

# Cuban Pete Award

Cuban Pete, the "King of the Latin Beat," was recognized at the second IHSC for his lifetime achievements in Latin dance. In his honor, the Cuban Pete Award was established, to be given annually to an individual dedicated to advancing salsa dancing in South Florida.

**GABRIEL R. GÓMEZ**, Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Gabriel's Hispanic heritage has always played a major role in his successes and business life. Gabriel is now a Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley. He graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering and went on to graduate with both a Master's in Computer Electrical Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. True to his Cuban heritage, Gabriel has loved dancing all his life. One day Gabriel's friends asked him to participate in a talent show dancing Casino Rueda. He later realized that his friends had asked him so that he could teach them the steps and routine for the show. Little did Gabriel know, that this would affect the start of a flourishing business, the largest salsa dance studio in all of Broward and the Palm Beaches called Latin Beat. Gabriel's unique, structured method of teaching Salsa to large groups was an immediate success, resulting in thousands of happy customers attending weekly classes and learning Salsa from Latin Beat Dance Studios. He deems this quite an achievement, especially since he considered teaching

salsa only a hobby when his first studio opened eight years ago. His students are eager to tell you, that besides being loads of FUN, Latin Beat Dance Studio's classes are consistently well-organized, effective and entertaining.

Gabriel's years of involvement in the community through charities and the local chamber of commerce has aided in integrating the Hispanic community in Broward and Palm Beach counties in positive and productive ways. The combination of support from his family, friends and staff (although there is little or no distinction between friends and staff) and his commitment to customer satisfaction and the arts have been the driving factors that have helped to create the studio of choice in South Florida, Latin Beat Dance Studios.



## Lifetime Achievement Award in the promotion of Disco Music and Dance

**MARTY ANGELO**, Disco Step-by-Step's® producer, writer, creator and first host was a charter member of the original New York Record Pool, a V.I.P. member of Eddie Rivera's International Disco Record Centre (IDRC) and the founder of the Buffalo New York Record Pool. His show's play lists often appeared in: Disco News, Billboard Magazine, Cashbox, Record World and others.

Disco Step-by-Step® was not only the first disco dance television show in the world in 1975 but also was the first cable produced show to ever crossover to a network affiliate broadcast station. It went on to have the highest Neilson rating for its' Saturday 3 p.m. time slot. London Records national disco promotion man, Billy Smith picked Marty Angelo amongst the top twenty-five most important disco dj's for breaking (introducing) a new disco record.

Among his many achievements Marty Angelo was one of the very first disco dj's dating back to 1969. He managed the rock bands, Raven and Rob Grill and the Grass Roots. He hosted the first ever disco radio

show and published the first disco magazine, "Go Disco". Marty helped organize the first World's Largest Disco. The event was held on September 8, 1979 at the Buffalo New York Convention Center and attracted over 14,000 people. This event is still held on an annual basis.

In 1998 Marty Angelo designed one of the first disco related internet websites and also founded the Hustle Dancers Hall of Fame™, the Disco Dj Hall of Fame™ and the official Disco Dance Music Hall of Fame™.

Marty Angelo has also been a promoter the Experience Music Project's: "Disco: A Decade of Saturday Nights" which was displayed in Seattle at EMP, The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, and currently at the New York Public Library. Marty also helped organize the Van McCoy Open Hustle Dance Competition, and was interviewed in the VH1 special "When Disco Ruled the World" and was the associate producer of the PBS Special "My Music; Get Down Tonight - the Disco Explosion". He also is a part of the upcoming DVD disco documentary called "Disco: Spinning the Story."

IHSC congratulates Marty Angelo for promoting and sponsoring for the last three decades the music and dance that has inspired hundreds of artists and dancers to reach their highest levels of excellence.



*Marty at present day:*



*Marty back then with Billy Fajardo and Eddie Rivera:*

