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WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES 2000 - 2001 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)

Completed applications may be submitted to either of the following locations no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2000:

- Department of Student Activities, 125 Koldus Building
- The Office of Graduate Studies, 128 Teague

Questions may be addressed to Sandy Briers (862-1973) in the Department of Student Activities or via the web site (<http://stuact.tamu.edu/whoswho>).

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Interviews September 21

Session II Monday, September 25
Interviews September 26

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Mucho caliente

Celebrating Hispanic culture, contributions

By ANNE HOAR
The Battalion

The celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month this year aims to honor the roots of Hispanic people, their achievements in recent years and the potential they have to impact the social, political and economic future of the United States.

"The vibrant Hispanic influence can be seen in all aspects of American life and culture, from distinct cuisine to colorful festivals, and from the rhythms and melodies of traditional music to the contagious beat of today's most popular songs," said President Clinton in his proclamation, released Sept. 14. "Throughout our nation, Hispanic men and women have distinguished themselves in every endeavor and, with our cultural and linguistic ties to our trading partners throughout the Western Hemisphere, Hispanic Americans are crucial to maintaining our nation's competitiveness and prosperity in the global economy of the 21st century."

Hispanic Heritage Month is created by proclamation of the president and is celebrated annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Many events nationwide are planned to celebrate Hispanic heritage during this month.

To celebrate the beginning of Hispanic heritage month and Mexican Independence Day, Texas A&M Hispanic organizations sponsored a kickoff celebration Saturday at the Grove called "Caliente," which is the Spanish word for hot and spicy.

The festival featured various types of Hispanic entertainment, including music, flamenco and ballet folklorico dancing. The festival also featured several kinds of food — everything from chulupas to sausage.

Lori Guzman, president of the Hispanic Business Students Association and a senior management major, said all the Hispanic organizations participated in the event.

Jennifer Cadena, president of Kappa Delta Chi sorority and a senior history major, said events like Caliente are important because they raise awareness of minorities' at A&M.

"Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity for Hispanics to go out into the community and show them that we are here," Cadena said. "A lot of times, the Hispanic organizations are overlooked."

"There are many different cultures represented on this campus. It's important for students to realize that we don't just live in Texas; we live in a world with many different cultures and we have to be able to work with them."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 6 million Hispanics live in Texas, which is one of seven states with more than 1 million Hispanics.

Texas has one of the highest concentrations of Hispanics, with more than 30 percent of the Texas population of Hispanic descent.

Hispanic heritage is visible in many subtle ways in the average person's everyday life. The Spanish explorers who landed in the United States while trying to find a quicker way to get to the Indies left their mark on the land they explored. Many places can trace their names to Spanish words such as El Paso, Texas; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Santa Fe, N.M.

Hispanics are also making an impact on the business world. More than 5 percent of all U.S. businesses are Hispanic-owned. Hispanic-owned businesses are more likely to be able to conduct business in Spanish, which gives them an edge over their competitors when selling to Hispanic clients.

Hispanics are advancing into more specialized professional occupations. As of 1997, there were more than 77,000 Hispanic engineers, 35,000 Hispanic physicians and 35,000 Hispanic lawyers.

Vic Robles, a priest at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Bryan, said he would like to see Hispanic Heritage Month develop into a civic project in the future.

"I'd like to see voter registration take place during the month," Robles said. "I think that would really help the Hispanics in our community develop leadership."

The Hispanic vote could have a dramatic impact on the upcoming elections if Hispanics who are eligible to vote take advantage of the opportunity.

U.S. Census Bureau statistics predict that the number of Hispanics of voting age will be 16 percent greater than in the previous presidential election in 1996. The number of

Hispanics who vote increased in recent years, whereas the total number of people voting has decreased.

Interest in Hispanic culture has increased nationally in recent years. The most recent example is how much Hispanic has crossed into the stream was the debut Latin Grammy Award on CBS. More than 13 million American viewers watched this first time Spanish language award.

The show featured performances by Ricky Martin, Cuban singer, and 'N Sync joined Four for a rendition of "Te Voy A Amar," which is the translation of the hit "This I Promise."

Interest in the Spanish language is increasing. Census Bureau statistics indicate that the percentage of high school students who speak Spanish at home has doubled in recent years.

The number of people who are bilingual in Spanish and English has increased by 50 percent.

This increased interest in the Spanish language is reflected in the fact that 16 percent of adults age 18 and over in the United States are Spanish-speaking.



BERNIE GARZA/The Battalion

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