Board of Directors' Update
by UA Hispanic Alumni Club Board of Directors

Saludos, Gatos Por Vida! The board has some exciting news. On April 23, the club hosted its annual Portraits of Excellence dinner at Old Main and the University Mall. The red and blue lights highlighting Old Main cast a majestic ambiance that contributed to an enjoyable, entertaining and unforgettable evening. We celebrated the contributions and legacy of Henry Koffler, Kent Rollins and Anna Marie Chalk. Collectively, they passionately collaborated with the club’s founders to establish the club in 1982 and were ardent club supporters throughout their tenure.

Events like this take a great deal of planning and support. The board is grateful for the efforts of the dinner committee including Karen Flores, Kim Cota Robles, Maricela Meza, Andrew Escoto, and Jorge and Neysha Aguilar. They were supported and assisted by UA Alumni Association staff Jill Hall, Marc Acuña and Lori Tochihara. The team did an awesome job so join us in applauding their efforts and contributions!

Portraits of Excellence 2016

Campus Leader: Socorro Carrizosa

Honorable Mentions:
Meet UAHA scholar and board member
Congrats to our graduating UAHA scholars!

Announcements:
• Annual meeting Tuesday, June 28
• Raffle winner Frank Madrid
• Interested in becoming a part of our fellowship? Instructions provided to help you sign up today!
The board is also grateful to our sponsors for their contributions. They include the Marshall Foundation, Tucson Electric Power, Desert Diamond Casino, Farhang & Medcoff Attorneys, Flores Family of Brands, Research Corporation for Science Advancement, Arizona Athletics, Government & Community Relations, UA Student Affairs, Tech Parks Arizona and the UA Alumni Association.

Without their generous community support, events like ours would not be possible. Thank you so much!

The club also recognized the legacy of Socorro Carrizosa, the Guerrero Student Center director, who is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service to University of Arizona Latino students. Socorro, muchas gracias por tus esfuerzos, tu apollo y amistad!

In May, the club will have 25 graduating seniors. At the dinner, Manny Felix and Fernanda Bueno talked about their University experience, and they thanked the donors for their generosity. Without your generous support, the club would not be changing lives and developing our future Latino leaders.

Finally, as we close out this academic year, the board including Jim Garcia, Robert Garcia, Christina Vejar, Jenn Espino, Natalia Billias, Marty Cortez, Karen Flores and Jorge Aguilar thank you for your membership and support. In the upcoming annual meeting on June 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Swede Johnson building, new officers will be elected. Your presence is really important and will be greatly appreciated. Hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served.

The board is proud of its contributions and service to our membership but more importantly to our scholars who it served so passionately. This board worked cohesively and diligently as conscientious custodians of such a prolific and successful club within the Alumni Association. We ask you please appreciate and applaud our efforts. Thank you so much for your continued support!
In honoring UAHA’s founders, we naturally hosted the event back where we all shared our Wildcat beginning. It was a moving event, as we celebrated together this special place that helped us become who we all are today and brought us all together to support UA students.
For over 30 years, Socorro Carrizosa touched many lives and helped many students at the UA. Socorro's tenure began as a student aid in 1974. She then served in a number of professional positions:

- Coordinator of New Start
- Director of Summer Programs in the Office of Minority Affairs
- Assistant director of the University Learning Center
- Director of the Chicano Hispano Student Affairs, now called the Guerrero Student Center

During this time she has definitely left her footprint in Wildcat country. Socorro’s work at UA has been challenging at times and most satisfying when it involved helping students reach their goals.

At the Guerrero Student Center, she has created a comfortable and welcoming environment. Students can mingle, study, use the computer lab, have club meetings, and hear guest speakers on social and cultural topics of interest as well as informative sessions on a variety of career opportunities.

The center's activities are planned by the volunteer student board. One unique program at the center is the Abuelos Program which brings senior Hispanic community members to the center to share home-cooked food and informal conversation once a month.

A major change Socorro initiated was the renaming of the building that houses the Student Center and the Mexican-American Studies Department. She was instrumental in getting it renamed to the Cesar Chavez Building.

But one of the things she is most proud of and has gotten much joy from is the creation of a program she dreamed about for many years.

In collaboration with Richard Ruiz and the Mexican American Studies department, for the past three years Socorro has led a summer study abroad program in Mexico for UA students.

The program not only combines academic instruction by Mexican educators, with travel to various cultural and historical sites, but also provides students with opportunities to volunteer in local service activities. Most importantly, this program provides a rich and rewarding global experience.

As a member of the UA Hispanic Alumni Club, Socorro has been key in helping to formulate the current Hispanic Alumni Scholars Program. The freshman experience for the scholars is managed by Socorro and consists of a credit class that meets twice a week. The class provides an opportunity for the freshmen scholars to meet and support each other during their first year.
Socorro's University service includes:

- President's task force on Hispanic student issues
- The president's Hispanic advisory group
- UA retention coordinating group
- UA academic advising task force
- Arizona Athletic's Hispanic advisory group
- The College Academy for Parents.

Her community service includes:

- Cesar Chavez Coalition
- Tucson Hispanic Coalition
- Board member of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
- Board member of the Brewster Center Against Domestic Violence.

Socorro will be missed at the Guerrero Center, but we are all very excited about the next phase of her life.

We hope she will drop us a postcard as she travels to places she has dreamed of visiting. Guadalajara and Cuba are on the short list.

We know she will spend many joyful hours with her grandchildren who are the center of her life.
Meet our UAHA Scholarship Recipient

Natalia Billias '14

Background

I was born and raised a Wildcat! Both my parents came to the U.S. to participate in UA’s CESL program. My mother came from Mexico, graduated in bilingual elementary education, and my father came from Greece, graduated in agricultural sciences. My older sister, also a former UAHA scholarship recipient, graduated in business management and finance from Eller. I graduated under the College of Medicine Honors College, with a physiology and biochemistry double major and Spanish minor.

Professional Journey

Throughout my life and professional endeavors, I have witnessed and experienced firsthand, as both a health care professional and a student, the great difference it makes when a team of highly trained professionals work within an environment that has synergy, motivated to “NEVER SETTLE.”

As an undergraduate, I was determined to take advantage of many opportunities to help with my professional development. I volunteered with Child Life Specialist to support families and kids at the UMC emergency department and pediatric intensive care unit. At the same time, I was a preceptor for my college classes and lead UA’s Project Soar to educate and promote science to middle school-aged children. In pursuit of helping health care equality amongst Latinos, I was motivated to practice Spanish in the medical field with an internship in Mexico, helping lead a diabetic clinic’s fight against the rising obesity epidemic, by assisting in prevention, diagnosis, research and community education. These experiences have all furthered my interest to help under-served kids in the community.

As a research assistant in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, I was able to continue my interest and help fight against childhood obesity with community education and research. I designed my own research project and became a principal investigator for my thesis “Youth Exercise Program for Optimal Bone Health (YEP4OBH).” Collaborating with John Valenzuela’s Center, we accomplished our goal to provide an after-school program for kids and an outreach program for Tucson families to increase their bone health awareness.

Healthy weight gain for 7 to 9 year old children with increased weight bearing moderate physical activity:

Ankle and knee bone width growth progression over a 3-month exercise program and nutritional education to help increase awareness about optimal bone health during youth through the designed program Youth Exercise Promotion for Optimal Bone Health (YEP4OBH)

Natalia Nicole Billias
The University of Arizona 2014
I am currently the primary pediatrics clinical research coordinator for the University of Arizona Cancer Center and am in the process of applying to medical school.

**Extracurricular activities**

As an undergraduate, I was the liaison for the College of Medicine Pediatrics Club, helping connect undergraduates with medical student mentors.

Starting as an undergraduate and continuing until today, I have served as the founder and director of the non-profit program South Tucson Health Educator. This program promotes healthy lifestyles with scheduled workshops and events for our community.

I am currently on UAHA’s executive board as the communications officer. I have a great opportunity as a young member to work beside successful professionals who have become my mentors. I am also the main campus leader of the Banner University Medical Center Tucson’s Spanish-Speaking Cancer Support Committee where our goal is to provide quality care and communication for our Spanish-speaking patients.

**Awards & Honors**

- 2015 Hispanic Scholarship Fund Master of Science Scholarship
- 2014 graduated cum laude and with honors
- The University of Arizona Physiology Department Award of Academic Distinction
- 2011-14 UAHA’s Islas Family Scholarship
- 2010-14 Regents High Honor Tuition Scholarship
- 2011 Congressional Recognition for Leadership
- 2011 Ward V Council Office Recognition of Academic Excellence
- 2010-14 The University of Arizona Dean’s List with Distinction
- 2010-11 Mexican American Raza Certification of Athletics, Volunteer Service, and Academics
- 2010 Advanced Placement Scholar Award
- 2010 Isabel Garcia Award for Academic Excellence
- 2010 Fred G. Acosta Student of the Year
- 2010 Arizona State Academic Achievement Award
- 2010 Arizona Daily Star Student of the Week
- 2010 The University of Arizona Wildcat Excellence Award

**UA Hispanic Alumni Scholarship Experience**

The UA Hispanic Alumni Club was an essential part of my success as a student and continues to play an important role in my professional development. UAHA not only helped support me in my journey to graduate but also allowed me to be a part of many activities that helped me toward my career goal while providing for our community and gaining support from influential community members.

¡Eternamente agradecida!

**Future Goals**

My career goal is to become a pediatric hematologist/oncologist. With the inspiration of my outstanding UA Cancer Center pediatric team, I would also love to contribute to the field with research and become a lead health care advocate for our growing Latino community.
Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2016 UAHA Scholars

AMARIS CASTELLANOS
AMELIA ROSENBERG
ARACELI ACOSTA
ARIANA VARELAS
ARMANDO AGUIRRE
AZUCENA PALOMARES
CARLOS GONZALEZ
CAROLINA CONTRERAS
DANIELA WALLACE
ELISA JAUREGUI
FERNANDA BUENO
GONZALO LOPEZ

ISRAEL DE LA CRUZ
JANETTE CARRILLO
LUIS PARRA
MACY DAILEY
MANUEL FELIX
MARIA MATA
MARIA URIBE
MARISSA VALENCIA
MATEO GARCIA
MILESSA LOPEZ
MIRANDA JUAREZ
ROCHYL WINDHAM
XAVIER RIVERA

HISPANIC ALUMNI
Announcements:

HISPANIC ALUMNI

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting

Save the date for June 28, 2016!
See you all soon!

The winner of the Raffle River Diamondback suite is Frank Madrid.
The club raised nearly $1,400.
Thank you for your support!

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, select UA Hispanic Alumni as your preferred club. Choosing UA Hispanic Alumni as your club of choice will automatically enroll you as a member.

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:

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