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## TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A Member of The Texas A&M University System

### Office of the President

To the Editor:

The recent Letter to the Editor provided by representatives of the SCAN, Inc. organization, Dr. Christopher Craddock, Melissa Cavazos, and Mario Flores regarding next weekend's Fifth Annual AutMus Fest 2009 contained both errors and misrepresentations, first of the actions and intent of Texas A&M International University's Alumni Association, and then of the University itself. There is no argument that underage drinking and binge drinking are both part of a national problem. No community or campus is immune. We all share a commitment to strict adherence to all applicable laws and standards.

While we all certainly commend the advocacy efforts of this group and applaud their commitment and passion for their cause, most especially their leadership in the community's smoking ban, the best civil discourse occurs when disagreeing partners can at the very least agree to disagree on points of fact. Despite two meetings with group representatives where these inaccuracies were clearly identified and corrected, the group has proceeded to cast doubts about an event that has provided our community with a remarkable opportunity to enjoy a diversity of musical experiences in a stringently monitored and protected environment with all applicable laws enforced.

The Texas A&M International University Alumni Association, a 501c3 non-profit organization, has presented this initiative without incident for the past five years and, through diligent volunteer efforts, has created a much-anticipated event that seeks to raise money for scholarship support for deserving TAMIU students. For the record, let us correct the errors provided in the September 29, 2009 letter.

\*The TAMIU Alumni Association is NOT in violation of the University's alcohol rules as outlined in the Student Handbook. Clearly, those rules apply to students. This is an Alumni event for the Laredo community. While students are able to attend this community event, they must do so in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations, must present ID, be "wrist-banded," and vigilantly monitored by a large contingent of security personnel.

\*The University's offer of the event is NOT counter to its multi-pronged efforts at alcohol education awareness that include demonstrations, learning opportunities, counseling and, in the case of AutMus, an alternate event for those who seek optional activities.

\*The University NEVER serves alcohol at University functions or events for students. Alcohol sale or provision only occurs in designated, controlled areas, as permitted by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, with ever-present, on-site security.

With strict adherence to law, safety, crowd control and a vigilance that some might find omnipresent, the AutMus Fest has emerged as a popular family destination where safety and good times go hand in hand.

Neither the Association nor the University tolerate underage purchase of alcohol nor excessive consumption by those legally empowered to have it. With this unswerving commitment to safety and security, AutMus has grown to attract over 10,000 attendees, and their support of student scholarships is much appreciated. As we did during our meetings with SCAN, Inc. representatives, we encourage them to join us at AutMus and personally review the high standards of compliance and safety that are in place to give surety that no underage or excessive drinking occurs. We have offered to provide them with a booth so that they can distribute their organization's information and share their mission with thousands.

Again, we appreciate the concern and advocacy shared by the SCAN, Inc. organization and welcome their participation in this or next year's AutMus Fest.

Sincerely,



Fernando C. Morales, Jr.  
Alumni Association, President



Dr. Ray M. Keck, III  
Texas A&M International University, President