

# **Spring 2008 Friar Forum**

## **Friar Reunion Weekend**

### **Friar Cocktail**

*Saturday, April 19, 2007*

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**The home of  
Friar Terry Tottenham**  
25 Cicero Lane,  
Austin, Texas 78746

### **Friar Breakfast**

*Sunday, April 20, 2007*

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**The Driskill Hotel  
Maximilian Room**  
604 Brazos Street,  
Austin, Texas

In honor of the recipient of the Friars' Centennial Teaching Fellowship and the new Friar Initiates

*Please **RSVP to brettegarner@mail.utexas.edu** for both events at your earliest convenience and visit [www.friarsociety.org](http://www.friarsociety.org) for more information.*

If you cannot RSVP online, please detach this RSVP form and mail it to:

Brette Garner  
710 East Dean Keeton, #10  
Austin, TX 7870

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## **RSVP for Friar Reunion Weekend**

Friar Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Saturday, April 19, 2007**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will be attending the Cocktail.

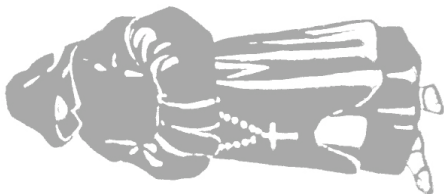
Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Sunday, April 20, 2007**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will be attending the Breakfast.

**Friar Society**  
**University of Texas**  
710 East Dean Keeton, #101  
Austin, Texas 78705



## **FROM THE ABBOT...**

Dear Fellow Friar,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am very excited to invite you to the Spring 2008 Friar Weekend, on the weekend of April 19 and 20. The Cocktail will be on Saturday evening, April 19, at the beautiful home of Friar Terry Tottenham (25 Cicero Lane, Austin). We will begin at 5:00 PM. I would like to extend thanks to the Tottenham's for allowing us to be their guests. Breakfast will be in the Maximilian Room of the Driskill Hotel the following morning, April 20, at 9:00 AM. We would be so pleased to see you there. If you can attend, we would appreciate an RSVP, by email or by returning the form in this newsletter.

With the growing excitement about our Centennial Celebration in 2011, we are trying to focus our efforts by creating a steering committee—made up of alumni and active Friars—to plan the celebration. We would like input from Friars of many ages and from many locations. Please let me know by email if you would be interested in being a part of the Centennial planning process. We are also hoping to continue the success of the Tany Norwood Award by creating a monetary prize to accompany the award. Please read the section later in the newsletter to learn how to contribute to the Tany Norwood Endowment.

Our Laudators (formerly FCTF co-chairs), Marian Barber and Bill Bacon, have been working on the Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship this semester. We have received many nominations and will announce the winner of the award at the Spring Cocktail. Brian Smiley is serving as the Friars' representative on the Edward S. Guleke Student Excellence Award Selection Committee. This semester's Friar officers include: Nicole Trinh, Almoner; Andrew Solomon, Scrivener; Johan van der Walt, Summoner; and Cesar Martinez Espinosa, Councilor. I am grateful to them for their help with those wonderful aspects of our cloister's involvement on campus!

As always, we will be recognizing our new Friar Initiates at the Friar Weekend. Thanks to all of those who have already helped me so much and I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Let me know if I can help in any way—brettegarnier@mail.utexas.edu.

Pax Vobiscum,

Brette Garner  
Abbot, Spring 2008

## **Fall 2007 Friar Officers**

ABBOT: Elizabeth Brummett

ALMONER: Nicole Trinh

SCRIVENER: Brette Garner

SUMMONER: Marcus Cenicerros

COUNCILOR: Afolabi Ogunnaike

## **SPRING 2008 Friar Officers**

ABBOT: Brette Garner

ALMONER: Nicole Trinh

SCRIVENER: Andrew Solomon

SUMMONER: Johan van der Walt

COUNCILOR: Cesar Martinez Espinosa

LAUDATORS: Bill Bacon and Marian Barber

## **ACTIVES**

Bill Bacon, Marian Barber, Elizabeth Brummett,  
Marcus Cenicerros, Brent Chaney,  
Star-Renee Corbin, Amy Forestell, Sylvia Gale,  
Brette Garner, Margarita Jimenez,  
Nachiket Khralkar, Erik Malmberg,  
Cesar Martinez Espinosa, Stephen Myers,  
Paul Navratil, Afolabi Ogunnaike, Falil Oritola,  
Keshav Rajagopalan, Brian Smiley, Andrew  
Solomon, Nicole Trinh, James Tolleson,  
Johan van der Walt, Erica Whittington

**Andrew Solomon** is from the small North East Texas town of Mt. Vernon. He is senior in Plan II Honors in the College of Liberal Arts. His activities at UT include his fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon, serving as a Camp Texas counselor, the Interfraternity Council and Dance Marathon. Andrew currently serves as the President of Student Government. As president he serves on various committees such as the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee, Union Board of Directors, Student Services Budget Committee, UT Student Advisory Council, and he is the chair of the President's Student Advisory Committee. After graduation, Andrew plans to attend law school

## **Rick Archer Named the 2007 Friar Distinguished Alumni**

Rick Archer is a founding principal of the architecture firm Overland Partners. He has a wealth of experience in urban and environmental design, interior architecture, as well as museum, commercial, residential, educational, and hospitality design.

Rick served as principal-in-charge on numerous projects including the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, a project which has received international acclaim for its sustainable design features, including an extensive rainwater harvesting system. He has also served as principal-in-charge on a number of projects for the University of Texas, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art, and numerous other commercial and institutional projects.

As design principal, Rick has collaborated on master planning and additions to the San Antonio Museum of Art, The Wildlife Experience, Clear Channel Communications Corporate Headquarters, The Hockaday Girls' School, and one of only three BSL-4 Lab Facilities in the United States, privately owned by the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio.

Prior to forming Overland Partners, Rick worked with Shalom Baranes Associates, Arthur Cotton Moore Associates and Martin & Jones Architects, all in Washington, D.C.

Rick received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from The University of Texas. He has continued his involvement with the University, serving on the Executive Council of the Alumni Association, the Centennial Commission, and the School of Architecture Advisory Council. He is a LEED Accredited Professional and a member of the AIA College of Fellows. Rick is married to Carol Kelly Archer; they have five children and currently reside in San Antonio.

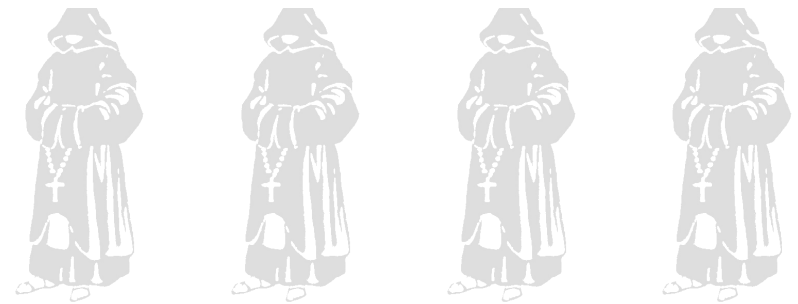
## **CONTRIBUTE TO THE TANY NORWOOD AWARD**

The Tany Norwood Award, started in Fall 2006, was created to recognize outstanding contributions to student life made by a staff member or administrator. The annual award was named the Tany Norwood Award, after the organization's long-time advisor and Assistant Dean of Students.

One of the goals for the award is to create an endowment so that we can give a monetary prize to the award winner, like we do for the Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship. We are working to build that endowment now, and would greatly appreciate your support. Any contribution will help us reach our goal.

If you would like to contribute to the Tany Norwood Endowment, please send a check (payable to the Friar Society) to:

Friar Society  
710 East Dean Keeton, #101  
Austin, TX 78705



## **Suzi Deem named as the second annual recipient of the Tany Norwood Award**

After the Friar Society solicited campus-wide nominations, it was Suzi Deem who stood out among the dozens of names. As an Admissions Counselor, she is the first person many future Longhorns meet at UT. She shows great care and concern for every student whom she encounters—especially those who arrived on campus after Hurricane Katrina. She is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure a positive experience for the newest members of the UT community; she has certainly made significant contributions to many students' lives.

## **MEET THE SPRING 2007 INITIATES**

**Marcus Ceniceros** is a first generation UT student from El Paso. He is the younger son of Henry, a physical therapist, and Carol, a fourth grade teacher. Marcus will graduate in May 2008 with a degree in government and certificate in Population Public Policy. For the past year, Marcus has served as Vice President of the Student Government and has taken leadership roles as the chair of the Student Services Budget Committee, member of the Student Activity Center Committee, and inaugural coordinator of the Big XII Student Governments' federal relations program. Marcus also is a member of the planning committees for the new Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez Statues. As a sophomore, Marcus was president of University Democrats. Under his leadership, U Dems received recognition as the Most Outstanding Student Organization on campus and as 'National Chapter of the Year Runner-Up' of the more than 7500 College Democrat groups in the US. He spearheaded one of the largest voter registration drives on a college campus in 2004, which resulted in registering over 7000 new voters on campus. Marcus looks forward to applying to public policy school and working in Texas government.

**Starr-Renee Corbin** is a third-year graduate student in the Women's and Gender Studies Department whose research interests include social policies regarding women, children and work as well as public policies for military veterans and their families. Her school activities include serving as a Board Member in the Student Veteran's Agency within Student Government as well as being the Legislative Relations Director for the Graduate Student Assembly. As co-founder of the Student Veterans Association on campus her most fulfilling achievement has been the work she has done with the Mental Health Center in the development of counseling programs for student military veterans. A ten-year veteran of the United States Army which included a combat tour to Baghdad, Iraq, she is currently serving in the Texas National Guard as an instructor for the Officer Candidate School holding the rank of Captain. Working also as an Information Analyst at the Applied Research Labs at UT, Starr is happily married to an Austin Fire Fighter who is currently serving in Iraq and is the mother of a 3-year-old son.

**Keshav Rajagopalan** is a third-year Plan II and Political Communications major from Houston, TX, where he was a 2005 graduate of St. John's School. Since arriving at The University of Texas, Keshav has been active in Student Government as the internal financial director, a member of the executive board. He hopes to remain heavily involved with Student Government in his remaining years at the University where he can continue many of the projects he began in the past year. He is currently working with a developer to create a new Student Government website which will provide information for all students as well working with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs to create a student endowment which will help fund a myriad of student-driven initiatives and projects. A member of countless advisory boards, student panels and selection committees for important university positions and awards, Keshav's involvement is respected not only by his peers, but also by administrators and members of the University's faculty and staff. In two short years, he has become one of the most dynamic, involved and respected student leaders on campus. Last spring, Keshav was selected as a Texas Cowboys Newman.

**Falil Oritola** is a native of Richardson, TX who spent the first eight years of his life in Lagos, Nigeria learning the language, culture, and customs of the Yoruba people. Raised in Dallas, Falil is a graduate of Richardson High School. It was at Richardson High where Falil developed a passion for campus leadership. As a sophomore, he enrolled in the RHS Law Magnet program. There he flourished in the classroom as well as in extra-curricular activities. By his senior year, he was inducted into the Richardson High School Hall of Honor, President of Umoja Tops, captain of the Varsity Basketball team, and also a student intern with the Health Science Magnet program. Upon arrival to the University of Texas at Austin, Falil has remained active in various parts of campus life. He majors in Human Development and Family Sciences and is earning a Business Foundations Program certificate. Outside the classroom, Falil continuously aims to help others as he climbs. He serves as a mentor for the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan and has facilitated clusters and cohorts for Leader Shape - Texas as well as the University Honors Colloquium. Currently, Falil is the President of the Epsilon Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Natural Sciences Representative for the university Student Government. He is proficient in four languages and is an avid fan of all major sports. He is the youngest child in a family of five boys, and very thankful for the parents God provided him. Post graduation, Falil plans to participate in the Teach for America Program followed by pursuing a graduate program in the science research field.

**Brian Smiley** is a senior at the McCombs School of Business and the College of Liberal Arts pursuing degrees in Finance and Government. During his time at UT he has been involved with Longhorn Singers, Student Government, Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity, and the Undergraduate Business Council. In the last year, he has founded a new organization called the Student Consulting Initiative designed to link business students with struggling small businesses. The group is focused on improving businesses and, in turn, improving people's lives. Brian spent the Fall of 2006 in Santiago, Chile studying at Pontificia Universidad Catolica and traveling through South America and Antarctica. Brian currently works as a Research Assistant for the Department of Government and Latin American Studies reviewing Communist publications from Chile's Pinochet Era. He is also an Eagle Scout who actively serves the Austin community by serving and befriending the poor and the homeless with a local church. In his free time Brian enjoys SCUBA diving, camping, guitar, and the company of his family and 13 roommates. Next year Brian plans to move to Dallas and start work at the Boston Consulting Group.

**Mechiel Johan van der Walt** was born and raised in South Africa, where he spent most of his time on the cricket field and golf course, receiving provincial colors in both. After completing his matriculation exam with distinction, he spent a year working in and traveling through Europe. Upon his arrival in the United States, Johan became involved in various student organizations and interests groups at UT. He re-established the Political Science Honor Society and co-founded The University of Texas for Rural Enhancement through Education and Design (UT for REED). Johan is currently the Vice-President of the Liberal Arts Council. He will be graduating with a double major in History and Government, Liberal Arts Honors, and a certificate in International Development. His Honors Thesis is on Social Capital and Institutional Variation: A Comparative Study that he presented at an academic conference last April in San Francisco. Johan was a finalist for the South Africa At-Large Rhodes Scholarship. Recently, Johan served as a volunteer at an AIDS clinic in rural South Africa. Upon graduation, he will be interning for the African Development Bank in Tunisia after which he will return to South Africa to do public sector development work.

**Margarita Jimenez** grew up in a border town where her experiences would influence her future decisions. Seeing the living conditions of her extended family on the opposite side of the border in Juarez, Mexico where residential roads were dirt roads, neighboring families lived in cardboard houses, and barefoot children did not attend school. She learned early on in life that living in the barrio was a life of luxury. Having the opportunity to get an education and pursue her dreams in her home state of Texas, she decided that she wanted to give back to her country she valued so much for all the opportunities available to her. So, after high school, she signed up to join the United States Air Force. That decision took her all over the world as she worked on avionics systems on F-16s. She served at various bases around the world in Korea, Japan, Ireland, Kuwait, Italy, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. She's visited the demilitarized zone between South Korea and North Korea, she's visited what used to be East Germany. Before the current war in Iraq, she'd taken part in Operation Northern Watch, Operation Southern Watch, and Operation Allied Force. Prior to completing her service commitment to the Air Force, her squadron received orders to take part in the initial invasion of Iraq, for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Having less than six months left on her service commitment, she was not required to deploy to the Middle East. Her commitment to her airmen led her to get on the list to deploy with her flight. Not knowing the outcome, it was important to remain strong and fulfill her duty. The initial bombing of strategic targets only kept her squadron there for a limited time. The mission in Iraq then turned towards establishing a viable government there, where fighter planes were no longer needed. After serving honorably in the Air Force, she returned to Texas to begin her studies. She began at a junior college to spend time with her family, knowing that her experience in the Middle East had made a lasting impression and might take her back there in the future. She then began to view the world as a very small world where an understanding of the Middle East and its culture would be vital to the future of the country she loves so much. She decided to pursue a degree in Arabic Language and Literature, taking her to the University of Texas at Austin, one of the few universities offering a degree in Arabic. Now, she intends to reach superior proficiency in the language and continue traveling to the Middle East, with the goal of one day becoming a professor to teach the language.

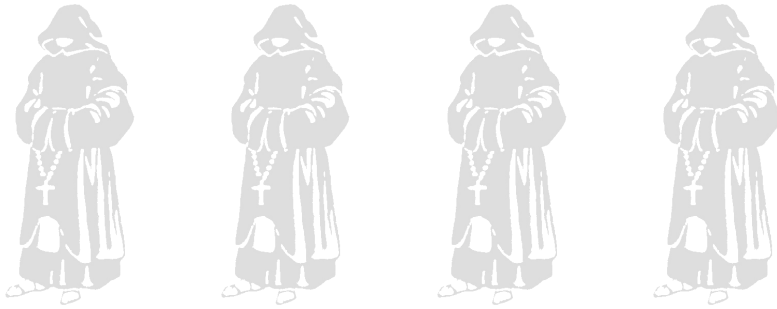
**Ryan Miller**, a native Austinite, entered the University of Texas as a first-generation college student. In addition to majoring in journalism and Latino Media Studies, outside of the classroom he has directed Students for Equity and Diversity and Safe Space and served as associate editor of The Daily Texan. He has also facilitated undergraduate intergroup dialogue courses on racism and sexism. As co-director of the Queer Students Alliance, Ryan co-wrote a 192-page report on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender student affairs, leading the group to be named UT's most outstanding student organization this year. While on campus, he has worked at UIL, the Gender and Sexuality Center, Multicultural Information Center and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Ryan became one of fewer than 100 Point Foundation Scholars in the country, receiving a full four-year scholarship. He was recognized this year by the University with the Glenn Maloney Memorial Scholarship, Presidential Endowed Scholarship, Dean's Dozen award and Texas Exes President's Leadership Award. Ryan received his bachelor's degree in December and plans to begin a master's program in higher education administration in 2008, followed by a career in higher education and student affairs. He currently works full-time in the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement at UT. His ultimate goal is a career of inspiring college students to utilize their privilege to advance social justice.

**Jessica Geier** graduated last May with a doctorate in Educational Administration with a primary focus in higher education policy. Her doctoral research focuses on strategies for overcoming social class barriers to higher education and the resulting resiliency narratives from current college students. A two-time graduate of Boston College, Jess holds both a Bachelors and Masters degrees in sociology that ground her research and her social engagement on the importance of open dialogue, innovative action and social justice. During her four-year stay in Austin, Jess worked primarily with the Graduate Student Assembly, first as Secretary and later as Co-Chair of the organization. During her tenure (in partnership with her Co-Chair and executive committee) the Graduate Student Assembly held a showcase on graduate student scholarship including a student film night, raised travel monies available for graduate student professional development threefold, increased the exposure of the Graduate Student Assembly by moving elections to a campus-wide vote, and maintained presence on numerous executive and selection committees including the student regent search, the Tuition Advisory Committee, the Dean's Advisory Committee, and the President's Advisory Committee. Independent of graduate student governance on campus Jess was honored to represent the voice of doctoral students across the UT System on a Taskforce convened to explore Doctoral and Postdoctoral Education. And finally, her currently position as Project Director for Community Engagement, Division for Diversity and Community Engagement affords her a unique opportunity to find new and innovative ways to open the discussion of community across the forty acres. Recently the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement sponsored a panel titled, Women in Executive Leadership. The purpose of the panel was to open wide the discussion about arduous journey women face in the climb to positions of executive leadership. Each of the seven panelists spoke to the theme, "If I only knew then, what I know now." It is Jess' hope that this panel will allow for additional discussions aimed at open discussion and shared experience. In conclusion Jess is honored to be recognized for her work on campus and to be counted among the many dignitaries and leaders who are already Friars.

**Erica Whittington** is a doctoral student in the department of History and is currently at work on her dissertation on American college student activism from World War II through 1960. She grew up in Wilkesboro, NC, a small town in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains known for its quality moonshine and fast drivers. She graduated from Duke in 1999 with a bachelors degree in History and Public Policy Studies. In preparation for law school, she spent her college summers in legal internships, but after graduation she instead moved to New Orleans to work for historian Doug Brinkley at the Eisenhower Center for American History. As Project Coordinator she worked on projects ranging from the collected letters of Hunter S. Thompson to the opening of the National D-Day Museum. Erica received her masters degree in history at the University of Texas in 2003. She is co-founder of the UT Gender Symposium, a bi-weekly gathering of graduate students and faculty to discuss their work in a formal setting. She won the Texas Exes UT Heritage Society essay contest, and her article on the history of the University of Texas YM/YWCA appeared in the July/August 2005 issue of *Alcalde*. She also served as co-chair of the Graduate Student Assembly, raising external funds for new graduate student programs, including a graduate student research conference and a film showcase. In various administrative committees, Erica has advocated for increased professional development funding for UT's graduate students, and health insurance for those who have earned fellowships. She currently serves on the College of Liberal Arts Dean Search committee. She plans to graduate in December 2008 and to become a professor of history.

## MEET THE FALL 2007 INITIATES

**James Tolleson** is a first-generation college student from Mac Arthur High School in San Antonio, TX where he played on the basketball team, ran track and field and cross country, and played tuba in the band and orchestra. The greatest honors he received in high school included being named to the Texas All-State Band, earning a Varsity letter in track and field as a Sophomore, and being named the Most Outstanding English Student. He is now a 4<sup>th</sup>-year Music Studies student at the University of Texas and enjoying every minute. Since arriving on the Forty Acres, he has been involved in the Longhorn Band, Mu Phi Epsilon (professional music fraternity), Fine Arts Council, and Senate of College Councils. Additionally, he took a Maymester Abroad in Florence, Italy studying Italian Opera with Andrew Dell'Antonio. In the Spring semester of his freshman year, he was elected President of Fine Arts Council, an organization that at the time was standing on one leg (only 3 members). He devoted the next two years to building that organization, both in regards to membership and programming. Now he is proud to say that Fine Arts Council is a thriving organization that regularly impacts the lives of Fine Arts students (and increasingly all students). As the current Vice-Chair of Senate of College Councils, he has been working hard to insure that students have a say in the future and academic direction of the University.



**Stephen Myers** came to the Forty Acres all the way from the small town of Texas City, Texas. A middle-child with two brothers and two loving parents, he learned at a young age the importance of compromise, patience, and *strategic planning*. Before coming to UT, Stephen was an active student at Texas City High School, serving as senior class president, captain of the men's varsity soccer team, and as a percussionist in the Texas All-State Band. His interests in leadership, politics and law led him to the University of Texas at Austin, where he now completes his fourth year as a Government major. Stephen values his educational experience at UT. He has conducted major research on party polarization in the U.S. Congress with Dr. Sean Theriault, interned in the Texas Governor's Office for the Texas Military Preparedness Commission and even participated in the Bill Archer Fellowship Program, which allowed him the opportunity to live in Washington DC for an entire semester and intern in the White House Office of Presidential Speechwriting. Ever since his first days as a Longhorn, Stephen has worked to give back to the campus that has given him so many opportunities. For the past three years, he has served as a First Year Interest Group (FIG) Peer Mentor and has several leadership roles within the Senate of College Councils, including Financial Director and Chairman of the Students for Academic Integrity (SFAI) committee. As Chairman of SFAI, Stephen led IntegrityUT Week 2007, a university-wide effort to raise awareness of the University's Honor Code. This year, Stephen has been serving as Chairman of the UT Senate. Stephen thanks his mother and father for instilling in him the values of compassion, integrity, and hard-work and for shaping him into the young man he is today.

**Bill Bacon** was born in Sacramento, California and attended high school just outside Washington, D.C. He is currently a senior in the College of Liberal Arts where he is double majoring in anthropology and history. Bill is working on an honors thesis in anthropology where he is researching the impacts of New Urbanist style retail developments on community social interaction and on sustainable urban growth. Bill is the President of Liberal Arts Council. As President, Bill has worked extensively on development projects for the College as well on the development campaign for a new Liberal Arts building. He has also organized a new lecture series launched just this past Monday with a lecture by Enron whistleblower and 2002 Time Magazine Person of the Year Sherron Watkins. Bill is also an avid marathon runner having completed both the Austin and New York City marathons. Bill has worked as an intern at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center where he conducted an ethnographic study of the Center's visitor base. His study and report helped the Center develop more effective programming to better target their visitors' interests. He also worked this past year at GSD&M, a local advertising agency co-founded by Friar alumni Roy Spence. At GSD&M Bill worked in the marketplace planning division where he researched emerging market trends for companies like Southwest Airlines and BMW. Bill is also a member of Texas Blazers, where he volunteers as a tutor and mentor to the wonderful kids at Johnston High School in east Austin. He spent this past summer studying in China where he took courses on U.S. - China relations. Bill hopes to return to China next year on a Fulbright Scholarship before attending law school with a focus on land use law. He would eventually like to work in a field where he can help encourage more sustainable urban growth and development practices. Bill wants to thank all the faculty staff and friends who make his life meaningful and lastly he wants to thank his mom Kim, and dad, Kevin whom he loves so, so much and is grateful to more than they can even know.

**Cesar Martinez Espinosa** was born in Mexico City, Mexico. In the fall of 2003, he came to Austin for graduate school. Cesar received his Master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School in 2005. He is currently a second-year student in the Doctoral Program in Public Policy. Cesar graduated with honors from the Instituto Tecnológico Autonomo de Mexico (ITAM) where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics. He earned his Masters with a thesis on the implementation of a second and third generation of economic reforms in Mexico. In the Doctoral program his research is focused on the economic and political integration between Mexico and the United States with a focus on national security, which includes transportation and energy issues. During his stay at the University of Texas, Cesar has teamed up with several other outstanding students in order to push for constant improvements at the LBJ School and the University at large, such as the international relations initiative at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Cesar has experience in the Mexican Federal Government having worked for almost six years at the Mexican Social Security Institute. More recently, he has worked in the area of geopolitical analysis as the chief analyst for Latin America in the Austin based Strategic Forecasting, Inc. Cesar currently works at the Center for Transportation Research at UT and is involved in a project that evaluates the impact of Mexico's infrastructure building program on the United States. Cesar has always been interested in studying the political processes of different countries especially Mexico and the United States, and follows current affairs and elections with passion. Cesar's travels to several countries have helped him determine he wanted to dedicate his life to push for reforms that will improve Mexico's economy and Mexican's lives, especially through elected office.