This issue of the SACNAS News celebrates the legacy of the Society’s founding members and features articles written by founders and long-time members. The lead articles, written by scientists new to SACNAS, share highlights of the 2003 National Conference. Dr. Richard Tapia reflects on the history of mentoring within the organization, and Drs. Diana Martinez and Bernard Ortiz de Montellano tell the story of the K-12 education program. We hear from veteran members Dr. Kristine Brenneman and graduate student Noe Galvan about how SACNAS has influenced their careers, and founder Dr. J.V. Martinez is profiled in the SACNAS Biography Project. The contributors explain the many facets of SACNAS, honor the past, and diligently persevere into the next 30 years.

"All of you people will lead a better life and succeed. You will benefit people here, all over the United States, and all over the world."

Mr. Jose D. Chavez, during the Native American Blessing at the 2003 SACNAS National Conference.
I
n the early 1970s, SACNAS gave
members an opportunity for profes-
sional interaction among individuals
that were just like us. We gave technical
talks, provided forums for networking,
and strove to build SACNAS into a national
organization. All of this was accomplished
in a supportive, comfortable atmosphere,
one greatly in contrast to the daily environ-
ment in which we lived our professional
lives. We were a small group who desper-
ately needed each other for support. How could we
help others if we ourselves did not survive?
Founding members of SACNAS saw
that the most efficient way to effect
change was from within the academic
system, not outside. Yet out of the nearly fifty
early members of SACNAS, only two of us
had tenure—and without tenure, there is no power.
We were also aware that the affirmative action polices
were falling severely short. The affirmative action
guidelines only specified requirements for
hiring certain numbers of underrepresent-
ated minorities. However, there were no policies
being enacted about retaining them. Thus, many universities, some that
have very good reputations today, were
raising certain numbers of underrep-
resented students. Then those graduate students went
forward and became leaders themselves.
After 30 years, it is more vital than
ever that the work of SACNAS continue.
We're not asking you to
change the world, just your little part of it.”
The SACNAS meet-
ing process is actually something that
occurs on a daily basis, at times when you
ever expect it.
An effective mentor will tell you there
are two sides to being a role model. First,
mentors serve as examples, proof that it
can be done. We're raised in this country
that we can excel at the highest lev-
el, and by global standards. It's extreme-
ly important to believe and demonstrate
that excellence comes in many flavors.
Today's mentoring challenge is: we
must not lose you, the precious few who
have made it to where you are today.
You're committed and you're on a path
to success. We need you as leaders, to help as
reach those others who are underrepresent-
ated. But our job now is to make sure
that you make it through and achieve the
professional objectives that you desire.
You have something to bring to the table
that is very valuable and will make the
world of science for people of color
improve the numbers of underrepresented
minorities in the sci-
ces. Everyone
seemed committed to
this purpose, so I felt
right at home.
As a first-time SACNAS confere-
cence participant, I was
unaware of how things were done, but I
quickly realized the importance of spiritu-
ality at the conference.
During the Native American blessing at the
official opening of the meeting, many
in the audience stood up in reverence.
I did too out of respect for the elder per-
forming the blessing, Mr. Joseph D.
Chavez, and in honor of those who have
gone on before us.
Following the blessing and welcome
address by SACNAS President Luis Haro,
professor of biochemistry at the University of
Texas, San Antonio, William Velez,
University Distinguished Professor of
Mathematics at the
University of Arizona,
presented the keynote address and
thrilled the audience
with a video detailing the
history of SACNAS. He
explained that the organiza-
tion has grown over the
years with 225 attendees at
the first SACNAS meeting in
1978 to over 2000 partici-
pants in 2002. Dr. Velez chal-
enged the audience to
continue making a difference
in the world of science for people of color
by saying, “SACNAS is a song of change.”
Undergraduate Posters Awards

Biology/Bioengineering/Bioinformatics/ Biomedical
Ms. Tara Gomez, University of California, Los Angeles
Mr. Justin Brown, University of California, Los Angeles
Ms. Jennie Betlan, University of California, Irvine
Ms. Amber Caracuz, University of Hawaii, Manoa
Ms. Andrea Hartsock, San Francisco State University
Ms. Sylvia Jamarillo, University of California, Irvine
Ms. Tasha Kawamata, University of Hawaii
Ms. Alaina Lerner, University of California, Los Angeles
Ms. Blanca Marinez, University of Houston
Ms. Kristine Nodarse, Yale University
Mr. Oludare Okunmiri, University of Pittsburgh
Mr. Jason Ortega, Cornell University
Ms. Mia Ortiz, Harvard University
Ms. Myda Padilla, San Francisco State University
Ms. Tanya Williams, Emory University

Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Mr. Daniel Hernandez, Boston University
Ms. Luisa Zambrano, University of Wisconsin

Graduate Oral Presentation Awards

Biological Sciences
Ms. Rose Marie Larios, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Ms. Itzel Orduna, Rutgers University
Ms. Sarah Ponticelli, State University of New York at Buffalo

Chemistry
Ms. Erica Atkins, University of New Mexico
Ms. Carmen Troncoso, University of New Mexico
Mr. Maximiano Vallejos, University of California, Riverside

Education and Social Behavioral & Economic Sciences
Mr. Jose A. Cruz, San Diego State University
Mr. Scott Zander, Montana State University

Engineering and Computer & Information Sciences
Ms. Blanca Canales, University of California, Berkeley
Mr. Tyler McKenzie, New Mexico State University
Ms. Lucy Silva, University of California, Santa Cruz

Geological and Atmospheric Science
Ms. sedeka Ounand, Florida International University
Ms. Pui Ueyama, University Corporation for Atmospheric Science

Geology and Environmental Science and Geological & Atmospheric Science
Mr. Isaac Herrera, University of Texas at El Paso

Mathematics and Physical Science
Mr. Dustin Potter, Virginia Technical Institute

American Society for Cell Biology
Minorities Affairs Committee Awards

Mr. Jessica L. Cruz, University of Michigan
Ms. Maritza Salas, Brown University

SACNAS Mentoring...continued from page 8

Increased, and we became the support mechanism for you, the students of today. Phase three starts with you. Carry with you the SACNAS cause. Put the total picture before the individual. We've done it so well in the past, and I know you will also. Tomorrow is not far away. You, the mentees of today, must be the mentors of tomorrow.

Dr. Richard Tapia, a SACNAS founder, is the Noah Harding Professor of Computational and Applied Mathematics, associate director of Graduate Studies, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and director of the Center for Excellence and Equity in Kilimanjaro at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Pre-Doctoral Degrees earned by SACNAS students in 2002-2003

B.A./B.S.
— Maritza Akwara, Psychology and Neuroscience, University of California, Berkeley
— Nertiussa Baz, Chemical Engineering, University of Puerto Rico
— Jacqueline Benitez, Chemistry, Texas A&M University, Kingsville
— Henry Delu Jr., Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley
— Kate Douglas, Chemical Engineering, University of Michigan
— Lisa L. Falcon, B.A., Biology, minor in Chemistry, St. Mary's University, San Antonio
— Adrian Gomez, Biology, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
— Maricela Gonzalez, Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz
— Angela Gutierrez, Biology, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
— Rachael Howard, Oceanography, San Francisco State University
— Adrian Jacobs, Biological Sciences, North Carolina State University
— Chanda Jones, Marine Biology, Texas A&M University
— Robert Giron Larios, Neurobiology, University of California, Santa Barbara
— Rachel Mayfield-Chavez, Cellular/Molecular Biology, Humboldt State University
— Maikia Moutawakil, Chemistry, University of California, Santa Cruz
— Christina Medina, Biology, St. Francis College, Brooklyn
— Bryan Monte-Somme, Biology, University of California, Irvine
— Irene C. Nakawuchi, Biochemistry, California State University, Domiguez Hills
— Rebecca Parker, Mathematics, University of Georgia
— Johanna M. Rodriguez, Chemistry, Florida International University
— Miladina Sanchez, Ecology and Organismal Biology, Arizona State University
— Milind Santana Velez, Industrial Microbiology, University of Puerto Rico
— Kathrin Statcup, Biology, Texas A&M University, Kingsville
— Audrey Troutman, Biology, Xavier University of Louisiana

B.S.
— Linza Albit, Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, University of New Mexico
— Irene Avila, Psychology (Behavioral Neuroscience), Arizona State University
— Oscar Campos, Mathematics, Dartmouth College
— Maylee Capote, Pure Mathematics, University of Iowa
— Cesar De La Rosa, Mathematics, New Mexico State University
— Clauda Pfenn, Geophysics, University of Texas at El Paso
— Rotanda Floyd, Mathematics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
— Mariza Garcia, Biomedical Engineering, University of California, Irvine
— Leticia Gonzalez, Chemistry, University of Texas, Austin
— Paul Gutierrez, Biology, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
— Rachel L. Medina, Psychology, University of California, Riverside

SACNAS News: In an announcement celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month, Vice Admiral Conrad C. Laemmleker, Jr., the Under Secretary for Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) wrote, "Through NOAA's relationship with the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, and our participation at the National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environment Conference and the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Conference, NOAA shares a productive working relationship with many Hispanic Americans."