Saludos, Gatos Por Vida. The University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni (UAHA) Club board wishes you a happy and healthy spring!

Plans are currently underway for our Portraits of Excellence dinner, April 23 at 6 p.m. This year’s dinner promises to be very special as it commemorates the original dinners in the Bishop’s backyard. Festivities will start with a social gathering at Old Main followed by dinner on the University Mall. It will be like our old time pachangas so wear festive cocktail attire!

The club will honor three distinguished individuals who, along with the club’s visionary founders, established the club in 1982. They are Dr. Henry Koffler, Kent Rollins and Anna Marie Chalk. You can find more information about the dinner and the honorees inside this Spring addition of Noticias or by going to arizonaalumni.com/POE2016.

The dinner is the club’s signature fundraising event, and the proceeds are used for cash awards and academic support for the club’s scholars. Tuition and fees are about $12,000 annually, and the $4,000 the club provides is not enough. The board is focused on closing this gap so our scholars are not graduating with a lot of debt. Your generosity is truly appreciated by our scholars.
The board is focused on an array of initiatives. You are already receiving Noticias on a quarterly basis. A new website is being developed, and a marketing brochure will soon be available. The club’s academic support program is being enhanced, and the scholarship committee is busy reviewing incoming freshmen and transfer student applications.

The club will have its annual meeting on June 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Swede Johnson building. This year there will be an election of officers including president, vice president, corresponding secretary, communications officer and treasurer. If you are interested in serving or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Marc Acuña at (520) 626-0705.

Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. Muchisimas gracias por su apoyo y asistencia.

HISPANIC ALUMNI
Gatos Por Vida 2016 Event

Membership event at Hotel Congress’ Copper Room to introduce 2016 POE’s honorees and UAHA scholar Xavier Rivera. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support!
UAHA’s goal to extend fellowship includes reaching out further to recognize all Hispanic student leaders on campus. We took the opportunity to meet the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and highlight how they are successfully advancing their careers and leading our Hispanic community by example. SHPE’s president, Gabriel Mercado, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, shares more with us about this great club!

**Background**

The club is the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. Our chapter started in 1982, and it has grown from 10 members to over 100 members. Our UA chapter encourages a tightly knit SHPE familia through study groups, an internal and external mentoring program, and social events. The most important aspect of our familia is our desire to assist the community through outreach events. Our flagship outreach events are known as La Familia, Science Day, and the Advancement of Latinos in Engineering/Young Latina Forum. Each of these flagship events targets various age groups. La Familia targets adults/elderly, ALE/YLF targets high school youth, and Science Day targets middle school youth. The resulting impact on the community is so widespread that we receive acknowledgement and gratitude from everyone who is involved in what we do.

**Outstanding Members**

Our February Member of the Month (M.O.M.) was Cameron Minshull. He is an undergraduate student in Computer Science, and he was a huge part of our ALE/YLF (Advancement of Latinos in Engineering/Young Latina Forum) event, which reached out to 120 high school students through a daylong design challenge. He is an integral part of our chapter, and we are proud to have him as part of our SHPE familia.

**Highlights of Accomplishments**

The Advancement of Latinos in Engineering/Young Latina Forum (ALE/YLF) event helps a group of ethnically and culturally diverse students recognize the diversity, potential, and opportunities associated with STEM fields. Hispanics are still the largest minority group in the public school system, and many of these students are discouraged from pursuing higher education or degrees in STEM fields because of the minimal representation of Hispanics in these fields. Through interactive and educational workshops, we intend to show these students that higher education,
particularly in STEM, is accessible and possible for anyone to pursue. For students who may not be interested in a STEM field, we also had a leadership learning experience that complements any future career choice.

This year, the event centered around one of the great engineering challenges: Water.

The workshops involved water transportation, using water to create power, and water filtration. This outreach event was only possible due to the sponsorship of Raytheon, IBM, Honeywell, and Edmund Optics.

**SHPE & UAHA**

I believe the best way to become involved with UAHA is by advising our members to become as involved as they can. We will advise our members to apply for scholarships, be involved with the community, and take part in the opportunities that the UAHA provides for students.
Meet our UAHA Scholarship Recipient

Cesar Alonso Manjarrez, ‘16

Professional Journey

“When I walked into the University of Arizona for the first time as a student, I wanted to take in as much information and experiences possible. I worked hard and auditioned for the UA Wind Ensemble, I prepared with the Catalina Quartet for an endless series of competitions, allowing determination and attitude to drive us towards our goals. I continued my active musical lifestyle by volunteering in the weekends as saxophone coach, eventually becoming a student conductor. My dynamic work ethic opened doors everywhere; I constantly traveled with my professor’s professional quartet, I performed with ensembles outside of my school, I built connections with composers, producers, professors, and teachers which ultimately lead towards my current experiences as an active composer, performer, and teacher.”

Background

Raised in Rio Rico, Arizona, Cesar Manjarrez began his musical endeavors at 8 years old, participating in his elementary and middle school wind bands and jazz ensembles with a dream of becoming a professional musician. During high school, Manjarrez was recognized as a South Central Region and All-State Honor Band participant, receiving three “Superiors” for solo and ensemble performances, and participated in the 2012 Army All-American Marching Band.

In college, Manjarrez sits as principal saxophone in the University of Arizona Wind Ensemble, Catalina Saxophone Quartet, and plays tenor saxophone in Michael Keepe’s Presidio Saxophone Quartet. Manjarrez has also performed with the Orquesta Philarmónica de Sonora, the Arizona Symphony Orchestra, and recognized as a three-time finalist for the President’s Concerto Competition. Manjarrez is an active video game and musical theater composer and producer, writing for French indie game developer 1Button, American organizations Rive Enterprises/UA Videogame Developers Club, and a musical in The New School, New York. Manjarrez is also an active music educator, working as student conductor and saxophone coach for the UA Honor Outreach Band, guest teaching and conducting for public schools, and holds is own private saxophone studio, where students have received top honors for their performance.

Extracurricular Activities

“Throughout my four years at the University of Arizona, I participated as principal chair of the UA Wind Ensemble and Catalina Quartet. I am an active member of my professor’s active ensemble, the Presidio Saxophone Quartet as well. I have volunteered and worked as a saxophone coach and student conductor for the UA Outreach Band for six semesters, and an active visiting saxophone coach and conductor for Pima County and Santa Cruz County schools.

“Aside of school, I write music for video-game, theater, and other entertainment companies. With my first game collaboration reaching over one million downloads (Poptile, by 1Button available on iPhone) my composition career skyrocketed, eventually working with The New School in New York, Rive Enterprises, and the UA Videogame Developers Club.

“As an educator, one of my students was accepted into the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music, receiving a full-tuition scholarship and majoring in music education. As a conductor, my students have been introduced to musically and technically challenging music, addressing how to approach musical performance.”
Awards & Honors

- Dean’s List
- President’s Concerto Competition Finalist
- Brady and Maldonado Scholarship for Music Education

Role Model to the Hispanic Community

“Cesar stands out to me as a man with integrity, drive, compassion, and creativity. Many of the middle school students commute each week from Nogales and Rio Rico, and they are inspired by Cesar’s teaching, musical talent, and success, as Cesar grew up there and went to their same schools. As a role model, he is teaching these promising young musicians about the incredible opportunities that have resulted from his hard work, optimistic attitude, and strong sense of community and service.” Karin Nolan, director of field experience for College of Fine Arts

UA Hispanic Alumni Scholarship Experience

“My incredible experiences at the University of Arizona have been upheld by the love and support of the UA Hispanic Alumni community. The UAHA program promotes the academic and personal growth of Hispanic-American men and women at the University of Arizona, allowing me and countless others to reach our dreams, despite economic and other personal challenges. I am so thankful to be part of such a compassionate community,” Manjarrez says.

Future Goals

“I am planning and looking forward to attending graduate school for a master’s degree in composition and a doctoral degree in orchestral conducting.”
Portraits of Excellence is UAHA's yearly fundraiser at which a prominent member of the community is honored for his/her contributions to students, the Hispanic community, and education.

**2016 Portraits of Excellence Honorees:**

**Dr. Henry Koffler, UA President Emeritus**

Henry Koffler was chancellor of the University of Massachusetts when he was selected to become the 16th president of the University of Arizona. Born in Vienna on Sept. 17, 1922, Koffler became a naturalized citizen. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona in 1943, a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1944, and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1947.

Reserve your seat today at arizonaalumni.com/POE2016
Koffler is a distinguished microbiologist and biochemist who has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Eli Lilly Award in bacteriology and immunology. He is the first UA graduate to also serve as president.

Koffler led the University during a time of significant growth and helped to establish one of the first offices of academic development in the nation. The University’s role has gone beyond the community and now reaches to international commerce with ties to Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Koffler also is recognized for his contributions to undergraduate education, including the expansion of the general education and honors programs, a 30 percent increase in student enrollment, the implementation of the first online student information system, the improvement of academic connections with community colleges, and efforts to improve the enrollment rates and success of minority students.

Kent Rollins, former director, UA Alumni Association

Kent Rollins was born in Dansville, New York, and came to the UA for graduate school in 1972 following his service in the U.S. Army. He completed his undergraduate degree in 1967 at the State University of New York and his master’s degree at the UA in 1973. His wife Margaret, daughter Jennifer, and son Kent are UA graduates and daughter Jessica is a former UA student.

Kent’s UA career started as head resident of Greenlee Hall during graduate school followed by nine years as assistant dean of students for Greek Affairs, Residence Life, director of Student Activities, ASUA and ASUA Bookstores.

In October 1981, he was selected as director of alumni and president/executive director of the Arizona Alumni Association, Inc. He served as CEO of the Alumni Association until his UA retirement in June 2001.

Anna Marie Chalk, former UA Alumni Association associate and UAHA member

Anna Marie Chalk has served the UA Alumni Association with pride for nearly 35 years. Her roles have varied — office manager, executive assistant, club advisor, board member, volunteer — but her dedication and commitment have remained true. She is passionate about the UA, believes strongly in its mission, and has been single-handedly responsible for strengthening alumni engagement in a multitude of ways.

Annie has helped hundreds of students achieve success and has encouraged their lifelong support of the University. Among her many contributions, she has served as advisor to Gamma Alpha Omega sorority, Omega Delta Phi fraternity, and the Bobcats Honorary, all of which have honored her for her service.

Working with the Hispanic and Black alumni clubs, Annie helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships to enable students with financial need to attend the University. Many of those students were the first in their families to get a college degree. Scholarship recipients were encouraged by Annie to do their best as students and to give back as alumni.
Announcements:

Welcome, Lori Tochihara!
UAHA’s new assistant director of diversity and student retention

UAHA is glad to have you on our team!

HISPANIC ALUMNI
Annual Meeting
Save the date for June 29, 2016!
Nominate a member for election!

Stay Connected!

HISPANIC ALUMNI

NOT A MEMBER OF UA HISPANIC ALUMNI?
You can join now by signing up for UA Alumni Association 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!

Donate now ►

WANT TO MAKE A GIFT TO UA HISPANIC ALUMNI?
You can make a secure donation to UAHA through the UA Foundation’s website.

Join now ►

Questions?
Contact Marc Acuña, UAAA director of chapters, clubs and student relations, at Marc.Acuna@al.arizona.edu