



## Aguilar and Balliro Receive Texas Exes Teaching Award

**February 2, 2009**

Dr. Jemel Aguilar, assistant professor of social work, was named faculty recipient of the annual Texas Exes Teaching Award for his "positive influence on the educational experience of university students." Michael Balliro, a graduate student in the doctoral program, was named teaching assistant recipient.



Dr. Jemel Aguilar

Aguilar earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, where he conducted research on adolescent violence. He joined the University of Texas faculty in 2006, and teaches master's courses in the Community and Administrative Leadership (CAL) concentration. His research and practice interests include serious and violent juvenile delinquency, interventions in low-income communities of color, and community influences on mental health.

Michael Balliro has nearly 20 years' experience in non-profit, research or social service work in areas ranging from homelessness to 9/11 recovery work. His area of specialization is concerned with how policies of criminalization have given rise to historically high rates of incarceration, and why these policies disproportionately affect poor people and people of color. He earned his MSW at the University of Iowa and is now in his second year of the PhD. program.



Michael Balliro

Aguilar and Balliro will accept their Texas Exes Teaching Awards at a presentation on **Tuesday, February 10**, in the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center.

The purpose of the annual Texas Exes Teaching Awards is to promote quality teaching at The University of Texas. These awards are student nominated and student selected through the Texas Exes and the university's Senate of

College Councils, a student-elected representative body of all colleges within the university. The Texas Exes have honored a faculty member and graduate instructor in each school and college each year since 1982.

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