

Life After Rice: Latinx Alumni Panelists



Tony Castilleja Jr. '09 and '11

Tony Castilleja Jr. is a systems engineer for Global Sales & Marketing, supporting Boeing Defense, Space & Security's Space and Launch division. His areas of focus include the Space Launch System – the world's most powerful rocket launching the journey to deep space – and development of the full-scale astronaut trainer for Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft, the United States' first human-rated commercial spacecraft for low Earth orbit transportation to the International Space Station. Castilleja completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Rice University in Houston, where he serves as Honorary Staff in the Rice University Center for Engineering Leadership.



Geraldina Interiano Wise '83 and '85

Geraldina Interiano Wise discovered art at a young age in her native El Salvador. A graduate from Rice University in Architecture/Art/Art History, she is now a dedicated artist, in the realm of Abstract Expressionism with a source. Her artist's voice comes deep from the intellectual patrimony of her Maya ancestry, rooted in the fast changing cultural, social, physical and scientific environment of Houston and the US. The origins of humans and what unites them is a continuing theme in her abstract dynamic vocabulary of art. The overarching theme of coexistence and connectivity is a constant in her work across different mediums, which is the genesis of the

Horizonte live painting performance collaboration with Musiqa. Geraldina works at her studio in the Washington Arts District, has taken classes at Glassell School of Art, and is a permanent visiting student in Printmaking at Rice University, under the tutelage of Professor Karin Broker.



Lilibeth Mata '13

Lilibeth Mata is a Martel College Alum who graduated in 2013 with a B.A in Computational and Applied Mathematics. She has worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center for the last six years as a Risk & Reliability Analyst and recently began a rotation as a Passive Thermal Control Systems Engineer. She received a NASA Academic Fellowship and obtained a Masters of Industrial Engineering degree from the University of Houston in 2018. During her time at Rice, she was a member and captain of the Rice Owls Dance Team, and this marks her fourth year as Head Coach of the team. At the Johnson Space Center, she served as a Committee Lead, Co-Chair, and then Chair of the Hispanic Employee Resource Group between 2015-2017.