The advice I’d give any young person planning their career is to really understand what you want and what’s important to you before you commit to a profession. She didn’t speak English until kindergarten and ended up opening her own business in Houston. She got her job, and Gardner eventually became president of her business operations.

She is a board member of the Houston Area Women’s Center, Central Houston and the Neufeld Exploration.

She has two adult children.

**QUESTION:** What advice would you give young girls interested in business careers?

**SOPHIA ADROGUE**

Tellie Adrogue grew up in Angleton, Texas. Her first job was in the mailroom at the University of Houston. She transferred to the library where she became a manager and eventually president before moving to Houston.

She is a board member of the Monseñor Hermann Foundation, Museum of Fine Arts Houston and the Holocaust Museum Houston.

She has two children, and her husband is an investment banker.

**ELENA MARKS**

After selling her own software placement agency she helped found, Elena Marks got involved with Harvard Parent-Board of Houston and eventually became chair of the board.

In Mark’s current job as director of health care for the city of Houston, she said, there are many public relations issues to which she can apply her skills.

She is married to an IT consultant and they have two children.

**FRAUZ FRANCÍS CASTÁNEDA DYES**

Francis Castáñeda Dyes worked at the University of Houston in a part-time rank as a visiting associate professor. The decision to return to school came when she began the Ph.D. program in finance and law. She is an investment banker and eventually president of Humana Health.

She has a law degree from St. John’s University School of Law, a master’s degree in finance from the University of Texas and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas.

She married her husband in the 1980s and has two sons.

**SOFÍA CATÁN**

Sofía Catán moved to Houston in 1990, when she married her husband, who was the CEO of Memorial Hermann Foundation.

She is a board member of the University of Texas at Austin and the nonprofit Foundation for the University of Houston.

She has two children, and her husband is an investment banker.

**DIEMA FORTUNE**

Parita Houston [Hidalgo] went to law school after starting her career as a computer programmer after graduating with a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas. She moved several times to find a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

After two and a half years, she joined Houston’s law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, where she became a partner. Today, Fortune is the firm’s managing partner and she manages two internal departments.

She is married to a law firm partner. They have two children.

**TINA TYE**

Tina Tye’s husband is in the oil industry, and they moved to Houston.

She is married with three sons.

**PAM GARDNER**

Fran Gardner grew up in Washington and moved to Houston through college by working tables and working the ground shift at the local paper mill. After graduating from the University of Houston, she went to Stillwater, Okla., for her first job in the mailroom at a Chicago public relations and advertising firm. She was moved up the ranks at Enron as the public relations director for the city of Houston.

She is married to a lawyer in Houston and the Newfield Exploration Area Women’s Center, Central Houston and the Neufeld Exploration.

She has two adult children.

She is a vice president of her business operations.

She is a board member of the Houston Area Women’s Center, Central Houston and the Neufeld Exploration.

She has two adult children.

**ERIKA TREVINO**

Erika Treviño was born in Mexico City, raised in the Soviet occupation of East Berlin and is a third-generation American who had fled the country with her family.

She is married with three sons.

**KATHY WILLIAMS**

Kathy Williams grew up in a military family, and after graduating from the University of Texas, she began her career in sales and eventually moved to another public relations firm.

She is married to a lawyer in Houston and the Newfield Exploration Area Women’s Center, Central Houston and the Neufeld Exploration.

She has two adult children.

**DIANNE CONNER**

Diane Conner was born in Boston to missionaries and ended up in Texas.

She is married to her third husband and is president of Humana Health.

She has two adult children.

**AARON TREVÍN**

Aaron Treviño was born in the Brazilian city of Campinas, a suburb of Sao Paulo.

He started his career with the Mexico City Journal, then moved to the Mexican government’s liaison office in Washington, D.C., and eventually to the University of Texas in San Antonio, where he started his career.

He is married to a lawyer in Houston and the Newfield Exploration Area Women’s Center, Central Houston and the Neufeld Exploration.

She has two adult children.

**HODGE SUSAN**

Susan Hodge was valedictorian of her high school class, except for a few summers.

She left a few years later to take care of her sick mother, and when she returned to school she joined a business degree and took classes to be able to assist her father in his business.

She is married with three sons.

**FANNI HODGE**

Fanni Hodge went to law school after starting her career as a computer programmer after graduating with a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas.

She moved several times to find a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

Today, Fortune is the firm’s managing partner and she manages two internal departments.

She is married to a law firm partner. They have two children.

**DIANNA GARDNER**

Diana Gardner grew up in Sparta, Tenn., went to business school in Boston to become a computer programmer after graduating with a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas.

She moved several times to find a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

Today, Fortune is the firm’s managing partner and she manages two internal departments.

She is married to a law firm partner. They have two children.

**Renata Hidalgo**

Renata Hidalgo started her career as a computer programmer after graduating with a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas.

She moved several times to find a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

Today, Fortune is the firm’s managing partner and she manages two internal departments.

She is married to a law firm partner. They have two children.