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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
Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center, Room 301, or
e-mail nmomayezi@tamiu.edu

A. R. SANCHEZ, SR.
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES
2005/2006

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Center for the Fine and Performing Arts
Recital Hall
at 7 p.m.
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 for his philanthropic efforts. Known for his work ethic and generosity, he was a major crusader for a four-year University in Laredo for his philanthropic efforts.

Dr. Henry C. Schmidt

Thursday, October 13, 2005

"Not the Border but Laredo: How Cultural Creators Give Meaning to an American City"

Dr. Henry C. Schmidt is associate professor of history at Texas A&M University and specializes in Latin American and Mexico national period history. He is currently working on a book on the cultural history of U.S.-Mexico relations for the University of Texas Press.

Although Dr. Schmidt had published an earlier refereed article on U.S.-Mexico cultural relations, he did not decide to write a book on the topic until 1997, when he gave an invited paper, “Toward a Global Contextualization of U.S.-Mexico Cultural Relations,” that subsequently was put on the Internet. For the last five years, Dr. Schmidt has pursued this line of research.

His most recent paper explores Tejano and Mexican cultural life along the Lower Rio Grande in the 20th century. Dr. Schmidt’s work also includes many articles on Mexican culture and history and the Roots of Lo Mexicano, where he examines the origins and development of “Lo Mexicano,” a sacred phrase in the reappraisal of Mexican civilization in the aftermath of the 1910 Revolution.

Dr. Schmidt received his B.A. and M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He also holds a Ph.D. in Latin American History.

Cecilia Balli

Monday, March 27, 2006

“A Legenda: The Balli Family and the Mexican American Legal Movement”

Cecilia Balli lives in San Antonio and is a writer-at-large for Texas Monthly Magazine. Cecilia Balli lives in San Antonio and is a writer-at-large for Texas Monthly Magazine.

Dr. Dean Hamer

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

“The Gay and the God Gene”

Dr. Dean Hamer, one of America’s leading geneticists, became widely known after he discovered the “gay gene.” His latest book, The God Gene, reveals astounding new scientific evidence that our inclination toward religious faith is no accident. Rather than affirm or deny God’s existence, Dr. Hamer says he simply believes he has identified a specific faith-fostering gene. The God Gene sparked a flurry of debate among the public and was the feature of a Time Magazine cover story.

His best-known work, Science of Desire: The Gay Gene and Biology of Behavior, written by Dr. Hamer and Peter Copeland, revolutionized the understanding of human sexuality and ignited a fierce controversy over gay rights. Dr. Hamer’s previous work on the biology of thrill-seeking, anxiety, anger, and addiction influenced the understanding of human variability and what people can and cannot do to change themselves.

Dr. Hamer has recently focused on new treatments for HIV and advocates for a scientific rather than moralistic approach to the worldwide AIDS epidemic.

He is currently the chief of the Gene Structure and Regulation Section in the Laboratory of Biochemistry of the National Center Institute, where he has worked for the past 24 years. Dr. Hamer received his B.A. from Trinity College in Connecticut in 1972 and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1977.