

Music Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2022

A Message from the Editor

E-Mail: MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net

Web: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net>

We understand “alumni” broadly: whether you received your degree from (Southwest) Texas State as a music major, whether you studied here for one semester, or whether you were a non-music major but participated in band, choir, or any other ensemble – you are a Music Alumnus!

We invite you to submit updates and stories to us for inclusion in the newsletter. Please join us on Facebook or send us an e-mail so we can add you to our e-mail distribution list.

We also invite our alumni to stay informed about new and exciting events in the School of Music by visiting <https://www.music.txstate.edu>.

Ms. Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '02), Editor
In collaboration with Nico Schüller

Mark Your Calendar

The TXST School of Music is hosting the Annual Reception at the TMEA Convention on Friday, February 10, 2023, at 9:30pm in the River Terrace Room of the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk (889 E Market St., San Antonio, TX 78205). Join us!

Meet Our New School of Music Director: Dr. Todd E. Sullivan

Dr. Todd E. Sullivan joined the Texas State University School of Music as Director and Professor of Musicology on July 1, 2022. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology and an M.M. in music history and literature from Northwestern University and a B.M. in music education from Denison University. Previously, he served as Director and Professor of Musicology in the Northern Arizona University School of Music, Associate Professor of Musicology and Chairperson of the Department of Music at Indiana State University, and taught at Northwestern University and DePaul University.

A passionate educator and advocate for the arts, he received the Indiana State University College of Arts and Sciences Educational Excellence Award in 2000, was nominated twice for the Distinguished Teaching Award at Northwestern University, and earned accolades as a Gold Axe Award Educator of Influence at Northern Arizona University in 2018. The Flagstaff Arts Council awarded him the prestigious 2015 Viola Award for Excellence in Leadership, recognizing his contributions to the arts on campus and within the community.

Dr. Sullivan's scholarship operates within the realm of public musicology, bridging the space between academic research and the general public. He has written thousands of program notes, liner notes, and educational materials for major performing arts organizations in the United States (Ravinia Festival, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Lincoln Center, Boston Early Music Festival, among others), Canada, Australia, and Spain. Dr. Sullivan's research draws on history, languages, philosophy, cultural practice and values, racial and social justice, psychology, economics, religion, politics, international relations, journalism, business, and digital design and narrative – whatever complementary discipline shines light on the music and its makers.

His publications and presentations reflect a variety of research interests: Renaissance music, opera, French Baroque dance, American popular music, liturgy, and hymnology. Dr. Sullivan has presented papers at meetings of the College Music Society, National Association of Schools of Music, and American Musicological Society, and at the Second International Conference of the Cyprus Musicological Society. In addition, he has remained active as an early-music performer, choral conductor, and church musician.

Dr. Sullivan has held advisory positions on the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, Flagstaff Arts Council Board of Directors, Flagstaff Arts and Business Alliance, Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, Cultural Alliance of Terre Haute (founding member), National Advisory Council for the Kentucky School of Bluegrass and Traditional Music at Hazard Community and Technical College, Arts Fellowship Panel of the South Carolina Arts Commission, and Opera / Choral Panel of the Illinois Arts Council.

At a national level, he has served the College Music Society as Board Member for Musicology, general editor of CMS Books & Monographs, and member of the Nominations Committee, Committee on Academic Leadership and Administration, and Program Committee for the 2016 National Meeting in Santa Fe, NM. For the National Association of Schools of Music, he was elected to the Committee on Ethics (two terms as chair), serves as a Visiting Evaluator, and is an elected member of the Commission on Accreditation.



Charles Aguillon began his tenure as the 12th Director of the SMU Mustang Band on July 1, 2022. In addition to directing the Southern Methodist University's athletic bands, he is responsible for the cheer, pom, and Peruna handlers programs. An educator for 30 years, he most recently served as Director of Fine Arts and Academic Enrichment for the Lake Travis Independent School District in Austin, Texas. His previous positions as a band director and administrator were in the Georgetown



(TX) and San Marcos (TX) school districts. Mr. Aguillon is a graduate of TXST, where he received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Education. While at Texas State, he was Drum Major of the Bobcat Marching Band and Assistant Conductor of the Wind Ensemble. Additionally, he holds a Master of Arts in Educational Administration as well as having completed all coursework for a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. As an educator, Mr. Aguillon's Georgetown High School Band program was recognized on the state and national levels and appeared at the UIL State Marching Band Championships and the Music for All National Concert Band Festival. He is in frequent demand as an adjudicator and clinician throughout the state. His resume includes being on staff for the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps from Casper, Wyoming and his current position as Corps Director for Genesis Drum and Bugle Corps from Austin, Texas. Mr. Aguillon has served on the faculties of Texas State University and Southwestern University, teaching in the field of the marching arts.

Daniel Blanchard is the new Music teacher at Ronald Reagan Elementary School in Cedar Park, Texas.

Rachel Brown is the new elementary music teacher at Spicewood Elementary in Round Rock ISD.

School of Music M.M. graduates **Kat Buckler** (Music Theory) and **David Catchpole** (Musicology) both presented papers at the American Musicological Society Southwest Chapter conference at UT Austin on October 15, 2022. The title of their papers are, respectively: "Carl Maria von Weber and the Forest Girl: Chromaticism in the Arias of Silvana (1808-1810), Act I" and "Framing of a Secular Saint: The Temporal and Spatial Geography of Considering Matthew Shepherd". David is ABD at NYU, and in addition to working on his dissertation, he has been teaching undergraduate music history courses for the TXST School of Music.

Gene Centeno is a saxophone artist, commercial music performer, and music educator. He's currently in graduate school studying Jazz at the University of Texas at Austin. Gene will appear as a Guest Artist this spring at the 2nd Annual Churchill Jazz Festival.



With 10 years in the profession, **Nick Conte** completed a 3rd year as Head Director of the "Sweepstakes Winning" Owen Goodnight Middle School Band. He performs professionally with both the Cinematic Symphony and Sunny Side Six in Austin.

Brandon Estes (B.M. in music education, '04) is a high school band director in the Chicagoland area, in his 17th year of teaching, 13th year at Naperville Central High School. He is the head director of the marching band program and also co-directs three concert ensembles, jazz ensemble and percussion ensemble. Brandon wrote: "Outside of school, I continue to play the marching snare drum with the Chicago Bears Drumline in my 15th season as a performer and 12th season as the director. This past summer of 2022, myself and a small crew of my drumline colleagues had the opportunity to perform with EDM artist Kygo during his headlining performance at Lollapalooza in Chicago. Most recently, we were invited to join Kygo again in performance during his sold-out show at THE Madison Square Garden in New York City! – When I'm not teaching or drumming, I enjoy spending my time with my wife Natasha and our 3 beautiful children, Bailey (7), Harper (5) and Jackson (1). I am very thankful for my experiences and education at Texas State University! Eat'em up Cats!"



Krystyn (Jensen) Fleischauer (B.A. in music, '07) was one of the Texas State Staff Council's 2022 recipients of the Dr. Lawrence Estaville Employee Excellence Award at Texas State University. This award was developed to honor a staff member whose actions, deeds, and work ethic over the previous year exemplifies overall excellence in service to



Texas State University. It is named in honor of Dr. Lawrence Estaville for his generous contributions and advocacy for Texas State staff. Superior work ethics and commitment to job performance is the basis for this award. Krystyn proudly served the School of Music for 19 years as a student worker, then in all three administrative assistant level positions, culminating in her appointment as Administrative Assistant III and

Recruitment Coordinator. Previously, in 2013, she received the Staff Council's Deborah and James Mathews Excellence in Collaboration / Outreach Award. Krystyn is now the Coordinator of Academic Success Initiatives for the University College (since June 2022).

Dr. Gilbert Garza is an Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Emily Gazeley is in her 5th year as the assistant band director at Taylor Middle School in Taylor, Texas. Ms. Gazeley also assists at Taylor High School (2020 4A State Marching Finalists) as the woodwind specialist. She is an active member of TMEA and ATSSB and recently started performing professionally with the Cinematic Symphony in Austin.



Payton Grover is the new Head Band Director at San Marcos High School.

Ryan Harris is the new Middle School Band Director with the Prairiland Patriot Band in Pattonville, Texas.

Amy (Dixon) Hatch (M.M. in music theory, '13) graduated



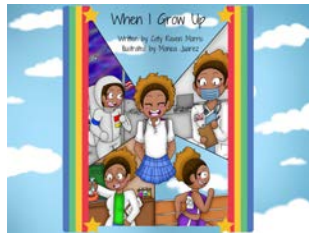
from the University of North Texas with a Ph.D. in Music Theory in Spring 2022. She also presented at two conferences in Spring 2022 (at UNT's GAMuT conference and at the Texas Society for Music Theory conference). She accepted the offer for a new position at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she is now (since Fall 2022) an Assistant Professor of Instruction in Music Theory and where she was previously an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music Theory.

Brian Holthouser is the new Associate Band Director at Killeen High School.

De'Evin Johnson (B.M. in vocal music education, '18) was recently recognized as a national semi-finalist for the Dale Warland Conducting award in the college / university choral division through The American Prize. In addition, as the conductor of the Johnson Master Choir, he was selected as a national semi-finalist for The American Prize in Choral Performance community division.

Dr. Marty Lenard was named as the First Director of Fine Arts for New Braunfels ISD.

Coty Raven Morris (B.M. in music education, '13), music educator and founder of Being Human Together, published a book for children on identity and belonging. The book is entitled *When I Grow Up*. See <https://www.cotyravenmorris.com>.



Indonesian-born pianist and educator **Delicia Mandy Nugroho** graduated magna cum laude from Universitas Pelita Harapan Conservatory of Music in 2014. She finished her master's degree in Piano Performance from Texas State Uni-



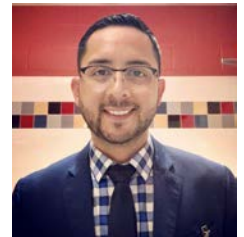
versity under the guidance of Dr. Washington Garcia and Dr. Kyung-Ae Lee. Besides serving as the Graduate Teaching Assistant and Piano Instructional Assistant at Texas State, she also held the position of associate program director for the 7th Texas State International Piano Festival. Throughout her career, she has participated in several festivals, such as Interharmony International Music Festival in Italy, International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York, and Texas State International Piano Festival. Mandy also has many experiences as a collabor-

ative pianist and had several chamber masterclasses with renowned coaches, such as Margo Garret, the Claremont Trio, and Elizabeth Oaks. Highly sought after as a collaborative pianist, Mandy has performed and collaborated with other vocalists and musicians for NATS, TMEA, and

PESPARAWI (Indonesia). Outside of teaching and research, she is also actively involved in many creative programs, such as working with the Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia, specifically with the unit of Pusat Penguatan Karakter. She created podcast episodes about Indonesian Folktales, an Anti-Bullying Campaign, and produced a song called "Cerdas Berkarakter". Besides that, she has won the First Prize in the Jingle Competition by Habitat for Humanity Indonesia and Third Prize in the Bicara Makroprudensial Podcast Competition hosted by Bank Indonesia for two years in a row (2021 and 2022). Currently, she serves as the Department Chair of Music at the Conservatory of Music, Universitas Pelita Harapan, leading and managing seven concentrations, including Music Performance, Music Education, and Music Therapy. Her calling is to produce lifelong learners through a high-quality and transformational curriculum in Higher Music Education.

Miguel Olivares is a professional saxophonist on the Princess Cruise Line, currently in Alaska and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Frank Rios earned Principal Certification in the Spring of 2019 through University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, was hired in an administrative role as Campus Testing Coordinator at McAllen Memorial High School in McAllen ISD in the Fall of 2019 and served in that capacity until Summer of 2021, managing state and local assessments, national college entrance exams, and AP/Pre-AP programs. He currently serves as Dean of Instruction at Ida Diaz Jr. High School in Hidalgo ISD, working with students and staff to earn a National Blue Ribbon School award. He is also a current doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program at UTRGV.



Josh Schurtz is the new Associate Band Director at Nolan Ryan Jr High in Pearland, Texas.

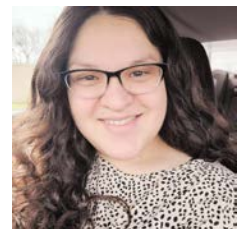
Nicole Soler is the new Assistant Band Director at Teague Middle School in Aldine ISD.

Amanda Mariño Stevenson (B.M. in music education, '07) is Director of Bands at Churchill High School in San Antonio, TX. Her students have performed throughout the San Antonio community and at the State and National levels. Though her primary instrument is Baritone Saxophone, she is also on Brass Staff for the Sacramento Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corps and is a Brass Consultant for the Genesis Drum and Bugle Corps.



Marc Telles is the new Director of Fine Arts for Seguin ISD.

Amy Torres is now in her 11th year as an Elementary Fine Arts Teacher. She works at Southwest ISD in San Antonio, Texas, and serves as a lead Fine Arts teacher and campus social media influencer for the district. She performs as a saxophonist, vocalist, and conguera, touring the U.S. with Chicano orquestas, Grooveland Chicano Band, and La 45. Amy has embarked on a new venture with an all-female cumbia group, Sonora Hechicera.



2023 TMEA Presentations & Performances by TXST Alumni, Faculty, and Students

[Throughout the TMEA Convention], Exhibitors Booth 2379
Virtual Reality Opera Experience

Christopher Besch, with Classical Music Institute of San Antonio, OPERA San Antonio, and Austin Opera

Thursday, Feb. 9, 10:00am, CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
Musicianship in the Classroom 1
Wayne Oquin (TMEA Featured Clinician)

Thursday, Feb. 9, 1:00pm, CC Hemisfair Ballrooms 1-2
Composer and Conductor: Creation and Collaboration
Wayne Oquin (TMEA Featured Clinician) and John Lynch

Thursday, Feb. 9, 1:00pm, CC LDR (River Level - Grotto)
Women in Leadership: Encouraging the Next Generation
Dinah Menger, Christina Avila, Paulette Tomlinson, Linda Fletcher

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2:00pm, CC Registration Music Showcase
Texas State Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble
Conductor: Raúl I. Rodríguez
With a premiere of Unfallen Fortress by current TXST graduate student JaRod Hall

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2:30pm, CC 220
From Intro to Outro: How to Create Career Longevity in Music
Amanda Stevenson, Caitlin Wolf, Bryan Christian, Ross Boothman

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2:45pm, CC Stars at Night Ballroom 2-4
Concert: Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts Children's Choir of Texas
Jackson Hill

Thursday, Feb. 9, 3:30pm, CC West Registration
Opportunities for Creativity in Beginning Band Method Books
Alec Scherer and Bradley Regier

Thursday, Feb. 9, 3:30pm, CC West Registration
Research to Resource: Culturally Relevant and Responsive Teaching in the Music Classroom
Abigail Wunneburger

Thursday, Feb. 9, 3:30pm, CC West Registration
They Need Our Help: Mentoring First-Year Band Directors
Kurt Zotz

Thursday, Feb. 9, 4:00pm, CC 214
Differentiating Instruction: Let the Stars Shine While Growing All Students
Rachael Davis and Jennifer Teed

Thursday, Feb. 9, 4:00pm, CC 217
Staying the Course: Fostering Longevity in Your Career
David Brandon, Joey Paul, Mark McGahey, and Steve Wessels
Presider: Dexe Moore

Thursday, Feb. 9, 4:00 pm, CC 221
Better Audition Preparation to Lessen Performance Anxiety
Lynn Ledbetter

Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:30pm, CC 225
Magic Words: Pedagogical Imagery for Upper Strings
Ames Asbell
Presider: Sam Flippin

Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:30pm, Grand Hyatt 2nd Floor - Lone Star DEF
Inclusive Harmony: Meeting Musicians at Their Level
Michele Hobizal

Friday, Feb. 10, 8:30 am, CC 206
What Future Music Educators Need to Be Successful
Lynn Ledbetter

Friday, Feb. 10, 10:00am, CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
Musicianship in the Classroom 2
Wayne Oquin (TMEA Featured Clinician)

Friday, Feb. 10, 11:30am, CC 214
Jumpstart Your Jazz Band: Tools and Strategies for Success
Martin Montoya, DJ Eisenhart, and Jeremiah Jones

Friday, Feb. 10, 11:30am, CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
Lost at Sea: Navigating Your First Years as a Band Director
John Denis, Dexe Moore, and Emily Moore

Friday, Feb. 9, 2:30pm, CC Hemisfair Ballrooms 1-2
Applying Academic Musicianship to Artistic Endeavors
Wayne Oquin (TMEA Featured Clinician)

Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:00am, CC 214
Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Not Musically Impaired
Adam Chitta, Joshua Schechter, and Gary Williams

Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:00am, Grand Hyatt 2nd Fl - Lone Star DEF
Representation in Your Listening Curriculum
Debbie Tannert, Christina Tannert, Matt Bowers, and Arthur Martinez

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30am, Registration Showcase
Churchill Steel Drum Ensemble
Rick Astorga

Saturday, Feb. 11, 11:00am, CC 214
It's All About Culture: Building a Music Program Through Positive Standards and Expectations
Jason Younts, Clifton Croomes, and Jason Dimiceli

Saturday, Feb. 11, 12:00noon, CC Registration Showcase
Brazoswood High School Chamber Music Class
Martin Montoya

Saturday, Feb. 11, 12:30pm, Grand Hyatt 4th Fl - Texas DEF
Black Music Aesthetics: Hand Games and Stepping
Loneka Wilkinson Battiste
Presider: Loren Tarnow

Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:00pm, CC Hemisfair Ballrooms 1-2
Concert: Texas Community College Band Director's Association All-State Symphonic Band
Caroline Beatty, Conductor

Pictures from our 2022 TMEA Reunion (February 11, 2022)

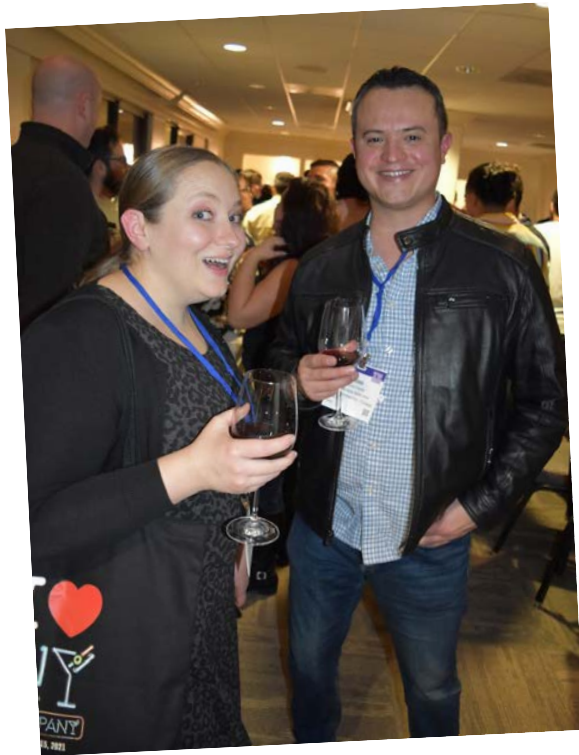


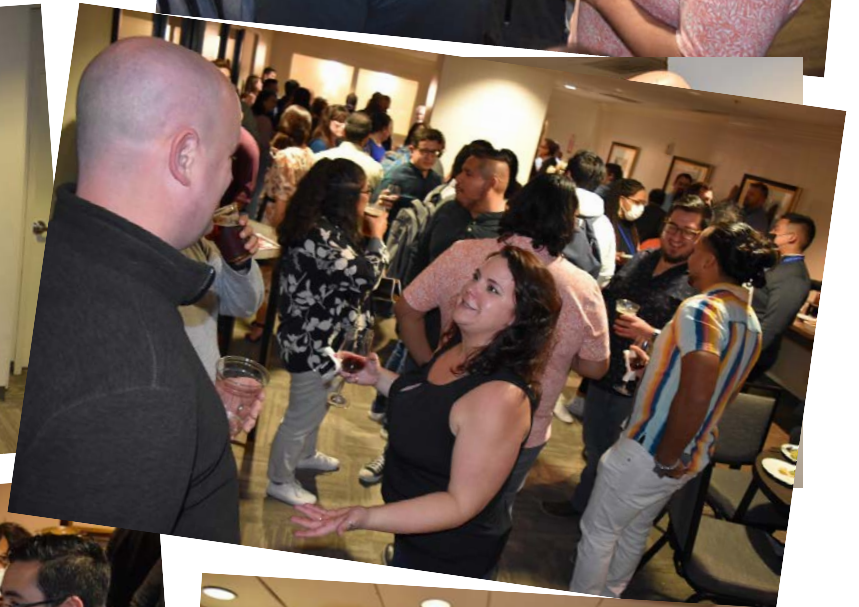


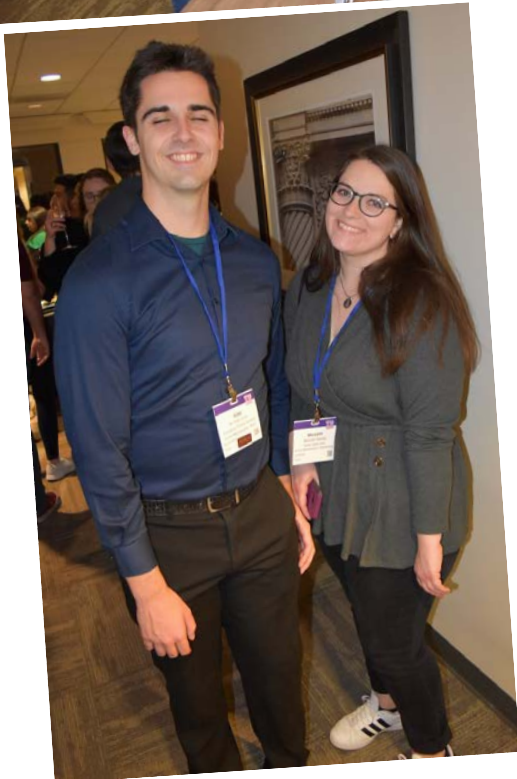
















Texas State Faculty Offer 1:1 Match for Donations

A Note From Alumna Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '02):



Dr. Kwak with current students and recent graduates

“Texas State’s School of Music is in the process of establishing a keyboard scholarship endowment. My husband and I are donating \$50 per month to this endowment. The scholarships will benefit pianists, including those who accompany other students. Thus, this scholarship fund will benefit the entire School of Music. Several faculty, among them Dr. Jason Kwak (Coordinator of the Piano Area), have pledged to match all alumni contributions 1:1. For example, for a donation of \$10, one of the faculty will donate another \$10; for a \$100 donation, a faculty will donate \$100; etc. To donate, use the form at <http://donate.txstate.edu> and click on ‘Search for a designation not listed’ to do a keyword search for ‘Keyboard’. Chose the ‘SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE KEYBOARD AREA IN THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC’. No amount is too small or too large! Future Texas State music students will thank you!”

Want to Help?

Would you like to help current and future students at Texas State University? You can

- Give us feedback as we revise our curricula
- Establish an endowment
- Become a mentor
- Contribute to a scholarship fund

For more information, contact MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net

E-Mail & Internet Links:

Texas State Music Alumni E-Mail: MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net • Texas State’s School of Music: <http://www.music.txstate.edu>
 Texas State Music Alumni Website: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net> • Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/46231268458>

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 Charlie Amato, Regent, San Antonio; Sheila Faske, Regent, Rose City; Dionicio (Don) Flores, Regent, El Paso; Stephen Lee, Regent, Beaumont;
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