



# NEW HORIZONS

## The National Newsletter of HISPA

Issue 3

*"Developing Today's and Tomorrow's Hispanic/Latino Leaders"*

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2005

### *Message from the President*

By Ivonne Diaz-Claisse  
National President

Dear HISPA Members,

As I start my new role in HISPA as National President, I see the potential for a great future for our organization. We have come together committed to a powerful vision:

***"Developing Today's and Tomorrow's Hispanic/Latino Leaders."*** In July, I

participated in two large national conferences, the NALEO conference and the NCLR conference. During both meetings **Education** was the main topic of concern and discussion. We are right on track with our vision. We need to focus our efforts on working closely together within our communities, improving the chances of our Latino youth to stay in school, go to college and pursue a professional career. Achieving a higher education is critical as they prepare to become the leaders of tomorrow. We can make a difference!

There are no words to describe my excitement towards my new role. I hope that as we develop and implement our new initiatives I can transmit this excitement to all of you. For us to succeed together, we

need to stay together. I would like to encourage each of you to reach out to me with your local chapters' concerns. I'm committed to working closely with each chapter and to doing the best I can to help us overcome the challenges we are all facing as many of our members are no longer all physically in one building working for one company. Our network is expanding and therefore, we need to stay connected. Let's build a strong HISPA network!

I am sure we will work hard but I am also sure we will have fun! Hispanic Heritage Month is quickly approaching and we should all celebrate and take advantage to put together programs that include networking and professional development events as well as



Ivonne Diaz-Claisse with Janet Murguia, President of National Council of La Raza

social gatherings that will provide opportunities to reach out to potential new members. This will be a great time to share our culture and our vision!

Please feel free to contact me as you develop plans for the year, and remember, **network, network, network!**

Con cariño,

*Ivonne Diaz-Claisse*

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## ***New Horizons***

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Visit us on the web at  
<http://www.hispa.org>

## HISPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST 2005

August 18, Hispanic Publishing Associates' 2005 Hispanic Achievement Awards, San Francisco, CA

### SEPTEMBER 2005

September 8 – 9, Latina Style Conference, Washington, DC

Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15: Various events in each chapter city.

September 29 – October 2, Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees Conference, San Francisco, CA

**ADDITIONAL HISPA NEWS AT:**

<http://www.hispa.org>

## BRG Council Attends Historic Shareholders' Meeting in Denver

The Business Resource Group (BRG) Council participated in AT&T's "final" Shareholders' Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> in Denver, CO. BRG Council attendees included Steven Estrada, HISPA; David Lin, 4As; Simone DuBois and Mark Carden, League; Merle Isler and Beverly Adams of the Alliance. The BRG prominently displayed information about each of our respective organizations and spoke to shareholders as they entered the convention center.

The BRG Council was "augmented" by the support of HISPA-NJ member and National Professional Development Director Luis Mercado, who has been a traveling volunteer supporting AT&T's Office of the Corporate Secretary at AT&T Shareholders Meetings over the last eight years. Savannah, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Austin, and most recently Denver, are among the cities he has supported AT&T in his many different volunteer roles (e.g., Shareholder Greeter, Usher, Shareholder Microphone Attendant, etc.).

The meeting began with Dave Dorman, AT&T CEO and Chairman of the Board, addressing the shareholders in attendance about AT&T financial results, the upcoming merger with SBC, and the election of Directors.

About 250 shareholders attended the meeting at the Colorado Convention Center, in which AT&T shareholders approved the \$16 billion sale of the company to San Antonio-based SBC. AT&T rotates the location of its annual meeting around the country, and CEO David Dorman said there are 20,570 registered AT&T shareholders in Colorado.

The meeting was AT&T's 120<sup>th</sup> and final Shareholders meeting as the original "AT&T."



L-R Simone DuBois (League), Mark Carden (League), Merle Isler (Alliance), Steven Estrada (HISPA), Beverly Adams (Alliance), David Lin (4A)

# CHAPTER NEWS

## WASHINGTON, DC

The HISPA Relay for Life team supporting the American Cancer Society raised over \$3000. Congratulations to Team Captain Alexandra Carrasco and her team!

The HISPA-DC chapter also co-hosted a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers meeting along with AT&T Recruiting. The meeting was held June 26<sup>th</sup> in the AT&T Technology & Innovation Center in downtown Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting was to recruit engineers with active security clearances to AT&T Government Solutions.

## UTAH

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:04am, a future HISPA member was born: Mathew Nathan Raso, son of Nate Raso, Utah Chapter President. HISPA wishes Nate, Mathew and Mathew's mother the best of luck!



*HISPA's latest UTAH member, Mathew Nathan Raso*

## SAN FRANCISCO/BAY AREA

The SF/BA chapter is currently holding elections. Results to be posted in the next issue!

## PHOENIX

Jim Salas' family had a new addition with the birth of Diego Joaquin Salas born August 8, 2005.



*HISPA's latest PHOENIX member, Diego Joaquin Salas*

### NEW JERSEY

NJ HISPA member Carlos Perez' niece (Ana Maria Perez) was accepted to the National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) "Latinas Learning to Lead" Summer Youth Institute program and traveled to Washington, DC July 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> and participated in a leadership training program.

For the second year, HISPA-NJ participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. We held two Relays and partnered with other AT&T groups and with the Women of AT&T. The Relay in Morristown on May 20-21 raised a whopping total of \$81,000 and the Relay in New Monmouth on June 17-18 raised \$60,800. The HISPA Team participants -- Ivonne Diaz-Claisse, Cesar Bocanegra, Isabel Cabrera, Niurka Coy and Bennett Ruiz -- raised a total of \$1,225. HISPA is proud of its commitment to Relay for Life and looks forward to participating again next year.

### EL PASO

Going back to school is always such an important milestone in a child's life. Meeting a new teacher, making new friends, needing new clothes and school supplies are all part of the experience but for many it can be a time of anxiety and embarrassment. Some students cannot afford such basics as back-to-school clothes and supplies. This year, thanks to the generosity of the El Paso AT&T center employees and HISPA members, the first day of school will be different for many of those children. Once again, HISPA partnered with The United Way to support its annual Staple Drive. Since education is one of the key points in the HISPA Mission, El Paso chapter members decided to focus on supporting local schools by collecting school supplies. They were very successful as they gathered approximately \$693.65 both in supplies and money. The United Way was amazed with the two truckloads that they had to pick up. Counselors from all school districts will be contacted to pick up a batch of supplies which will then be distributed to the neediest children in their schools. Thanks to the following teams that participated in this wonderful cause: Louie Velez', Blanca Magana's, Cassandra Oviedo's, Sal Chavez', Julie Daskalakis', Alfonso Espinoza's and Syndee Ramirez'. The support and dedication of these teams will bring smiles to the faces of many El Paso children.

### DALLAS

The Dallas HISPA chapter just completed its school supply drive on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Teams filled backpacks with basic school supplies (18 items total) that were distributed to a local junior high school where over 90% of the student body receives either free or reduced cost lunch. A grand total of 50 backpacks were completed and the best team was rewarded with a pizza party while the rest of the participants received a nacho lunch. The teams were also rewarded with sincere thanks by the school counselors, principal and superintendent.

## ***STAYING CONNECTED***

Rolando Rodriguez, HISPA SFBA Chapter President, is currently working for SBC as Complex Solutions Program Manager in Dublin, CA.

Celinda Joseph, HISPA Atlanta Chapter President, currently working for EQUIFAX as Production Project Manager, Credit Marketing Services in Alpharetta, GA.

Susie A. Valenzuela, Administrative Manager, HISPA DC Chapter President, NALEO Educational Fund in Washington, DC.

Sarah Romero, HISPA National Awards and Recognition Chairperson, is currently working as a Technical Support Manager for COX Communications in Phoenix, AZ.

# AT&T, HISPA & NCLR: Role Model Extravaganza!

By Ivonne Diaz-Claisse

What do you call an event in which leaders from ten Latino organizations are sitting side by side answering the same questions, addressing the same issues? I call it: a role model extravaganza! During the 2005 NCLR Conference a session was hosted titled: **"Empowering the Hispanic Community: A Roundtable with Latino Leaders"**. As can be seen in the picture, all of these leaders were sitting side by side discussing Education, Politics, Immigration and other critical issues affecting the Hispanic communities.

As the event finished I met Hector Flores from LULAC and Cesar Perales from PRLDEF. In addition, I was able to talk briefly with others that I have met previously: Arturo Vargas and Janet Murguia, whom I had met at the NALEO conference and Lillian Rodriguez, whom I had met at our 2005 HPLTS. I was proud to represent HISPA and AT&T and pleased with their interest in our organization. I believe partnering with these organizations as we develop our National community efforts is critical as they can provide invaluable advice and direction, in addition to access to speakers for our networking events. Just being in the same conference room with all of these incredibly talented individuals was invigorating!

HISPA NJ was supportive of AT&T's participation at NCLR. Isabel Cabrera Mayra Caceres, Mildred Medina and Luis Mercado were volunteers at the AT&T booth during the Latino Expo which was part of the NCLR conference. They were also able to participate in some of the workshops and talks and joined Cesar Bocanegra and Marie Long at the gala dinner.



The NCLR conference overall was wonderful. It was a great professional development and networking opportunity. In addition a good learning experience! I attended a variety of Education related workshops in which I learned about the challenges facing Latino communities, in particular the young English Language Learners, about Charter schools and about the impact of the "No child left behind" Act on Hispanic children. I established new friendships and even met an old high school friend who now works as a Diversity Director for Microsoft.

One of the events that I enjoyed the most was the "Latinas Brunch" event titled: "Tradition takes a twist: *Mamás y Lideres* in the 21st century". This event was a celebration of motherhood and leadership with very special speakers including Ana Escobedo Cabral (US Treasurer). As a mother of two and the daughter of a hard working business woman I related to the subject and found the panel discussion fascinating.

Other highlights included talks by Senator Hillary Clinton, Herb Scannell (President of Nickelodeon Networks and Vice Chairman of MTV Networks) and Carlos Gutierrez (US Secretary of Commerce) amongst many others.

Some of these talks are on the NCLR website: [www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org). I encourage all of you to visit the site and learn more about their important messages.



L-R: HISPANJ member Isabela Cabrera, Finance Director Mildred Medina, HISPAN President Ivonne Diaz-Claisse, Professional Development Director Lou Mercado, and HISPANJ member Mayra Caceres.



(L-R: HISPAN Finance Director Mildred Medina and HISPAN President Ivonne Diaz-Claisse at the AT&T Booth at the National Council of La Raza's conference in Philadelphia, PA.

## Welcome to HISPAN's Newest Members!

Mike Abeyta, Alfredo Acuna, Beatriz Acuna, Judy Aranda, Christy Baguio, Dora Barba, Cynthia Baxter, Velma Baxter, Vince Camacho, Fernando Cancel, Mark Carden, Gladis Chirip, Peter Cornell, Simone Dubois, Susan Evans, Carrie Goodman, Teresa Grado, Lucia Hall, Gabriel Hernandez, Daisy Jiménez, Mayra Lopez, Nereyda Lora, Ronald Lytle, Casey Maldonado, Stella Martin, Amy Martinez, Bernie Martinez, Christina Medina, Janice Mezquita, Oscar Monroy, Vilma Morales, Matt Olivas, Edwin Philantrope, Diana Raso, Tracie Rohm, Nilsa Samol, Loretta Sandoval, Ernesto Sobrerilla, Luanna Soria, Deborah Southern, Brian Talmadge, Charles Tapia, Beatriz Ugrinovic, Lillian Vagilo, Katrina Vargas and Michael Yelton.

## HISPAN Mission

To provide Hispanic/Latino Youth and Professionals the mentorship and resources to achieve personal and professional excellence thus enabling them to contribute to corporate, civic and community leadership.

## NHLI Cultivates Future Latina Leaders

By Teresa Ann Grado

On Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 21 undergraduate students gathered at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, for the National Hispana Leadership Institute's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Latinas Learning to Lead Summer Youth Institute*. These talented young women represented various colleges across the nation as well as different ethnic subgroups within the Latino community. NHLI had a busy week of leadership development in store for them. These students would attend many workshops and seminars presented by accomplished professional Latinas, and they would attend special meetings and visit important sites in DC, such as the White House and the headquarters of the National Council of La Raza.

As Marisa Rivera-Albert, the President of NHLI, explained in the introductory meeting, these students are "the chosen ones." They were selected as the best and the brightest leaders of the approximately 200 college students throughout the country who had applied for the program.

NHLI's mission is "to develop Hispanas as ethical world leaders through training, professional development, relationship building and community and world



Author Teresa Ann Grado is pictured back row, left.

activism". In addition to the *Latinas Learning to Lead* program, NHLI also offers an intensive four-week leadership training program for Latina professionals. These programs are made possible in part by NHLI's sponsors, which include the **AT&T Foundation**, Continental Airlines, Lifetime Television for Women, State Farm Insurance Companies, Telemundo, and the U.S. Army.

This year, the students had the opportunity to meet many accomplished Latinas, including Angela Maria Arboleda, an NCLR civil rights policy analyst, Carmen Lomellin, the executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women at the Organization of American States (OAS), and Dr. Sandra Madrid, assistant dean at the University of Washington, School of Law. They also participated in workshops and seminars on such topics as career planning, entrepreneurship, public speaking, conflict resolution, and public policy issues affecting the Latino community. At the end of the week, each of the students spoke about her experience in the program during the graduation ceremony. Many of the students echoed similar sentiments: The Latinas Learning to Lead Program not only gave the students the confidence, resources, skills, and strength they would need as the next generation of Latina leaders, but it also introduced them to a powerful network of talented and successful Latinas who share their dream of improving conditions for the Latino community in the United States.

More information on NHLI can be found online at [www.nhli.org](http://www.nhli.org).

*Teresa Ann Grado is in her junior year at Harvard University, and was among the students chosen to participate in the Latinas Learning to Lead Summer Youth Institute. Teresa is the daughter of Teresa Grado, HISPA National Communications Director and longtime HISPA KC member.*

Editor's Note: Ana Maria Perez, HISPA NJ member Carlos Perez' niece, also attended.