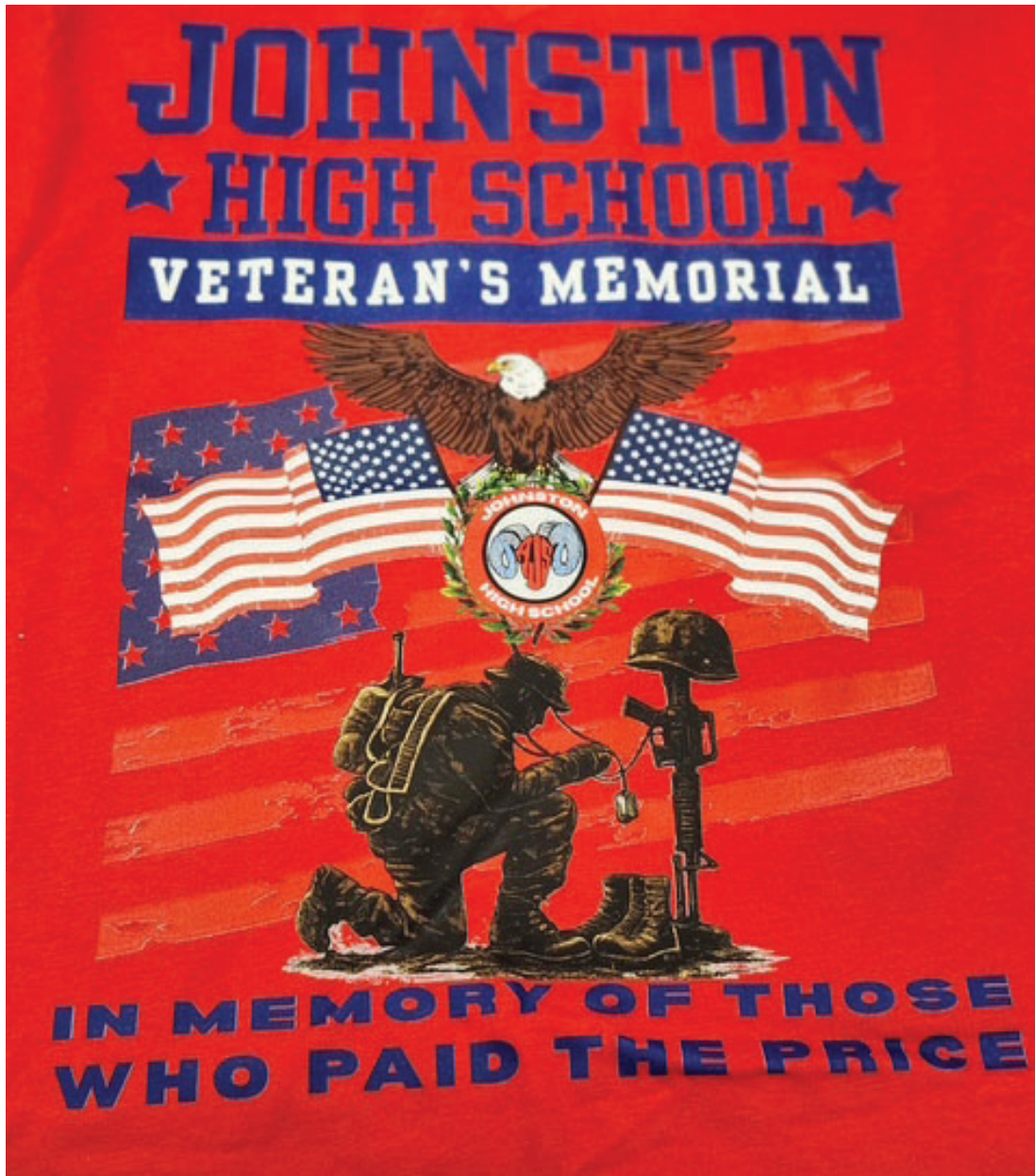
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ABOVE: Volunteers working at the Annual Veterans Memorial Service at Johnston High School in Austin, Texas

BELOW: Travis County Commissioner - Elect George Morales III with , Henry Acosta and former Travis County Commissioner Marcos del Leon at the Annual Veterans Memorial Service at Johnston High School.





ABOVE: Texas State Representative Lulu Florees with participants of the Annual Memorial Day celebration in Austin, Texas

BELOW: Maricela Benites, one of the volunteers of the Annual Johnston High School Memorial Day celebration.



Calander of Events

June 4th, 2026 - HABLA EVENT - Platica con comunidad from 8:00am to 9:30am. For more information visit HABLA on Facebook.

June 13th, 2026 - Raza Roundtable meeting at Beto's Mexican Restauran at 10:00am at 3306 Oak Springs Drive in Austin, Texas. Todos entan invitados!!

July 24th, 2026 - Habla Summer Mixer/ For more information visit HABLA on Facebook

July 29 – 30, 2026 in Austin, TX – **The UnidosUS Annual Conference** is a deliberate commitment to visibility, accountability and action for Latino communities facing real and immediate challenges. With the state capitol as our backdrop, **Austin** will be a powerful stage for bold advocacy. Community organizers, visionary leaders from across sectors, and champions for policies that drive progress will come together to demonstrate how local power is opening doors to opportunity and delivering a better future for all. For more information visit: www.unidos.org

**SERIOUSLY GUYS,
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:**

- **THE DOGE CHECKS**
- **TARIFF CHECKS**
- **THE GREENLAND HOSPITAL BOAT**
- **10% APR ON CREDIT CARDS**
- **MY MEDS BEING 1500% CHEAPER**
- **\$2 GAS**
- **THE EPSTEIN FILES**
- **REOPENING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ THAT WAS ALREADY OPEN**
- **CHEAPER GROCERIES**
- **ENDING WARS IN 24 HOURS**
- **THE "PRIVATELY FUNDED" BALLROOM**

ANY UPDATES?

Word Power

En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of La Voz.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Es peramos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de La Voz una lista de p labras en es pañol con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Now	Ahora
Is not	No es
The time to give up.	El momento de rendirse.
Yes, things are going	Sí, las cosas van a ser
to be more difficult ahead	más difíciles en el futuro
What one should do	Lo que uno debería hacer
Is join an organization	Es unirse a una organización
And try and	Y tratar de
make a difference.	hacer la diferencia.
Don't complain.	No te quejes.
Act instead!	¡Actúa en su lugar!

**La Voz Newspaper
512-944-4123
Por cualquier pregunta**

Teachers don't lose passion for teaching. They lose patience for systems that make teaching impossible.

MUSEO GUADALUPE AZTLAN




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Santana G. & Apollo F.

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Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center

Juntos de Nuevo: The Grand Opening

June 6th 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
600 River Street,
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Scan the QR code for
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austintexas.gov/macc/grand-reopening



Performances by:

Mariachi Suroeste ◦ DJ Mira Mira ◦ Ballet Folklórico de Austin ◦ Fuzion ◦
Los Fandangueros de Austin ◦ Andrea Daniela ◦ La Moña Loca ◦
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