



HACU

NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES



Fall 2013 Intern Newsletter

August 22 - December 6, 2013



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From the Desk of the Director

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we look back at all that happened during this session. No one can say Fall 2013 has been boring! Beginning with the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, interns had the opportunity to participate in many activities at their sponsoring agencies and other Hispanic organizations.

Unfortunately, the celebration ended early by the government shutdown. What had not happened since 1996 happened this October after Congress reached a budget impasse. For 16 days, the U.S. federal government curtailed most routine operations, affecting the majority of our interns unable to report to work due to office closures and supervisor furloughs.

During the shutdown we provided a series of professional development activities and encouraged our interns to work on projects of their own design. Once the government reopened, interns were able to return to work but the experience left a profound mark. You will read some of their first-hand experiences in this newsletter.

As we prepare for the closing of this remarkable year, we look forward to another with renewed optimism and commitment to our mission. The HACU National Internship Program will continue to open doors of opportunity.

Congratulations to those who secured a permanent position!

All the best,
Maria Elena Vivas-House

HNIP Senior Executive Director

Fall 2013 HNIP Interns who have secured a permanent position:

Coral Colon —CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

Maybelline Soto—Ana G. Mendez University System

Sasha Cintron-Pacheco— U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



Event Calendar - Save the Date!

November 14	Third Intern Workshop
November 15	Early deadline for Summer 2014 Application
November 28	Thanksgiving Day (<i>Offices Closed</i>)
December 3	Fall 2013 Intern Farewell
December 6	Fall 2013 Final Performance Evaluations due
December 25	Christmas Holiday (<i>Offices Closed</i>)
January 1	New Year's Day (<i>Offices Closed</i>)
January 9	Spring 2014 HNIP Session begins

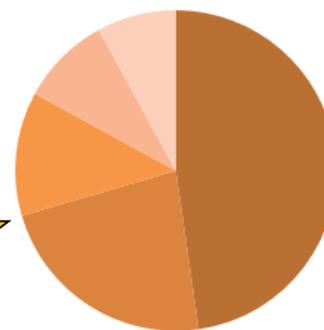


Who are the Fall 2013 Interns?

Quick stats on the current cohort:



Class Level



- Master's
- Seniors
- Juniors
- Sophomores
- PhD/JD

Thank you to our partners for their continued support!

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Library of Congress

- Copyright Office
- Office of Strategic Initiatives

U.S. Agency of International Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Agricultural Marketing Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- Food and Nutrition Service
- Food Safety and Inspection Service
- Foreign Agriculture Services
- Forest Service
- Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
- Rural Development

U.S. Department of Commerce

- Bureau of Industry and Security
- U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- National Institutes of Health
- Office of Minority Health

U.S. Department of Interior

- Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Department of Transportation

- Federal Aviation Administration

U.S. Department of Treasury

- Departmental Offices

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

- VA Learning University
- Veterans Health Administration

From San Juan, Puerto Rico to the San Juan Mountains

Zuleika Cruz Ramos
Master's in Environmental Planning
University of Puerto Rico

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Montrose, Colorado



It is hard to believe that I have just one month left in Montrose, Colorado. It is always a challenge moving far away from home, since leaving family and friends behind makes you feel vulnerable. On the other hand, it is always nice to make new friends, especially when they offer a place to stay whenever you happen to come back and visit. Montrose is tiny compared to San Juan, Puerto Rico, but is



Zuleika at Black Canyon National Park in Montrose, CO

full of beautiful scenic views and outdoor recreational opportunities. I am lucky that I get to hike and bike around while enjoying the fall colors.

I have been helping with forest restoration and adaptive management projects for a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project on the Uncompahgre Plateau while working with the United States Forest Service (USFS). My work includes marking trees and laying out stands in mixed conifer and spruce forests to achieve desired objectives for improving watershed, wildlife and forest health. I am also assisting with monitoring, cruising and sale implementation. I get to gather data with GPS units that are utilized to make various maps and analyzed in GIS systems. I love that I have the opportunity of applying my planning experience working with scientists and community stakeholders in a collaborative setting.

I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity with HNIP. Thanks to them I have been able to network with other environmental professionals and gain exposure to new opportunities that will hopefully lead to a permanent job in the environmental planning field.

A Rewarding and Challenging Internship

Rosa Garay
Master's in Language Interpretation and Translation
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

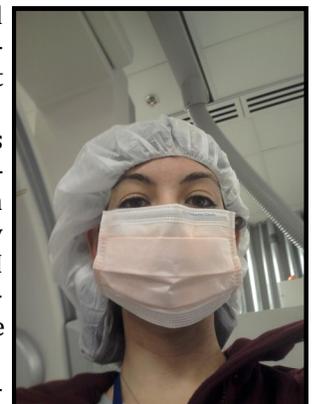
National Institutes of Health
Clinical Center
Bethesda, Maryland

The experience of interning as a medical interpreter in the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been amazing. I have a great mentor/supervisor that has taken her time to explain how this research facility works, what makes this hospital different from every other hospital in the world and what is expected from us as interpreters.

Since my first week in the Clinical Center I have been assigned to shadow other interpreters as well as to work with patients on my own. Everyone, from my co-workers to the technicians, physicians and nurses have been very kind for explaining things like procedures or treatments. As a part of my internship I have some off time during the day to study and practice the terminology and do research related to the cases I have seen. One of the best things about this session is that I have been to every place in the Clinical Center, from the operating room (OR) to the clinics, radiology stations, and diagnostic testing. I have also been to some procedures such as biopsies of the liver, thyroid, and bone marrow. Every minute of it has been very exciting.

Though most of the days go by smoothly and there are no major complications, in a research hospital there are bound to be days that take a toll on everyone. Some of those days have been mentally and emotionally exhausting and challenging. Sometimes we have to take our time after working with a difficult case to get it all together and just vent out; one day I actually broke down in tears when I got in the elevator. We always wish for every patient to have a successful recovery, but counting the enormous amount of people being seen at the Clinical Center we know that every once in a while some of them are not going to respond to the treatment. It is on those days, right when you feel like choking and bursting in tears in front of the patient, the adrenaline rush and the need to facilitate communication takes over and helps us to get through the difficult situations.

I am happy to say that through this internship I have found a second profession that perfectly complements my Translation background. I have the support of my supervisor and co-workers to complete a medical interpreter training so I can become a certified interpreter, and they have also asked me to come back to the Clinical Center for the spring session internship. The best thing is that I have loved every day that I have been working in the Clinical Center. I am amazed with everything that has come out of this experience and I feel so lucky to have this opportunity. Thanks HACU!



Rosa after finishing interpreting in the operating room





HNIP Salutes our Student Veterans

This Veterans Day, HNIP featured five of our fall 2013 student veterans on our Facebook page. Here, we highlight some of these students. For their full stories, please visit our Facebook Notes section.

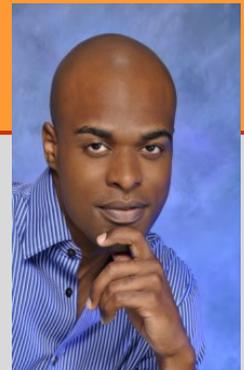
Desirea Feicke

Hometown: Metamora, Illinois
Education: Junior Business/Office Automation/Technology/Data Entry – Robert Morris University
Branch of Armed Forces: U.S. Army
Years of Service: Five years active, three years Army National Guard
HACU Internship(s): Summer 2013, Fall 2013 with USDA-ARS in Peoria, IL



Calvin Baldwin

Hometown: Suitland, Maryland
Education: Associate/bachelor of science in Information Systems – Strayer University
Branch of Armed Forces: United States Navy
Years of Service: Five
HACU Internship(s): Summer 2013, Fall 2013 with NCUA in Washington, DC



Manuel Avendano

Hometown: Bogota, Colombia and Broward County, Florida
Education: Bachelors in Political Science and Criminology – Florida State University, master's of public administration – Nova Southeastern University (current)
Branch of Armed Forces: U.S. Air Force
Years of Service: Four years
HACU Internship(s): U.S. Agency for International Development



Thank you to all of our student veterans, past, present and future!

HNIP Celebrates with CHCI

Felix Muniz Jr.
Master's in History
Bowling Green University

Wendy Velasquez-Ebanks
Junior Computer Science
University of Maryland

Library of Congress
Office of Strategic Initiatives
Washington, DC



Fall is a rather special time to be a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) intern, as it coincides with Hispanic Heritage Month, the commemorative month which honors the contributions of Hispanic Americans and pays tribute to our Latin American neighbors. In addition to attending many events sponsored by a number of different federal agencies and other organizations, I was blessed with the opportunity to join fellow Library of Congress intern Wendy Velasquez Ebanks at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Annual Awards Gala. Like the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) CHCI is an organization devoted to the mission of increasing educational attainment, college access, and providing leadership development opportunities for students across the nation. Our evening was truly spectacular as we listened to influential leaders such as New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez and former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who announced the introduction of a new immigration reform bill expected to take the Congressional floor soon. Among some of the honorees that night were Dr. Juan Andrade Jr. from the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI), and actor, producer, director, and philanthropist Salma Hayek. Both were the recipients of the CHCI Medallion of Excellence. Perhaps the greatest presence to take the stage however was the impressive class of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) interns, who enjoyed a moment of applause for their civic engagement and commitment to building a stronger America. If that wasn't enough, our evening was capped off with the musical talents of Grammy Award winner Olga Tañón. In all, sharing a moment with some of the most influential Latino leaders and fellows interns of various organizations, courtesy of HACU, was truly an amazing and inspiring experience.

- Felix Muniz Jr.

This fall I gained a great deal of skills during my internship and I also had the great pleasure and privilege to be one of the winners attending the CHCI gala at the convention center in D.C., thanks to HACU. I met very important people who attended the event, representatives and celebrities that have been very active in the fight to have a comprehensive immigration reform law that can help all the immigrants that still are in the shadows in this country. Something that really impacted me is the Salma Hayek speech. She wasn't only inspiring, but defended the rights of Hispanics in this country. During her presentation, Ms. Pelosi spoke on how the Affordable Health Care Act will help millions of citizens in this country to be treated on time for sickness as well as prevent them by detecting them on time. She also mentioned the introduction of a new bill about immigration reform. To me, both immigration reform and the health care act are definitely two issues of great importance in this country. I have witnessed of how immigrants give to this country by their hard work and dedication to make this a stronger country. I also have seen and lived the experience of not going to the doctor because of lacking insurance. All the different talks and recognitions from CHCI to Hispanics representing different professions were also very important. It showed me how we as youth have to work hard for what we want, but that it will come with effort and dedication.

-Wendy Velasquez-Ebanks

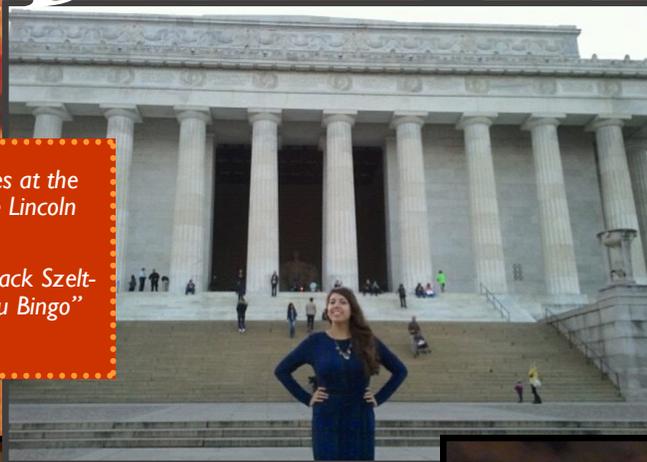


From left to right:
Felix and Wendy with the Honorable Joaquin Castro,
US Congressman (TX-20).

Out in DC...

Top: Jasmin De Luna poses at the bottom of the steps to the Lincoln Memorial

Bottom: Rosa Garay and Jack Szeltner play "Get to Know You Bingo" during fall orientation



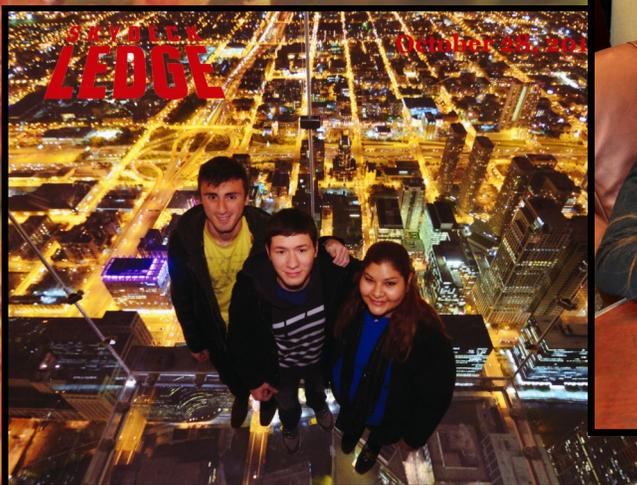
Sandra Largaespada stars in her own radio show during a tour of the National Public Radio (NPR) Headquarters.



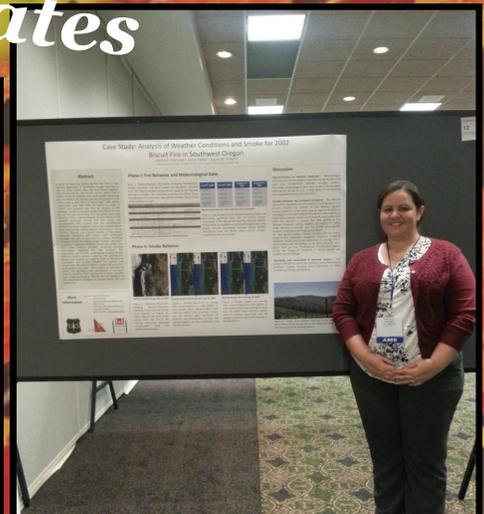
D.C. interns visit New York City over the Veteran's Day Holiday. From left to right: Manuel Avendano, Ileana Ruiz, Paola Jessurun, Laura Galvan, Wilfredo Gonzalez, Yvonne Urbina, Gerardo Garcia, Alessandra Barrica and Alex Azuero

and across the United States

Right: Rachel Campso, USDA—FNS intern in Dallas, Texas, having a meeting with her co-workers



USDA interns Jamil Deen, left, Mark Salinas, center, and Sindy Leon, right, took a picture on the Skydeck Ledge at the Willis Tower in Chicago, Ill., while there for the 2013 HACU Annual Conference.



Marlin Martinez, USDA-FS, presenting a poster of a project she worked on during her internship at the American Meteorological Society 10th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology. Marlin is an intern in Seattle, Wash.

First Hand Experience

Laura Galvan

Senior, Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication
University of Texas — Pan American

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Census Bureau
Suitland, Maryland

I am grateful for this opportunity to intern for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) internship program. Being a female minority student from the Rio Grande Valley, a region in South Texas with a substantially high poverty rate, makes it difficult to get past a G.E.D. education. Many residents struggle with low wages



Laura takes a selfie with the Capital as the back drop

and have a difficult time finding employment, so being selected for this opportunity was a pure blessing. My personal motivation for applying to this program was to use my communications skills and enhance my overall educational experience. I had heard numerous testimonies about the success people have experienced because of HACU's passionate drive to support Hispanics in higher education. This fall I have been able to represent my Hispanic culture in the public relations sector with the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Interning at the United States Census Bureau has allowed me to grow professionally and gain much needed on-the-job experience within my field. One of the most memorable experiences during my internship was being able to assist in the preparation of an on-air TV interview for a C-SPAN segment. I witnessed all the training and preparation that goes into a live production, which served as a reminder that I am definitely doing what I love.

Unfortunately, my experience came to a brief pause due to the government furlough. However, I still managed to learn

from this historical misfortune and used this time to expand my knowledge on the political debate. I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the struggles people faced during their two-week period of unemployment. I will never forget the anxiety displayed across the faces of federal employees and in the streets of Washington, D.C.

This entire experience has shown me that anything is possible as long as you remain dedicated. Working with the Census Bureau has taught me to perform well in difficult situations, and work quickly and effectively on several projects at once to efficiently meet tight deadlines. Working as a public information specialist has also sharpened my communication and interpersonal skills. HACU has opened doors for me and has given me the opportunity to experience the history and vibrant culture of Washington, D.C. I have seen firsthand the education and training offered by this program and its ability to guide me in the right direction. This program has provided me with numerous opportunities, and I will always have the upmost respect for them because they believed in me.

Making the Most of my time in DC

Efrain Ralat

Senior, Computer Science
University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC

My experience in the HACU National Internship program for the past few months has expanded my knowledge about how great this program can be for

Hispanic students. The program is a great opportunity for students, like me, that are searching for work experience to improve professional skills and increase communication with people and co-workers from different majors and concentrations. Students also have the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., which is an adventure for me to learn the history, science and culture of the United States. One of my objectives while being an HNIP intern is contributing my talents and skills and to learn new strategies and concepts in computer programming. It will help me keep on track and prepare for more of my goals and abilities.

As part of this work experience, I am delighted contributing to my work team at the U.S. Census Bureau on the Application Service Division. My team is focusing on bringing the census.gov website to fulfill the requirements for the owner, sponsor and, the most important, the people of the United States, updating different features on release and benefits for

using the website. It is an honor to work on projects like Economic Indicators, County Map and the Census Glossary with my co-workers and be able to learn more

about code, design and information. The most interesting part of working with the team is building networks and communications. Most of the time, my supervisor gives me the privilege to be in charge of the meeting, making me the Scrum Master of the group. It was a challenge for the first days but I really enjoyed being the Scrum leader in the group daily meeting. It has helped me to obtain management and communication skills. It was a privilege for me to have been given the task and opportunity. During my last few weeks on the program I will still keep exploring D.C. and visiting again the monuments and museum. This is the best experience I have ever had. I will most likely apply again on the HNIP. Thanks for the opportunity, HACU!



Intern and Volunteer

Jamil Deen
Sophomore, Petroleum Engineering
Texas A&M University

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
College Station, Texas

During October I had the privilege to participate in a community service project with Childreninos and the American Heart Association's Heart Walk. Childreninos is a home care and child care facility aimed at bilingual families and underprivileged youth in the Brazos County area. The group I volunteered with was responsible for sanding down the playground equipment to make it safe for the children to play on, disinfecting a large portion of their toys, fixing any broken furniture, and helping spread mulch in the garden. I had the privilege of meeting a few of the children that attend the daycare; knowing that I was able to help



out the best way I could was fulfilling. The staff was extremely friendly and helpful towards the volunteers, and I plan to volunteer at this location in the future. I also participated in a 5K heart walk sponsored by the American Heart Association on Saturday, Oct. 5. A few of my friends chose this particular event because heart disease affected their families, so showing



support for other individuals who have had to deal with heart-related illnesses was an exciting experience. Our individual group raised over fifty dollars; I got to meet and talk with a few of the heart disease survivors and had the opportunity of hearing their stories.

Feeling Valued

Karina Plascencia
Senior International Relations and Affairs
Georgetown University

U.S. Agency for International Development
Administrative Services of the Legislative and Public Affairs Bureau
Washington, DC

My experience at USAID has been far beyond anything I could have ever imagined. As a student of international development, I have been given the amazing opportunity to gain new skills and have hands-on experience working in a foreign assistance agency. I am currently interning within the Administrative Services of the Legislative and Public Affairs Bureau of the agency and I have been learning about the daily operations of the bureau. I have been assisting with multiple tasks to help continue and improve those daily operations and have been very fortunate in being able to make great connections with my team and supervisor. During my time at the agency, I have found that my assistance is greatly valued and have been given a lot of ownership over my projects. For example, I have been able to use my creativity and designing skills to create one pagers that would be distributed on a large scale to the public and have also been able to create a message board that not only contains use-



Karina with her co-workers at USAID

ful information for the bureau but is also festive and aesthetically pleasing. Some of the highlights of my internship thus far have been getting to meet and shake hands with the administrator of the agency, Dr. Rajiv Shah, during a swearing-in ceremony. Another one of my highlights has been being able to attend a career development session and being able to gain insight on how to go about pursuing a career at the agency. I think this was by far one of the most valuable experiences for me, especially since I hope to one day become a part of the USAID Foreign Service. I am really grateful to both HACU and to USAID for giving me this opportunity. I really cannot imagine any better experience than being able to read about foreign assistance and then being able to go to work, learn new skills, and attend meetings at the same place that delivers and coordinates the foreign assistance projects I read about. Thank you HACU once again for opening the doors to opportunity.

Letter from Your Fall 2013 HAA Intern Board Member, Javier Muñiz

Being selected as a HACU Intern has made me dream bigger and to see life from a different perspective. My experience as an intern has helped me improve my professional skills and it is also a good way to say thank you to the people who always had faith in me.

This is the second time I have been selected for this life-changing opportunity and I could not be more grateful! I can still remember how excited I was after being contacted to participate in the program; I believe this feeling is something I share with all the interns who have been selected to be a part of the HACU family. Getting to know other interns was very special, as I find myself with others who are also interested in making a difference.

We were blessed to have this opportunity, serving as stepping stones in our professional careers, leading us to places that we may never have dreamed about. We were able to prove ourselves in our workplaces and some may have even decided on a new future. Thanks to the HACU Internship Program, we worked with other professionals who didn't hesitate to include us in meaningful projects, which made us feel valuable.

I'm glad that I didn't take for granted any chances to learn, share, and grow on a professional and personal level. I recorded each memory as something I will carry forever with me. I succeeded in many challenges by opening myself and embracing each and every scenario with perseverance and patience. Never be afraid to show gratitude to those who believed in you. The best way to do it is to take the knowledge we gain during these days and make something constructive with it.

We have the energy to conquer our future if we cultivate the seeds that were given to us.



Stay Involved! Volunteer as an HNIP Alumni Ambassador in YOUR Community

Did you know many students first learn about HNIP from an alum? You can help spread the word to prospective interns by serving as an HNIP Alumni Ambassador on your campus, in your student organization, or within any of your personal networks.

Sign up today to represent HNIP in your community! E-mail our team at hnip@hacu.net with the subject line "HNIP Alumni Ambassador." We will send you a tool kit with resources that will help you get started!



Thank you **Jorge Zayas, Iván Ortiz, Jenny-Liz A. Ríos Marzán** and **Samuel Fontáñez Berrios** for hosting a very successful and informative information session at The University of Puerto Rico in Humacao! Over 60 students were in attendance.

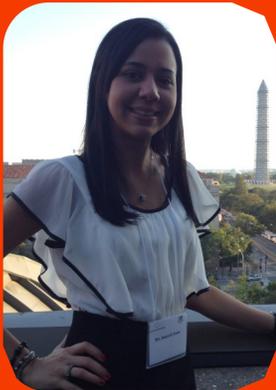
Meet your HACU Alumni Association Executive Board Members



Leysha Lopez
Chairperson

Easy Ways to Be an Involved Alum:

- “Like” the HAA on Facebook for updates
- Join the “hacu_alumni” Yahoo Group to receive e-mail listserv messages
- E-mail alumni@hacu.net to sign up to serve as an intern mentor
- E-mail hnip@hacu.net to become an HNIP Ambassador in your community



Jessica Rivera
Vice-Chair of
Treasury



Eliamelissa Gonzalez
Secretary



Christi Casiano
Vice-Chair for
Program Affairs



Cesar Sanchez
Vice-Chair for
Community Affairs



Olga Hernandez
Vice-Chair for
Fundraising



Paco Perez
Member at Large



Carlos Martinez III
Member at Large

HAA Scholarships:

Shot at Grad School — two \$250 awards given
DREAM Scholarship — three \$500 awards given

HAA Programs:

Alumni Connection Program
HAA National Happy Hour