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# ASFM Network Newsletter

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Summer 2006 — Volume 1, Number 3

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## Letters

### From the Editors

The publication of this third issue of the ASFM Network Newsletter coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Huasteca Campus. Many of us were there on the first day of classes, and remember how it felt to enter the imposing new building — now familiar enough to be the subject of nostalgia.

Huasteca has grown over the years. First there was the construction of the current administrative offices (which were originally where the counselors now are), the gym, and the auditorium. A few years later, every wing expanded with the construction of new classrooms. Most recently, the library almost doubled in size.

But the school has grown in other ways, too. Back in 1996, only 11 students began their senior year. ASFM's high school as it is today, with its academic programs, teaching staff, student-run events and organizations, although part of an old tradition, consolidated in Huasteca.

As a way to reflect on the first ten years of this campus — which come 48 years after the inauguration of Missouri, and the 78 after the school was founded — we asked Tony Antoniades, who delivered the class of 2006's graduation speech, to allow us to publish it here. We trust it will resonate in the memory of the members of other classes. To further honor the occasion, we invite you to send us old pictures of you and your ASFM friends for publication on our next issue, due December.

On this issue, we have articles by old and new contributors, letters from our readers, and a new feature: the responses we received to a question posed to the ASFM Network alumni members through our mailing list. We hope exercises of this sort, intended to produce debate and encourage the participation of a greater variety of people in

this publication, become a common practice in our community.

Remember you can contribute texts of all sorts to this publication — we welcome editorials, academic articles, chronicles, letters, and, of course, news to include in the Class Notes section. We hope this section grows to include information on a larger number of classes. News on new jobs, admissions into an institution, awards and honors, marriage, children, and others in this line are welcome.

Finally, we want to welcome Eugenio Garza (ASFM '06, ITESM '10), who recently became an officer of the ASFM Network, and has already contributed much to its expansion and to the diversification of its mission.

Happy reading!

—The Editors

### From Our Readers

Dear Editors,

As I was reading your newsletter I felt so proud of you and of being part of this wonderful, thriving group of alumni. The articles, the letters, and every bit of written work communicates a feeling of belonging, a feeling of connectedness that goes from our new graduates in 2006 to old-timers from long ago. As I think about our institution, our Alma Mater, I think of this great community that thrives, grows, and continues to be a pillar in our psyches. The buildings, the classrooms, the hallways, will always reverberate echoes of birthday songs, of students laughing, studying, running to class, and of whispers between friends. Our teachers, our directors, our classmates, people who really got to know all of us come to mind.

I am very thankful for your successful efforts and hard work in creating this valuable newsletter that will keep us all connected and feeling as part of a

very big family, where we will always have our space to come back to, by having our class reunions, by having our children study here, or in our memories. Your newsletter is a work of love.

Yvonne Moreno McNeill, ASFM MS '73  
School Psychologist

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Estimadísimos editores,

Disfruté mucho recibir y leer el Spring '06 Newsletter. Los comentarios a los editores, los artículos de viejos amigos, y las Class Notes fueron recuerdos refrescantes de que hay un grupo de amigos ex-alumnos de ASFM muy valiosos regados por el mundo. Felicidades por el esfuerzo exitoso de unirnos a los Eagles de corazón (aunque nos hayamos salido en middle school!). Enhorabuena!

Un saludo afectuoso,  
Sofía Elizondo  
ASFM MS '00, UPenn '07.

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Dear Editors,

Kudos all around for all who have contributed to this publication! I would just like to throw in my two-cents worth regarding Scarnati's touching tribute to Mr. Van der Eyken. I remember when I first met Rob, a week or so before school started (August 2000? I believe), I just knew that he was the right fit for the difficult job of leading the best and brightest of ASFM's talented student population.

Rob has the rare ability to inspire interest in anything. He sold Scarnati on the idea of how to walk unmolested in a big city, didn't he? He invites intellectual development by establishing a comfortable, nonjudgmental classroom environment. And, selflessly, works well "beyond the call of duty" to ensure that a simulation or a community service

project is successful (Anyone remember the number of times, before school policy was changed, he slept at school while Model UN teams worked in the Yes Lab?).

I wish, for my sake as well as for the generations of future Model UN and Secretariat members, the school had been able to make him an offer he couldn't refuse. But, Rob has been handed a great opportunity outside ASFM and will achieve great things there, as well.

Thank you, Rob, for making ASFM home, albeit for six years, along your way through life and for making all of us proud to be associated with you.

Edward Wilson  
ASFM Teacher, 1997-present

\* \* \*

Dear Editors,

Having read Rafael Scarnati's article on Mr. Van der Eyken, I would like to make a brief response. Scarnati had the privilege of being Van der Eyken's student during the beginning of his ASFM career; I would like to give some insight into his final years at the school. I would have to take over the entire newsletter in order to appropriately give him the recognition he deserves, but I will try to give him a brief tribute with as much efficiency as possible, the way Eyken always liked things done.

Although I first had Mr. Van der Eyken as a teacher in 9th grade, I already knew who he was, having heard from him from my older brother, and anxiously anticipated being in his class. He was one of those unique teachers who was recognized in the hallway by 6th and 7th graders, due to his enchanting charisma, his obvious involvement in so many activities, and the way all his students talked on and on about him.

Scarnati mentioned how, whenever he felt he had dominated his responsibilities, Van der Eyken

always wanted to take upon a new task. I completely back him up. Only two years after the Secretariat class opened and IMMUNS began, Van der Eyken decided it was time for more. He wanted to give more students the opportunity to shine, so he created additional projects for the Bach II and Bach III MUN classes: *The Sundial*, a student-run magazine, and CULTRA, an annual conference on religious tolerance. He did this knowing it would mean coming in late at night to work, as well as countless Saturdays, in addition to the enormous workload from being the IMMUNS advisor.

Mr. Van der Eyken constantly reminded us that once we graduate, we will have to face a new world, one that is tough and unjust. We used to have discussions for whole classes at a time on how fresh water is disappearing, bird flu will spread, and China will take over the world. After all, MUN is where you have fun talking about depressing topics. However, he never failed to provide hope. He always reminded us that, with the right attitude and effort, anyone can succeed. Van der Eyken always had enormous confidence in all of us. He knew that, with the right motivation, we all would use our unique abilities to get the job done.

I had the opportunity of working in the Secretariat class from Bach I to Bach III, in quite different positions, from Documents to being Secretary General, so I really got to know him as more than a teacher. I realize now he was always more a friend and mentor than a teacher, a relationship I'm sure he shared with dozens of his students. We got to know him as a guitarist, a cyclist, a democrat, a tour guide, a husband and father, and much more.

With the big picture in mind, Mr. Van der Eyken strived to create a self-sustainable simulation, not affected by changes in its staff, or advisor. We were able to watch together how our small organization solidified through the years, becoming the simulation it is today, recognized by the international community as one of the best in Central America, with attendance from a dozen different countries, an affiliation to the biggest MUN simulation in the

world, and an active role in dozens of community service activities. Now that he has left, IMMUNS will not be the same, but it will continue to be a top-quality self-sustainable simulation, which was Mr. Van der Eyken's original intention.

Mr. Van der Eyken had the unique situation in which he only met a couple dozen students in each generation, but he taught them for three or four consecutive years, so he got to see us change and grow, which created special bonds between his students and him. If there's one way to describe his effect on us, it might as well be this: he changed our lives. He taught us how to work, how to laugh, how to live. You'll always be a part of IMMUNS, and ASFM. We'll miss you.

Diego Villarreal  
ASFM '06, Stanford '10

## News

### Temporary Website Now Online

Although we expect to have a real, quite elaborate ASFM Network website, we have built a temporary one to make a few things available to the ASFM community: the three issues of this Newsletter that have been published to this date, and a FAQ section for current ASFM students considering applying abroad. These FAQ have been prepared by recent alumni. We hope you find them useful, and let us know of any additions you would like to see. The website is at [asfmnetwork.googlepages.com](http://asfmnetwork.googlepages.com).

### ASFM Network Continues Growing

The ASFM Network has grown quickly, and now includes more than 350 alumni from 16 classes, as well as a number of current and former teachers and school staff members. We want to make it grow even more — we have set the goal of having 500 members

by the time the fourth issue of this Newsletter, due November, is published. Please help us meet this goal by sending this third issue to your classmates and your friends and relatives in other classes.

### Alumni Share Opinions and Experiences with Class of 2007

An information session for current seniors planning to apply to schools abroad organized by Ms. Loring — ASFM's new college counselor — and Beto Llaguno (ASFM '04, UVA '08) was held on August 16th at Huasteca Campus. Close to forty students attended and asked questions to the nine panelists: Diego Villarreal (ASFM '06, Stanford '10), Bernardo Elosúa (ASFM '04, UPenn '08), Rodrigo Garza (ASFM '04, UMichigan '08), Pedro Gochicoa (ASFM '04, Notre Dame '08), Luis Daniel Palacios (ASFM '04, UT '08), Oscar Ramírez (ASFM '04, UPenn '08), Nicolás Rodríguez (ASFM '04, UT '08), Manuel Sánchez (ASFM '04, UPenn '08) and Pablo Landa (ASFM '01, Yale '05).

### 2006-2007 Student Council Takes Office

The ASFM High School Student Council, whose officers are Diego Guzmán (ASFM '07), president, Nina García (ASFM '08), vice-president, Eduardo Rodríguez (ASFM '07), secretary, and Lucas Lans (ASFM '07), treasurer, has prepared a number of projects for the school year, and sent the following notes on them to the ASFM Network:

“Committed to the vocation of the Student Council as a representative and democratic organization, this year we will give special priority to all student concerns and suggestions, and welcome any new ideas from the ASFM community. In addition to this function, we are planning a number of new projects, and will give continuity to those of previous student councils.

“As in past years, we will enforce the senior parking policy, and have already distributed identification tags among the members of the senior

class. We will also promote a new parking policy that will give priority to students who car pool.

“Also on the subject of parking, we plan to auction one-month VIP parking permits to raise money for the operation of the student council. Other fundraising activities will possibly include a dance party.

“One of our new projects this year is the Birthday Program, which consists of giving a treat, a message, and putting balloons in a student's locker on the day of his birthday.

“Other new actions include plans to play music in the hallways before school and to open the school's wireless Internet service to students who own laptops.

“Our ‘big project’ is to build an indoor soccer field (*futbol rápido*). Although this is an old plan that remains unrealized, we trust that this year it will be possible, and have begun contacting potential sponsors.”

### Huasteca Campus' Library Expands

During his time as a librarian, Mr. Beau Cain, formerly a high school English teacher, has done much to improve it, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Today it contains one of the largest collections of English language books in Monterrey.

Other improvements include the acquisition of more couches, the installation of wireless internet, the creation of a book club, and, most recently, the expansion of the library's physical space. As Mr. Beau proudly reports, during the past year, the library's books had the greatest circulation in the school's memory.

## Announcements

### The Missouri Mural

As many of you know, there are plans to move the whole school to Huasteca. The ASFM Alumni Office has uploaded an image of the mural at the entrance of Missouri Campus at [www.asfm.edu.mx/-main/alumni/](http://www.asfm.edu.mx/-main/alumni/) and is asking alumni to express what they think should be done with this important symbol of our school. Should it be moved to Huasteca? How could this be done? Where could it be placed? Comments and suggestions are welcome at [alumni.office@asfm.edu.mx](mailto:alumni.office@asfm.edu.mx).

### Running a Marathon...Need your Support

Andrea Victor (ASFM '01, NYU '05), who is currently living in New York, is running a marathon to raise money for cancer research. She sent us this note:

“As a member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma’s Society Team in Training I am preparing for an endurance event (42.2km/Honolulu/Dec.10) to fund research to find a cure for leukemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and myeloma. My goal is to complete the distance running and to raise a minimum of \$5200... yikes, I know. Please support me in my mission to make a difference. Contributions go directly to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to be used for research and patient services. Take a look at my website for details: [www.active.com/donate/tntnyc/AVictor](http://www.active.com/donate/tntnyc/AVictor). Thanks for your support!”

### Socially Responsible Leaders

We also received the following note from Ale Bustamante (ASFM '04, ITESM '09):

“COPARMEX and SeLider will host a semester long course on politics called *Líderes socialmente responsables* (Socially Responsible Leaders). Those interested are asked to apply online before Saturday September 23rd. The course will last 11 weeks and will take place from 9 to 1 pm on Saturdays. It will consist of a series of lectures and activities targeted to young men and women ages 23 through 30. For additional information, please contact Ale Bustamante at 044 818 280 99 07.”

### Paid Internships

If you are currently a college student in Monterrey majoring in a social science and would like to do a two-week half-time internship doing fieldwork in primary schools in the city, please contact Pablo Landa at [pablo.landa@gmail.com](mailto:pablo.landa@gmail.com). There are three paid internships available.

### Looking for Class Representatives

If you would like to become your class’ representative to the ASFM Network, e-mail us at [asfmnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:asfmnetwork@gmail.com). We need people who can serve as a liaison between their generation and this organization, and collect class notes for this publication. Your help would be much appreciated.

### Information for Current ASFM Students

If you are currently in BII or BIII and would like to contact an alumni who attends a college you are interested on applying to, or is studying a major you are considering, write an e-mail to [asfmnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:asfmnetwork@gmail.com), and we will contact you with someone in our database. Remember there are dozens of ASFM Alumni out there, and they are always willing to help.

## Articles

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### Graduation Speech

Tony Antoniadis, ASFM Teacher

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There are so many things I want to say to you right now, you cannot imagine. I have written so many drafts of this thing it's ridiculous. I know that I will never see most of you again, and this is my last chance to tell you anything — and there are so many things I haven't told you that trying to fit them into one speech is making me bleed out my ears.

Do I give you some kind of mission, like a kind of get out there and make a difference pep talk? That would be good. How about a “you're all really special” kind of a thing, which I could top of with a solo rendition of James Blunt's “You're Beautiful” accompanied only by bongo beats that would leave you all in a puddle of sappy tears? Might work. It's been really difficult. In the end, here's what I've decided. The thing I want the most for all of you is that you be happy. I think I maybe know how to do that, and so that's what I want to share with you. I will give you instructions that, if you follow them, are absolutely guaranteed to make you totally happy. This does not mean that I follow them, of course. I try my best, but then, I'm an idiot. But I think that they work.

Here's the thing, though — as I have read over this speech, I've gotten depressed that it sounds like a “Chicken Soup for the Graduating from ASFM Student's Soul.” In fact, I was going to call this speech “Tony Soup,” but that sounded a little revolting, in a cannibalistic sort of way, so then I didn't. So it may be cheesy, but I want you to understand that I really believe in this. If it sounds like an inspirational speaker's worst nightmare, I'm

sorry, but you gave me the floor, and this is what you get.

Don't think I don't know that the whole thing is stupid to begin with. You are teenagers, which means you think you know everything. And to you, happiness is hanging out with your friends, dancing on youtube, and watching cartoons and eating fruit loops in your underwear. You don't have *that* many things between you and happiness right now. What are *you* going to do with *my* advice? Don't get me wrong — I was a teenager once, and I felt just like you do now. All those people behind you were teenagers once. They felt just like you do now. All these people behind *me* were teenagers once, and even *they* felt just like you do now. It's not a bad thing. You haven't done anything wrong.

*Pause* — ...sorry...I was just imagining some of these people as teenagers. Try it — what do you think Mr. Wilson might have been like as a teenager? How about Ms. Wiley? I'm saying that I know what it's like. I know how it feels when some old dude with gray hair and a pot belly tries to tell you how to live. You're like, Wah, wah, wah — you got any X-box tips? If not, I could be watching One Tree Hill right now. Why don't you go read another play, loser? I know this is how you feel, you punks, because that's how I used to feel.

You'll forget all of this by the time you walk out the door, and that's fine, because this isn't the time for advice. Not for another few years. I know this, I really do. But there's a novel you may have heard of, a very wise novel, my favourite novel of all time, and I think it has a lesson for me here as it seems to have for every occasion. That novel, of course, is *Harry Potter and the Halfblood Prince*, by J. K. Rowling...I'm kidding. Of course it's *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. And in that novel, the character of Mr. Antolini — ironically enough, a nerdy pot-bellied English teacher — writes down some advice for Holden on a slip of paper in the hope that when Holden is ready to hear it, it will be there. So I'm going to try to tell you some things, in the hope that you will commit them

to a mental slip of paper, and maybe they'll be there for you some distant day in the future when you're ready for them. Either that, or I'm about to waste a bunch of everyone's time. One of the two.

The first thing I want to tell you is that it's okay to be scared. I know that a lot of you are feeling afraid right now. You're leaving a place that for most of you has been a sort of home for most of your lives. Your group of friends may be scattering. You are off to a new place with new teachers and new rules and new values. There are things like global warming, terrorism, viruses, and Kevin Federline's rap career. You may even be off to a new city where you might possibly have to — the horror — learn how to use a washing machine! You want scary? Try mixing your colours and whites in the warm water cycle, know what I mean? Who wouldn't be afraid?

In fact, I'll tell you what. You? You should be afraid! You ought to be scared out of your mind. It's terrifying! Be very afraid! And let me tell you this — you think *this* is scary — wait four years, when school is over and you have the real world staring you down, when instead of trying to get into college you'll be trying to find a job and a career. That's scary, man. Or wait until you hold your first child in your arms and realize that the entire physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of this totally helpless, utterly defenceless infant depends on nothing and nobody but you. You think *this* is scary? Your journey of fear is only just beginning. Believe me — I have been there.

And yet, when I was in your shoes, all I heard from people was that I shouldn't be. Don't worry, they'd tell me. Don't be afraid, they'd say. There's nothing to fear. Or my dad's personal favourite, "Don't be ridiculous, it's nothing!" Clearly, these people are on crack. And it always made me feel weak, when they said stuff like that, because I *was* afraid, and I couldn't make myself not be, no matter what I tried. I'm betting that at least some of you are in the same boat. And you know what I

have learned? It's ok. It is ok to be scared. That's a good thing, because I basically pee my pants every day of my life.

But it is *not* ok to let that fear make your decisions. If it did, we'd all just sit in the basement watching the Nanny and rocking back and forth in the fetal position. Feel the fear, of course, yes, but don't stop there — think past it. It doesn't have to stop you from doing the thing you're afraid of, you know? There are exceptions, of course — I don't want you standing on the roof of a 50-story building, feeling afraid to jump off, but then remembering my inspiring words and conquering your fear, and jumping off, and then thinking on the way down, You know, Tony was right! This isn't so —splat. To be brave is not to know what fear is. Courageous people feel fear, and go ahead anyway. I'll take courage over bravery any day. In the end, it boils down to one thing — you have to believe in yourself. You'll be fine. You're awesome. But we'll talk about that in a second.

Next, I'd like to recycle a little exercise I did on the first day of school with those of you cursed enough to have me as your teacher last year. I asked you to look at a painting on the back wall of the classroom, and then to look back at me. Then I challenged anyone at all to prove to me — without observing in *any way* — that the painting was still there, that it didn't just disappear as soon as you stopped looking at it. Well, you couldn't. Of course you couldn't. It's impossible. At the time, I think I tried to use that exercise to show you that most of what you think you *know* about the world, you really only *believe* — that you understand the world more through your mind than through actual objective experience.

I tried to show you that literature, then, could be as real for you as you chose to make it — that if you chose to believe that Spiderman was as real as Vicente Fox, neither of whom I have ever seen in person, well, that was up to you. You'd be totally nuts, of course, and I would never be in a room alone with you, but it would be your choice. I want

to take that one step farther today. I want you to understand that your reality is completely shaped by *you*. If you want to believe that we live in a world where paintings rather reasonably remain where you hang them even when you turn around, you can do that. If you'd rather believe that little pink-eyed fairies swoop down and carry them off to never-land, only to replace them a second before you turn around to look, who's going to prove you wrong?

Fortunately, there are some more serious implications to this notion. Seriously, if you want to believe in a world where everyone is bad and flawed and they're only nice to you because they want something, you can. But if you want to believe that we live in a world where everyone is beautiful and good and true, and that they only do bad things because they need something and they don't know how to ask, then you can do that, too. If you want to believe that life is hard and long and difficult and cruel and filled with obstacles, you can. If you want to look at it as an unbelievable miracle that life even exists, either a precious gift from an all-powerful and benevolent God, or the hugest most absurd series of natural freak occurrences, mutations, and coincidences you could ever imagine, and that even the painful times are to be cherished and treasured as the beautiful presents that they are, then that is up to you. Whatever you believe is true. What ever you imagine is what happens.

I'm not saying that you can stop bad things from ever happening, or that you will never hurt. Stuff happens. But I *am* saying that *you* create the framework in which to hang these events. Your imagination – and your mind – are all powerful. All powerful. So powerful they can make paintings disappear on walls behind you, and make them reappear at will. If you can do that – and you all can – there seems to me to be precious little that you cannot do. You can make the world beautiful by looking for beauty. You can make yourself good by looking for goodness inside you. You can make yourself happy by finding reasons to be happy. Do these things.

Let me recycle yet another example of a class discussion. Here's the thing: life is simple. All you do is figure out who you are, and then stay true to that. Simple, no? Of course it is. If you can do this simple little thing, I can guarantee you total happiness. Sadly, though, like many simple things, this is extraordinarily difficult. Figure out who you are. Simple. But next to impossible. I still haven't done it, and I have no social life — I have nothing else to do. And for you, it is uniquely difficult.

I hope I don't offend anyone when I say that I have never in all my life and all my travels come across a society that presents more of a challenge to the self-seeker than yours does. Values are assigned to you from a young age, your personality is almost dictated to you by the San Pedro bubble, and those who deviate from their pre-ordained selves have a very difficult time. It is not an easy thing I am asking of you. And it is difficult for *any* teenager. Up until now, much of your personality has been formed for you by your parents and your teachers and your friends. You do *this* because your parents said so. You do *that* because if you don't you'll get a detention or fail the class. You say this because if you don't people will think you're a loser and they'll make fun of you.

There are so many voices screaming at you telling you who to be that it's almost impossible to hear your own quiet little whisper, deep inside you. Often you can only hear it when you're alone, maybe staring at the ceiling, waiting for sleep to come. All too often it is drowned out as soon as we step outside into the world. As Ralph Waldo Emerson writes,

These are the voices which we hear in solitude, but they grow faint and inaudible as we enter into the world.

What I am promising you is that if you listen to your own voice, and if you listen to it above

all other voices, you will be happy. You will be happy in a way that you cannot comprehend. Find that voice. It is in there, inside each of you. It is different than everybody else's, and it is so beautiful. Listen. Find the courage to listen.

Now, lastly, let's talk about love. I know, I know, there's a lot of eye-rolling, and a lot of "um – hello? Actually I've seen *The Notebook* like 40 times, so I know everything there is to know about love, thank you very much, so why don't you just shut up, okay?" And yes, I know you've heard it all a billion times. But I have come to understand love in a whole new way, and this is the single biggest and most important lesson that I have ever learned in my entire life, and I want you to try to understand it. Are you ready? Ok. The love part. Here we go. You people are loved, and you're very lucky for it. This building is built of bricks, but it was built for love. Your parents love you. Your teachers love you. Your friends love you. God, if you believe in him, loves you. You are quite literally bathed in a constant torrent of love from all sides. Now, a lot of you are rolling your eyes again because this is irrelevant to you, this part. Wah wah wah love blah blah blah. And you know what? Here's the thing. Here's my big deal insight. You're right. You are absolutely right. Who cares? Being loved is really not that important. Not that important. And you know, I always thought that being loved was really crucial, you know? I saw movies, too, and all that.

But here's what I have learned — it means nothing. Well, maybe not nothing. I mean, it's nice, and given the choice, I would rather be loved than be hated, rather have someone give me roses than kicks to the groin, rather be kissed than spat on, sure. And obviously I want to find someone special who loves me, and whose name is Cate Blanchett. But it's not being loved that gives life its meaning, I don't think. It is not about being loved. It is about loving. It's about loving others. Think about this. Imagine this. You've got two people. One is loved by many but loves absolutely nobody. Sees everybody else as phony (hint hint) and superficial and horrible. The other is loved by

nobody but loves absolutely every single human being with whom he or she comes into any sort of contact. Who is happier? If you said the first one, well, you've kind of blown my argument. Thanks a lot. Besides, it was a rhetorical question, so keep it to yourself.

I believe that it is loving other people that gives us meaning. You've heard this all over the place. Eight different times in the Bible — that's *eight!* — we are told to love our neighbours as ourselves. 8 times! Either Jesus thinks we're really stupid, or this idea is kind of central. A famous author, of whom you may have heard, by the name of Jerome David Salinger, writes in a short story entitled "For Esme, With Love and Squalor" (and I should point out that he is quoting Dostoevsky),

Fathers and teachers, I ponder, what is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love.

Hell is the suffering of being unable to love. Hell is not being unloved by others, it bears pointing out. It is being unable to love others. Lastly, if the ultimate *spiritual* authority and the ultimate *literary* authority don't convince you, then how about the ultimate musical authority? And by that, of course, I mean... disco. Recognize this?

Go on now go walk out the door  
just turn around now  
'cause you're not welcome anymore  
weren't you the one who tried to hurt me  
with goodbye  
you think I'd crumble  
you think I'd lay down and die  
Oh no, not I  
I will survive  
as long as i know how to love  
I know I will stay alive  
I've got all my life to live  
I've got all my love to give  
and I'll survive

I will survive

I know you've heard that a billion times, but listen: As long as I know how to *love* I know I'll stay alive. Not "as long as I am loved." That's the whole point of the song — how does the brilliant Gloria Gaynor survive? She loves, even when she is not loved. That is what gives her life. Disco singers. Is there anything they don't know? The sentiment is everywhere in the English language. It's one of my favourite things about my mother tongue that we use the word "love" to refer to so many things. I know it's a little silly to say you love chocolate and you love the movies, and also that you love your parents and your friends. But what if you did? I mean, you obviously can't *love* chocolate. And if you can, well, I'm not sharing my Twix with you. But what if every bite you took was with love? What if every person you met was with love? What if every time we used that word it really meant what it means? How happy would you be?

My point is this: do not make your life about being loved. Make your life about loving. Loving yourself, first. About loving every single person you come across, and even the ones you don't, no matter what. Even if they're stupid or a social misfit or they say the wrong thing. Even if your friends hate them or if they go to the wrong school. Even if they hurt you, or disappoint you or let you down, or if they don't understand you. Even if they are sick, or addicted to drugs, or gay. Even if they live in a faraway country and don't have enough to eat or the strength to brush the flies off their faces. Even if you've never seen them before in your life. Make everything you do in your life an exercise in love. Your job, your education, your singing, dancing, acting, talking, whatever. If you love, you will be happy. Your life will mean something. It's really difficult, because we're human. But try it.

Those are my four little tips. And let's get one thing clear — I do not for one second claim to have mastered any one of the four, never mind all of

them. But I'll tell you this — these four things are as close to a guide to happiness as I can possibly come up with. But if you can control your fear, use the power of your mind to visualize the world the way you want it to be, find your own voice and listen to it no matter what anyone else says, and make everything you do an exercise in love, then, well... a Jedi will you be. No, no, no you won't. You'll be happy, though, I promise you that. And you *will* have a mission — if you love everybody, you won't let them starve or breathe poison. If you listen to your own voice, and love yourself, you will figure out for yourself how incredibly beautiful and special you are, and ultimately, that's way more effective than hearing it from the nerd at the podium.

Lastly, let me add something a little more personal. I said that loving others was the key to happiness and to a meaningful life; well, you have made me happy, and you have given my life meaning, because I love you. And it has been supremely easy to do, too. Every single day for the past two years, you have shared your happiness, your joy, your excitement about life, your intelligence, your quest to make yourselves better, and to make things better, your abundant energy and absolutely limitless potential — I love these things in you. Your innocence — which I perhaps naively choose to believe in — remember the painting on the wall behind me? — the simplicity and purity of your view of life — I love these things in you. Your trust in me, your faith and belief in me have at times been overwhelming, such as the indescribable honour you do me in asking me to address you this afternoon, and you have made me strive harder than you know to be worthy of it, to be the person you seem to think that I am. I am a far better man for having known you. I have no way to repay you.

Let me conclude by saying that if hell is being unable to love (and if Salinger says so then it must be true), and that being able to love is as close to heaven as we can get with a pulse, then I have walked with you through the Garden of Eden, my friends, and I am more humbled and grateful than is in my limited powers to describe. Class of 2006:

I love you, I thank you, I congratulate you, I am surpassingly proud of you, and I wish you all the happiness in the whole wide world. Thanks for your time.

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## Soccer and Politics

Miguel García, ASFM '06, ITESM '10

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Sports are viewed by many to be in a completely different category as politics, but the truth is sports have a great influence on global politics—especially soccer. Nations during wartime use the soccer field as a battlefield and the game as the battle itself. Games manipulate a nation's economy in a number of direct and indirect ways. The history between countries and the hard-hitting times between them creates a greater passion for the game. The worldwide known sport, soccer, has a direct impact in global politics with respect to wars, economic standards and political history.

\* \* \*

Soccer matches, when played between countries that are in any type of war-like conflict, have a greater impact than when played at any other time. Countries at war try to beat each other in a soccer match to show the world who is truly superior. The national teams of Argentina and England do not get along as one would hope given the events of the 1982 Falklands War, which created a rivalry between them. In the 1986 World Cup celebrated in Mexico, Argentina beat England with a goal scored by Argentina's star Diego Armando Maradona with his hand. After the game, Maradona said:

It was as if we had beaten a country, not just a football team... Although we had said before the game that football had nothing to do with the Malvinas War, we knew they had killed a lot of Argentine

boys there, killed them like little birds. And this was revenge.

The soccer match served as an opportunity for Argentinean society to express their anger against the British.

A game between countries at war can also serve as a source of peace. The United States played against Iran in the 1998 World Cup celebrated in France. While the U.S. was bombing Iran, Iranian players gave Americans white flowers in gesture of peace. Given that the World Cup is televised worldwide, the world noticed that peace was trying to be achieved by both nations. If war has negative effects in the battle field, it may have some positive ones on the soccer field.

\* \* \*

From an economics point of view, countries try to show their superiority in soccer games. Poor countries try to beat the rich ones to show that that are not inferior to them and that they should not be seen as less of a country.

Mexico and the United States have immigration issues since Mexicans are constantly crossing the border illegally. The immigration issue has created a passionate soccer rivalry which goes beyond the love of the game and has created personal hostility among people from both countries. A significant spark that stunned the Mexicans was when Landon Donovan, an American soccer player, made this declaration regarding Mexico's national team:

I think that's what angers them about us, because we have lives beyond soccer and many of them don't... That's why they talk and say the things they do, because they can't do it on the field.

Landon Donovan forgets the soccer spirit and attacks Mexicans personally given the rivalry the

two nations have created.

Also, soccer matches, especially when tournaments are organized, provide enormous economic gains for countries. The World Cup celebrated in Korea in the year 2002, provided a stimulus of \$6.9 billion to the country and an increase in the employment rate given that 350,000 jobs were created. Some would think countries host events such as the World Cup to have soccer games played in their stadiums but seeing the number of jobs it creates, that is another important reason why hosting it is significant. Economics and soccer are directly related even though they might seem to be in completely different channels.

\* \* \*

Historical events might appear to be dead and forgotten, but in soccer matches, many are reborn. Recall what an English editorial stated just before a match against Germany:

If perchance, on the morrow, Germany should beat us at our national game, let us take comfort in the fact that we have twice beaten them at theirs.

Probably Martin Luther King made a remarkable step towards getting rid of racism, but it was not enough to eliminate it from soccer matches. In Spain, during some soccer games, white fans jump up and down screaming together that if you are not black, you should jump up. Many times fans will start shouting negative historical events against the other team since their team is not playing as they would like. History is not and will never be forgotten in the soccer field.

\* \* \*

Economics, world history, and wars are linked with soccer even though they might seem a completely different subject. You do not have to be a politician in order to have an impact in global

politics, given that soccer players sometimes take care of doing so. As globalization continues to grow in our world today, we can see how sports are beginning to join the forces of nations and play a part in global politics.

*A version of this essay was written for Jaime Levitt's 12th grade English class.*

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### Notes on the Architecture of Alfred Giles and the History of Monterrey

Pablo Landa Ruiloba, ASFM '01, Yale '05

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A watercolor of a neoclassical house presides the dining room in my grandparents' house. It has always been there, but only recently did I discover where it came from.

I was in the library of Monterrey's Mexican History Museum and asked to see what books they had on local architecture. They showed me three, two of which are well-known. The third however, was a great surprise: it documented the work of a British architect by the name of Alfred Giles who lived in San Antonio, Texas.<sup>1</sup> He moved there because he suffered from an obscure ailment for which doctors could only recommend a milder climate.

He soon became very prolific, designing with the freedom and mastery of style characteristic of the nineteenth century. Around the year 1900, when he ran out of work in Texas, he brought his practice to Monterrey, then a small city with a growing industrial activity.

I began to suspect he was the author of watercolor in my grandparent's house as I saw the images in the book. A few things looked very familiar:

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<sup>1</sup>Juan Manuel Casas García, et al. *Monterrey a principios del siglo XX, La arquitectura de Alfred Giles*. Monterrey: Museo de historia mexicana, 2003.

the elongated sculptures, the gilded domes, and the airy porticos. I went back home and called my grandmother. She told me:

“I found the watercolor in my father’s house after he died. He wanted to build that house for the family in front of the *Alameda*. My mother had put it away in a closet, because she never liked it. She told me it was by an architect from San Antonio, but I don’t remember his name.”



Figure 1: House by the *Alameda*

She could not remember his name, but was clearly talking about Alfred Giles. I told her what I had found and went to bed soon after. But the phone awakened me: my grandmother was excited over my “discovery,” had called a bunch of people, and gathered more information for me:

“On the street of Bolivar [now Padre Mier] stood two houses by Giles. They reached all the way to the other side of the block, where they had another entrance. The houses were almost identical to each another, with a short stairway leading to an open portico in the front façade. They were built in stone, and had large patios with orange and lemon trees.”

I later found that these two houses were demolished in 1996. Ironically, the city celebrated the

400th anniversary of its foundation on that year, something that encouraged reflection on its past and its meaningful sites. For some reason, Giles was not an object of public attention back then; since his buildings were all from the twentieth century, they were perhaps not considered of historical significance.

Fortunately, other buildings and structures by Giles do survive. Among them are the *Banco Mercantil* (1901), *La Reinera* (1901), the *Panteón del Carmen* (1901), and the *Arco de la Independencia* (1910). These works are valuable not only because of their architectural quality, but also because they tell us much about the character of Monterrey in the early 1900s.



Figure 2: *Arco de la Independencia*

In colonial times, Monterrey was a small town. Since there were no mines or other significant natural resources in the region, the Spanish colonizer’s interest on it was almost exclusively territorial. Monterrey’s population was meager and unstable; it suffered often from flooding and attacks by the Alazapas and other indigenous nations. Additionally, the distance between Monterrey and Mexico City made communication and further colonization difficult.

Monterrey’s geographical isolation allowed its

population to enjoy much independence. The “great historical events” of the colonial period, including the war of independence, left Monterrey largely untouched. The people of the Nuevo Reyno de León (now the State of Nuevo León) were even exempt from paying taxes to the viceroy, with the justification that they “had to wage war against the Indians.” With time, these conditions led to strong federalist sentiments in Monterrey. The participation of the *caudillos norteños* in military struggles such as those against Santa Anna were, to a large extent, motivated by these sentiments.

The city changed abruptly after the Texan independence and its annexation to the United States. With the establishment of the new border just 200 kilometers north, Monterrey became a border town. The border was still beyond the control of both the Mexican and the American governments, so it remained relatively open to the flow of merchandise. The first men to build significant fortunes in the Mexican northeast were those who took advantage of this. Especially during the American Civil War, when many American ports and railways were shut down, businessmen from Monterrey became important trade intermediaries. Confederate cotton and other products arrived to Monterrey through Laredo, and were then sent to the port of Matamoros and shipped to Europe.

With the end of the Civil War, commerce declined. There were a number of families, however, that now had the capital to invest in industrial enterprises, and thus the *Fundidora Monterrey* and *Cervecería Cuahutemoc*, among others, were born.<sup>2</sup> Alfred Giles designed buildings for the owners of these companies: the city’s emerging industrial class.

The architect’s arrival from Texas is not acci-

<sup>2</sup>The *Fundidora*, a steelworks that became the largest of its kind in Latin America, was founded in 1900, and shut down in 1984. The *Cervecería*, a brewery, was established in 1890, and “gave birth” to many of Monterrey’s major industries as it began to produce its own glass bottles, bottle caps, bottle labels, and carton boxes.

idental. During the nineteenth century, despite the construction of railways, Monterrey was still very distant, both geographically and culturally, from Mexico’s capital. Indeed, it was closer to Texas, from where many immigrants arrived — including American, French, Italian, German, Irish, and English specialized laborers and investors, who played an important role in the city’s industrial awakening.

The eclectic architecture of Giles, as seen in the *Panteón del Carmen*, where he designed a the stern neo-gothic entrance and chapel, as well as a number of monuments with classical, romanesque and gothic elements, is a good expression of Monterrey’s cosmopolitanism at the beginning of the twentieth century.<sup>3</sup> The city had become the spot on which the economy and society of the Mexican northeast converged.

The *Banco Mercantil* and *La Reinera*,<sup>4</sup> also communicate much about the character of Monterrey before the Mexican Revolution. Their structure is of cast iron classical columns, and their interiors were of carved wood (these have unfortunately been destroyed). In both cases, the façade is very refined and strictly academic in its composition. These buildings look nothing like those that were built in Monterrey in previous decades: mostly austere, one-story houses made of soft stone. Their elaborateness reflects the growing confidence of the city’s entrepreneurs.

Monterrey’s history, however, had started to change by the time Giles established an office here. Porfirio Díaz had ruled Mexico for almost two decades, and his centralist government was in conflict with the interests and convictions of local

<sup>3</sup>The *Panteón del Carmen*, the city’s first private cemetery, is located on Nicolas Bravo Street, between Washington and Arramberri. The monuments by Giles in the cemetery include those of the Rivero and Armendaiz families, the members of both of which included important businessmen.

<sup>4</sup>Both of these buildings are located on Morelos Street in downtown Monterrey. The *Banco Mercantil* is now home to *Banorte*. *La Reinera* was a fabric and clothing store owned by the Mendirichaga family.

businessmen and military leaders. In an attempt to make them conform to his power, Díaz named Bernardo Reyes, a general from Guadalajara, governor of Nuevo León.

Giles' *Arco de la Independencia* is a monument that reflects the transformations Díaz wished to effect in the region. Commissioned by Reyes for the intersection of the recently inaugurated avenues Unión and Progreso,<sup>5</sup> the arch celebrated the country's founding event as seen from its capital, and thus sought to make the people of Monterrey participate of its significance.

The arch is contemporary to Mexico City's *Ángel de la Independencia*, and conveys the same message: the rule of Porfirio Díaz, with its modernization efforts and nationalist integration project is the natural outcome of the struggles for independence that took place a century before. For the country's political leaders, Mexico City and Monterrey shared a history and should join forces in the consolidation of the new Mexico.

It is perhaps not surprising that the Mexican Revolution was born, and to a great extent developed, in the north of Mexico. Francisco Madero was the grandson of Evaristo Madero, a wealthy industrialist who was antagonistic towards Díaz.<sup>6</sup> Ironically, however, the Revolution resulted in the birth of a new centralist government that maintained a tense relationship with Monterrey's political and economic leaders for decades.

The Revolution would also mean the end of Alfred Giles' career in Monterrey. From 1910 to 1920, practically nothing was built in the city, and Giles died in 1920.<sup>7</sup> When I asked my grandmother

<sup>5</sup>Now Calzada Madero and Calzada Pino Suárez. Together, the avenue's names, Unión y Progreso (Union and Progress) were a positivist slogan, and the name of the political party to which Reyes belonged.

<sup>6</sup>Evaristo Madero commissioned a number of buildings from Giles, including the two houses on Padre Mier Street I heard described by my grandmother over the phone.

<sup>7</sup>His last work in Monterrey would be posthumous: the *Casino de Monterrey* was built in 1922 after his plans, drafted

why the house in the watercolor had not been built, she said: "I told you my mother never liked it. But there was also the Revolution. The whole family fled to the U.S. and did not return until the conflict was over."

## Readers' Views

### Alumni Share their Views on Mexico's Presidential Election

Various Contributors

On August 12th, the ASFM Network sent the following note to its alumni members:

"It's been more than a month since Mexico's presidential elections and there is not an official winner yet. The country is divided, and is going through a post-electoral period much unlike any other before. *We want to hear what you think.*

"The ASFM Network Newsletter will publish impressions from its readers on the virtues and flaws of July 2nd on its summer issue. Was the election fair? Have the IFE and the TRIFE acted as they should? Have the candidates? What do you think will happen in the next few months? What changes do you expect to take place during the next presidency? What can be done to avoid the further political polarization of Mexico's population?

"Please send us your opinions!"

Below we reproduce the responses we received. Thanks to all of those who participated.

\_\_\_\_\_ years before.

## The Election was Fair

Mexico invested more money in this election than any other electoral year, and more money than any other country in the world ever has. The election was fair, and AMLO's reactions are pitiful, and serve to prove just how bad of a president he would be. Needless to say, all the crazy ideas he had for Mexico would have taken us back to the 1800s.

Carlos Celada ASFM '01, Notre Dame '05

## AMLO is not a True Democrat

Manuel (Maquío) J. Clouthier said it best, "We will change Mexico without hatred or violence." These inspiring words of the 80s have suddenly become so very nostalgic.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador has convinced his followers that we are witnessing the most sophisticated and malefic fraud that has plagued our young democracy, and they have followed his cries to sequester the streets of Mexico City until the Federal Electoral Institute declares the rightful winner none other than AMLO himself. Anybody with a peanut for a brain and some education knows he is living in la-la land, yet he is preaching to the right crowd. Mexico is beleaguered with poverty and inequality, a bureaucratic and inefficient educational system, and widespread corruption and disrespect for the law; the legacy of a seven decade party dictatorship. Those that have not fared well against those odds see in AMLO hope, the answer to their prayers, a true messiah.

Had there actually been a fraud and AMLO were the winner, even then he would be harming our fragile democracy. Allowing ourselves for a moment to actually believe this madman and his cry of fraud, there would still be two main differences between this election and the fraudulent one staged in 1988. Then, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas received the support from all the losing parties and candidates, including Maquío. Today, AMLO stands alone; every party (outside his coalition) has recognized

the triumph of Felipe Calderón. Then, the protests did not affect the citizens and Cárdenas and Maquío sat down to negotiate with the PRI. Today the protests affect everyone in Mexico City and AMLO allows no room for negotiation.

Maquío once said: "I'm not looking for a job; I'm trying to make Mexico democratic." If AMLO were a true democrat, he would abide by Maquío's words.

Eduardo Padilla Sada ASFM MS '98, Emory '06

## The Inadvertent Consequences of the Mexican Electoral Process

Much has been written about the consequences this year's electoral process. Analysts and pundits alike have endlessly commented on the loss of political capital of the left, the visible political impasses that the future president will face, and the weakening of institutions that were once considered exemplary. The current political turmoil has been seen as a sign of the polarization of a country that is plagued by economic disparity. The confrontations that can arise in the next few months could no doubt be a tremendous blow to our budding democratic system. Nonetheless, the situation might not be as dire as it seems at first glance. The inadvertent result of the current political conflict could be a period of political and economic progress not seen in several sexenios.

While there is little doubt that the future president will have to do much political mending, there is also the distinct possibility that long-postponed reforms will finally pass through congress during his government. During the electoral campaigns there was a clear confrontation between the two ends of the political spectrum, but the final effect of this might be a positive one. Our future president would face an uphill battle were he to continue with the tone adopted during the campaign trail, so this is unlikely. Instead, whoever ends up in *Los Pinos* will need to move towards a more moderate posture and a consensus-building attitude. Radical

rhetoric has no place in the post-Fox Mexico. The new president will have to quickly put behind the electoral process, and establish himself as a proactive statesman willing to take the necessary steps to achieve the structural reforms that have been the missing component of Mexico's quest for modernity.

Much has been said by certain sectors of the media about the parallels between this year's election and that of 1988. The only discernible similarity lies in the post-electoral scenarios. In 1988 the nascent three-party system split into two clear blocks — one seeking to accelerate the pace of reform in Mexico, and another on hold until the next electoral process. Leaving the benefits or disadvantages of such positions aside, the likelihood of such a scenario seems more and more likely as days go by. While the prospect of a divided congress is not ideal, the necessity of structural reforms far overshadows the need for an amiable congress. This is not to say that this division should be encouraged or applauded, but the quest for Mexico's economic, social, and political well-being should be the first priority in the national psyche. Let us hope, that the result of today's political turmoil is a government that seeks to further develop a nation, and not one that falls into a political stalemate. The time for change started long ago, today is the day to continue down that road.

Alonso Bustamante ASFM '01, UChicago '05

### The Situation is Shameful

I am impressed that today, in the 21st century, there is a country whose capital city has been taken over by a group that found no resistance and is supported by the local police. I find it shameful for Mexico that a person can take over the capital city asking for a recount of the votes, when there have been three rounds of vote counting and the result has not changed.

I believe that the TRIFE acted in a very re-

sponsible manner. When you have an issue where a candidate is requesting a recount of the votes, you either listen to him, counting all the votes, or dismiss him by claiming that the election was clean and legal. If you attend him partially you will not get out of the problem, leaving the candidate with the possibility to claim irregularities in other voting places.

Eugenio Garza ASFM '06, ITESM '10

## Class Notes

### '98

This summer, **Polo Escudero** (ITESM '04) got married to **Priscila Ayala** (ASFM '02, ITESM '06) in what was a much commented and celebrated party. ASFMers from many classes were there — from Polo's generation, Priscila's and **Miguel Escudero's** (Polo's brother: ASFM '01, ITESM '05).

### '99

**Bobby de la Garza** (UDEM '05) earned a master's degree in Georgetown and will start working in New York this year.

### '00

**Hernán Salinas** (ITESM '05, LSE '07) returned to Monterrey for the summer. He is currently studying a master's degree in public administration in London and is set to graduate within a year.

### '01

**Priscila Perales** was among the ten finalists in the Miss Universe pageant held on July 23 in Los

Angeles, CA.

Also, **Judith de los Santos'** (ASFM MS '98, Berklee '05) new album has been released. It's called *All of The Above*, and is available for purchase online (visit her website at [www.judithdelossantos.com](http://www.judithdelossantos.com) for more information). One of the songs in the record – *Everything* – recently won the Grand Prize in the Unisong International Contest. Judith was awarded a trip to Ireland, where she will meet other songwriters.

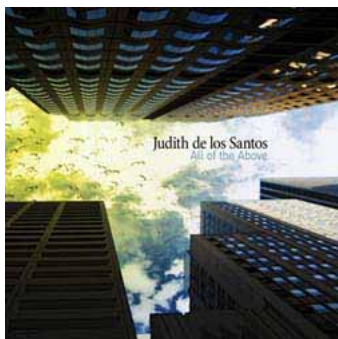


Figure 3: Judith's New Album

**Eduardo Padilla Sada** (ASFM MS '98, Emory '06) worked for **Allen & Coin**, an investment bank in New York City since his graduation in May. He arrived recently in Monterrey, and is planning on moving to D.C. Another person that recently returned to Monterrey is **Ricardo González** (ITESM '07), who spent a year Austria as an exchange student.

On July, **Diego Fernández** (ASFM MS '98, Notre Dame '05) started working for **CEMEX** in Houston, where he moved from Buffalo. **Martha Gil** (ITESM '05) was also hired by CEMEX and is working in its law department in Monterrey. **Alonso Bustamante** (UChicago '05) started working in the strategic planning area of **Vitro**, in Monterrey.

**Susana Odriozola** (ASFM MS '98, IIT '06) is

currently working for a Chicago architecture firm, and is participating in the development of a project for the reconstruction of New Orleans.

**Oliver Guajardo** (ITESM '06) and **Adrián García Lavín** (ASFM MS '98, ITESM '06) have both started studying a masters degree in public administration at the **Tec's EGAP**.

### Reunion!

**Katya García Maiz** (MS '98, ITESM '06) has been collecting e-mails for a reunion of all those who were part of this class in 9th grade. E-mail her at [katyagarciam aiz@gmail.com](mailto:katyagarciam aiz@gmail.com). Also, today (September 4) is her birthday — Happy Birthday!

### '02

**Jorge Arrambide** (ITESM '06), who graduated in the spring, is currently working at the **Santos Elizondo** law firm in Monterrey.

### '03

**Gaby Gutiérrez** has begun her first semester as a transfer student in UT Austin. She will major in Government and Middle Eastern Studies.

**Jordán Treviño** (Yale '07) is taking a semester off while on an internship in Germany. Jordán spent the summer in Mexico City participating in anthropology courses and workshops at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana.

Also, **Caty de León** married **Gilberto Rodríguez** on August 25th in Monterrey. A number of people from the class of 2003 attended the ceremony and the party held afterwards.

'04

**Alejandro Novoa** and **Mauricio González Kane** transferred to UT Austin from the Tec, and have begun their first semester there.

'05

#### Summer Activities

**Gaby López** (UDEM '09) spent her summer as a counselor for **Camp Lake Hubert**, a camp in Minnesota designed for children ages 8 through 17.

**Sammi Treviño** (Stanford '09) chose to travel to Florence, where she studied Italian Language and Cooking.

**Ale Bernal** (Emerson '09) spent her summer at **Televisa** where she collaborated with the Programming Department.

#### Awards and Honors

**Ale Bernal** (Emerson '09) has made the Dean's List, maintaining a high grade point average of at least 3.68 throughout last semester.

#### Transfers

Some of the '05 alumni have chosen to transfer : **Marta Sofía Ruiz**, previously a Communications major at ITESM will now be studying at UT. **Gerardo Chapa**, also a previous ITESM student, will transfer this semester to Georgetown University. **Estefanía Pérez-Pría**, previously an UDEM student, has transferred to ITESM.

Other alumni, after spending some time abroad, have decided to return to Monterrey. **Daniel González**, who spent the last year studying in Germany, has transferred to the UDEM where he will study Psychology. **Nicole Schwarzer** has also returned from studying in Texas, and will be studying Administration and Finance (LAF) at

ITESM.

(Thanks Annie Dow for helping us get this information!)

'06

**Javier Vélez** has left for the University of North Carolina (UNC), where he joined the first division soccer team, which has been ranked #1 in the NCAA league.

Over the past weeks, several other people from this class have left for college in the U.S.. **Rafael Moreno** left for Georgia Tech, **Camila García** for Yale University, **Jorge de León** for University of Colorado at Boulder, **Adrian Viesca** for UPenn, **Chuy Treviño**, **Daniel Belden**, **Kike Castillo**, **Jorge Ibarra** and **Julio Burnes** for UT Austin, and **Sofía Millares** for Parsons in New York City. In mid-September, **Diego Villarreal** and **Gabriel Zambrano** will leave for Stanford University.

During the summer, several students, such as **Adrián Viesca**, **Chuy Treviño**, **Eugenio Garza**, **Gabriel Zambrano**, **Diego Villarreal**, **Miguel García**, **Alejandro Garza**, **Diego García**, **Gabriel Paredes**, **Rene Hinojosa**, **Rafael Moreno**, **Rodrigo Lobo**, and **David Benavides** went to Germany to watch Mexico's soccer team compete in the FIFA World Cup.

**Gabriel Zambrano** worked part of this summer in Proeza.

**Eugenio Garza** recently became an officer of the ASFM Network, and is contributing to the organization's expansion and consolidation.

**Chuy Treviño** sent us the following:

Esta canción la hice a pocos días de graduarme. Básicamente salio de todos los recuerdos y momentos que disfrute durante la prepa en el ASFM. Esta

canción se la regalo a toda la generación del ASFM '06, que nunca voy a olvidar, y a todas las personas que han pasado por lo que nosotros estamos viviendo. Gracias, ASFM.

Como olvidar lo que pasó  
ya no habrá reloj de sol  
lo que nunca iba llegar  
se convirtió en nuestra realidad

Que vendrá...

Dame otra mañana para levantar  
y volver a despertar  
dame otro sueño que alcanzar  
una vez más

Y no sé en donde voy a estar  
o donde acabaré o si otra vez  
aquí estaré cantándole a mi pared

Y no sé que esperarme, pero sé  
que yo te firmo que vendré  
para acabar lo que un día empecé

Como olvidar lo que pasó  
ya no habrá reloj de sol  
lo que nunca iba llegar  
se convirtió en nuestra realidad

Que vendrá...

Dame otra mañana para levantar  
y volver a despertar  
dame otro sueño que alcanzar  
una vez más

Y no sé en donde voy a estar  
o donde acabare o si otra vez  
aquí estaré cantándole a mi pared

Y no sé que esperarme pero sé  
que yo te firmo que vendré para acabar lo  
que un día empecé

(Thanks Eugenio Garza for helping us get this information!)



Figure 4: "ASFM 2006 Graduating Class"

#### Note on the Class Notes:

We have included every piece of news that we were able to gather from a few well-meaning individuals. We encourage you to send relevant information to [asfmnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:asfmnetwork@gmail.com). Finally, please let us know if you believe there is a mistake in the notes above.

–The Editors

## The Last Page...

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### Judge Judy

Judith De Los Santos, ASFM MS'98, Berklee '05

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I hate airplanes. Motion sickness is a hell of a way to put a damper on traveling. It has thankfully gotten better over the years; I can actually hold my food down now, but the stupid turbulence still freaks me out. Yet it's pretty amazing that under such undesirable conditions, I've learned extremely valuable lessons. This is my favorite one.

I waited until the very last minute to buy my ticket home from Boston for Christmas break a few years ago. One of the worst mistakes. There were no coach seats left and I had to fly business class. I would have enjoyed it except for the guilt sitting on my shoulders for making my dad spend even more money on me because of my lack of organizational skills.

I took my seat and moments later, a man sat next to me. He was talking business loudly and incessantly on his fancy shmancy cellphone. The stewardess asked him to end his call a couple of times and he ignored her.

I sat there disgusted, thinking, "What a jerk. Rude jerk. He probably has no heart and no conscience." I felt uncomfortable and bummed that I had to sit next to him the whole flight. Jerk.

Two hours later, it started. Turbulence. Pretty bad, too. (Mind you, it was probably just a little bit of shaking, but to me it means I should start feeling sorry for the person who gets stuck cleaning out my apartment after I die... I really did mean to leave it nice and tidy!). It got so bad for me that I started crying as quietly as possible. I was going to

die sitting next to a jerk. Not my preference.

A few minutes later, I'd gotten so scared that I knew I was going to lose it unless I had someone to distract me. I swallowed my pride and turned to the jerk.

I asked him, "Sir, would you please hold my hand?"

I don't know what it was... probably my puppy-dog, teary-eyed face... but his facial expression immediately softened. He took my hand in his and started talking to me with the most soothing, loving, kind, fatherly tone. Saying everything was going to be alright... That turbulence is just a little bit of clouds that won't damage the plane. He told me to look at the stewardess, and how she seemed to still be having a jolly-old time. Nothing was wrong.

I don't know how long he talked to me for, but I managed to calm down and the flight was perfect from then on.

So, my dears, don't judge a book by its cover... And don't judge a yuppie by his cellphone antics. You never know when you might need him to hold your hand...



drawing by David Osorio

Figure 5: "What a jerk. Rude jerk."