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# Prominent Hispanics

## Hispanos destacados

### ARTISTIC/LITERATURE

#### JULIA ALVAREZ

##### Writer

Julia Alvarez is a prolific, dedicated writer who gives voice to the dual heritage of Hispanic-Americans. From the Dominican Republic, she was uprooted from her homeland at the age of ten, when her parents and three-sisters fled the Trujillo dictatorship and settled in New York City. Alvarez's writing draws on her family's displacements of language and geography, and her own struggle to find herself as a writer from a largely illiterate, storytelling culture. Today, her work explains to readers all over the world what it is like to be both a feisty, ambitious Latino raised woman staying at home with *la familia* and a political refugee for whom recent Caribbean history always informs a story.

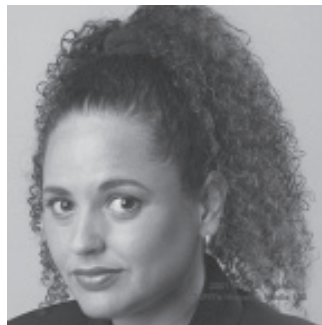


Alvarez has also begun a unique effort to educate young Americans about the Dominican Republic through a special cooperative on her 280-acre coffee farm. Here American students travel to the Dominican mountains to work alongside *campesinos* in schools and fields while attending daily writing workshops with Alvarez. With three best selling novels – *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991), *In the Time of the Butterflies* (1994), which has been made into a film starring Salma Hayek, and *!Yo!* (1996) and a successful career as a tenured professor and writer in residence at Middlebury College in Vermont, Alvarez continues to win praise for her resonance and explication of the complex Caribbean immigrant experience.

#### LIZ BALMASEDA

##### Writer

Cuban-born, Liz Balmaseda writes with a unique insider's view of the large, varied and often divided Hispanic community in her hometown of Miami. She chronicles their struggles and gains while reporting on the volatile social, political, and cultural concerns of the multicultural community. For over 20 years, the veteran print and broadcast journalist provided an intelligent balance to a debate often dominated by militants, academics and politicians.



Balmaseda's career at the Miami Herald took hold after a stint reporting from Central America for Newsweek and NBC news. First working as a feature writer, she soon landed the job of columnist. Just six months later, she was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her insightful commentaries, an honor she won a year later. Throughout her career, her goal has always been to "put a face on the statistic." She has brought attention to issues such as homelessness, poverty, AIDS-Awareness, discrimination, and the ill-equipped American health care system by telling stories of those individuals affected. In 2000, she reported on Elian Gonzalez, opposing Miami's mayor and angering a vocal majority in the Hispanic community by firmly advocating a swift reunion of father and son, and the boy's return to Cuba. While her focus is usually local, she has also ventured afar, reporting on the plight of asylum seekers in Haiti and refugee children in Cuba. Her fierce focus on human rights and social justice has been influential, prompting political and social action. She has also worked with Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, Jr. to adapt their book into a screen play entitled *Waking Up in America*, a motion picture about Dr. Greer's life, which will star Andy Garcia and air on HBO.

#### DENISE CHÁVEZ

##### Writer

A self described "performance writer," Denise Chávez is the author of numerous books, plays, short stories, and poetry featuring Chicano society and celebrating the strength and dignity of the working class. Denise was born and raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico, just forty miles from the Mexican border, in a region distinguished by its cross-fertilization of Mexican and American cultures and bilingualism. Throughout her work, she embraces this heritage.

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Denise's work focuses on the social and economic issues of the Chicano culture as well as bilingual speech and Chicano humor. Her stories mirror experiences in her own life, offering startling insights into the relationships of women in the Chicano society. She has

received many awards for her works, including the Puerto del Sol Fiction Award and the American Book Award. Denise is the proud recipient of the 1995 Governor's Award in Literature and continues to surround herself in literature by teaching creative writing at New Mexico State University.

### SONIA MANZANO

#### Actress

Sonia Manzano is proud of her heritage and committed to the sincere portrayal of Latinos in the media. Growing up in the South Bronx in the 1950's, Sonia realized at a young age that there were no good role models on television for the emerging Latina population, and became determined to change this. Joining the ethnically expanding cast of *Sesame Street* in the 70's gave her a chance to achieve this goal. Her character, Maria, has educated young viewers of all cultures about the diversity in America.

After ten years as an actress, Sonia began writing scripts for the series, and has shared fourteen Emmy awards to date as part of the Sesame Street writing staff. Sonia has been honored by the Association of Hispanic Arts, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, the National Hispanic Media Coalition (Impact Award) and was twice nominated for an Emmy Award as "Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series."

### GREGORY NAVA

#### Writer and Director

Born in San Diego California, Gregory Nava attended film school at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), where he made his first dramatic film based on the life of Spanish poet Garcia Lorca. This work earned him the Best Dramatic Film award at the National Student Film Festival. From this auspicious beginning, Nava launched a career as a director and writer, and today stands among the most talented in Hollywood, having garnered many top honors and awards. He has produced a series of groundbreaking films on Latino topics playing to a general audience and earning him wide applause.

His first feature film, *The Confessions of Amans*, won the Best First Feature Award at the Chicago International Film Festival. In 1984, Gregory Nava directed and wrote the film *El Norte*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, and garnered a number of international awards; and in 1996 was named an "American Classic" designated for preservation by the Library of Congress.



In 1995, Nava co-wrote and directed the multi-generational saga *My Family/ Mi Familia*, which was a financial and critical success. His 1996 film *Selena*, based on the life of the slain Tejano superstar, was the definitive breakthrough role for Jennifer Lopez, resulting in her Golden Globe nomination. In 1999 he directed *American Tapestry*, a documentary about the American immigrant experience. Gregory Nava is

currently the Executive Producer of the PBS series *American Family*.

## BUSINESS

### JUAN N. CENTO

#### President, FedEx Express Latin America & Caribbean Division

Juan N. Cento is President of the FedEx Express Latin America & Caribbean Division, based in Miami. He maintains overall responsibility for the Latin America & Caribbean Division, which includes more than 3,000 employees and encompasses more than 50 countries. Cento's primary focus is upon magnifying the FedEx Express presence in Latin America and integrating this region into the dynamic FedEx global network that services 211 countries worldwide. Cento was recently honored with



the most prestigious award within the FedEx Corporation, the Five Star Award, for his numerous accomplishments during his inaugural year with the Division.

Juan Cento is actively involved in several non-profit organizations. In 2002 he was appointed Chairman of the Board for the International Kids Fund and continues to work with the United Way, as an International Disaster Relief Advisory Board Member and as Miami-Dade Pacesetter's Co-Chair for 2001. As a member of the

Executive Committee for the National Hispanic Corporate Achievers Association, Cento has been instrumental in positioning the Hispanic business community as well as the younger Hispanic generations for future success.

In 1999 he was honored by this organization with the Hispanic Achiever Of The Year Award and in 2002 he received their Humanitarian Award. Cento is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Beacon Council, The World Trade Center Miami Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees for the FTAA, and was recently named as the Co-Chair Fundraising for the South Florida FTAA chapter.

Cento is a Cuba native, raised and educated in Miami. He attended Miami Dade Community College and Florida International University Business School. Cento has been recognized as one of the 50 Most Powerful Hispanics in business and technology by Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology magazine. He was also recently named one of the 101 Most Influential People In South Florida by South Florida CEO Magazine. In 2003, he also received the International Air Cargo Achievement Award for Executive Leaderships. Additionally, he was the recipient of the Florida Council for International Development 2003 Florida International Trade Award, which has been a coveted Florida award for more than 30 years.

**MARIO CONCHA**  
**President, Georgia-Pacific Corp.**

Mario Concha has served as President of the Chemical Division of Atlanta-based Georgia-Pacific Corporation since 2000. Concha joined the company in 1998 as Vice President - Chemicals and Resins.



Prior to joining Georgia-Pacific, Concha was President - International of GS Industries, a management-led LBO, having been a leading member of the management team that put together the buy-out from Armco, Inc.. From 1985 to 1992, he was Vice President - International with Occidental Chemical Corporation, responsible for all overseas operations. He was previously with Union Carbide Corporation, where he held a series of executive positions in

the United States and in Europe.

A native of Bogota, Colombia, Concha holds a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree from Cornell University. He also attended the Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia, where he completed the Senior Executive Program.

Concha serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Opera and is a member of the finance committee. He is a frequent guest at Georgia State University, where he speaks to MBA classes on executive leadership. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, and the Founders Club of the Chemical Industry.

**MARGARITA N. DOMINGUEZ**  
**Vice President of Technology and Support Services, Tampa Electric Co.**

Margarita "Maggie" N. Dominguez of Tampa is vice president of Technology and Support Services for Tampa Electric Company (TECO). She was appointed to the Governing Board in March 2001. She was elected Treasurer at the April 2003 Board meeting and her term expires March 1, 2005.

Dominguez is a native of Havana, Cuba, having immigrated to the United States in 1964. She graduated from Tampa Catholic High School in 1970, and earned her Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1975 from the University of South Florida.



Dominguez was appointed to the Alafia River Basin Board in December 2000 until her appointment to the Governing Board. She serves as the chair of the Industrial Management and Systems Engineering Department's Advisory Board of the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida.

She has also served as TECO Energy's chair for its Diversity Task Force (1999 and 2000) and United Way Campaign (1997 through 2000). She is a member of the National

Management Association, Industrial Engineering Society, and Society of Women Engineers. She participates in her local community through the United Way of Hillsborough County, Salesian Sisters of Villa Madonna and the Greater North Tampa Soccer League.

Dominguez received the 2000 Women of Color in Technology Award as the Technologist of the Year. In 1999, she was featured in Hispanic Engineer Magazine and Information Technology. From 1992 to 1994, she was an electric utility advisor for the Electric Power Research Institute.

**HUGO B. POZA**  
**Vice President, Raytheon**

Hugo B. Poza is vice president of Raytheon's Homeland Security business. He was appointed to his current position in June 2002. Raytheon Homeland Security focuses on providing systems and services to assess, combat and respond to terrorism and the terrorist threat.



Previously, Poza was vice president and general manager of Strategic Systems in Raytheon's Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (C3I) business. During his tenure, Strategic Systems achieved a 31 percent growth in revenues and a 52 percent growth in profits.

Poza joined Raytheon from Lockheed Martin's corporate headquarters, where he served as vice president of Aerospace Electronics for the Electronic Sector. Poza's previous assignments at Sanders, a Lockheed

Martin company, include executive vice president with primary responsibility for commercial ventures, capital expenditures, and company restructuring, and vice president and general manager of the Avionics Division in charge of mission computers, communication subsystems and data recording equipment. Poza also was vice president of business development for the C3I and Systems Integration sector.

Poza is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the Association of Old Crows. He also holds a seat on the Journal of Electronic Defense Editorial Advisory Board for the Electronics Defense Association. In June 2003, Dr. Poza was selected as one of the 50 most influential hispanics in the U.S. today by Hispanic Engineer and Information Technology magazine.

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A native of Cuba, Poza graduated from the University of Dayton with a bachelor's of science degree in electrical engineering in 1966. He earned a master of science degree in electrical engineering in 1967 from Purdue University and a doctorate of electrical engineering degree from Purdue in 1971.

### JOHN SEPULVEDA

Director, Freddie Mac



John Sepulveda currently serves as Director of Industry Relations & Housing Outreach at Freddie Mac, where he oversees various national initiatives focused on consumers and minority homebuyers, including the CreditSmart and CreditSmart Espanol financial literacy initiatives.

Before coming to Freddie Mac, Mr. Sepulveda was the Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management during the Clinton Administration.

He holds a BA degree from Hunter College

and two Masters degrees from Yale University.

## COMMUNITY

### ISILIO ARRIAGA

President & CEO, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Isilio Arriaga was appointed President and CEO of The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) by the Chamber's Executive Committee on September 10, 2003. Arriaga is the first Hispanic President and CEO of the Chamber, and follows the nearly 23 year legacy of William O. Cullom.

Isilio Arriaga is an experienced executive with management expertise in the private, public and social service sectors; and a strong background in corporate development, senior management and operations. His areas of expertise include government relations in social services, corporate community relations and outreach, board coordination and strategy, business development, operations management, strategic planning, fundraising and collaborating partnerships.

Arriaga grew up in the United States and returned to Venezuela in the 1970's. While he was there, most notably, he served as Congressman of the Republic of Venezuela and promoted the first low income housing act passed by Congress; chaired the Tourism and Privatization Committees and was a member of the Media and Economy Committees. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Miranda Savings and Loan, which in five years grew to be the largest savings and loan in Venezuela. And served as Chief Financial Officer of the Christian Democratic Party.

In the mid 1990's, Arriaga came back to the United States. He settled in Texas and promoted international ventures into Latin America for several corporations through contract negotiations. In a personal effort to collaborate with the education of the Dallas Hispanic community, Arriaga and the Dallas Independent School District co-produced a TV documentary. Arriaga grounded himself in South Florida, and built a consulting company targeting businesses expanding to Latin American markets.

### LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON

Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO

Linda Chavez-Thompson is the highest-ranking woman in the labor movement today. A second-generation Mexican, she was born to cotton sharecroppers near Lubbock, Texas, and was forced to drop out of high school to support her family. Before joining a local labor union at the age of 23, Linda spent her formative years hoeing cotton.

She entered the labor union as a secretary, and proceeded to work her



way up the ranks, never losing sight of her goals to fight for greater economic justice for the millions of Latinos she represents. Because of her impressive background, Linda was appointed by former President Bill Clinton to serve on the President's Initiative on Race, where she

was the sole representative of the Hispanic community, and she also served as Vice Chair of the President's Committee on People with Disabilities. She serves on as Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

## EDUCATION

### JUDITH BACA

Professor, UCLA

Los Angeles native Judith Baca was born to immigrant parents who fled



the aftermath of the Mexican revolution. Baca grew up with a strong sense of both American history and Latino roots. As an artist, she continues in the tradition of the great Mexican muralists, communicating her experiences through

her acclaimed artwork that tells stories about a multicultural America. As a teacher, Baca combines art and education in her fight against racism, segregation and sexism by bringing her students of different ethnicities together to work on her murals.

During the early 1970's, Baca spent four years working on a series of murals with local youth from different barrios. In 1974, Baca was appointed the Director of the City of Los Angeles Citywide Mural project, a response to her vision of a series of funded murals throughout the city, created by and reflecting the local communities. Within two years, 250 murals had been completed with Baca directing over half of them.

Among her best known works are: *La Memoria de Nuestra Tierra (Our Land has Memory)*, which hangs in the Denver Airport; *Female Dragon*, located in the Interior Library of the California Institute for Women, and the half-mile long *Great Wall of Los Angeles*, which traces the history of California, incorporating images of Chumash Indian life and culture, farm union organizers, black activists fighting for equal housing, and the plight of Japanese-Americans during World War II. *The Great Wall of Los Angeles* was created over five summers, and involved over 400 youth, artists and historians, offering these young people "an alternative form of history which included information on ethnic groups and women not taught in the public schools." Baca is currently a professor at UCLA.

**LOUIS CALDERA**

**President, University of New Mexico**

The University of New Mexico Board of Regents named Louis Caldera as the University's 18th President. Caldera was Vice Chancellor for University Advancement of The California State University System. He also serves as President of the CSU Foundation.

Before arriving at the CSU, Caldera held two appointed posts in the Clinton administration. As Secretary of the Army from 1998 to 2001, Caldera, together with the Army's Chief of Staff, General Eric K. Shinseki, announced and set into motion a new vision for a more versatile and highly deployable force. During his tenure, Caldera also successfully led a reversal of recruiting shortfalls and initiated a range of highly popular educational programs for soldiers and potential recruits.



As Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service from 1997 to 1998, Caldera ran the federal

grant-making agency that supports the volunteer service programs AmeriCorps, the National Senior Service Corps and Learn and Serve America.

Caldera has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the National Commission on the Senior Year in High School, the Ad Council's Community Affairs Advisory Committee and the Panama Canal Commission. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Recent honors include the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Award and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award. Caldera holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy ('78), an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School ('87) and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School ('87). He is married to Eva Orlebeke Caldera and has three daughters, Allegra, Sophia and Camille.

**FR. VIRGILIO ELIZONDO**

**Theologian**

A Mexican-American theologian from San Antonio, Texas, Father Elizondo has had a worldwide impact upon Hispanic religion through writings, lectures, and internationally televised bilingual worships.



As rector of his city's San Fernando Cathedral for over 12 years, Elizondo became a leader in bringing Mexican religious customs and traditions into the Catholic service.

Still, Elizondo struggled with the church's paternal attitude toward Mexican Americans and vowed to go beyond simply elevating cultural traditions in church services. Today, Elizondo is considered the father of U.S. Hispanic theology.

His most influential and widely accepted book to date, *The Future of the Mestizo – Life Where Cultures Meet*, discusses the outcome of the blend of Mexican, Spanish, Indigenous, and Anglo cultures in the U. S. and its effect upon the Catholic Church. As founder of the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, he has built a model for community-based religious education that extends worldwide. In 1997, Elizondo was honored with the highest honor a Catholic can receive in the United States, Notre Dame's Laetare Medal, becoming the first Latino given this honor. As the author of 12 books and editor of many others, Elizondo has introduced new and creative ways to teach Americans the concepts of peace, acceptance and faith through art and the teachings of the bible.

**ANTONIO FLORES, PH.D.**

**President & CEO, HACU**

Antonio Flores is the third president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). The association represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) where Hispanics constitute 25 percent or more of the total enrollment at either the graduate or undergraduate level or both and Associate Member Institutions where Hispanics comprise a minimum of 10 percent or 1,000 of the total enrollment.



Flores is responsible for the overall leadership, executive management, public and community relations, policy formulation and advocacy, association governance affairs, advancement planning, financial and investment oversight, human resources policies, strategic planning, and programmatic accountability and reporting.

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These interrelated and complex responsibilities are carried out with the collaborative and dedicated teamwork of more than 60 professional staff at HACU headquarters in San Antonio and in Washington, D.C.

Flores has extensive professional experience in higher education. He has taught at private and public institutions, both community colleges and comprehensive research universities; has conducted research and policy studies, published and unpublished, on higher education issues; has been an administrator of campus-based and statewide programs; has done extensive advancement work at the state and national levels; and has provided public service at the local, state, national, and international levels.

### **EDUARDO J. PARDON**

#### **President, Miami-Dade Community College**

Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, is president of Miami-Dade Community College, the largest single district, multi-campus, two-year college in the nation. Under Dr. Padron's leadership, the college effectively recruits 70% of all local high school students within five years of graduation through such efforts as a cooperative arts programs; a magnet program for advanced high school students; and mentoring, tutoring, and summer-bridge programs to local high schools. Dr. Padron received a national commendation from Black Issues in Higher Education, as one of the most substantive and influential higher education leaders in the 20th century; he serves on several national boards addressing issues of higher education, including The College Board.



Dr. Roderick Paige was appointed Superintendent of Schools in 1994 after having served as Dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University. He was elected to the HISD Board of Education in 1989 and served as president in 1992. Dr. Paige has served on review committees of the Texas Education Agency and has held numerous positions of responsibility with the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators. He shares with the Board of Education authorship of the Declaration of Beliefs and Visions and is the creator of strategic plans for increasing scholastic achievement, parental involvement, and community support, as well as programs for leadership and management training, continuous improvement, and accountability at all levels.

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## **GOVERNMENT**

### **NILS J. DIAZ**

#### **Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

On April 1, 2003, President George W. Bush designated Dr. Nils J. Diaz as Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As a member of the Commission, Dr. Diaz participates in the exercise and direction of the Commission's licensing and regulatory functions. His duties include policy formulation and rulemaking, as well as issuing regulations, related orders, and guidance for protection of the public health and safety, the common defense and security, and the environment.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Diaz was Professor of Nuclear Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida, Director of the Innovative Nuclear Space Power Institute (INSPI) - a national consortium of industries,



universities and national laboratories and President and Principal Engineer of Florida Nuclear Associates, Inc.

Dr. Diaz' career includes 11 years as Director of INSPI for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization/Department of Defense, two years in California as Associate Dean for Research at the California State University Long Beach, one year in Spain as Principal Advisor to Spain's Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and six years at nuclear utilities and vendors. From 1971 to 1996,

Dr. Diaz consulted on nuclear engineering and energetics to private industry, the U. S. Government and several foreign governments.

Dr. Diaz holds a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Villanova, Havana, a M.S. in Nuclear Engineering and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida. He has received formal training and practice in Nuclear Medicine and Health Physics and was licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator for 12 years by the NRC. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

### **HON. MARGARITA ESQUIROZ**

#### **Circuit Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit**

Hon. Margarita Esquiroz, appointed Circuit Judge of the Eleventh Judicial



Circuit, Dade County, Florida on January 29, 1984, was born in Havana, Cuba. The University of Miami, Florida awarded her a Juris Doctor Degree in 1974 with many honors. As the Judge of the General Jurisdiction Division of the Court, Hon. Esquiroz presides over cases involving a wide variety of legal matters, including litigation, dissolution of marriage proceedings, extraordinary remedies and the like.

Some of her previous work experiences include: Judge of the Criminal Division of the Court, Judge of the Industrial Claims of the State of Florida, Assistant

Attorney General for the State of Florida. She also has extensive experience in teaching at the University of Miami Law School as Instructor of Essay Writing, Instructor of Freshman Research and Writing.

Hon. Margarita Esquiroz has or currently serves as a member in many professional organizations such as the Florida Bar, the Dade County Bar Association, Honorary President of the Cuban American Bar Association, and the Association of Women Lawyers. She also serves as the Judicial Director for the University of Miami Law Alumni Association Board and the Law Review Advisory Board for the same university. Among the civic organizations she participates in are: the Coalition for Hispanic American Women (CHAW), Cuban Women's Club, Interamerican Business Association and is a past member of the United Family and Children's Services Board of Directors; South Florida Hospitals Cost Containment Board of Directors and the Hispanic Heritage Council.

**ROGER FRANCISCO NORIEGA**  
**Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs**

Roger F. Noriega was nominated by President George W. Bush for Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs on March 24, 2003; he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 29, 2003. Ambassador Noriega is responsible for managing U.S. foreign policy and promoting U.S. interests in the region.

Before his appointment to the OAS, Ambassador Noriega was a senior staff member for the Committee on Foreign Relations of the U.S. Senate. From 1994 to 1997 he was a senior staff member for the Committee on International Relations of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Other tours of duty in the Department of State have been with U.S. Agency for International Development and the Bureaus for Inter-American Affairs and Public Affairs, where he was a Program Officer from 1987 through 1990 and a Senior Writer/Editor from 1986 until 1987. Prior to that, he served as Press Secretary and Legislative Assistant for Congressman Bob Whittaker (R-Kan.), U.S. House of Representatives, from 1983 until 1986. President Bush also nominated Ambassador Noriega to the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation. He currently is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the Pan American Development Foundation.



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In 2003, the President of Nicaragua invested Ambassador Noriega as a member of the "Order of Jose de Marcoleta" for his actions to preserve and defend democracy in that nation. The Greater Washington Ibero-American Chamber of Commerce named him "Ambassador of the Year" in 2003. He is the recipient of the Latino Coalition's prestigious "Circle of Excellence" award for leadership.

Born in Wichita, Kansas in 1959, he attended Washburn University in Topeka where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981.

**LORETTA SANCHEZ**  
**Congresswoman, California**

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez represents the California 47th Congressional District, which encompasses the Southern California cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Fullerton in Orange County. She was elected to Congress in November 1996, and was re-elected to her current fourth term in November 2002 with 60 percent of the vote.



While in Washington, she has been successful at working on bipartisan projects and helping to bring funding back to the district for many community projects. During her tenure, she has secured appropriations measures totaling more than \$300 million in federal tax dollars, which was sent back home to Orange County. She has

worked hard to improve the infrastructure and quality of life for this fast-growing suburban county through various transportation, education, environmental, and crime reduction projects.

Loretta attended Chapman University, in Orange, California, where she was selected in January 2002 to serve as the university's first Latina member of the Board of Trustees. She received her bachelor's degree in economics in 1982 (voted "Business Student of the Year"), and then entered American University in Washington, D.C. to obtain her master's in business administration with an emphasis on finance, which she received in 1984.

This year, Congresswoman Sanchez was selected by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to serve as the third-ranking Democrat of the Select Committee for Homeland Security. The Select Committee will provide oversight of the new Department of Homeland Security to assure it is working effectively and quickly. The Committee has legislative jurisdiction over matters relating to the Homeland Security Act and will play a central role in fighting the war on terrorism.

Congresswoman Sanchez is a member of the Hispanic Caucus, the Blue Dog Democrats, the New Democratic Coalition, and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. She also is a member of the Women's Congressional Caucus, the Older Americans Caucus, the Law Enforcement Caucus, and the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus. She serves on various boards. She is Past President of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, a member of the Los Amigos of Orange County, the Rotary Club of Anaheim, and the Anaheim Assistance League.

Loretta is married to Stephen Brixey, a securities trader, and their families have called the 47th Congressional District home for more than half a century.

**ART TORRES**

**Senator**

Senator Art Torres (Ret.) serves as the elected Chairman of the California Democratic party since 1996 overseeing more than twenty-four core employees in three statewide offices and over 1500 employees during an election cycle. He is responsible for raising more than \$27 million during a two-year election cycle and an operating budget of \$2 million.

He served twenty years in the California State Legislature, eight as a member of the State Assembly and twelve as a State

Senator. He created the most successful anti-high school dropout law in California's history. He helped create the first national Japanese Museum and co-authored legislation that created the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. As Chairman of the Senate Toxics Committee, he co-authored the unprecedented and extremely successful California Clean Water Drinking Act, known as Proposition 65.

Torres was the first Latino to receive his party's nomination for statewide office as State Insurance Commissioner. In 1994, he entered the private sector as President of Cordoba International, an engineering consulting firm in Los Angeles.

While in Los Angeles, he served as the first Chairman of the non-profit corporation overseeing the establishment of the first citywide public access television station using the governmental access channel of the local cable television provider. As current president of Torres Consulting, he provides advice and counsel to many Fortune 500 corporations. He is the Governor's appointee to the Managed Care Commission, which oversees the HMOs in California.

He also served for three years as the United States Senate Appointee to the Commission on International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development culminating in a report to President Bush and the Congress on immigration and international economic reforms. He also received a grant from the German Marshall Fund to complete a demographic study on immigration policy in Western Europe.

**MILITARY**

**MR. WILBERT BERRIOS**  
**CIO, US Army Corps of Engineers**

Mr. Berrios was selected to the Senior Executive Service and appointed as Chief Information Officer for the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1999 where he currently serves as the principle advisor to the Corps Commanding General on information technology issues. He is responsible for all aspects of information resource management, and information technology for the Corps.

He has over 28 years of government experience in the fields of software & systems engineering, automation operations support, force readiness, wargaming & simulations, cost analysis optimization, and aviation while serving in various supervisory, staff, and operational positions within the Department of Defense (DoD).



From 1994 to 1997, Mr. Berrios held supervisory positions within the Defense Information Systems Agency that included responsibility for managing the development, maintenance, fielding, and operational support of critical troop deployment and readiness systems within the Global Command and Control System (GCCS).



In 1991, Mr. Berrios served as the Chief, Architecture Division, Information Management Office, HQ Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (ODCSOPS).

In 1989, Mr. Berrios served with HQDA ODCSOPS as an Operations Research Analyst and staff level consultant on Army readiness and capability issues. He lead the development of a prototype that served as the precursor to the Army Readiness Management System (ARMS), the primary

readiness tool used today by the Army Operations Center and the Army Chief of Staff.

He has a Bachelors Degree in Education and a Masters Degree in Management Science. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff Officers Course and the Advance Management Program of the Information Resources Management College, National Defense University. He was Chairman of the DoD Joint Technical Architecture Working Group and is currently the Chairman of the Information Technology and Knowledge Management Committee of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)

**MICHAEL L. DOMINGUEZ**  
**Assistant Secretary, US Air Force**



Michael L. Dominguez is Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Washington, D.C. A political appointee confirmed by the Senate, Dominguez heads a four-division department that deals at the policy level with Air Force manpower and Reserve affairs issues. His areas of responsibility include force management and personnel, equal opportunity and diversity, Reserve affairs and Air Force review boards.



As an Air Force dependent, Mr. Dominguez grew up on bases around the world. After graduating in 1975 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, reported to Vicenza, Italy, then worked varied assignments with the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne) and the Southern European Task Force. After leaving the military in 1980, Mr. Dominguez went into private business and attended Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. In 1983 he joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense as an Analyst for Program Analysis and Evaluation.

Mr. Dominguez entered the Senior Executive Service in 1991 as PA&E's Director for Planning and Analytical Support. In this position he oversaw production of DOD's long-range planning forecast and its \$12 billion in annual information technology investments. He joined the Chief of Naval Operations Staff in 1994 and assisted in Navy's development of multi-year programs and annual budgets. Mr. Dominguez left federal government in 1997 to join a technology service organization. In 1999 he began work at the Center for Naval Analyses where he organized and directed studies of complex public policy and program issues. In 2001 he rejoined the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations where he worked until his appointment.

## SCIENCE

### ELOY RODRIGUEZ

#### Professor of Environmental Studies, Cornell University

Dr. Rodriguez travels throughout the world looking for natural chemicals produced by plants and animals. He tries to discover how these chemicals work, why they are made by the organism, and how we can apply them, particularly in medicines and pesticides.

At the University of Texas, Dr. Rodriguez became excited about science by actually doing scientific research. (He published or co-published three papers as an undergraduate.) By the time he finished his Ph.D., he had published 14 articles (he has over 140 now). Finally, in 1979, just as he was about to leave the country, the University of California offered him a position, and he remained there until 1994.



Dr. Rodriguez created a new discipline of science called zoopharmacognosy, the study of the behavior of animals that

medicate themselves and of the chemistry of medicinal plants. He and his research team have isolated the chemicals from many native plants that are useful as medicines. In December 1992, Dr. Rodriguez was the first American to be awarded the Martin de la Cruz Award from the Mexican government for research on the chemistry of plants used by Aztecs for medicine.

Considered one of the most brilliant scientists in the country, Dr. Rodriguez is not only an outstanding researcher and university teacher but also an individual with a strong sense of commitment to the minority community.

He started a successful series of programs to increase the involvement of minority children in math and science, to provide them with excellent minority role models, and to involve them in the fun and rewards of scientific research.

He has organized programs for minority students in colleges and graduate schools to support them in becoming researchers in biology and other science fields. In 1990 he began the Kids Investigating and Discovering Science (K.I.D.S.) program, which brings minority students from Kindergarten through eighth grades into the research laboratories at UCI to discover the excitement that comes from exploring the natural and physical world. He continues his research and work with minority students at Cornell University.

### LYDIA VILLA-KOMAROFF

#### Vice President, Whitehead Institute

Lydia Villa-Komaroff is Vice President for Research and Chief Operating Officer of the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is responsible for the Institute's management and research infrastructure. She is a member of the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Hall of



Fame and a fellow of the Association for Women in Science. She has served on several review committees for the National Institutes of Health and was an invited participant in the Forum on Science in the National Interest, sponsored by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She was a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Assessing the System for Protecting Human Research Subjects, the National Academies of Science

Committee on Assessing the Structure of NIH, as well as the congressionally mandated National Science Foundation Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering and the National Science Foundation Advisory Committee for the Biology Directorate, which she chaired from 1997 to 1998. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors for Transkaryotic Therapies, Inc., the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2001. She was named one of the 50 most important Hispanics in business and technology by *Hispanic Engineer and Information Technology* (2002) and one of the 100 most influential Hispanics by *Hispanic Business Magazine* (1997, 2003).

As one of the country's most prominent Hispanic-American scientists, Dr. Villa-Komaroff is deeply committed to the recruitment and retention of minorities in science. She is a founding member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science and has been both a board member and vice president of the organization. A dedicated educator, Dr. Villa-Komaroff makes frequent presentations to students at all levels and provided opportunities for high school students and college undergraduates to work alongside graduate and postdoctoral researchers in her laboratory.



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