

Summer
2009

An Official
Publication of the
Hispanic Alumni
of Notre Dame

Azul y Oro

The newsletter is back!

After a long siesta, the HA of ND newsletter "Azul y Oro" is back with a vengeance. So many things have happened since the last newsletter, but rest assured, we are diligently working to get you informed with information about our students and alumni around the world.

The newsletter isn't possible without your help so please send in any news updates or stories about people you know in your area to
nylce@alumni.nd.edu.



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2009 Mini-Reunion on tap for Nevada Game

The Hispanic Alumni of Notre Dame, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific, Black, and Native American Alumni, invite you to join us for our 2009 Mini-Reunion.

*ND-Nevada Game
September 5, 2009*



10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Tailgater
Library Parking Lot
(Just look for the HA, BA,
APA, and NA banners.)

Any questions? Please
contact Rosey Valencia '98
at roseydiva@hotmail.com.

Calling All Alumni: Get Involved!

*Melissa Treviño Berendzen '02,
Alumni Association Young Alumni
Representative*



Can you believe it's almost fall again?

I still can't believe that I'm already in my 2nd year as one of the Young Alumni Directors on ND's National Alumni Board, which has been a great experience. I work alongside 2 other Young Alumni Directors —Katrina Meyers '02 and newly elected Jae Scarborough '03— along with the Alumni Association in determining ways we can increase young alumni participation.

Upon graduation many young alums are understandably busy searching for jobs, relocating, adjusting to life outside of the bubble, etc. However, it's during this time that we (alumni, regional clubs, and affinity clubs) should reach out to each other to offer support and to let each other know "we're here." The same should go for the "lost alums" that have not registered with their local clubs. ND welcomed us with open arms and like any family, appreciates when we stay in touch. I encourage you to register with your local ND club. Your schedule may conflict with their events, but let them know you're there and try to get involved when time permits. Perhaps you have an idea or want to host your own event, pitch it to your local club president. Don't have a local club, but you're aware of other alumni and ND fans in the area? Maybe you can start one.

I chose to get involved with my local club because of the service opportunities it provided. Some of you have received my emails about the charity I support, Corazon de Vida, which was introduced to me through my local club. I wanted to also get involved as a way to give back and help other young alums through mentoring and or job opportunities. Along the way in my professional life — from my internship with the C.I.A., through my current job at Warner Music Group— I have been able to find alumni who have provided me with advice about the job and the organization.

Recently, I've felt the process come full circle when 2 young grads contacted me about working in the music industry.

Each and every one of you helps make our ND Alumni Network outstanding. I'd like to challenge you to register with your local ND club, if you haven't already; participate in a service project, if you haven't already; and for those that want to do more, I encourage you to apply for a position with your local club, HA of ND, or even the national Alumni Board. The more we become involved, spread the word, and represent HA of ND across the world, the greater our network and the Alumni network in general will be.

"We have not just an opportunity, but a duty to think and speak and act in ways that will guide, inspire, and heal - not just for followers of the Catholic faith, but for all of our neighbors in the nation and the world" - Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

Yours in ND,
Melissa Treviño Berendzen '02

2009 Samora Scholarship Winners Announced at Latin Expressions



Rudy Monterrosa '01 Law, HA of ND Vice-Chair for Students, with 2009 Samora Scholarship recipients Michelle Saucedo '10 and Martin Quintana '10, accompanied by Father Tom Eckert '95. Eckert is the recipient of the Samora Faculty Award, given by students each year to a Notre Dame faculty or staff member who has demonstrated commitment to enriching Latino life on campus.

Image – Nylce Prada Myers

On March 27, 2009, the Hispanic Alumni of Notre Dame honored this year's Samora Scholarship winners. At another *amazing* Latin Expressions, Martin Quintana and Michelle Saucedo were recognized as the 2009 recipients of the Julian Samora Scholarship. The Hispanic Alumni of Notre Dame take great pride in honoring two students who exemplify the ideals of scholarship and service which Julian Samora championed throughout his entire life. It is our hope that all Julian Samora Scholars continue to dedicate their lives to supporting, advancing, and uplifting the Latino community in all of their endeavors when they leave Our Lady's University.

Michelle Saucedo '10, a sociology major, grew up in Phoenix, AZ after emigrating as a child from Ciudad Juarez in Chihuahua, Mexico. Her personal journey, which has been marked by many challenges on the road to excelling as a student at Notre Dame, has enabled her to lead with conviction several of the border issues seminars facilitated by the Center for Social Concerns. As a sophomore, she was a student panelist at ND's Immigration Forum, and this summer, she has been working for MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) in Los Angeles under the auspices of a Latino Leadership program run by ND's Institute for Latino Studies.

Martin Quintana '10 grew up in Berwyn, IL, and was, thus, not accustomed to Hispanics being in the minority when he arrived at Notre Dame. But he has used his cultural outlook to enrich his empathy while volunteering in South Bend's Center for the Homeless and the Robinson Community Center. He feels that he serves as a sort of cultural ambassador within his dorm and even as a member of the Notre Dame football team. A finance major with plans to complete a Master of Science in Accountancy and obtain his CPA, Martín eventually hopes to work for the FBI.

Attorney Receives Award from ND Group

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

South Bend Tribune

Staff Writer Pablo Ros, pros@sbtinfo.com

(reprinted with permission)



Award recipient Rudy Monterrosa '01 Law, HA of ND Vice-Chair for Students.

Image – Chris Avila

There's been dramatic growth in the local Latino population over the past several years, but not a comparable growth in the ranks of local Latino professionals, says Rudy Monterrosa.

Rodolfo "Rudy" Monterrosa, a 2001 Notre Dame Law School graduate, says he thinks Latino professionals have a responsibility to be role models to Latino youth and help them whenever possible make strides in their uphill climb to becoming professionals.

"We have to make sure we treat people fairly and help them get a fair shake in any system," he says.

For being an asset to his community, the Notre Dame Hispanic Law Student Association or HLSA awarded Rudy last week the Graciela Olivarez Award, which recognizes a lawyer or judge that best exemplifies a commitment to community service, respect for the highest ethical and moral standards, and dedication to justice.

Graciela Olivarez was the first woman and the first Hispanic student to graduate from the Notre Dame Law School, in 1970.

Rudy says the pride that he feels in receiving this award comes with a sense of duty.

"I have to hold up to the standard of excellence that Graciela has made," he says. "Now it's up to me. I have to make sure I don't let this community down."

Every year, Rudy goes back to his native California to volunteer in the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program, or IEFLP, a leadership development program for Latino youths that Rudy credits with helping him get to where he's at.

"It made a huge impact on my life," Rudy says. "I saw people who looked like me and who were attorneys. It made me think I could be an attorney, too."

Rudy was born in San Francisco and grew up in Southern California. His parents both were immigrants; his dad came from El Salvador, seeking refuge from that country's civil war, and his mother from Mexico.

Rudy went to college at Stanford University and held a couple of jobs before enrolling in law school, he said. He currently runs a private practice in South Bend, and is one of only a few public defenders in St. Joseph County who speak Spanish, sometimes volunteering to translate for defendants during court arraignments.

Rudy's practice focuses on criminal law and immigration law, but includes family and personal injury law.

He shares a law office with attorney Andre Gammage, who was his mentor in law school and an inspirational figure, Rudy says.

In South Bend, a community with many Spanish-speaking immigrants, Rudy has found his niche.

"I got a sense of how law was practiced here, and so I felt comfortable staying here," he recalls. "I wanted to fill a void."

El Pasoan Wins Young Alumni Award

HA of ND Region 5 Coordinator Rosey Valencia '98, HA of ND Chairperson Liz Hernandez '95, award recipient Chris Avila '01, Young Alumni Representative Melissa Trevino Berendzen '02, and Rudy Monterrosa '01 Law, HA of ND Vice-Chair for Recruitment.

Image – Elizabeth Avila



Chris Avila '01, was honored during the 2009 Alumni Senate for serving as both a leader and an inspiration to his fellow Young Alumni through club participation. In the Notre Dame Club of El Paso, Texas, Chris has worked tirelessly—first as a club member, then as its vice president, and now the club president—to engage his fellow Young Alumni with the University through club events.

To say Chris has been an active member of his club for the past seven years is an understatement. In his role as vice president of the club, Chris helped lead the club's first annual "Irish Invasion," an ND football tailgate on the University of Texas at El Paso campus. The tailgate also functions as a service project for the Center Against Family Violence in El Paso. Additionally, Chris has helped his club launch annual collections of school supplies for low-income schools in the El Paso area. In his "spare time," Chris designed and maintained the club's first website and dedicated himself to making personal phone call to club members, encouraging them to participate in Notre Dame game watches.

Throughout the years, Chris has made it a mission to increase his club's involvement with student recruitment by attending college fairs, hosting meetings with the University's recruiter, and holding events to provide parents and students in the area with the chance to get to know other families interested in Notre Dame. Also, Chris's club has begun hosting a picnic for newly accepted students and their families so that accepted students can meet each other while they are home for the summer.

As president of the ND Club of El Paso, Chris has expanded his club's projects to include the celebration of a number of Hispanic traditions, such as celebrating the Stations of the Cross in both Spanish and English. The club also has begun the practice of celebrating "Las Posadas," a Mexican tradition that involves a nine-day celebration for reflecting upon the challenges Joseph and Mary had while looking for a place to stay during the birth of Christ. Additionally, Chris has encouraged his club to bring in guest speakers to lead discussions about the impact of immigration on the border region.

The Young Alumni Award is presented annually to an outstanding graduate of the last 10 years who has shown leadership and inspiration to young alumni through club participation in events of a social, spiritual, community service and/or continuing education nature.

ND Football in San Antonio on Halloween

On October 31, 2009, the Notre Dame football team will travel to the Lone Star State as the team starts with the first game in a series of home-away-from-home games.

Tom Sessi, president of the Notre Dame Club of San Antonio, says the club has been preparing for the event for over a year and is excited about the weekend. He says the club has put together a number of events for alumni, students, and fans of all ages to participate in.

On Friday, October 30, the Alamo will serve as the backdrop to the traditional ND Pep Rally. Joining in the fun will be the Notre Dame Marching Band, as they too will make the trek from South Bend to participate in the festivities. Following the pep rally, the club is putting a camaraderie event together.

Early on game day, a service project will be held at the Blessed Sacrament School, beginning at 8:30 and going till 10:45. Volunteers will be painting areas of the school and working on landscaping. A mass is scheduled for 2 pm at San Fernando Cathedral, where the band will march from the mass to the tailgater. The game is scheduled to start at 6:30 pm CST.

For more information on the game and all the events for the weekend, please contact the Notre Dame Club of San Antonio online at <http://sanantonio.undclub.org>.

2009-2010 HA of ND Board

During this past spring's election among Hispanic Alumni, the following new people were elected to the HA Board:

- Micaela Larkin '01, Vice-Chair for Alumni
- Ricky Ramon '99, Vice-Chair for Students
- Elias Moo '07, Region 3 Representative
- Caty Yanez '00, Region 4 Representative

This summer, the following people have been appointed by the existing board to fill positions empty due to resignations and transfers:

- Rudy Monterrosa '01 Law, Vice-Chair for Recruitment
- Nylce Prada Myers '87, Vice-Chair for Communications
- Yesenia Valencia '01, Region 5 Representative
- Adriana Frias '00, Region 9 Representative

Please contact them or any of the other board members with your questions, ideas, and suggestions!

For a complete list of HA of ND officers and their contact information, please go to:
<http://www.alumni.nd.edu/site/lookup.asp?c=lulZLdMOJpE&b=2831749>

For a list of regional representatives, please go to:
<http://www.alumni.nd.edu/site/lookup.asp?c=lulZLdMOJpE&b=2831763>



Regional Reports

Region 1 (Coordinator: *Marc Ramirez '85*)

- Represented Region 1 at Fall '08 HAND meeting. Reached out and made contact with local and regional ASC representatives. ND Information Night - represented HAND at Notre Dame Information Night for prospective applicants at Seattle Prep HS; supported ND admissions counselor Charleen Vinalon and personally spoke to and advised Latino prospects. Attended ND Club of Western Washington football game watches

Region 3 (Coordinator: *Madelyn Serna Mármol '85*)

- Contacted all senior prospects on my list via e-mail and personal phone calls. Sent a letter to all the prospective ND students that live in and around the area to remind them to attend ND Information Night. Sponsored pizza study break for the students from Northern New Mexico. Represented ND at the Bridges College Fair that supports students from all over Northern New Mexico and participated in their radio round-table discussion. Attended ND/UNM Basketball Game watch.

Region 4 (Coordinator: *Taffee Cardenas '01*)

- Followed up with early admits for ND admissions offers via telephone and email. Contacted prospective students via email. Followed up with phone calls. Handed out the Pre-College information post cards to local church Youth Groups/Life Teen Youth Ministers to distribute college recruitment materials. Held Hispanic Heritage Celebration Regional Event on 17 October 08. Approx 50-70 people attended. The event broke even after expenses were paid, but overall, it was a great first-time event. Involvement with current local club activities: 1. Participated in monthly board meetings. 2. Gained co-sponsorship approval for the Region 4 Event with \$200 in additional funding + free resources (volunteers, DJ & sound system). 3. Was approached/invited to pursue the Phoenix Club Treasurer position. Attended Holly Colman's Region 3 meeting in Las Vegas; 3 of the 4 MAN Boards were present. Held a panel discussion on the topics of race/diversity, the University's goals on this, and what the MAN Boards do for all of our constituents.

Region 7 (Coordinator: *Lucas J. Molina '98*)

- Attended UND Night sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Tulsa. All prospective students were contacted by email and via letters sent through the postal service. I was then contacted by two students' families concerned with 'Early Action' and Financial Aid and provided insight and assistance for further information.



Upcoming Events

- **Mini-Reunion: September 5th – ND vs Nevada**

See page 1 for details! Or visit the Alumni Association Minority Alumni Networks page: <http://www.alumni.nd.edu/> and navigate to the Minority Alumni Networks under the Alumni Communities tab.

- **Tenth Anniversary of the Institute for Latino Studies: September 15-19th**

Go to <http://latinostudies.nd.edu> for more information in the department's calendar and watch for an article about this in our fall newsletter.

- **ND-Washington State Game in San Antonio – October 31st**

See page 6 for more details or visit the San Antonio club website at <http://sanantonio.undclub.org> for more information!

- **Fundraising for our Samora Scholarship: Ongoing**

The newest generation of Latino Domers is making us prouder than ever, but with the cost of studying at Notre Dame now at approximately \$50,000 per year, these students and their families need our help to make their Irish dreams come true. Presently, we're only able to award two \$2,500 scholarships per year, and we would love to increase both the number of awards and the amount of the grants. We would also love to be able to award scholarships to incoming freshmen.

But we need your help to make realize those ambitions. Please consider earmarking your Notre Dame donations to the Julián Samora Scholarship Fund. Your contributions count toward the annual minimum needed to meet eligibility for the football ticket lottery; more importantly, they ease the financial burden on our students and their families. If you have any questions, please contact HA of ND Treasurer Rosey Valencia '98 (roseydiva@hotmail.com).

Hispanic Alumni of Notre Dame

Website: www.haofnd.com

HAND Group: www.groups.google.com/haofnd

Blog: www.haofnd.blogspot.com