Board of Director’s Welcome
by UA Hispanic Alumni Club Board of Directors

Saludos, alumni! We are excited to welcome back our Noticias Newsletter. This newsletter will be sent quarterly to UAHA members and friends to keep you updated on upcoming UAHA events, what are student scholars are up to, and what you can do to help our students succeed. The UAHA board has been very busy this past year and we are pleased to share some of these exciting events and new endeavors with you.

In this edition, we will give you a breakdown of the current financial health of UAHA. We want our members, donors, and friends to know where we stand financially, where your money is being spent, and the areas of need for our students.

We will also highlight some of the programming that UAHA has been sponsoring. This past year, UAHA sponsored the Guerrero Centers Hispanic Convocation and a study abroad program in Mexico. We want you to hear about these successes and the great things happening on campus.

We also want you to meet our student scholars. Every quarter, we will highlight a student or students so you can see the actual outcome of all your efforts. We have amazing student success stories, and we want you to enjoy reading and learning about these amazing students.

And finally, we want to hear from you! You can reach us through our Facebook page and website or send us an email. Let us know what you would like UAHA to focus on!

Celebration of Excellence recap
UAHA held its annual Celebration of Excellence luncheon in May. Read the recap in this newsletter to learn about the senior honorees and the great presentation given to UAHA by Dr. Joe “Skip” Garcia.

Show me the money!
See a financial breakdown of UAHA’s endowment and current financial health. See where the money is going and how it is being spent.

We are on the web!
Find us on social media or our UAAA website.
Click on the links below to connect now!
Celebration of Excellence Luncheon Celebrates Graduating Seniors and Dr. Joe “Skip” Garcia

UAHA held its annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon on Sept. 9, at the Arizona Inn. UAHA recognized two graduating seniors for their accomplishments during their UA career.

Allison Flores is a senior majoring in Care, Health & Society. After graduation, she plans to work as a behavioral health assistant with special needs children. Her long-term goal is to become a physician assistant. While at the UA, Allison was a member of the UA gymnastics team. She was the 2014, Pac-12 vault champion and was honored as a 2014 and 2015 All Conference Pac-12 member. She won various awards for community service, was a four-time NCAA regional qualifier, and was a Pac-12 Conference All-Academic Honorable Mention.

Jose Romero is a senior majoring in Spanish. Jose is a member of the UA football team and is competing for the starting long snapper position. Jose was born in Florida but grew up in Mexico and moved back to the United States as a teenager. Jose earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the 2014-15 academic year. In addition to his athletic and academic commitments, Jose also has spent much of his free time volunteering at the El Pueblo recreational center.

During this celebration, Dr. Joe “Skip” Garcia, senior vice president for Health Sciences, addressed UAHA and its guests regarding the disparity of care for underrepresented communities.

A big thanks to Dr. Garcia for the wonderful information and presentation and a big BEAR DOWN to the amazing graduating seniors!

DID YOU KNOW?

UA’s 2015 freshman class is one of the most diverse ever to make its way on campus! Here is the breakdown:

- 60% White
- 23% Hispanic
- 7% Asian
- 5% African American
- 3% Indian American
- 1% Pacific Islander

DID YOU KNOW?

The UA’s economic impact on the State of Arizona is estimated at $8.76 billion. In comparison, ASU’s is estimated to be $5.6 billion.

Bear Down!
This May, over 200 graduates participated in the Adalbert & Ana Guerrero Center (formerly known as the Chicano/Hispano Center) Convocation Celebration.

For those who are unfamiliar, the Guerrero Center puts on a celebration for graduating students every May to recognize the accomplishments of students graduating both with undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The UA Hispanic Alumni Club is a proud sponsor of this event. Not only do we contribute financially so that this important event can continue, but we also present select students with awards for merit and achievement. This past May, we honored four students: Karina Rodriguez, Lorena Aceves, Cindy Chavarria Minera, and Alejandra Curiel.

Cindy Chavarria Minera graduated from the UA with a B.A. in psychology and a minor in anthropology. She graduates Summa Cum Laude, maintaining a 4.0 throughout her time at the UA. She plans to continue her education in a Ph.D. program. Cindy is a first-generation American whose grandmother and mother are both rural indigenous Mayan women from the highlands of Quiche, Guatemala. Her father is a refugee from the Nicaraguan civil war.

Alejandra Curiel graduated from the UA with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in Portuguese. During her time at the UA, she volunteered with the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity and also did volunteer programs in Guatemala and Brazil. Alejandra has accepted a position with Teach for America to teach mathematics in the Miami Dade Public School System. Alejandra has also spent time abroad in both Israel and Spain. She has been recognized by both the Eller College of Management and the College of Humanities for her many talents and very strong leadership skills. Her dream is to eventually become a lawyer in the area of international law.

Lorena Aceves graduated from the UA with a B.S. in Family Studies and Human Development. Lorena is the first in her family to attend college. Speaking English as a second language, Lorena overcame many obstacles to achieve her college education. She plans to start her Ph.D. program in the fall to continue with her education.

Karina Rodriguez received an M.A. in Higher Education in May of 2015. Her master’s thesis was focused on immigration, identity development, and college ideologies amongst Latino families. She received her undergraduate degree from the UA in 2013 with honors. During her time at the UA she also worked with the College Academy for Parents program which is a comprehensive 12-week program that works with elementary school parents in the Sunnyside Unified school District to develop a college plan for their children.

UAHA is proud of the achievements of these students and wished them well as they embark on the next step of their journey. Sí se puede!
For the academic 2015-2016 year, UAHA awarded $546,750 in tuition and cash awards to students. This included:

- 35 freshman
- 21 sophmores
- 36 juniors
- 35 seniors
- 4 graduate students.

UAHA received over 130 applications for the 35 freshman awards that were given. Because of the increased cost of tuition and fees, UAHA is only able to cover a portion of tuition. Most awards given to students are $4,000 awards. As a reminder, the current tuition and fees are set at approximately $12,000 per year for in state students.

As you can see, there is a need for UAHA to not only increase the number of scholarships it is able to award, but also the amount of each scholarship. UAHA’s goal is to reduce the amount of student loans that our scholars are graduating with.

UAHA Financial Report

ENDOWMENT HEALTH

- UAHA Endowment $1,388,813
- Endowment Expendable $99,373
- Restricted Account $87,925
- Scholarship Restricted $78,500
- Award Account $43,750
- UAHA Bank of America $4,040
- Pacheco Endowment $127,779

UAHA awards scholarships not directly from the endowment accounts, but from the interest that is gained each year from these endowments and the generosity of donors like you. UAHA has a long-term goal of growing the UAHA Endowment to $5 million to better address the growing needs of our students.

*Balances are as of July 2015
¡Vivir Mexico!

¡Vivir Mexico! Is the brainchild of Socorro Carrizosa, director of the Guerrero Center and the late Dr. Richard Ruiz, professor and UA department head. This study abroad opportunity takes students to Mexico to spend over three weeks in various parts of Mexico including Mexico City, Puebla, and Guanajuanto. This program is the least expensive study abroad program at the UA, providing students with financial need an opportunity they might not have otherwise.

While in Mexico, students are required to complete service projects, visit research organizations and various historical sites. In past years, they have visited the US Embassy and the Mexican Senate. While enjoying these adventures, students are also gaining 6 upper division credits or graduate units.

Currently, only 1% of the US college population participates in study abroad programs. This is unfortunate, because studies show that students who study abroad while in college benefit in a variety of ways. These are some of those benefits:

- 97% of study abroad students find employment within 12 months of graduation, compared to only 49% of college graduates in the general population;
- Study abroad students command 25% higher starting salaries;
- 90% of study abroad students earn admission to their 1st or 2nd choice grad school; and
- Study abroad students are 19% more likely to graduate.

The percentage of Hispanic/Latino students who participate in study abroad programs lags behind the overall student population. The main reason for this lag is a lack of funding and resources for these students. According to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers, only 7.6% of the current US study abroad population is of Hispanic/Latino descent.

UAHA recognizes that study abroad opportunities are an important part of developing our students to be competitive in the job market. As a result, UAHA is committed to financially supporting ¡Vivir Mexico! and programs like it. For the past two years, UAHA has sponsored various students to attend this program. We are proud to partner with the Guerrero Center in making sure that students are not denied study abroad opportunities simply because of their financial situation.

Previous participants say the following about the program:

Ashley Tsosie-Mahieu: “As a low-income student, I always thought that study abroad programs were too expensive for me, so I didn’t really think too much of it. However, after learning more about the program’s affordable costs and unique features, I was determined to go.”

UAHA is committed to financially supporting efforts such as ¡Vivir Mexico! that give our students the opportunity to grow not only as scholars, but as true members of a global community.

For more information, please contact Socorro Carrizoza at socorroc@email.arizona.edu.
UAHA ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Maricela Meza ’01 ’04

Our Alumni Spotlight this quarter is Maricela Meza. Maricela is a 2001 and 2004 graduate of the University of Arizona and a native Tucsonan. She was a UAHA scholarship recipient as an undergraduate student and graduated from the UA with a bachelor’s degree in 2001. Maricela went on to earn her law degree from the UA James E. Rogers College of Law in 2004. Maricela was the first in her family to graduate from college and was followed by her brother Rene and sister Rebecca (both UA grads and UAHA scholars).

Maricela is an attorney at Karp & Weiss, PC and primarily handles family law matters including, dissolution of marriage, child custody, dependency, termination of parental rights, and grandparent rights. Since her graduation from the UA, Maricela has stayed actively involved in her community. She currently serves on the Alumni Association’s Wildcat for Life Leadership Council, is on the UA Law College Association Board, and is an Assistant Director at Academia de Baile, Tradicion y Cultura.

Besides her commitments to work, the UA, and her students, Maricela is also a proud Tucson community member. In 2010, she was named by the Arizona Daily Star as a 40 Under 40 Recipient. She was also named as one of ten Women of Influence by Inside Tucson Business Magazine.

Maricela currently serves as a board member for the Pima County Bar Association. She has also served as a member of the Junior League of Tucson Public Affairs committee and Los Abogados. She is immersed in State Bar of Arizona activities as well as a member of the Committee on Minorities in the Law and the Family Practice and Procedure Committee. Maricela is also a veteran bar leader, having served terms as President of the Pima County and Arizona State Bar Young Lawyer Divisions.

Maricela is an avid UA football and basketball fan and regularly travels to watch her Wildcats Bear Down!
MANUEL FELIX ’16

“Thank you for believing in us and for investing in our education and in our futures.”

Manuel Felix is a UA senior and UAHA Scholar double majoring in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations and Spanish. Manuel was born in Tucson, but spent much of his childhood in Mexico before moving back to the United States to attend middle school and high school. Last spring, Manuel was elected president of the UA student government body, better known as the Arizona Students of the University of Arizona. Besides this major accomplishment, Manuel has been involved in a variety of other activities including Mock Trial, Model UN, Phi Alpha Delta Pre Law Fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, New Start Summer Program, International Buddy Program, SOPHOS Sophomore Honorary, Chain Gang Junior Honorary and Bobcats Senior Honorary. He was also the women’s tennis team manager and studied abroad in Italy and Brazil. His accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. During his time at the UA, he has been honored with the Regents High Honors Endorsement Scholarship, the Dean’s List, the Honors College Scholarship, Southwestern Foundation Scholarship, and the Phi Beta Kappa of Greater Tucson Scholarship. Manuel is very proud that 100 percent of his education is paid for with scholarships, grants and his employment. We asked Manuel to share some of his experiences with us:

Why did you choose to attend the UA?

“I love talking about my story about how I ended up at UA. I was actually set to attend UC Berkeley; I even had my roommate, my schedule picked out, and had signed up to be involved in student government. However, I enrolled in a summer program at the UA, called New Start Summer Program, which is a 6-week summer program for incoming college freshmen where they have the opportunity to enroll in 6 units of classwork, live on campus in the dorms, learn about the university’s history and traditions, get acclimated to university-level coursework while having fun and making new friends. It was never my intention to fall in love with the UA, I was only hoping to receive credit for my 6 units worth of course work, which would then transfer for credit to Berkeley. By the conclusion of the summer program, I had made so many friends, found a job with the Dean of Students, found clubs I was interested in joining, had the perfect class schedule and had the majority of my college tuition paid for through scholarships and grants. It was not until I got an email notifying my I received the UA Hispanic Alumni Club Scholarship that I finally decided it was a sign telling me to stay in Tucson, that the UA was the place to be”

How has the UAHA scholarship impacted your UA experience?

“It’s simple; without the UA Hispanic Alumni Scholarship, I would probably not be where I am today. This scholarship was the defining factor that helped me choose to stay at the UA and not go back to Berkeley. Not only that, receiving the Hispanic Alumni Scholarship made me realize I had huge support from members of the Hispanic community who like to see scholarship recipients succeed. I could not say no to this opportunity. I am forever grateful and hope to one-day return the favor that will change another student’s life with maybe a similar story to mine.”
What would you like to say to the Hispanic Alumni donors (or prospective donors)?

“I would say thank you. Thank you for believing in us and for investing in our education and in our futures. I hope they realize the significance of their contribution and how it has changed our lives for the greater good. In my opinion, receiving a scholarship is like someone telling you they believe in you; they believe you have a bright future and believe you have the potential to accomplish your dreams. For many students, that might be the first time anyone has ever believed in them, and that feeling is priceless.”

How has your experience as the president of student government been?

“I get to go to campus everyday knowing that I am working tirelessly to better every student’s experience at the U of A. I am aware I have the best ASUA team and staff who are extremely supportive that help and guide me through every step of the way. I form relationships with administration and faculty on campus and offer my help for whatever they may need. I am not the voice for students who feel like they are not heard, though I hope to be the voice that helps find theirs. I might have a heavier schedule and my days may be longer, but at least I get to go home with a smile knowing I’m doing something bigger than myself, and that makes me happy. My love and appreciation for this university has grown as a result from my experience as ASUA President.”

How do you think having a Latino student body president impacts student government and the campus community?

“I hope it serves as an inspiration to all students and I hope that it sends a message that any student is capable to assume a leadership position if they work hard enough. We experienced a 40% increase in diversity within our student body just this past year, but we still have work to do, we are not done.”

MARINES AQUINO ‘18

“As a beneficiary of UAHA Scholarship and member of the club I have learned how to take advantage of these opportunities by learning how to present myself in a professional manner and communicate effectively with a potential investor, whether it be financial or academic.”

Marines Aquino is a current UAHA Scholar majoring in Nursing with a minor in Military Science. Aside from her commitment to her studies, which have earned her the Wildcat Excellence Award and placement on the Dean’s List, she is also an Army ROTC cadet. She expects to graduate and be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Officer/Army Nurse in 2018. During her time at the UA, she works in the clinical trials office of the UA Cancer Center. Aside from her commitments to the Army ROTC, the UA Cancer Center and her studies, Marines also volunteers with a dog rescue and serves in the children’s ministry in her church.

How has the UAHA scholarship impacted your UA experience?

“The University of Arizona provides its students with continuous opportunities to network in and out of campus. As a beneficiary of UAHA Scholarship and member of the club I have learned how to take advantage of these opportunities by learning how to present myself in a professional manner and communicate effectively with a potential investor, whether it be financial or academic. I am confident that the rigorous training and curriculum that comes along with ROTC and nursing is molding me to be an effective leader in the medical field and the military in the near future.”
#CatsGiveBack Fundraising Campaign: Beat Sparky!

This fall, UAHA will be participating in the Alumni Association’s #CatsGiveBack crowdfunding scholarship campaign. We need your help!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This campaign will launch Homecoming week, Oct. 22-24, and culminate the week of the ASU vs. Arizona rivalry football game, with final gifts tallied on game day, Nov. 21. Let’s beat Sparky together!

UAHA will compete to win $2,500 from the Alumni Association. In order to win this for our scholarship program, we have to raise the most money in our division.

Help us Beat Sparky and make a donation beginning on Oct. 22! Keep an eye out for information on where to donate. We will send out links through email and our social media accounts.

BEAT SPARKY AND BEAR DOWN!

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NOT A MEMBER OF UA HISPANIC ALUMNI?

You can join now by signing up for UA Alumni Membership. When you sign up, make sure you select UA Hispanic Alumni as your preferred club. Choosing UA Hispanic Alumni as your club of choice will automatically enroll you as a member!

Join now ➤

WANT TO MAKE A GIFT TO UA HISPANIC ALUMNI?

You can make a secure donation to UAHA through the UA Foundation’s website. Click here:

Donate now ➤

CLICK HERE TO RECEIVE FUTURE UAHA NOTICIAS!

You can also contact Neysha Aguilar, UA Alumni Clubs and Diversity Specialist at neysha.aguilar@al.arizona.edu for more information.