

TWU GENERATIONS



**Maria Argelia Arizpe Guadarrama
and
Dina Guadarrama Rodriguez**

Maria Argelia Arizpe Guadarrama, BA Spanish and Government, 1967

“I graduated from Harlingen High School in 1964 and was so fortunate to have a friend/classmate who was one year older and had gone to TWU. When we got together during my senior year she insisted that I should go there, too, but I knew that financially that was impossible. She sent a catalog and said to try for scholarships and financial aid. A huge packet came in late August with a wonderful scholarship, financial aid and room assignment to Mary Hufford Hall. I am the oldest of 4 children and when I told my parents, the response was – OK but how will you even get there. No one knew where Denton was – but our Catholic Youth Group mentors, Judge Filemon and Blanca Vela volunteered to take me (along with their niece) and dropped me off at Mary Hufford just in time for classes. I graduated 3 years later with a BA in Spanish and Government/Secondary Education certification. I did my student teaching in Irving –TWU provided cars for us to travel to our teaching sites and brown bag lunches which we picked up at cafeteria on the way each day (this part is hard for some to believe!)

I did not attend my graduation in August of 1967 because no one in the family was able to come.

I worked in public education for over 25 years and published a book for teaching English as a Second language to young children (Steps to English, McGraw-Hill 1975) and am now Librarian for Discovery Montessori School in Edinburg, Texas. My husband and I have four children, all graduates of Texas universities, one from TWU. David is a pharmacist, Dorinda and Dina are Occupational Therapists, and Delisa is a medical school student at UT Health Science Center, San Antonio. We have five grandchildren. “

Dina Guadarrama Rodriguez, B. S. Occupational Therapy, 1993

Dina's decision to become an OT followed a visit with a former classmate of Argelia, Lucilia Garcia Covington, who would have a child of her own with Down Syndrome - Both women share a personal and professional experience that are special. Cilia worked as an OT in the Ft. Worth school district and is now retired. Her daughter lives in a group home nearby and has exceeded everyone's expectations except her Mom's.

Dina finished her OT program in three years and was off to work but decided to return to Denton for graduation in December of 1993. Everyone in the family attended a nice finish to the family TWU connection.

Dina married Fernando Rodriguez and in 2000 had their first son. After giving birth to baby Andre who lived only 8 months due to complications from Down's Syndrome, Dina founded the Rio Grande Valley chapter of Miracle Kids to honor the memory of Andre and provide other children and their families with numerous opportunities to participate in sports activities such as baseball, bowling, fishing, etc. The participation and enthusiasm has been incredible. She and her husband Fernando have devoted many hours to this organization.

They now have another son, Jayden, but continue to support Miracle Kids. Dina is an OT with Kids Corner in Weslaco, Texas, and works with children who have disabilities. Jayden, now 5, attends the Discovery Montessori School where Grandmom "Cheila," (Argelia) is the part time school librarian.

Below are photos of Dina and Fernando's work with Miracle Kids, an organization that provides children with disabilities and special need , ages 5-12, an opportunity to play baseball, tennis, bowling, golf, fishing and other sports with the assistance of a "buddy partner". This organization has expanded to the lower and upper Rio Grande Valley.

