

Applicants for Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees Student Member from Moody College of Communication

Place 2 and Place 3 on the TSM Board, both of which are allotted to students from the Moody College of Communication, became vacant at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Applications for these positions, which are due to begin two-year terms, have been accepted during the past six months, subsequent to no students applying to run in the campuswide elections.

There are two applicants, both of whom meet the qualifications for the position, as amended at the May 6, 2014 TSM Board meeting. The classifications given below correspond to the students' current statuses as listed in the UT Directory.

Applied	Name	Major	Classification
15-Aug-14	Bobby Blanchard	Journalism	Senior
27-Jun-14	Arthur D. Soto-Vasquez	RTF / Media Studies	Graduate Student

experience

Texas Tribune

A nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization that exclusively covers public policy, politics and government in Texas.

Intern Aug. 2014 - May 2015 (future)

will work at least 20 hours a week, working on general and daily assignments geared towards government and public policy coverage.

The Houston Chronicle

The primary daily newspaper for the city of Houston, the largest city in Texas.

Metro Intern Jun. 2014 - Aug. 2014

worked on the metro desk for at least 40 hours a week, completing daily assignments that includes everything from crime to event coverage.

The Daily Texan

The student newspaper at the University of Texas, a university with a student population of more than 50,000

Special Ventures Co-Editor: Jan. 2014 - May 2014

reported in-depth, investigative and long form stories while editing similar stories by other reporters. Worked about 35-40 hours a week.

Special Ventures Reporter: Aug. 2013 - Dec. 2013

reported in-depth, investigative and long form stories. Worked about 25 hours a week.

Online News Editor: May 2013 - August 2013

oversaw online and breaking news coverage while ensuring the home page looked fresh. Worked 40 hours a week

Associate News Editor: Jan. 2013 - May 2013

assigned, edited and oversaw the writing of stories for the news department. Worked 20 hours week.

Senior Reporter: May 2012 - Dec. 2012

wrote 3-5 stories a week covering the campus beat, which included student government, on campus events and breaking news. Worked 35-40 hours a week.

Other

Podcast Host: Jan. 2013-Dec. 2013

Life&Arts Staff Writer: Sept. 2012-May 2013

Copy Editor: Aug. 2012-Dec. 2012

General Reporter: Jan 2012-May 2012

Senior Designer: Sept. 2011 - May 2012

KUT News

KUT is Austin's public radio station and an NPR affiliate.

Intern: Jan. 2013 - May 2013

updated the station's news blog, gathered audio clips, pitched stories at daily meetings and wrote copy for reporters to read on air. Worked 22 hours a week.



contact me

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Pearland, TX 77584

skills

Social Media

Fluent in Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Klout, Reddit and WordPress

Adobe

Proficient in InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop and InCopy. Also understand Final Cut and Adobe Audition.

Coding & Data

Understands and can use HTML, CSS, javascript, D3 and Tableau

references

Robert Quigley

Senior Lecturer — Journalism

Work: 512.471.0030

Email: robert.quigley@austin.utexas.edu

Dan Cunningham

Houston Chronicle

Work: 713-362-6992

Email: daniel.cunningham@chron.com

To the Texas Student Media Board,

I hope you've all had a relaxing summer. I am writing to you to express interest in a position on the Texas Student Media Board — specifically one of the vacant College of Communication seats.

I have written to you in the past about my qualifications as a journalist and editor, but I now write to you seeking a very different kind of position. I am not going to lie to you — I have limited experience in serving as any kind of representative on a board. In fact, my experience in that field boils down to serving as the back-up representative of my fifth grade homeroom in middle school student government.

However, I think my previous positions and skills at The Daily Texan have prepared me for this position. My experience in student media will guide me while I serve on the board. I will strive to do what is best for Texas Student Media, the students who consume Texas Student Media and the students who produce it. I have worked in ten positions over eight semesters at The Daily Texan. I have interned with KUT News and the Houston Chronicle, and will spend my school year interning for the Texas Tribune. I have vast experience in journalism, and a strong love for student journalism. Student media plays a crucial role in the lives of the students on this campus, and I understand that.

My passion for student media does not stop at The Daily Texan. While the Texan is my background, I strongly respect and highly regard every student media outlet in Texas Student Media. I believe Texas Student Media is providing the training grounds for tomorrow's greatest journalists and media entrepreneurs — the examples of this are abundant. Located right here in Austin is Rooster Teeth, a production studio co-founded in part by Texas Student Television alumni. Rooster Teeth is a fairy tale success story — it specializes in humorous videos and has more than 7 million YouTube subscribers, more than 3 billion views and many awards for its witty web series. Elsewhere, Texas Travesty alum Jermaine Affonso is now the editor of Clickhole.com, a spinoff cite made by The Onion to parody viral-gated sites such as BuzzFeed and Upworthy. Across Texas, the names of former Daily Texan staffers sit in the mastheads of major newspapers. The Cactus Yearbook has its famous alumni (former Texas governor Dolph Briscoe, prominent Texas lawyer William Frank Buckley Sr. and Washington Post photographer Lucian Perkins), as does KVRX (*Spoon* quartarist Britt Daniel and Texas Tribune CIO Rodney Gibbs, among many others).

These success stories are why I care about Texas Student Media as a whole, and why I want Texas Student Media to continue provide student journalists with a place to learn, grow and experiment while serving UT's campus. I understand, of course, my position at the board would be dealing with issues at a macro level. But I think my experience in Texas Student Media, my passion for student journalism and appreciation of Texas Student Media will appropriately guide me in how I act and vote on the board.

I want to apologize in advance for my absence at August 22's meeting. Before I learned the position was open and before I decided to apply for it, I had already been accepted to participate in the student newsroom project at the National Lesbian and Gay Journalism Media Summit in Chicago. The conference is taking place during the Texas Student Media board meeting, and I won't be back in town till August 24. Should I be accepted to the board, I promise I will not make missing meetings a habit.

If you have any questions about my application, please feel free to call me at 713-865-3686 or email me at robert.bobby.blanchard@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and consideration,
Bobby Blanchard

ARTHUR P. SOTO-DÁSQUEZ

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adsv03@gmail.com

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts (2013-Present)

The University of Texas at Austin - Radio, Television & Film (Austin, Texas): Media Studies with an emphasis on United States Latino Political Communication

Current GPA: 3.94

Bachelor of Arts with the Distinction of Magna Cum Laude (2009-2012)

St. Edward's University (Austin, Texas): Political Science with an emphasis in Political Management

Final GPA: 3.84

EXPERIENCE

Mike Martinez for Mayor of Austin (2014-Present)

- Deputy Field Director (2014-Present)

The University of Texas at Austin (2013-Present)

- Academic Mentor: Department of Athletics (2013-Present)

Hector H. Lopez for Mayor of El Paso (2012-2013)

- Deputy Campaign Manager: Communications and Canvassing (2012-2013)

The National Hispanic Institute (2007-Present)

- 2007 National Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Loyola University Chicago (Representative from El Paso, TX)
- 2008 New York Collegiate World Series at New York University (Participant)
- 2009 Colorado Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Colorado State University (Junior Counselor, Director of the House of Representatives)
- 2009 National Great Debate at the University of Texas at Austin (Head Coach)
- 2010 Colorado Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Colorado State University (Senior Counselor, Elections Commissioner, Director of the Executive Branch)
- 2010 Big Bend Great Debate at Sul Ross State University (Head Coach)
- 2010 Texas STAR Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (Senior Counselor, Elections Commissioner, Director of the Executive Branch)
- 2010 Northeast Collegiate World Series at Wheelock College (Senior Mentor)
- 2010 Celebración at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (Participant)
- 2011 New York Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Rochester University (Senior Counselor, Co-Director of the Supreme Court)
- 2011 Northeast Great Debate at Villanova University (Tournament Director)
- 2011 Northeast Collegiate World Series at Wheelock College (Senior Mentor)

- 2011 Celebración at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (Participant)
- 2012 Colorado Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Colorado State University (Senior Counselor, Co-Director of the Supreme Court)
- 2012 National Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Elmhurst & Benedictine University (Senior Counselor, Director of the Supreme Court)
- 2012 Northeast Great Debate at Villanova University (Head Coach)
- 2012 Celebración at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio (Operations Director)
- 2013 Colorado Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Colorado State University (Senior Counselor, Director of the Supreme Court)
- 2013 Northeast Collegiate World Series at Wheelock College (Assistant Education Director)
- 2013 New York Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at the University of Rochester (Director of the Supreme Court)
- 2013 Texas Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session at Southwestern University (Director of Press & Social Media Coordinator)
- 2013 Celebración at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio (Operations Director)

The Collegiate Leadership Network (2010-2013)

- Member (2010-2011)
- President (2011-2013)
- 2010 Collegiate Leadership Network Convention at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
- 2011 Collegiate Leadership Network Convention at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
- 2012 Collegiate Leadership Network Convention at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio

NewsTaco, The Latino Daily (2011-2012)

- Correspondent at the 2011 Texas Tribune Festival (2011)
- Contributing Writer (2011-2012)

Mary González for Texas State Representative District 75 (2012)

- Volunteer, Research (2012)

St. Edward's University (2009-2012)

- Chief of Staff, Acting President for the Student Government Association (2011-2012)
- Admissions Representative (2010-2012)

ARTICLES, REPORTS & SPEECHES WRITTEN

The University of Texas at Austin

- "The Racial Construction of the Public Sphere: Emergent Opportunities for U.S. Latinos" (7 May 2014) Austin: Unpublished Journal Article
- "Out of Many, Más: Imagining a U.S. Latino Voter Base" (In Progress) Austin: Journal Article
- "News & Identity on La Frontera: A Content Analysis of Spanish Media in the United States" (16 December 2013) Austin: Unpublished Journal Article

Hector H. Lopez for Mayor of El Paso

- Announcement Remarks (30 January 2013) El Paso

- Press Release: Candidate for Mayor of El Paso, Hector Lopez Seeks to Prevent Demolition of Asarco Smokestacks in Order to Promote Health & Environmental Research on the U.S./Mexico Border (20 March 2013) El Paso
- Cesar Chavez Day Remarks (24 March 2013) El Paso
- Press Release: Candidate for Mayor of El Paso Hector Lopez Honored to Accept Endorsement from the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 59 (3 April 2013) El Paso

St. Edward's University

- "Should the United States Congress Pass the DREAM Act" (7 May 2012) Austin: Senior Capstone

NewsTaco, The Latino Daily

- "One Young Latino Hopes To Change Houston For The Better." (31 January 2012) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))
- "Latina Candidate In TX Running To Give Back, Set An Example." (23 December 2011) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))
- "600 Latino Youth Take Time To Think About Leadership." (1 November 2011) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))
- "Is Immigration About Jobs, Humans Or Business?" (25 September 2011) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))
- "Tony Garza: Why The U.S., Mexico Need Each Other." (24 September 2011) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))
- "Looking Past Mexican Violence Into The Future." (24 September 2011) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))
- "Emerging Energy & High Speed Rail In Central Texas." (24 September 2011) San Antonio: NewsTaco ([Link](#))

Mary Gonzalez for Texas State Representative District 75

- "Colonias in HD 75" (April 2012)
- "Education Communication Addendum" (January 2012)
- "Education Profile of HD 75" (January 2012)

INTERVIEWS

Ethics Unwrapped Interview Series: The McCombs School of Business

- Arthur D. Soto-Vásquez (In Production) "Creating an Ethical Culture."

Texas Student Television

- Arthur D. Soto-Vásquez (In Production) "Response to Sen. Ted Cruz's Remarks at the 2013 Texas Tribune Festival."

KRWG TV: Fronteras, A Changing America

- *Fronteras, A Changing America* #221 (26 July 2012) "The Future of the National Hispanic Institute." ([Video](#))
- *Fronteras, A Changing America* #205 (9 February 2011) "The Role of Latino Men." ([Video](#))
- *Fronteras, A Changing America* #118 (24 October 2011) "College Student of the Year: Arthur D. Soto-Vásquez." ([Video](#))

Radio

- Lopez, Hector (January-August 2010) *El Paso for America* KHRO 1150 AM El Paso, Texas

BOARDS

- El Paso Social Network Planning Committee (June 2014-Present)
- National Hispanic Institute Board of Trustees, Board Secretary (October 2011-January 2013)

MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Tejano Democrats: Paso de Norte Chapter (February 2013-Present)
- The League of United Latin American Citizens (February 2013-Present)
- St. Edward's University Alumni Association (May 2012-Present)
- Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society (Fall 2011-Present)
- Alpha Chi Honor Society (Fall 2010-Present)

AWARDS & HONORS

- Ranked #45 of the Top 100 Emerging Latino Leaders by the National Hispanic Institute (October 2012)
- Northeast Great Debate First Runner-Up (Summer 2012)
- Fulbright Applicant to Panamá for St. Edward's University (Fall 2011)
- The National Hispanic Institute's College Student of the Year (Fall 2011)
- Summer Academic Excellence Award (Spring 2011)
- Big Bend Great Debate Champion (Summer 2010)
- St. Edward's University Trustee Scholar (Fall 2009)

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TO: Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees

FROM: Arthur D. Soto-Vásquez

DATE: 27 June 2014

I am writing to indicate my interest for an appointment to the TSM Board this coming term. I am a second year graduate student in the department of Radio-Television-Film pursuing a Master of Arts in Media Studies. My academic work has primarily focused on Political Communication among Latinos in the United States, through which I have spent some time thinking about the future of journalism.

Prior to beginning my studies at The University of Texas at Austin, I managed a political campaign in my hometown of El Paso, Texas. In addition, during my time at St. Edward's University as an undergraduate, I worked as a correspondent and writer for *NewsTaco.com* and served on the board of the National Hispanic Institute as the collegiate representative. These experiences shape who I am today and would certainly inform my service on the TSM Board.

These prior experiences also taught me some of nuance that goes into producing news and media. I wrote under the constraints of a limited budget and deadlines with *NewsTaco.com* and witnessed the power of good journalism during my time with the Mayoral campaign. My prior service on a board also revealed the immense and important duties of a governing body.

I recognize the duties of the TSM board as tremendously important; TSM is the voice of the student body. Our student body is large and diverse, and it necessitates full representation. I also recognize there must be financial and budgetary limitations to implementing the vision of the TSM board. I am ready and willing to serve on the TSM board and address these difficult issues. I also believe there still exists an amazing opportunity for Texas Student Media to be a leader in representing our university community to the world.

Best,



Arthur D. Soto-Vásquez