

# Jose David Martinez

By Fernando Ramirez  
Hispanic Triangle News

Jose David Martinez, the new director of the Port Arthur Public Library, is a native of San Antonio. He said Port Arthur has similarities to the Alamo City that he finds very interesting. He likes the fact that both are rich in history, both have had a great impact in the development of Texas and both have a multi-cultural community.

He lost no time in cleaning up and changing the sterile atmosphere of an old-fashioned library and replacing it with an upscale look and feel.

Martinez has a master of science degree in Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas. He received a master of arts degree in International Relations/Economic Development from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He holds two other degrees, a master of arts degree in Administration/Marketing from the Incarnate Word in San Antonio and a bachelor of arts

degree in Spanish/Business from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

His love of working in a library started 28 years ago when he had his first job in a library as a janitor. His climb up the ladder of success has been a gratifying and humbling experience, he said.

"I just love being surrounded by books and giving the patrons of the library an enjoyable and pleasant environment," he said. Martinez said his job as the library janitor gives him a different view about what a library should be.

He knew that the first big change had to be in the front foyer of the library. He removed the cold metal showcases and replaced them with beautiful wood bookcases, which made the library feel like the grand homes on Lakeshore. He later worked with the staff to turn the outdated computer rooms into two conference rooms.

The landscaping project, the meeting rooms and the info screen also transformed the

look and function of the library. Martinez is excited about the two touch screen computers for seniors. He believes them to be the first such computer in this area.

The funniest conflict he has had to deal with involved the Italian Memorial. When the Italian Club flew the Italian flag next to the American flag, people were upset that Martinez was flying the Mexican flag. He could not believe the number of people who were told the difference between the Italian flag and the



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Mexican flag. Martinez said he wants to thank his staff, the Friends of the Library, the mayor and City Council and the patrons of the library for all the support he has received.

## LSC-PA looks for fall semester scholarship applicants

Lamar State College-Port Arthur is accepting applications for the Gayle Sims Memorial Scholarships, which honor the former Lamar-Port Arthur office technology instructor who died of cancer at an early age in 1988.

Sims joined the Lamar State-PA faculty in 1976 and was the coordinator of the Office Occupations Program.

The Sims scholarship program was established 19 years ago. The scholarships provide enough money to pay for all tuition and fees for new students taking 12 credit hours of academic or technical courses. Students of any age may apply as long as they have not previously attended a college or university. Applicants for the scholarship must agree to enroll in at least 12 credit hours of classes. The deadline for applications is April 1.

The criteria for judging includes an applicant's grades, work experience and/or service in the U.S. armed forces, SAT and/or ACT scores and recommendations from teachers and employers. Applicants also are evaluated on the basis of an interview with the committee members.

A committee of faculty and staff members will conduct personal interviews with each applicant. The committee determines how many scholarships will be awarded on the basis of how much money is available and the number of qualified applicants. The winners will be announced no later than June 1.

For information on the scholarship, call David Sorrells, chair of the scholarship committee, at 984-6416. Information also is available from Patricia Guidry in the Admission Advising Office at 984-6184.

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