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Lansing's Ricky Valenz nominated for "Best New Male Artist" by Texas Talent Musicians Association

Lansing/San Antonio: In less than six months since his relocation to San Antonio from Lansing, Tejano music artist *Ricky Valenz* (née *Ricardo Villarreal*) has been nominated for *Best New Male Artist* by the *Texas Talent Musicians Association*. Winners of the *Tejano Music Awards (TMA)* will be announced August 18, 2012.

Valenz is a Lansing Everett High School graduate.

Valenz's first Tejano project, album titled "El Tiempo Ha Llegado," is projected to be complete late summer 2012. It includes working with veteran Tejano producers Eddie Pérez, Mario Ortiz, Gabe Zavala, Valentino Maltos, and Rolando Revilla.

"I believe I made it this far by staying true to my dreams," said Valenz.

"I'm going to continue to move on my visions until my hearts stops, hopefully, others are inspired to do the same" Valenz continued.

His father, *Roberto Villarreal*, a now retired General Motors employee, was one of Michigan's top guitarists. In the early 1970s, Roberto played with super band *Latin Sounds*, which showcased a variety of Funk, Latin Funk, and Tejano Music.

Ricky Valenz's dedication and passion for music has taken him on a journey from Lansing, to San Antonio, the Tejano capital of the world. He has performed with several Tejano artists such as Stefani Montiel, La Calma, La Diferencia, AT Boyz, and Cacy Savala. He has released 3 songs "Cosas Del Amor", "No Te Puedo Olvidar" and "Me Abandonaste."

On the Internet: visit www.rickyvalenz.com

Tuition, budget for 2012-13 academic year top trustees' agenda

KALAMAZOO: Meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees is expected to consider tuition rates and adoption of a general fund budget for the 2012-13 academic year.

Meeting at 11 a.m. in Rooms 157-159 of the Bernhard Center, the board will consider the administration's recommendation for tuition and required fees for both on-campus courses and those offered at regional locations and online through Extended University Programs. The board is also expected to adopt a general fund operating budget for the fiscal year that began July 1.

During the meeting, board members also will consider approval of a services and resources agreement between the University and the Western Michigan University School of Medicine.

The agreement spells out how University may provide administrative, operational and other services in support of the medical school and how WMU will be compensated for those resources and services.

The written agreement describes how the medical school will reimburse the University for the salary and benefits of employees who perform such services.

The medical school is a privately funded entity being developed by WMU along with two Kalamazoo-area hospitals—*Borgess Health* and *Bronson Healthcare*.

Other agenda items for the board meeting include the sale of property at the Business Technology and Research Park and adoption of a policy statement regarding the University's investment of its operating cash.

A number of other items round out the board agenda, including recommendations on academic program changes and property leases, charter for the University's Internal Audit Department and a charter revision for WMU's Internal Audit Committee.

In addition, the agenda includes reports covering gifts, grants and personnel changes.



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Applications to U-M are the highest in the school's history

ANN ARBOR, July 16, 2012: For the sixth consecutive year, the *University of Michigan* received a record number of applications from prospective freshmen: 42,535 applications for academic year 2012–2013, an increase of 7.5 percent over the previous year's record of 39,570.

As of the first week of June, 15,523 of the applicants were offered admission to the University's Ann Arbor campus, and 6,449 had paid the enrollment deposit, a 41.5 percent yield rate (number of students who pay deposits as a percentage of those who are offered admission). Enrollment deposits do not directly correspond to the number of students who enroll in the Fall semester because some students ultimately choose not to attend. Approximately 6,000 first-year students are expected to enroll by Fall Term 2012. These are preliminary numbers; final enrollment figures will be available in October.

"To maximize the educational experience of all our students, we work toward a total undergraduate enrollment of approximately 27,000 students," said *Ted Spencer*, associate vice provost and executive director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. "We overshot our freshman enrollment target last year, so the 2012 numbers reflect a corresponding adjustment.

"We know with absolute certainty that the incoming class of 2012 is fully prepared to prosper at U-M and to contribute to the University community during their student years," said Spencer.

Admissions decisions at the University of Michigan are based on the individualized and comprehensive holistic review of the information received about each applicant. As part of its prospective student outreach and its individualized and holistic review

of applicants, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions also uses the College Board's geodemographic tool, called Descriptor PLUS, to identify high school and neighborhood clusters that are not well represented among the U-M student community.

Las solicitudes de ingreso en la UM alcanzan el nivel más alto en la historia de la institución

ANN ARBOR, 16 de Julio del 2012: Por sexto año consecutivo la Universidad de Michigan recibió una cifra sin precedentes de solicitudes de ingreso de aspirantes al primer año: 42.535 solicitudes para el año académico 2012-2013, un incremento del 7,5 por ciento sobre la cifra récord del año pasado de 39.570.

Hasta la primera semana de junio se había ofrecido la admisión a 15.523 solicitantes para el predio de la Universidad en Ann Arbor, y 6.449 habían pagado el depósito de matriculación, una tasa de rendimiento (el número de estudiantes que paga depósitos como porcentaje de los que recibieron la oferta de admisión) del 41,5 por ciento. Los depósitos de matriculación no corresponden directamente al número de estudiantes que se matricula en el semestre de Otoño porque algunos estudiantes, al final, eligen no concurrir a clases.

Se espera que en el período lectivo de Otoño de 2012 se matriculen aproximadamente 6.000 alumnos para primer año.

Éstas son cifras preliminares, y las cifras de matriculación definitivas estarán disponibles en octubre.

"Para maximizar la experiencia educativa de todos nuestros estudiantes trabajamos hacia una matriculación total de estudiantes de pre grado de aproximadamente 27.000 alumnos", dijo *Ted Spencer* vice provost asociado y director ejecutivo de la Oficina de Admisiones de Pre Grado. "El año pasado nos pasamos de nuestra meta de matriculación y por eso los números de 2012 reflejan el ajuste correspondiente".

"Sabemos, con certeza absoluta, que la clase de ingreso de 2012 está plenamente preparada para prosperar en la UM y para contribuir a la comunidad universitaria durante sus años de estudiantes", dijo Spencer.

Las decisiones de admisión en la Universidad de Michigan se sustentan en la información recibida acerca de cada solicitante. Como parte de su esfuerzo para conectarse con los estudiantes y su revisión individualizada e integral de los solicitantes la Oficina de Admisiones de Pre grado usa asimismo la herramienta geodemográfica del College Board, llamada Descriptor PLUS, para identificar a las escuelas secundarias y los grupos de vecindarios que no están bien representados entre la comunidad estudiantil de la UM.

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Presidential campaigns now accented in Spanish/Español

WASHINGTON, DC, July 20, 2012 (AP): The campaigns of *President Barack Obama* and Republican challenger *Mitt Romney* have gained a Spanish accent with Latinos projected to be nearly a third of the U.S. population by 2050 and already making up a crucial voting bloc in battleground states from Florida to Nevada.

Romney's son Craig, for example, has become his father's personal interpreter, explaining in skillful Spanish in targeted TV ads that his dad is a man "con grandes convicciones," or "with strong beliefs." He will fight "para encaminar nuestro país y crear empleos," or "to guide our country and create jobs," *Craig Romney* says.

The Obama campaign has recycled its 2008 campaign slogan, "Si, se puede," or "Yes, we can," for this year's run. The catchphrase has special meaning as the motto of the late *César Chávez* and the *United Farmworker's Union* and has become a ubiquitous staple of the president's attempts to identify with and retain the Latino support he received the last time he ran.

After English, Spanish is the country's most-used language. Nearly 37 million U.S. residents speak Spanish at home, about 12 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. First- and second-generation Latinos might be less likely to speak Spanish daily, but this is countered by newly arrived Spanish-speaking immigrants.

But language alone won't do it, say some Latino advocates.

Clarissa Martínez de Castro, director of civic engagement and immigration for the National Council of La Raza, the country's largest Latino civil rights organization, said that beyond publishing ads in Spanish, both campaigns need to tailor their outreach to respond to the challenges of engaging Latinos politically.

Latinos are more likely to be new voters. Overall, the median age for Latinos is 27.6 years, compared with 42 years for non-Latino whites. An estimated 50,000 Latinos turn 18 each month and become eligible to vote.

A want of experience means Latinos are more likely to lack the information they need to understand and navigate the voting system, she said. This leads to low voter registration and turnout.

And not all Latinos are immigrants, she noted, so the assumption that immigration is the top issue for them may be wrong. Job creation and the economy are high on the list for most Latino voters, she said, just as they are for the rest of the country.

"We're not that different from other electorates," De Castro said. "Spanish language is important, but if that's the extent of (the campaigns') Latino outreach, then they are missing part of the picture."

Both campaigns accuse each other of using Spanish as a superficial vote-getting tool while lacking a real commitment to Latino voters.

Alfonso Aguilar, executive director of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles, said that while the Obama administration may have done a better job advertising in Spanish, the president has failed to implement policies he promised during his 2008 campaign.

"Latinos are going to appreciate being spoken to in Spanish if the promises that are made to them are sincere and gain substance once the candidate gets to office," said Aguilar, who served as Republican President George W. Bush's chief of the U.S. Office of Citizenship.

Jaime Areizaga, deputy director for Hispanic affairs for the Democratic National Committee, countered that the appointment of Latinos to key positions shows the party's commitment to Latinos.

The Democratic Party has "put our money where our mouth is" by launching an advertising campaign that promotes a consistent message across languages and engages with Latinos on a local level, Areizaga said.

In accented Spanish, Jackie Kennedy in 1960 made one of the first TV ads in Spanish encouraging Americans to vote for her husband, John F. Kennedy, "un líder capaz de guiar nuestros destinos," she said—"a leader capable of guiding our destinies."



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