

AIAA Houston Section

Monthly Status from Douglas Yazell

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

- Houston Section IAC (International Activities Committee)
- Houston Section History technical committee

- DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion): Necessary but not Sufficient
- Human-Induced Climate Change Requires Urgent Action

Douglas Yazell, February 4, 2025, douglas.yazell@me.com, 832-366-5292 iPhone, February Meeting Date TBD

Views expressed in this document are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect views of AIAA.

Diversity – Necessary but not Sufficient

“On Critical Race Theory, Why It Matters & Why You Should Care,” a 2022 book by Victor Ray

“Powell’s opinion [[Bakke, 1978](#)] also established that the state had a compelling interest in promoting a diverse student body. This compelling interest meant schools could therefore continue to consider race as one factor in a holistic admissions process. Importantly, Powell’s opinion in *Bakke* rejected the traditional rationales of slavery, Jim Crow, or ongoing racial discrimination as reasons to diversify. In line with Bell’s [interest convergence theorem](#) (see chapter 5), Powell focused on the shared educational benefits of diversity for both whites and people of color. Diversity is a nebulous concept that equates highly politicized identities (race) with relatively benign ones (region of origin). Powell’s opinion domesticated diversity, helping to make it palatable by detaching the concept from a commitment to righting historical injustice.”

“The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal their bread.” [[Anatole France, 1844–1924](#)]

What we know so far about Trump’s orders on diversity, equity and inclusion

Lauren Aratani

Sun 26 Jan 2025 09.00 EST

The Guardian ^{US} v

Preface

If you have no critics, you have no success.

If having critics is the key to success,
critical race theory is wildly successful.

Human-Induced Climate Change Requires Urgent Action



"Meanwhile, Dallas Fort Worth Airport prides itself on being the first carbon-neutral airport in the Americas."

Climate Change

From the unique vantage point in space, NASA collects critical long-term observations of our changing planet.

VITAL SIGNS

Carbon Dioxide
↑ 425 parts per million

Global Temperature
↑ 1.5 °C since preindustrial

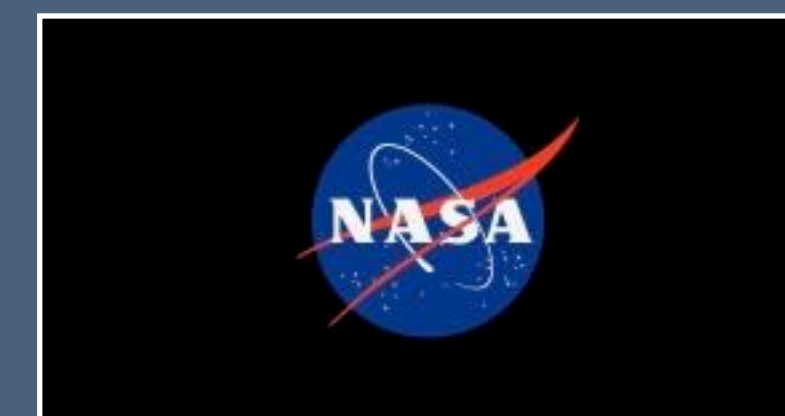
Methane
↑ 1922 parts per billion

Arctic Sea Ice Minimum Extent
↓ 12.2 percent per decade since 1979

Ice Sheets
↓ 405 billion metric tons per year

Sea Level
↑ 4 inches since January 1993

Ocean Warming
↑ 372 zettajoules since 1955



<https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change>

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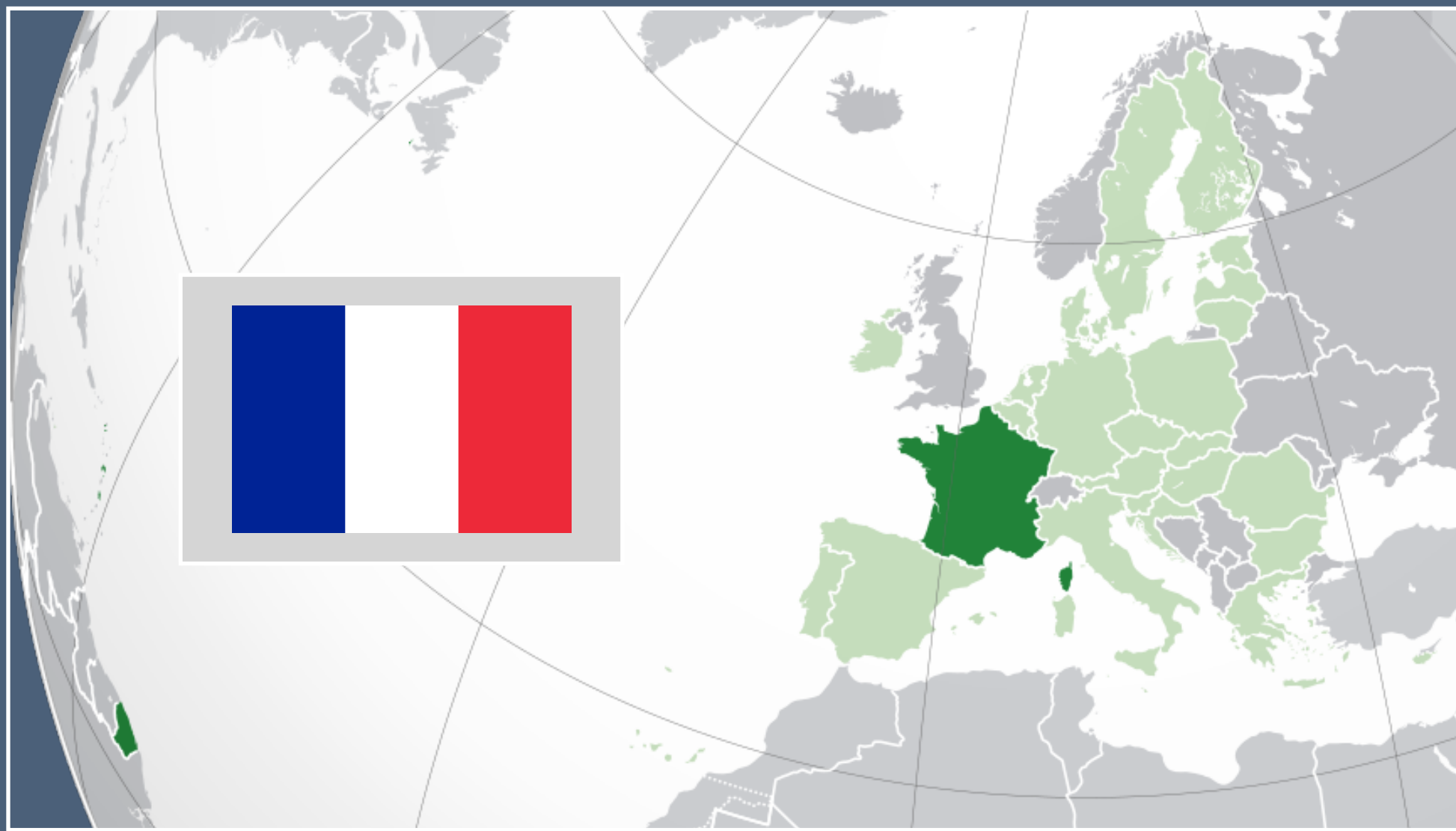
International Sister Sections of AIAA Houston Section



AIAA Houston Section International Sister Sections

- France-USA: Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France (3AF), Midi-Pyrénées, www.3af-mp.fr
 - France: Francis Guimera ([mail](#)), preceded by Alain Chevalier ([mail](#))
 - Houston: Douglas Yazell ([mail](#))
- Ethiopia-USA: Ethiopian Space Science Society, <https://www.ethiosss.org>
 - Ethiopia: Tulu Besha Bedada ([mail](#)), PhD and Berhan Gessesse, PhD
 - Houston: Thomas Haregot ([mail](#))
- Peru-USA
 - Houston: Jackelynne Silva-Martinez ([mail](#))
 - Peru: Julio Valdivia, Saul Perez

AIAA Houston Section International Activities Committee (IAC) ([link](#))
Chair: Douglas Yazell, douglas.yazell@me.com



Right: Svetlana Hanson is 4th from right. This photo is from TTTech on [LinkedIn](#) from 2 years ago: “This week we welcomed an engineering team from NASA to TTTech in Vienna for an alignment meeting about our collaboration on NASA’s Gateway. It was a great pleasure to be able to discuss details in person and to prepare for the successful integration and launch of the first Gateway modules together.”



ESA Astronaut Class of 2022 –
[Meet Anthea Comellini](#)

Meet Anthea Comellini

THALES ALENIA SPACE ENGINEER AND ASTRONAUT

France

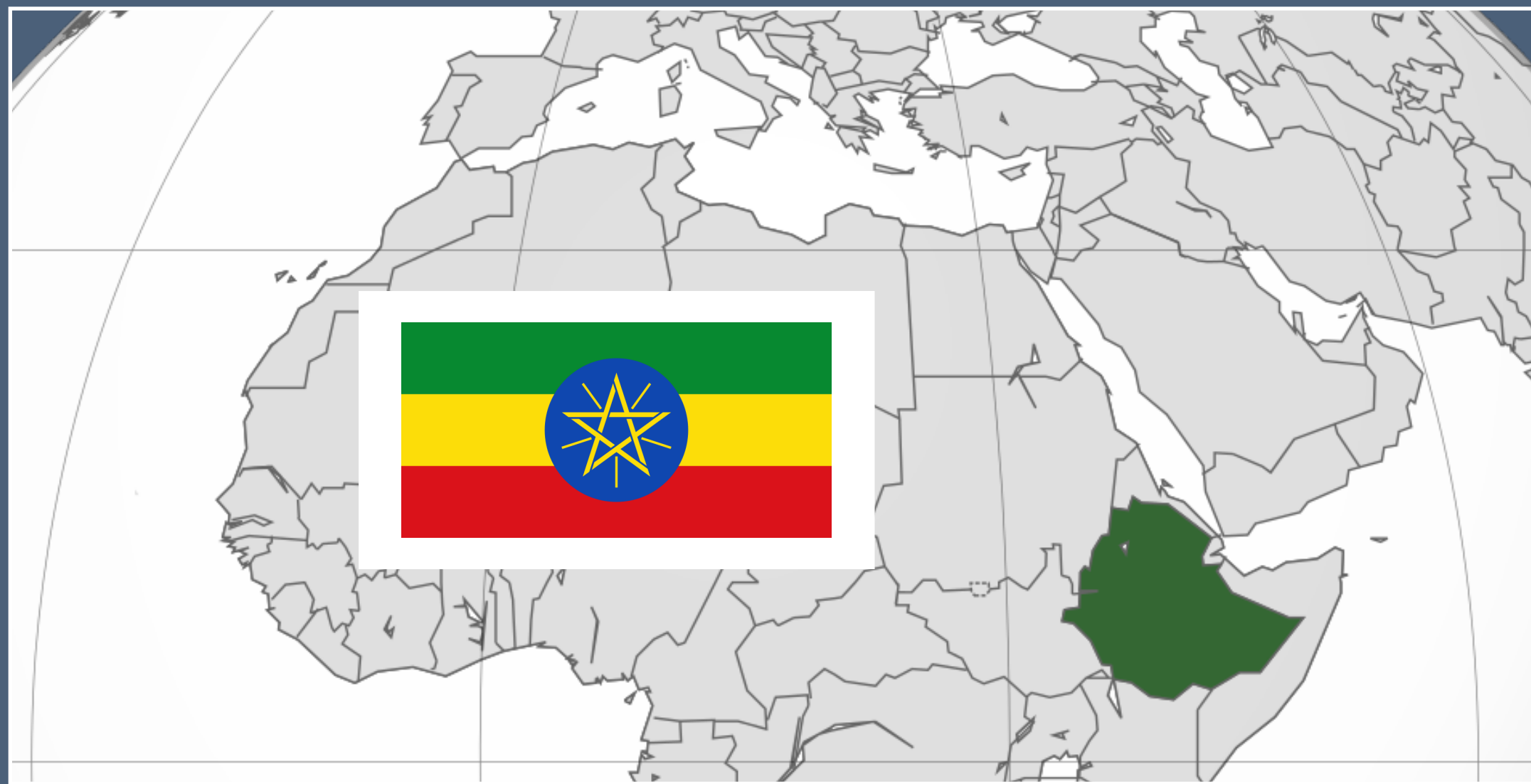
- Valérie Baraban, Consul General of France in Houston ([link](#))
- Denise Bauer, US Ambassador to France and Monaco ([link](#))
- US Embassy & Consulates in France ([link](#))

Past AIAA Houston Section Chair Svetlana Hanson at TASI-F in Cannes France, February 2025

Svetlana Hanson will travel from Houston Texas USA (IAH airport) to London England United Kingdom on Thursday, February 6, 2025, and then from there to Nice France. She will fly from Nice to Cannes France for the weeklong event with NASA, TASI-F (TASI: “Thales Alenia Space Italy”). The “F” is for France. A 2021 NASA podcast [web page](#) mentions TASI.

Svetlana Hanson is a past Chair of AIAA Houston Section. She hosts a weekly [Zoom](#) meeting for our Section, too, on Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM Central Time (Houston time). The subject is space exploration, and the name of the weekly event is SpaceGeekSpeak. When invited keynote speakers are not available, the meeting goes ahead anyway with a wide variety of topics led by our weekly host, Svetlana Hanson. Membership is not required. Friends and family are welcome. No RSVP. Just use the [Zoom link](#) to attend. Here is a [link](#) to the SpaceGeekSpeak YouTube channel where the recorded videos are archived.

An airport in Cannes was created soon after 1903, the first powered airplane flight, an accomplishment of Orville and Wilbur Wright in the USA. For now, I find this [airport](#) in Cannes France: Cannes–Mandelieu Airport or Aéroport de Cannes–Mandelieu. [Douglas Yazell, February 6, 2025]



Ethiopia

- Ethiopian Space Science Society ([link](#))
- Mr. Gerzhegn Kebede, Honorary Consul, Head of Mission, Supervising Authority: Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington, D.C. ([link](#))
- Ethiopian Honorary Consulate in Houston ([link](#))
- US Embassy in Ethiopia ([link](#))
 - Tracey Ann Jacobson, Ambassador ([link](#))
 - Fiona Evans, Deputy Chief of Mission ([link](#))



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ETHIOPIAN SPACE SCIENCE SOCIETY

Ethiopian space science society was established in 2004, with **47 founding members**. It is a non-profitable organization constitute of members from Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Science and technology, and the related field of professionals as well as individual , and institutional members interested in the above fields.

The society has more than **15,000 individual members**, **30 branch** associations, over **58 institutional** membersa and over **100 Space School Clubs**.

Downloaded February 6, 2025



Peru

- Peruvian Consulate in Houston ([link](#))
- Mr. Rodolfo Enrique Coronado Molina, Head of Mission, Supervising Authority: Embassy of Peru in Washington, D.C. ([link](#))
- US Embassy in Peru ([link](#))
 - Lisa Lenna, Ambassador ([link](#))



Image: Flickr (James Preston).

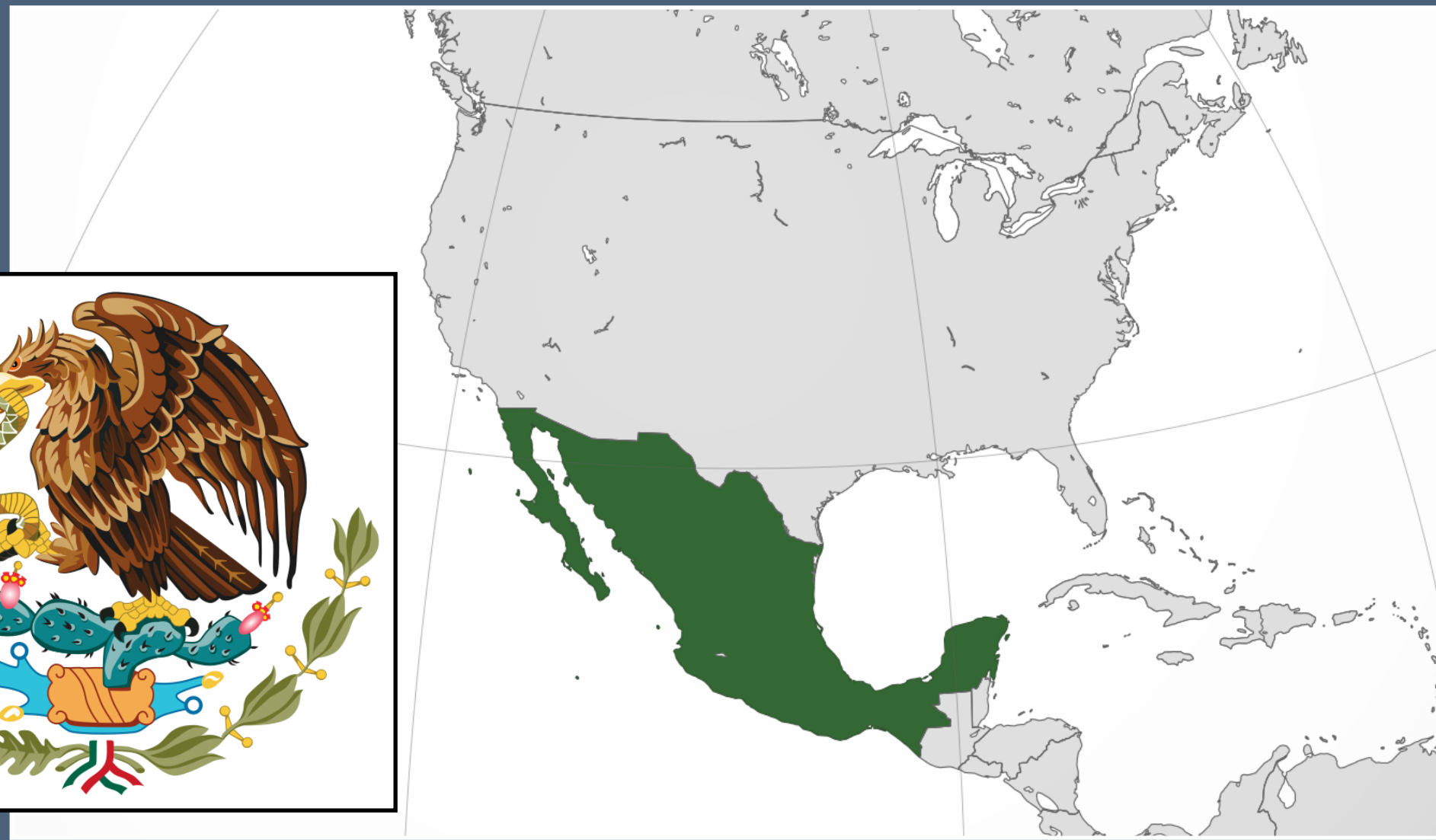
“After sacking Cusco, the capital of the Inca empire, Pizarro founded Lima in 1535. Originally known as the City of Kings, the city was the capital of the Spanish Viceroyalty in South America until Peru’s independence in 1821.”

Statue of Peru’s Spanish conqueror Pizarro restored to central Lima amid controversy

Statue returns near former spot 22 years after removal in apparent attempt to rehabilitate Francisco Pizarro’s legacy

Dan Collyns in Lima

Sun 19 Jan 2025 12.40 EST



Mexico

- US Embassy & Consulates in Mexico ([link](#))
- Mexican Consulate General in Houston ([link](#))
- Alicia G. Keber Palma, Consul General, Supervising Authority: Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C. ([link](#))
- Ken Salazar, US Ambassador to Mexico ([link](#))

Region IV Sections

1. Houston (Texas, includes Mexico & Texas A&M University)
2. Southwest Texas (includes Dallas & Fort Worth)
3. North Texas (includes San Antonio)
4. Albuquerque (New Mexico)
5. White Sands (New Mexico)
6. Oklahoma (includes Arkansas)

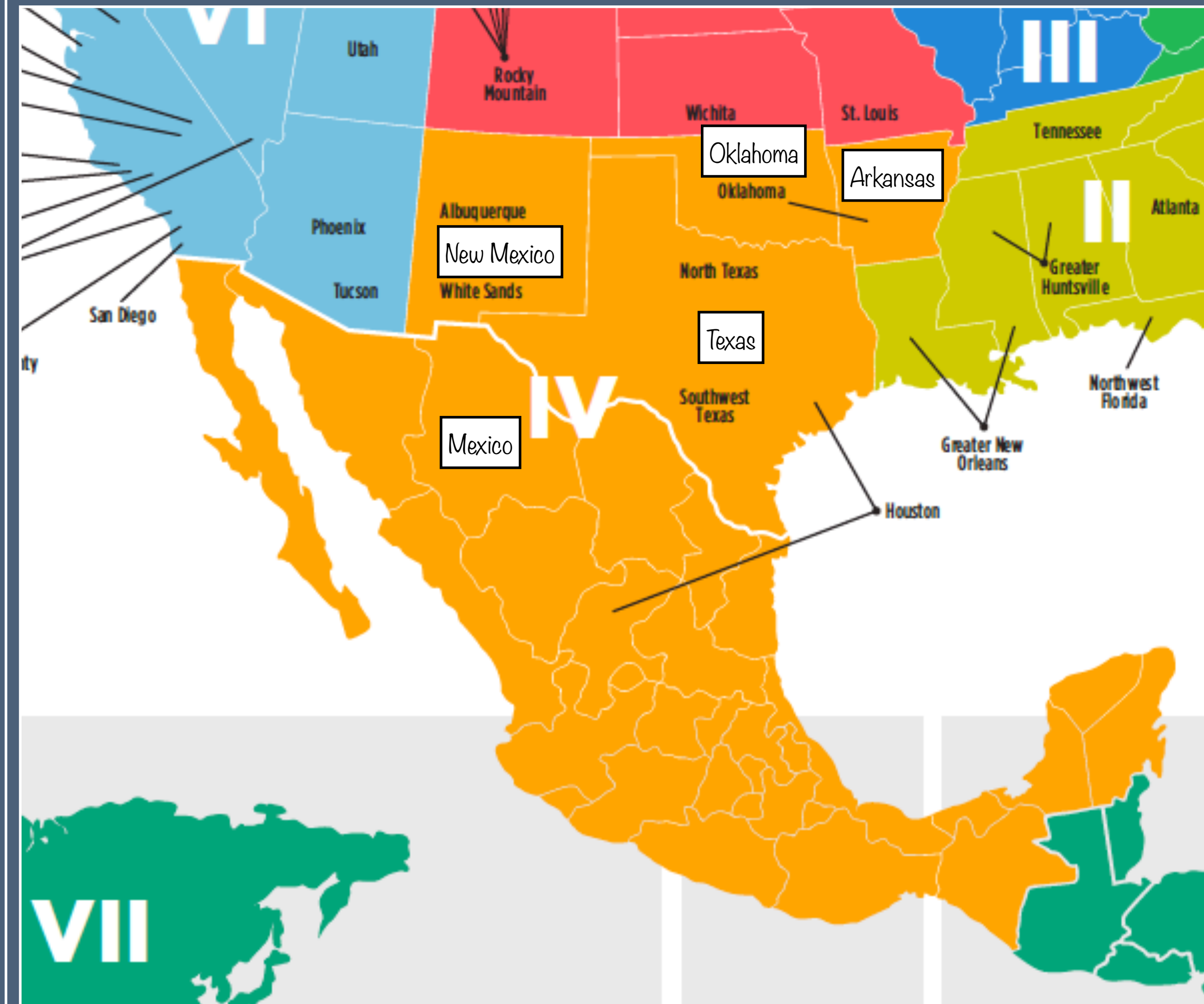




Image: National University of Mexico (UNAM), the central library, by Juan O'Gorman.
Image credit: Wikipedia (Menazk).

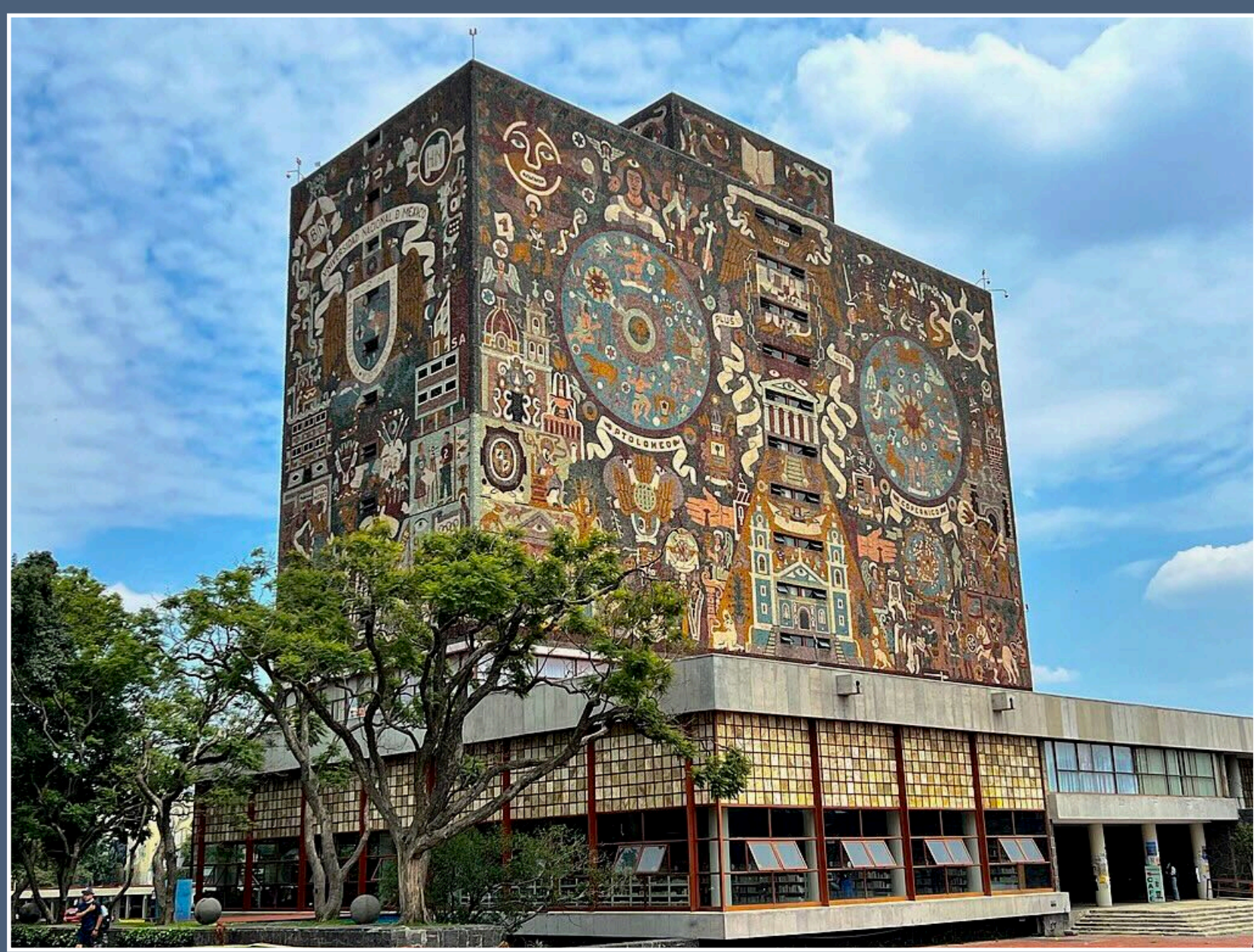


Image credit: Wikipedia.

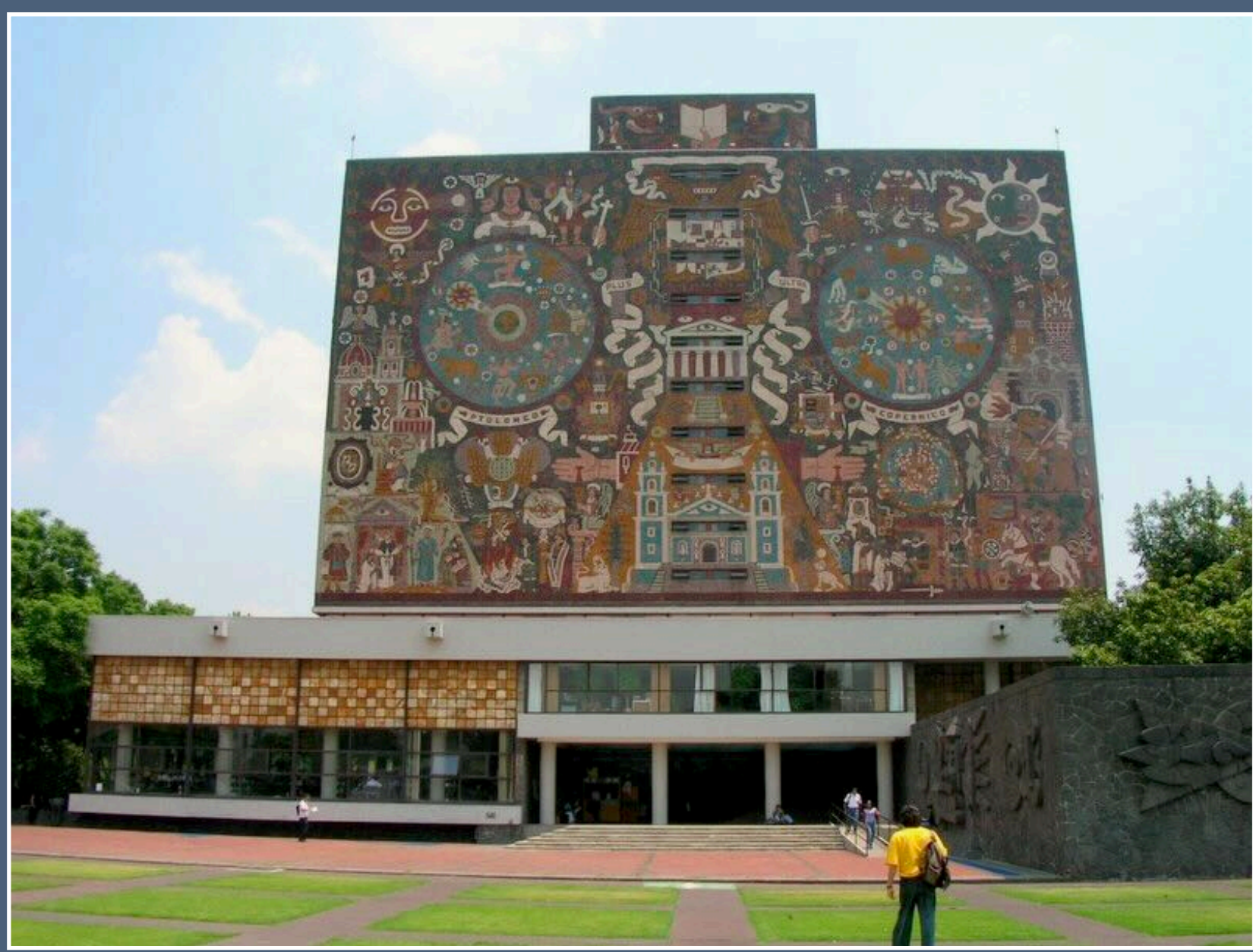
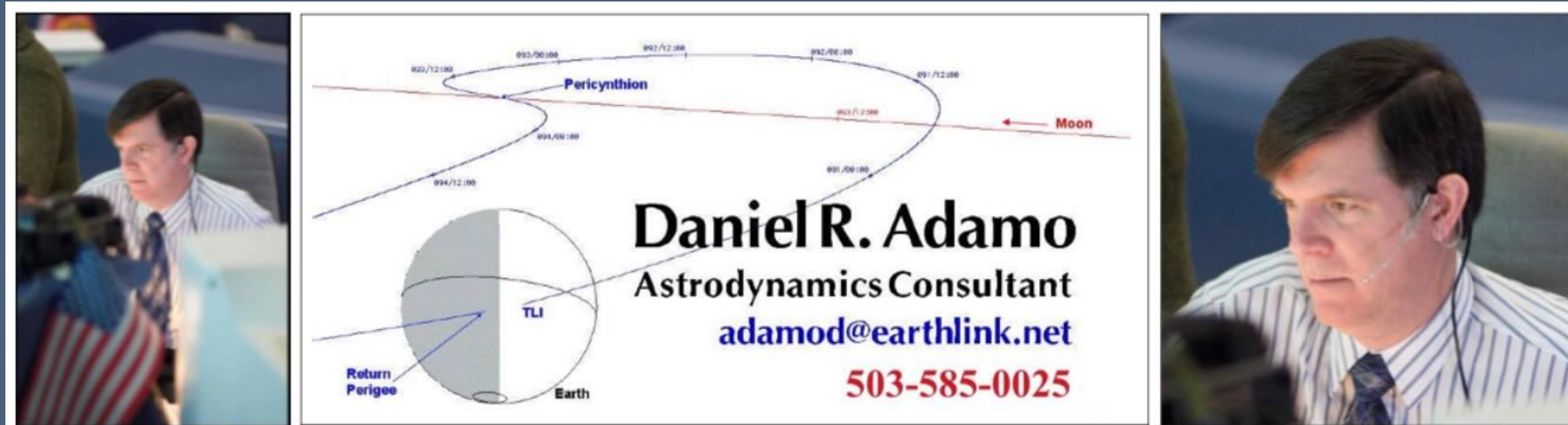


Image: National University of Mexico (UNAM). Credit: Flickr (Houshuang).

Mexico

History Technical Committee



Above: A rough image of the business card (and ATIG email signature) of Mr. Adamo, with images of Mr. Adamo in Mission Control Center (MCC) at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC).

ATIG_155_2025_02_04 [February 4, 2025] **A Nascent Off-Earth Ground Track Graphics Capability**

Astrodynamics Technical
Interchange Group (ATIG)



17+ Years

ATIG_001_2008_08_18 [August 18, 2008] **Rosetta's Flyby Of Asteroid 2867 Steins**

https://www.aiaahouston.org/adamo_astrodynamics/

AIAA Houston Section History Technical Committee ([link](#))
Chair: Douglas Yazell, douglas.yazell@me.com

The Coup So Far

A trusted expert wrote today that we are experiencing a coup directed against the USA from within, but the bad guys have not yet won. That is good, since I had concluded that they had already won.

AIAA leadership will react, but institutions usually move slowly.

After years of experience with diversity and AIAA, my conclusion is that diversity (and equity & inclusion) is necessary but not sufficient, and justice, especially racial justice, is required.

Critical race theory is just common sense from law schools. The bad guys complain about DEI, CRT, and gender all in one sentence, and even all in one breath.

These are the worst things we could do with race matters and other subjects. Some big corporations are giving up in advance, but at least one big corporation is fighting back.

The USA features great principles. We never lived up to them, but we never walked away from them.

The history of the USA is not pleasant reading, including race matters. We might say something similar about most or all countries, but for example, only the USA created a entirely new race-focused art form for dance, music, and more – minstrel shows. Minstrel shows express our Northern way of life regarding race matters and other subjects. We have a lot to say in minstrel shows, but they solve nothing, and they eventually led to sentimental nostalgia in the place of opinionated stump speeches. Cony High School in Augusta Maine might feature the only current (annual) minstrel show, but the influence of minstrel shows are common in our culture.

We fought back in creative ways when President Andrew Johnson was too lenient starting in 1865, and while we almost always lost our biggest struggles, we never walked away from our revolutionary ideals, such as our second founding on Juneteenth of 1865. [Douglas Yazell, February 4, 2025]