Members of The Committee

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Jerry Thompson, Regents Professor, College of Arts and Sciences

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Bill Green, Publisher, The Laredo Morning Times

Thomas Mitchell, Associate Professor, Language and Literature

Sushma Krishnamurthy, Associate Professor of Biology

Felix Velazquez, Vice President, Student Government Association

A. R. Sánchez Jr.,* Chairman of the Board, Sánchez Oil and Gas Corporation

*ex officio

For additional information on The A. R. Sánchez Sr. Distinguished Lecture Series, please contact the Office of the Dean of the Texas A&M International University College of Arts and Sciences at 956.326.2460, or visit offices in the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library, room 429, or e-mail jthompson@tamiu.edu

Information on The A. R. Sánchez Sr. Distinguished Lecture Series can also be accessed via the University’s website, http://www.tamiu.edu

A.R. Sánchez Sr.

About This Series

The Texas A&M International University Distinguished Lecture Series honors Antonio R. Sánchez Sr. (1916-1992). After 20 years as the owner of an office equipment business, Sánchez in the 1960s began buying oil and gas leases and used his earnings to establish a bank. In 1974, Sánchez and his son, A.R. Sánchez Jr., along with geologist Brian O’Brien, established the Sánchez-O’Brien Oil and Gas Corporation. The same year, the father and son team discovered the largest natural gas field (Webb and Zapata Counties) to that point in history.

Under his leadership as chairman, the International Bank of Commerce grew to become the International Bancshares Corporation, with banks in Laredo, Zapata, Houston, San Antonio, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the Gulf Coast, and Oklahoma.

Today, the bank employs more Hispanic men and women in leadership positions than all other Texas banks combined.

A. R. Sánchez Sr. is best remembered in Laredo for his philanthropic efforts. Known for his work ethic and generosity, he was a major crusader for a four-year University in Laredo and a supporter of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. He was also a legendary Texas entrepreneur with a down-to-earth sense of humor.

This lecture series is presented through the vision and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Sánchez Jr.
**Dr. Robert M. Gates**

"Homeland Security in the 21st Century"

*Monday, September 20, 2004*

Dr. Robert M. Gates, 22nd President of Texas A&M University, has a stellar academic as well as professional career. He served as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from 1991 to 1993 and is the only career officer in the CIA’s history to rise from entry-level employee to Director.

He joined the CIA in 1966 and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional, serving six presidents. He was Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser at The White House under President George H.W. Bush.

Dr. Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal and the Presidential Citizen’s Medal; has twice received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal; and has three times received CIA’s highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

He received his Ph.D. in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University, his masters in history from Indiana University and his bachelors from College of William and Mary.

“Terror has always been the primary weapon for the weak against the strong. America will continue to be a target.”

*Dr. Robert M. Gates*

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**Dr. Rodolfo O. de la Garza**

“The Latino Vote in the United States”

*Thursday, October 21, 2004*

Dr. Rodolfo O. de la Garza is professor of political science at Columbia University and Vice President for Research at the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute.

His many published works include *Sending Money Home: Hispanic Remittances and Community Development* and *Awash in the Mainstream: Latinos and the 1996 Election*.

His research focus is on the intersection of political behavior, public policy and ethnic, particularly Latino, politics. He directs studies on immigration incorporation and Latino voting patterns.

Dr. de la Garza is highly respected in his field, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Committee on the Status of Latinos in the Profession of the American Political Science Association in 1993. He is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and was named one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics by Hispanic magazine in 1998.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in political science.

“The fact that Latinos may have a different political agenda doesn’t mean it’s threatening to the nation as a whole.”

*Dr. Rodolfo O. de la Garza*

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**Dr. Kenneth Miller**

“Finding Darwin’s God”

*Tuesday, March 29, 2005*

Dr. Kenneth Miller is a professor of biology at Brown University. While his research interests involve structure and function in biological membranes, his other passion is the public understanding of evolution.

Author of *Finding Darwin’s God: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution*, Miller strives to show that the theory of evolution does not diminish the belief in a creator.

Miller’s work is a bridge between evolutionists who demand an agnostic or atheistic belief and creationists who deny evolution.

He has been involved in numerous public debates against anti-evolutionists, and has published numerous scientific papers, articles, essays and reviews. In addition, he edited several high school and college biology texts.

Miller received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado.

“I do not believe, even for an instant, that Darwin’s vision has weakened or diminished the sense of wonder and awe that one should feel in confronting the magnificence and diversity of the living world. Rather, to a person of faith it should enhance their sense of the Creator’s majesty and wisdom.”

*Dr. Kenneth Miller*

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**Dr. Firouz Naderi**

“Exploring Mars”

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Dr. Firouz Naderi has spent the last decade managing NASA programs in pursuit of a most fundamental question – are we alone in the universe?

Currently the head of Jet Propulsion Laboratory’s Mars Exploration Program, he is charged with determining if Mars is, or ever was, a habitat for life. During his tenure, three successful missions have orbited or landed on Mars including the recent two Mars rovers – Spirit and Opportunity.

Prior to becoming the head of the Mars program, he spent four years as the program manager of the Origins Program—NASA’s ambitious plan to search for other Earths around other Sun.

Dr. Naderi received his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California (USC) and has been with JPL for 25 years. He is the recipient of a number of individual and group awards including Technology Hall of Fame medal, NASA’s Outstanding Leadership Medal and the Liberal Prize from Italy.

“Mars is the most Earth-like of the planets in our solar system. It has the potential to have been an abode of life.”

*Dr. Firouz Naderi*