



## UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR



The San Antonio Young Leaders Conference has grown by leaps and bounds since taking our first [official] team of 6 to the Ambassador Great Debate in 1997--We took two individuals in 1996. As always we maintain a representation of schools and districts from all over San Antonio and the surrounding areas. We are excited to

have grown to now representing our city and it's incredible youth at two Young Leaders Conference Programs in Texas and we are excited to say that this year we intend to maintain our hold as being one of the most competitive regions in the state! Our journey for the cup began January 15, 2011 and we appreciate the support of the schools, administrators and families that accompany their students and children on this journey. Here's to another successful year and thank you! --Anita Fernández, PA

Total Applicants to date: 81

Total High Schools Represented: 18  
Antonian High School: 6  
Boerne High School: 2  
Brackenridge High School: 1  
Brooks Academy of Science: 1  
Central Catholic High School: 11  
City Center Health Careers: 4  
Clark High School: 1  
Earl Warren High School: 3  
Health Careers High School: 3  
Henry Ford Academy of Art & Design: 3  
Highlands High School: 1  
Holy Cross High School: 11  
Incarnate Word High School: 24  
Keystone: 1  
Northside Health Careers: 1  
St. Anthony's Catholic High School: 2  
Travis Early College: 1  
Young Women's Leadership Academy: 5

# SAYLC INDUCTION CEREMONY



## NHI IN THE WORLD

By: Nicholas Grimaldi

Nicholas Gonzalez was born in San Antonio, Texas on January 3, 1976. He first heard of NHI when he was a freshman at Central Catholic High School, where he was also a successful athlete. During his senior year the president appointed him to go to West Point, which he turned down. After graduating from Stanford with an English degree he pursued acting at first he started acting in a theatre in San Francisco but rapidly grew to Los Angeles where he played minor roles in TV shows. NHI gave Nicholas many speaking skills that attributed to his acting career today. These are the many ways that people grow from doing the freshmen program. (cont'd on page 5)

## Lorenzo De Zavala

By: John Rangel

The Sherman Great Debate. It is the crowning jewel of the SAYLC, where the skills you sharpen in endless Saturday meetings will finally be put to the test. "But what will I do afterwards?" you may ask. "Where else can I awkwardly roll my R's and discuss important issues facing the Latino community without getting blank stares and awkward silences in return?" Well, have no fear SAYLC'rs! There is a life in NHI after the Great Debate; in fact, the Great Debate is the foundation upon which you build the skills necessary to dominate in the several programs that follow. The program immediately after the Great Debate is the NHI program known as LDZ.

If you think the Great Debate is challenging, amazing, and awe-inspiring, then LDZ will totally BLOW YOUR MIND!! Just kidding, but LDZ is intense. LDZ is challenging. LDZ defies the ability of any adjectives to define it. Ask anyone who has done the program what they thought about it and they will do one of either two things: 1) they will grab your shoulders and wildly shout that, "It was the best week of my life!!" or 2) they will stare dreamily off at a point above your shoulder and whisper, "It was the best week of my life."

LDZ is basically everything you love about the Great Debate program without everything you hate. There is no five month training period; you merely show up at the university site and begin. There are no set rules; you literally create your own government and decide how to run it. That is what makes LDZ so unique. You and [200] other high schoolers are brought together with one goal: to create your own reality. With that purpose all adult supervision, all the meddling parents and the shouting JC's disappear; LDZ gives you the formidable tools of other young minds and leaves you all alone to create any world that you choose. The results will leave you whispering, "That was the best week of my life."



### Oratory Members:

- Carolina Bilano
- Bianca Cortez
- Peter Flores
- Noah Fuentes
- Annelise Shipley
- Isaiah Montez
- Alondra Ramirez
- Rebecca Samaniego
- Juliana Ramon
- Peter Flores
- Miguel Gomez

## Category of the Month: Oratory!

By: Sarah Legette

This year's orators are rocking the house! They are an extremely creative bunch and they are bringing many new and innovative ideas. Every meeting they come ready to learn and have fun. Our approach at training seems to differ from that of other categories. We as Oratory Staff have managed to incorporate many fun games into our training. From play-dough, to balloons and even random objects we've done it all. These freshmen are just full of creativity and we are sure to have few laughs at every meeting. It makes me excited to come every Saturday knowing that each and every orator is here energized and ready to enjoy themselves. I know we will see great things from them at the Great Debate.

## Creative Competition Corner



## One time Coach

By: Paul Martinez

Being the head coach for any NHI region takes much planning, organization and much more work! For two of the SAYLC training meetings I got to experience the leadership role firsthand when our current head coach had school competitions to attend. Even in the short time that I had I was able to see growth in presentation, speeches and the confidence of the YLCers. I was faced with the difficult challenge to lead a group of teenagers that were either younger, the same age or older than myself. Leading these meetings made me realize how much more work goes into preparing these freshman for their competition. I have now found respect for Andrea Medina for the work that she does for our region. This experience is one that I will always look back on. This was an amazing experience that helped to shape me and allowed me to grow as a trainer and leader.

We were all made different  
We will never be the same  
As people keep on changing  
Only a small few will remain

When we look in the mirror  
Who is it that we see?  
Is it someone we are  
Or someone we want to be?

With a population so vast  
The people outnumber the stars  
It seems like they only care about  
Cute clothes and fancy cars

An immense amount of change  
Sometimes causes great confusion  
When the exterior transforms  
It becomes another illusion

If people keep on conforming  
And trying to fit in  
They begin to lose sight  
Of what they could have been

So if we were all made different  
We shouldn't try to be the same  
And when we lose sight of who we are  
We have only ourselves to blame

## Head Coach's Corner

By: Andrea Medina



The past few months have given us the chance to really grow as speakers, leaders, thinkers, individuals and teammates. My biggest and most inspired observations have come from the participation at and talents shared during each of our training meetings. When a speech becomes someone's personal testament, personal creation or someone's chance to let the world know that their idea is vital, the level of intellectual reflection and discussion and personal definition of values beliefs begins to take place. This year, we have a group that has continued to open up with their ideas, their talents and their

thirst for competition. The past few meetings have shown an understanding from everyone in owning the floor, owning our ideas and owning the direction of our team. If we continue to see ourselves as such "owners", this might just be the year that we bring home two cups. It's up to us, though, in the amount of effort and participation we put in. I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store and want to see the true champion unleashed from everyone! So 2011 SAYLCers, keep in mind that WE are the sources of our knowledge and information, WE define our own style, WE are the crafters of our own ideas, WE define who we are and what we are capable of and WE determine our own destiny. Bring it.

## YLCer Of The Month

Congratulations to Rebecca Garcia for earning the YLCer of the month! Besides her obvious excellence at public speaking and domination of the stage, we wanted to take a look at what else makes her unique among her incredible teammates.

### **REBECCA GARCIA: quick stats**

**School:** Young Women's Leadership Academy

**Category:** Mock Trial

**Position:** Attorney

**Possible major:** Mathematics or Science

**Favorite Food:** Chinese

**So how do you like the YLC so far?**

"Its really fun! I enjoy meeting new people and the program is overall a great challenge."

**What do you do outside of NHI?**

"Im in a lot of clubs such as the mathematics club and I also play basketball"

**That's cool! What position? How many points do you score?**

"I usually play post and I get about 8 points on average."

**Thanks for the interview! Are there any last comments you'd like to make?**

"Just to be confident and sure of yourself. Be who you are because that's when you shine the brightest."



## YLCERS



### MUSIC

Some new great music

J-LO making a come back with Pitbull- On the floor

Brittney Spears- Till the World Ends

Maná - Latinoamérica

# INTERVIEW WITH NICK GONZALEZ

By: Chris Garza

1) What is your philosophy towards your work?

For a long time my philosophy towards my work was "the more the better." When I was younger it was all about volume and experience. Now I find myself wanting to say more. My philosophy has now become- If it moves me then I can make it move other people.

2) Which NHI program did you enjoy the most?

LDZ by far has been my favorite program. I often wish I could return to

that time when it was all so new and my eyes were first opened to the possibilities of when we work together.

3) Where would you like to be in your career five years from now?

My biggest hope for my career is to finally start doing the kinds of films/tv projects that I enjoy watching myself. I also aim to produce more.

4) What has attracted you to the "Hollywood career"?

I have always been impressed and excited by those people that choose that other path. The path that isn't clearly marked. The path that does not necessarily lead to where we thought we wanted to go in the first place. The path that is never predictable. Although I would not normally put the two words "Hollywood" and "art" together, the path of the artist is what drew me to



Hollywood.

5) What skills has NHI taught you that are useful in your career?

Networking with other highly motivated dreamers has been one of the biggest things I have taken away from NHI. Fighting for what you believe in would be another. NHI programs do not allow for comfortably sitting on one's laurels. You gotta get up and passionately argue for that which you value in life.

6.) Anything you'd like to add?

Go Spurs Go.

## San Antonio Community Leadership Council



## OCI Group



## National Hispanic Institute



## Tino's Seafood- San Antonio

