

SWDAA

# THE CADENCE



"2022 brought me a beautiful wedding day; a sunny day in the midst of a rainy weekend. We shared the day with many family and friends, many of which are brothers and sisters of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. I'm excited for more sunny days in 2023, especially at national convention in July!"

Naomi Bencomo  
Xi Chapter



"2022 gave me a new job that I love, a new circle of friends, and a life I'm happy to be living. Here's to continuing the growth in 2023!"

Connor Terry  
Alpha Chapter



"Thank you, 2022! Hello, 2023! This year gave me SO many opportunities and I am excited for many more! First semester of grad school is done and it's been a blast! I am excited for what's to come!"

Catarina Tran  
Gamma Zeta Chapter



"This year gave me new friendships, dancing opportunities, and travel to new places. I am excited for my fourth trip to Cuba to study dance, my gymnastics competitions, and new adventures."

Marissa Archuleta  
Delta Kappa Chapter  
TBSAA Membership Director  
SWDAA Member

Cheers to a Great 2022 and a Better 2023!

Dear SWDAA Members,

Thank you for another year. Another year of continued commitment, fellowship, and love. Each of you have worked so hard to not only support one another, but to support the Alumni of the Southwest District. The work is never easy, but it is necessary for the fulfillment and advancement of our beloved organizations. Even if you did not scratch everything off your 2022 “to-do” list, you still showed up to serve and that should be celebrated. Take some time this holiday to celebrate your accomplishments, no matter the size, because you all deserve it. Rest, recharge and prepare to bring in 2023 with your fellow Brothers and Sisters because the show must go on!

We want 2023 to be the best year yet for SWDAA. Each year we ask Alumni Association leaders to set goals to guide their work. Your leaders set some worthwhile goals for growth, service and scholarship, alumni engagement, and fundraising. As you welcome in 2023, we encourage you to reflect on how you have engaged with your fellow Southwest District Alumni and the part you have played in helping the Alumni Association achieve its goals. Then, we want you to set some personal goals for increasing your engagement, expanding your service, and increasing your support of your Alumni Association and its goals. Your association needs your presence, ideas, and helping hands to succeed. In 2023, you can make SWDAA bigger, stronger, and more impactful! This year was great for SWDAA and we look forward to seeing you all band together to make 2023 even better.

Happy Holidays!

From your LAA Directors,

Kadeem Sabari and Thea Murphy



Let's recap, 2022! Apple Inc. became the first publicly traded company to exceed a market value of \$3 trillion. Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes the first Black woman confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice in a 53-47 vote. In sports: the Golden State Warriors defeat the Boston Celtics in six games to win their fourth championships in eight years. The Rams win the Super Bowl LVI. Georgia Bulldogs win the NCAA Football Championship against Alabama Crimson Tide, and Argentina wins its third World Cup title and its first since 1986 when fellow legend Diego Maradona won his only World Cup.

As for SWDAA we had a few great things to recap:

- Hosted our yearly Snacks with SWDAA at TMEA
- Presented a new branding logo for the Southwest District Alumni Association! Created by the very talented Robert Bratcher.
- Celebrated 76 Years with our Sisters and Brothers of Tau Beta Sigma.
- Nominated our SWDAA Delete Grant recipients:
  - Alpha Psi Chapter at WTAMU
  - Gamma Theta at East Central University
  - Gamma Nu at University of Texas at Arlington
  - Beta Chapter at Texas Tech Univ.
- Elected our 2022 - 2023 SWDAA Board of Directors
- We had our first post-covid in person District Convention at Springdale, Arkansas. Where we presented several awards including:
  - (New) The Chris Foster SWD TBΣ Alumni of the Year Award:
    - Chris Foster
  - (New) The Dionicio "Dino" Cardenas SWD KKΨ Alumni of the Year Award:
    - Dionicio "Dino" Cardenas
  - (New) Service to SWDAA Award:
    - Katie Langley
  - SWDAA Ritual Scholarship
    - Gamma Omega (KKΨ): Texas Southern University
    - Zeta Mu (TBΣ): Grambling State University
  - D.C. Al Coda Award
    - Megan Lambert: Gamma Phi (KKΨ)
    - John Mark Junkins: Psi (TBΣ)
- Our 2022-2023 Membership homes 37 Kappa Kappa Psi Members, 35 Tau Beta Sigma Members, and 8 who are in both!
- Celebrated 44 Graduating Seniors (Spring 2022)

- Created the new Social Committee led by our Co-Members-at-Large!

- Socials included: SWDAA Fantasy Football, Hocus Pocus 2 Watch Party, Pumpkin Decorating with SWDAA, SWDAA Friendsgiving, and Secret SWDAA!

- Made donations towards:

- Giving Tuesday supporting Tau Beta Sigma
  - Kappa Kappa Psi - Founders Day
  - HBCUs Band Together: The Webber Foundation

- Nominated DaJun Morris as our Fall 2022 SWDAA for Education Recipient

- Celebrated 103 years with our Brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi!

- (Currently until the end of January) Celebrated 23+ Graduated Seniors (Fall 2022)

Woah, didn't realize we did that much in the year and I am sure there's more! From our awesome Finance Director creating worthwhile fundraisers to our Striving for Greater Professionals Committee working on Talk Shops & SWDAA Coolers we are super proud of the accomplishments of this year.

We hope you had a great 2022 and we hope that 2023 brings us even more ways for you to be involved. We encourage you to get involved. We have active committees that meet monthly to talk business and to further SWDAA. On the last page of this newsletter you can find the emails of all Board of Directors! Let us know!

As for me, I would like to wish you the Happiest Holidays and a Happy New Year! I hope these newsletters are making your devices and you're enjoying them. As always, stay hydrated, continue striving for greater bands, and see you next year! (If you're reading this after the 31st, HELLO it's the new year!)

BY DINO CARDENAS





A big congratulations to our very own Membership Director, Jennifer Villarreal, on a great Midwest Clinic Workshop!

Jennifer & Dulce discussed commonly used catchphrases when addressing beginner flute topics such as: tone, articulation, posture, hand position, and vibrato. Discussion included a concise cheat-sheet with troubleshooting advice and steps for success to facilitate delivery for non-flutist and first-year teachers.

#### About The Midwest Clinic:

- The Midwest Clinic International Band, Orchestra and Music Conference offers guests interested in music education an array of clinics and exhibits, as well as access to music and teaching icons. The conference will also focus on industry trends and future topics in business and music education. With more than 18,000 attendees from all 50 states and more than 40 countries, The Midwest Clinic offers music educators and musicians alike an unmatched networking opportunity.

## Happy Birthday, December Members!

Braeden Weyhrich - Dec 2nd

Harrison Calvert - Dec 3rd

Rayback Cyzr Lomboy - Dec 3rd

Evelyn Jones (Eve) - Dec 11th

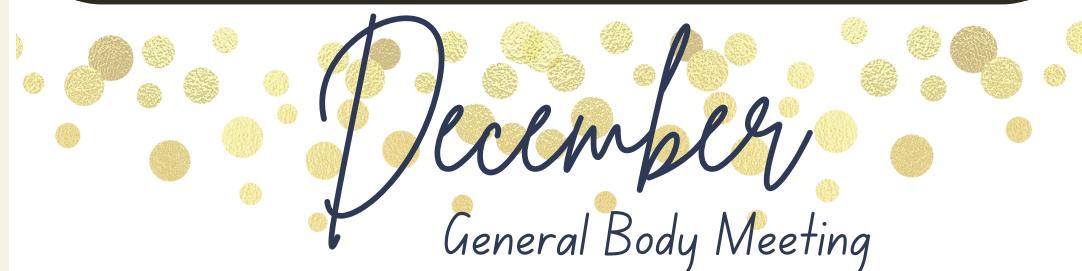
TaShana Hooker - Dec 12th

\*Natalia Harrison - Dec 14th

Eireka Wright - 15th

Eriel Banks - Dec 24th

(\* ) - Distinguishes SWDAAA BOD, National Leadership, or Governor/Counselor



December General Body Meeting

Jennifer D. Villarreal	Brianna Mitchell (she/her)	Dionicio Cardenas & Gigi The Cat	Natalia Harrison (she/her) Program Director
Kelton Lee Ashcraft	Catarina Trinh	Chetseka Zuniga	Lea Sanchez (she/her)
Yvette Arispe	Dale Grimm	Wendy Stewart	Clara Gibbs

Avleen Sanchez

# Congrats Grads!



Grace Lindauer  
Xi Chapter (TBΣ)



Allie Morse  
Psi Chapter (TBΣ)



Marcella Chapa  
Epsilon Delta (KKΨ)



Ashlyn Vessel  
Alpha Psi (KKΨ)



Matthew Welch  
Zeta Zeta (KKΨ)



Eric Miller  
Tau Chapter (TBΣ)



Serena Ford  
Zeta Mu (TBΣ)



Sydney Alegrua  
Lambda Kappa (KKΨ)



Mercedes Rivera  
Xi Chapter (TBΣ)



Kiara Penn  
Epsilon Beta (KKΨ)



Megan Lambert  
Gamma Phi (KKΨ)



Emily Copeland  
Epsilon Beta (KKΨ)

The following graduates submitted the SWDAA "Fall 2022 Graduating Senior Highlight" form. Their full highlights will be done on our social media platforms until the end of January. Please check those out for more information and to congratulate them in the comments!

# Congrats Grads!



Ricardo Torres Salazar  
Gamma Omega (KKΨ)



Ashley Engle  
Eta Epsilon (TBΣ)



Ashley Bollman  
Theta Theta (TBΣ)



Piper Turner  
Beta Nu (TBΣ)



Christian Thomas  
Beta Omicron (TBΣ)



Chris Allen  
Alpha Chi (KKΨ)



Allie Gustin  
Xi Chapter (TBΣ)



Emma Breeze  
Epsilon Beta (KKΨ)



Natalie Samuels  
Xi Chapter (TBΣ)



Matt Browning  
Delta Chapter (TBΣ)



Giovandre Stcyr  
Gamma Omega (KKΨ)



Lauren Allen  
Beta Chapter (TBΣ)

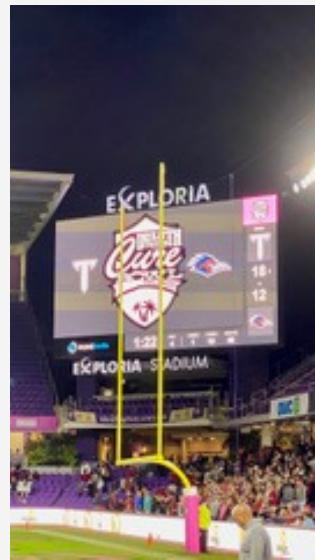
# CURE BOWL WITH THE SPIRIT OF SAN ANTONIO

By Yslette Arispe

(Iota Tau Alumni - TBΣ)

Stepping out of the SUV, you could hear the roar of the crowds coming from the Exploria Stadium. I could remember starting to get ready for the Cure Bowl game day, but it was a bit different since I was now a Hall of Fame Member and alumnus of the Spirit of San Antonio. My brother currently helps with the UT San Antonio football team, since hearing where the team would go for a bowl game on December 4, 2022, we were hoping for a place out of state, lucky; we were chosen to participate in the Cure Bowl in Orlando Florida on December 16, 2022, at 3:00pm (ET). So I started making flight, hotel, and ticket arrangements, and since it was during the holidays and to Orlando, why not include the whole family and visit the "Happiness Place on Earth" at the same time?

Finally, the day had arrived and we were driving into downtown Orlando to the Exploria Stadium. Walking towards the stadium, all you could hear was the roar of the crowds coming from both the Troy University and UT San Antonio fans. Upon entering the stadium, the Spirit of San Antonio were performing their iconic pre-game show with the Sound of the South soon to follow. Seeing the Spirit of San Antonio on the field, I felt as though I was marching with them and was so proud of my young university marching program and everyone that had worked twelve years earlier to make the band program a reality.

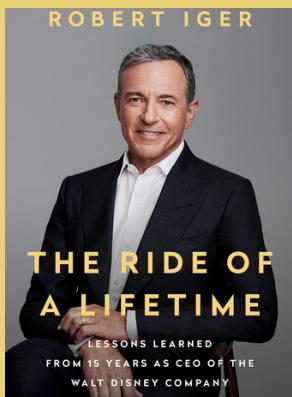


Now it was Time for A Cure Bowl Game in Exploria Stadium between Troy University (Sound of the South) and The University of Texas at San Antonio (Spirit of San Antonio) with no rain in sight and cool temperatures similar to the atmosphere in the Alamodome, and the football teams were also ready for a bowl game. UTSA soon scored on Troy and you could feel the music from both bands in the stands. Now, it was halftime show time and you could see the excitement on the marching band members' faces from both sides. Soon the football game was back on and the marching bands were back in the stands playing their school songs proudly for their fans. I was able to meet with sisters from the Iota Tau chapter, and discussed with them further their sisterhood with Tau Beta Sigma after graduation, like joining the Alumni Association of the Southwest District.

Soon the end of the fourth quarter was upon us and unfortunately, the Trojans were too much for the Roadrunners, and the game ended with a Troy victory. Unfortunately, the roadrunners lost, but the memories that the football players, marching band members, and even their fans made will last a lifetime. Thankfully, the next few days were filled with family time at Disney World and making more holiday memories. Although the bowl game did not conclude the way I would have liked "I am now and forever a roadrunner and an alumnus of the Spirit of San Antonio".



**We asked our members, "What was your favorite movie, show, or book you saw/read in 2022 and describe why is it your favorite in 2-3 sentences!"**



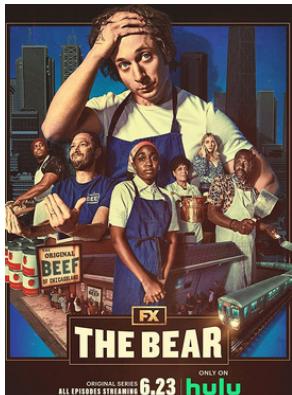
### Jennifer D. Villarreal

Lots of simple human things that make leading and working in a team much more manageable. Also, Disney. #duh



### Sarah Griffith

That's a hard question, but I'd have to say Great News on Netflix. In such a politically interesting year, it poked fun at everyone a bit and also was hilarious.



### Garret Gardenhire

I would say my favorite show is The Bear. It always held me on the edge of my seat while being a show about a sandwich shop and grief. Now I get to yell "Behind Chef" whenever my wife and I are cooking



### Caroline Lee

It's hard to pick my show of 2022 but I would say it's Cobra Kai. Cobra Kai is the part of the reason I joined karate earlier this year and plus I got to meet Daniel Larusso in person.



### Ondrea A. Green

Mine would be Stranger Things! I watched it after everyone else did and managed to miss spoilers gladly. I really enjoyed the cinematography, characters, and the story line. I also have a lot of students who love it and it's a good conversation topic!



### Dionicio Cardenas

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever was a great movie to say thank you and goodbye to Chadwick Boseman. I also appreciated that they made my culture visible to the world.



### Andrea Valdez

Abbott Elementary is one of my top shows of 2022, with its cast of diverse characters, funny kid actors and great insight into what it's like taking on the teacher role in public schools. Quinton Brunson is a comedian on Buzzfeed turned Emmy winning writer and director. It's a laugh out loud series about teachers, making a difference in their students lives. Can't wait for a new season.



### Ray Correa

My favorite show would have to be "The Untamed", a Chinese television series. I really enjoy this TV show because it practically has everything from horror, fantasy, action, romance, conflict, mystery, comedy, suspense, supernatural, and history. It is a very entertaining show, really enjoyed it, especially when both protagonists are playing their instruments (bamboo flute and Chinese pluck zither "zheng or gu zheng". throughout the whole series.

Dear SWDAA,

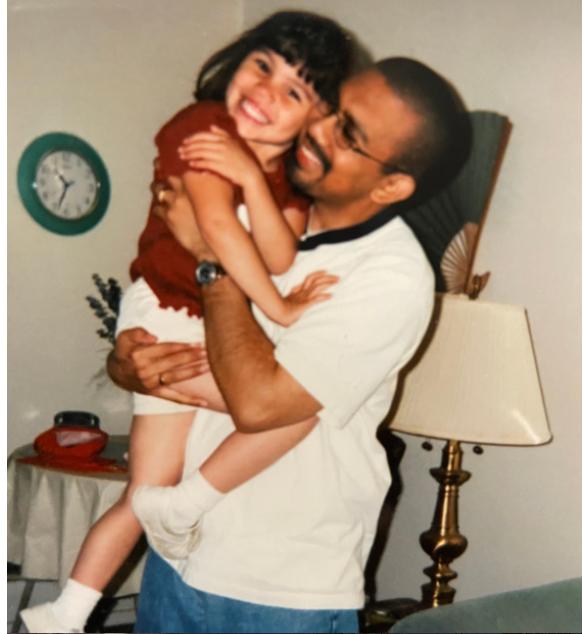
That time of year has come where we reflect on the year we had, what went well, what did not, and what we want for ourselves in the coming new year. As we say goodbye to 2022, I want to share some of my hardships as well as some of my blessings!

At the start of this year, I lost my father. I share this with you all not to gain sympathy, but to show vulnerability and let you know that you are not alone in your hardships. This was the hardest thing I've been through to date, and to top it off, I got out of a nearly three and a half year long relationship not too long after. Those two things were enough to make me want to throw in the towel, but nevertheless, I persisted. The biggest take away from these two events is that with a little bit of persistence, you can do anything.

It would be remiss if I didn't share what wonderful things 2022 brought to me. I traveled. A lot. I visited eight states (five of which were for the first time!) and Washington DC (also a first). I saw at least seven live concerts, and went to many art museums. I made a big move, left a job I was unhappy in, went back to school, and adopted a beautiful little kitty to join my family. This year, nothing held me back. I persisted.

If you need a sign to leave that toxic job, here it is. I did it and I'm better for it! If you need a sign to go back to school, here it is. I did it and even though it's hard, I'm better for it! If you need a sign to pack up and move back home, here it is. I did it and guess what? I'm better for it! Make 2023 YOUR year. Do the thing you've been too scared to do. With a little bit of persistence, you can do anything! I'll be the first to say GOOD RIDDANCE 2022 but also THANK YOU 2022. I wouldn't be the same without you. Here's to 2023!

Happy New Year, SWDAA!  
Chelsea Zuniga  
TBS Member-at-Large





# 2023 SWD CONVENTION

LAFAYETTE, LA | APRIL 14-16, 2023

**DAYS TILL #SWDCON23 FROM DECEMBER 31ST, 2022:**

**104 DAYS**

**OR**

**3 MONTHS & 14 DAYS**

**OR**

**14 WEEKS & 6 DAYS**

## Contact us at:

- Brianna Mitchell, Chairperson
  - [swdaachair@gmail.com](mailto:swdaachair@gmail.com)
- Jennifer D. Villarreal, Membership Director
  - [swdaamembership@gmail.com](mailto:swdaamembership@gmail.com)
- Natalia Harrison, Programs Director
  - [swdaamembership@gmail.com](mailto:swdaamembership@gmail.com)
- Dionicio Cardenas, Communications Director
  - [swdjointalumni@gmail.com](mailto:swdjointalumni@gmail.com)
- Ciara Gibbs, Finance Director
  - [swdaafinance@gmail.com](mailto:swdaafinance@gmail.com)
- Kelton Ashcraft (KKPsi) & Chelsea Zuniga (TBSigma)
  - Co-Members at Large
  - [swdaa.comals@gmail.com](mailto:swdaa.comals@gmail.com)

Follow us on social media:



SouthwestDistrictAA



SWDAlumni



SWDAlumni