

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022-FALL 2023

CMAAS

COMUNIDAD CULTURA CONOCIMIENTO



Newsletter by Dulce Mata
Edited by Taylor Seaver-De La
Fuente and Stephanie Álvarez, PhD.

Anzaldúa Plaza, UTRGV Edinburg

2022 - 2023

The University of Texas
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DR. GLORIA E. ANZALDÚA PLAZA: UTRGV COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES GROUNDBREAKING SCHOLAR

In Spring 2022, CMAS hosted "El Retorno al Valle: A Symposium on Gloria Anzaldúa and Literary Landmark Unveiling." In addition to the Literary Landmark, we are proud to share that the plaza located on the south entrance of the library has been named "Dr. Gloria E. Anzaldúa Plaza."



Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa (1942-2004) was a queer Chicana poet, writer, and scholar. She was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley and was a farmworker. She was valedictorian of Edinburg High School in 1962, graduated from UTRGV legacy institution Pan American College in 1968, and taught in the PSJA school district from 1967-1973. Anzaldúa attended graduate school at UT Austin and at UC Santa Cruz, where she obtained a PhD posthumously.



Anzaldúa wrote and published numerous texts including *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* and *Luz en lo Oscuro/Light in the Dark: Rewriting Identity, Spirituality, Reality*. Anzaldúa also served as editor/co-editor of several anthologies, including *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* and *this bridge we call home: radical visions for transformation*. Her work is also collected in *Interviews/ Entrevistas* and *The Gloria Anzaldúa Reader* edited by AnaLouise Keating. Anzaldúa is also the author of two children's books: *Friends from the Other Side/Amigos del Otro Lado* and *Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y La Llorona*.

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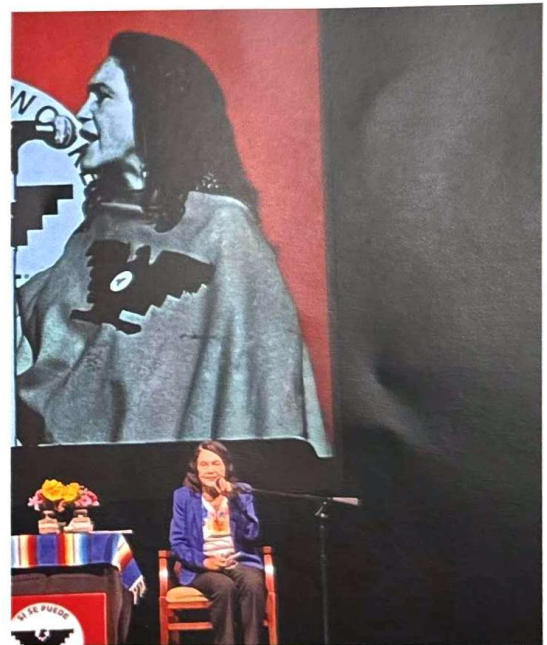
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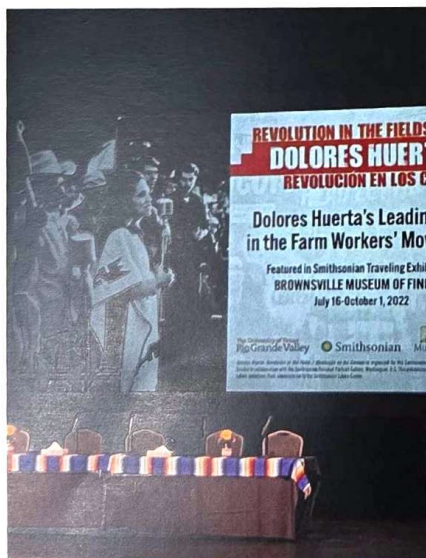
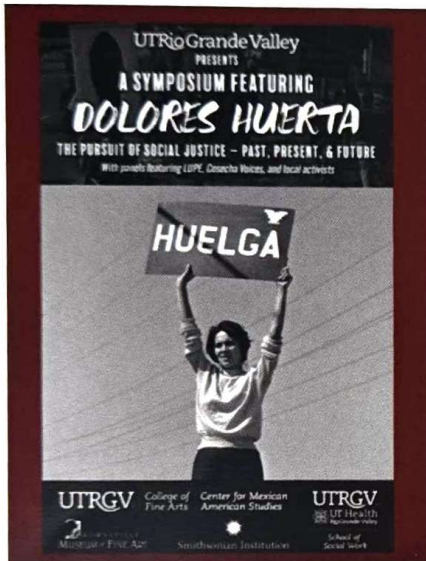
A DAY OF REFLECTION, ACTIVISM AND RESISTANCE: DOLORES HUERTA VISITS UTRGV

Sept. 19, 2022

Mexican American labor activist, Dolores Huerta, took the stage Monday, September 19th, as the audience welcomed her with a "Sí se puede" chorus. Chanting in unison, those in attendance embraced Huerta during her speech as she encouraged everyone to take action in their local communities.



The day-long symposium featured several panelists, who engaged in critical conversations about community activism and ways in which the community could take action. A reception followed at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, which showcased the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, "Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en los Campos". Attendees enjoyed Mexican food and music performances by PSJA Early College High School's Conjunto "Los PoderOsos".



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"AGENT OF CHANGE: ADELA SLOSS-VENTO": CYNTHIA E. OROZCO PHD. PRESENTS TO MAS & UTRGV STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE

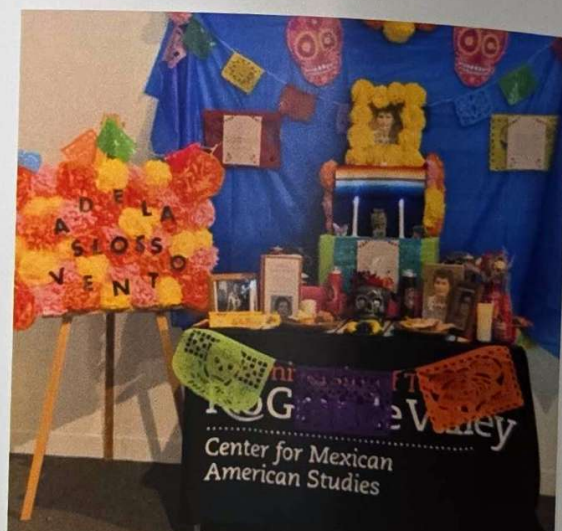
Sept. 22, 2022



CMAS hosted Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco who engaged in a talk about her book, *"Agent of Change: Adela Sloss - Vento, Mexican American Civil Rights Activist, and Texas Feminist"*, which highlights the life of Adela Sloss - Vento, a Tejana writer and activist. In this event, Dr. Orozco garnered a discussion about Mexican American and farmworkers' civil rights, as well as women's roles in activism. Students, faculty, community, and staff attending, participated afterward in a Q&A session with the author.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS: CELEBRANDO ADELA SLOSS-VENTO AT THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARTS & SCIENCES (IMAS).

Oct. 05, 2022



The annual IMAS Día de los Muertos Altar Competition celebrates the Mexican tradition of honoring those who have passed. Fortunately, CMAS was able to participate in this celebration. In following the theme of celebrating important women within the Latinx community, CMAS chose to honor Adela Sloss - Vento, a feminist and civil rights activist, who championed the rights of Mexican Americans.

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The community participates in Día de los Muertos remembrance activity.

As children, adults and families passed by the CMAS table, they were given butterflies to color in any way they liked. As they colored, they could choose to take their loved one (butterfly) home, or paste it on a large sheet, that would act as a collage of remembrance. It was a beautiful sight to see as families reminisced about their loved ones.

A COLLAGE OF REMEMBRANCE: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Oct. 09, 2022

The International Museum of Arts and Sciences (IMAS) hosted its annual festival to commemorate, alongside the community, "El Día de los Muertos". CMAS joined IMAS in this celebration by allowing the community to engage in a craft that would allow them to remember loved ones that have passed. Every butterfly represents a loved one, and was put together in a beautiful collage. With glee and remembrance, the community embraced the traditions and celebrated a day filled with fun and cultural activities.



Community creates ensemble of butterflies to remember past loved ones.

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ACADEMIAS COMUNITARIAS DE MAS

Oct. 2022-Apr. 2023



Las academias comunitarias son una colaboración entre el Centro de Estudios Mexicoamericanos de UTRGV, ARISE y Voces Unidas para traerle al público mejor entendimiento sobre los Estudios Mexicoamericanos.

October: Dr. José L. Martínez, UTRGV,
"La Importancia de los Estudios Mexicoamericanos"

November: Dr. Glenn Martínez, UTSA,
"La historia del español en los Estados Unidos"

February: Eduardo Martínez, Barrio Historian,
"El Motín de Pharr"

March: Dra. Carolina Alonso, Fort Collins College,
"La Chicana y el feminismo"

April: Dr. José Villagrán, UTSA,
"La Historia de la Explotación Laboral en el Valle del Río Grande"

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS GATHERING: HELPING TO DESTRESS DURING FALL

Oct. 31, 2022



The fall semester can become chaotic for students; that is why CMAS and CBS partnered to create a Fall gathering! Students were able to eat snacks, watch Fall favorites and also get the choice to celebrate Día De Los Muertos. This gathering was not only fun and relaxing, but also gave students a chance to experience one of the most popular celebrations within Mexican & Mexican American culture.

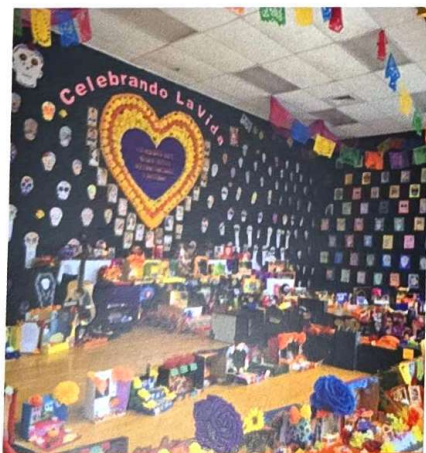
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Elementary students honor Vicente Fernández with Día de los Muertos altar.



Students and staff come together to remember loved ones.

"MANTENIENDO VIVA NUESTRA CULTURA": UTRGV'S CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS ALTAR COMPETITION IN COLLABORATION WITH PSJA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

November, 02 2022

UTRGV'S CMAS has partnered with PSJA ISD for the past 5 years to keep the Mexican Día de los Muertos tradition alive. Every year, an altar is put together, consisting of student made decorations, flowers, and Mexican artifacts in order to bring the culture of the Mexican community alive. Schools all over the district prepare in advance to showcase their student's work, competing for one of the top 3 places.



The judging portion of the competition lasted 2 days as several UTRGV faculty and staff went around PSJA ISD schools rating the altars. Some schools put together folklorico, mariachi, and even conjunto performances to accompany the display of their altars. Many musicians, artists, and activists were honored through the student built Día de los Muertos altars.

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HISTORY OF MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE RGV & AT UTRGV

March-April 2023

Undergraduate student and research assistant, Taylor Seaver was able to work alongside Dra. Stephanie Alvarez to create a comprehensive history of Chicanx youth activism in the RGV, UTRGV, and legacy institutions related to the fight for MAS. Through the Engaged Scholar and Artist Award, Taylor Seaver, Dra. Alvarez and Juan Carmona were able to present this research at NACCS 2023, in Denver, Colorado.



Dra. Álvarez presenting at the UTRGV Brownsville presentation.



Taylor Seaver presenting at the UTRGV Edinburg presentation.



Dra. Stephanie Álvarez, Taylor Seaver and Juan Carmona after presenting at NACCS 2023, Denver, Colorado

CMAS hosted two events where their research was presented to UTRGV students, faculty, staff and community guests. Their research spans over almost six decades worth of activism and youth resistance, beginning with the inception of the Mexican American Youth Organization and continuing into today's fight for MAS. Preliminary research findings were presented on both Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, bringing in an audience size of almost 90 people in Edinburg! Guests were encouraged to engage in critical analysis of the strength and potential of Chicanx activism within South Texas.

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AN AFTERNOON OF POETRY: U.S. POET LAUREATE, ADA LIMÓN, & TEXAS POET LAUREATE, LUPE MENDEZ, JOINED IN FOR A WEBINAR READING & POETRY WORKSHOP CO-HOSTED BY CMAS DURING FESTIBA

Nov. 09, 2022



CMAS co-hosted with Creative Writing U.S. Poet Laureate, Ada Limón and Texas Poet Laureate, Lupe Mendez, for a webinar poetry reading and Q&A session. Students from all over the RGV enjoyed a poetry workshop after the readings that allowed them to create poems and explore their emotions alongside Texas Poet Laureate, Lupe Mendez.

END OF SEMESTER POSADA: MOVIES, SNACKS AND FUN BEFORE FINALS!

Dec. 07, 2022



UTRGV'S CMAS alongside CBS, hosted a student posada allowing the student community to destress before finals by creating a space to relax and enjoy crafts, food, and movies. By doing this, we allowed them to connect with their traditions in the company of others, their Mexican and Mexican American cultures. Students were also encouraged to bring a toy to donate.

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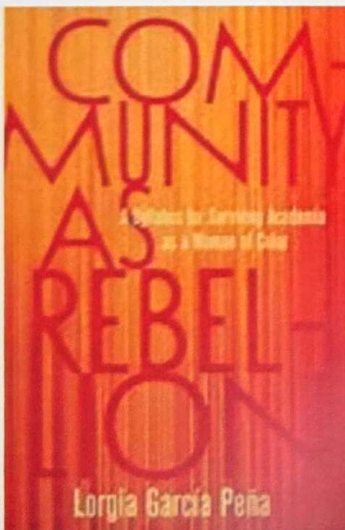
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TRAE TU LONCHERA: LORGIA GARCÍA PEÑA'S "COMMUNITY AS REBELLION: A SYLLABUS FOR SURVIVING ACADEMIA AS A WOMAN OF COLOR" FACILITATES DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Feb. 17, 2023



After monthly meetings throughout the Fall 2022 semester, participants in the Trae Tu Lonchera book discussion sessions were able to have conversation with the author of the book discussed, *Community as Rebellion. A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color*. Dr. Lorgia García Peña. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed light refreshments as they engaged in a Q&A session with the author and others in attendance.

FESTIBA: ALONGSIDE CENTER FOR BILINGUAL STUDIES, CMAS STAFF BRINGS BILINGUAL STORYTIME TO DUSTIN M. SEKULA MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN EDINBURG, TEXAS

Feb. 24, 2023



During the FESTIBA celebrations, CMAS joined forces with UTRGV'S Center for Bilingual Studies to create a station at Sekula Memorial Library promoting bilingual literacy through story time and crafts. Families worked together to create a take-home craft and learn about the importance of bilingual literacy at a young age.

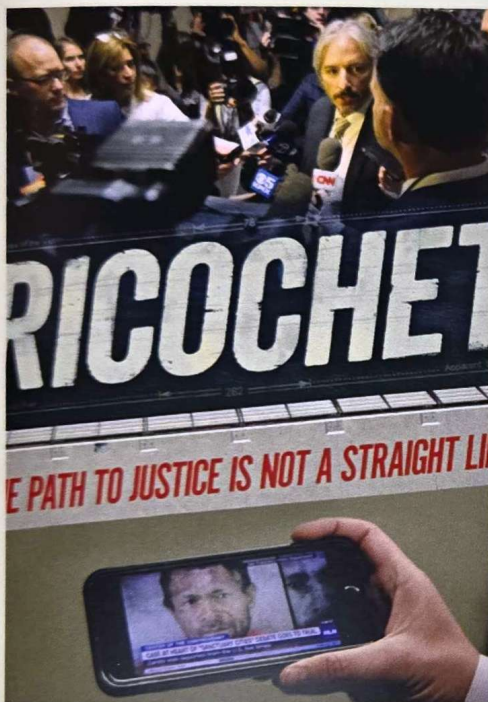
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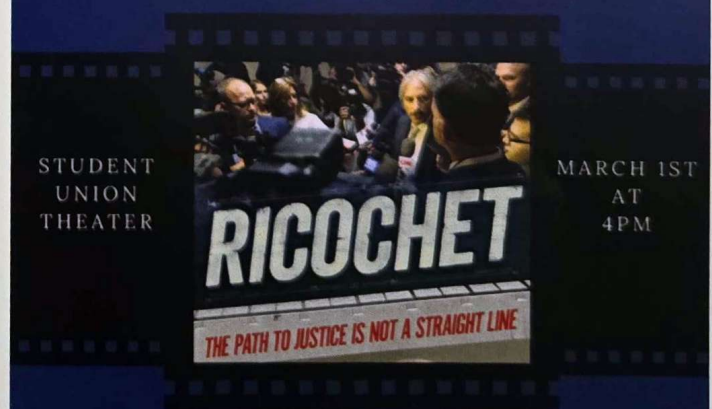
RICOCHET FILM SCREENING & Q&A

March, 01, 2023

Ricochet, a film by Jeff Adachi and Chihiro Wimbush follows the historic trial of José Ines García Zaraté, an undocumented immigrant who accidentally fired the shot that would result in Kate Steinle's death. The film also discusses the anti-immigrant rhetoric stemming from the incident, which created a political and media frenzy during Donald J. Trump's candidacy. This was a free event, including a screening of the film, in which students and guests were able to participate in a Q&A with Matt González, Chief Attorney for San Francisco Public Defender's Office.

This event was sponsored by UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies, Department of Philosophy, Mexican American Studies Undergraduate & Graduate Studies Programs, and the Film Studies Program.

Plus, Q&A with Matt Gonzalez, Chief Attorney for San Francisco
 Public Defender's Office.



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Panelists gather to discuss U.S. - México diplomatic relationships



Attendees participate in Q&A with panelists

200-YEAR COMMEMORATION OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF U.S. - MÉXICO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; CMAS CO-HOSTS PANEL DISCUSSION TO CELEBRATE EVENT.

March, 04, 2023

UTRGV CMAS partnered with the McAllen Mexican Consulate by assembling a celebration to commemorate the 200 years of diplomatic relationships between México and the U.S. With a panel, which included consuls, commissioners, professors, and the Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education, those in attendance were able to learn about the past and current relationships between these two countries that allow the RGV border to serve as a binational community that facilitates the collaboration between both nations.

Prior to the panel, the public enjoyed an art exhibit, put together by UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts, as well as a poetry reading by Poet and Lecturer, César L. De León. Distinct *antojitos mexicanos* were enjoyed throughout the night while the panelists took the stage to join in a discussion, which was followed by an engaging Q&A session. The commemoration concluded with a FESTIBA Mariachi Concert held at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex. The event was co-sponsored with CLAA, CLA, CFA, B3 Institute, Spanish, and Creative Writing.

200th ANNIVERSARY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS UNITED STATES - MEXICO 1822 - 2022

COMMEMORATION OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF U.S.-MEXICO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A RECEPTION, PANEL DISCUSSION, POETRY, ART EXHIBIT, AND FESTIBA MARIACHI CONCERT*

Saturday, March 04, 2023
 5:00 PM
 UTRGV, Edinburg Ballroom - FREE EVENT
 *Ticket to Mariachi Concert Not Included

MÉXICO UTRGV
 CONSULADO EN McALLEN

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT: EVENTS@UTRGV.EDU

TO REGISTER, SCAN

PANELIST
 Montserrat Garib
 Acting Assistant Deputy U.S. Secretary of Education & Director for the Office of English Language Acquisition

PANELIST
 Hugo René Oliva Romero
 Appointed Consul Mexican Consulate, McAllen, TX

PANELIST
 Dr. Erika Rendón Ramos
 Assistant Professor Mexican American Studies, UTRGV

PANELIST
 José Antonio Segovia Montoya
 International Bound and Water Commission, Reynosa, Mx

PRESENTER
 César L. De León
 Poet and Lecturer, Literatures & Cultural Studies, UTRGV

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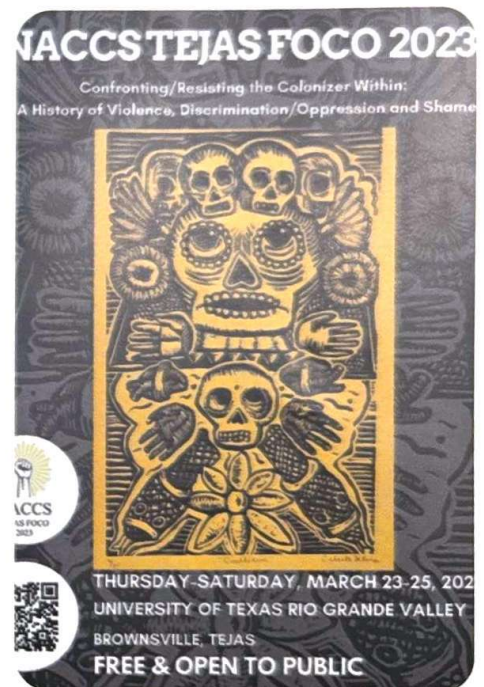
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"CONFRONTING/RESISTING THE COLONIZER WITHIN": CMAS VISITS UTRGV BROWNSVILLE FOR NACCS TEJAS FOCO 2023

Mar.23 -25, 2023

CMAS participated in unison with Criminal Justice, the College of Education, and other departments to bring the NACCS Tejas Foco conference to UTRGV after its return following the COVID pandemic. In a 3-day event held at the Brownsville UTRGV campus, over 300 activists, professors, scholars, students, and artists, gathered to discuss important topics surrounding the Mexican American community.



The public was able to attend distinct panels, round tables, and screenings throughout the 3-day event, as well as engage with local and international artists and scholars during daily luncheons while enjoying Mexican cuisine. Alongside this, a mitote was held during the second night of the conference, treating those in attendance to dinner and a night filled with conjunto music, dance, and a piñata.

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CMAS PRESENTS WITH CBS & THE B3 INSTITUTE AT THE SPANISH AS A HERITAGE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM AT HARVARD

April 2023



UTRGV CMAS presented with UTRGV CBS & B3 Institute at Harvard for the Spanish Heritage Language Symposium. Their work was on epistemic & linguistic justice and the need for the integration of both critical language studies (Bilingual Ed & Spanish) and Ethnic Studies.

CMAS RECEIVED AN ALMOST \$3 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PROGRAM "PUENTES: A CULTURAL WEALTH MODEL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS."

April 2023



This grant will provide support for faculty, staff, and families in the areas of culturally responsive and culturally sustaining pedagogies and praxis. This was a joint effort between Dr. Stephanie Alvarez, Dr. Alyssa Cavazos, Dr. Teresa Feria, Samantha López, Dr. José Martínez, and Professor Emmy Pérez.

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REIMAGINING OUR VALLEY: CMAS CO-SPONSORS "NUESTRA DELTA MÁGICA"

Apr 1-May 31

Valley natives and residents are all too familiar with the exploitative labor practices many of our ancestors endured. *Nuestra Delta Mágica: Settler Imaginaries & Community Resistance*, curated by artists Nansi Guevara and Monica Sosa, covers the long history of racism, exploitation and colonization through wall texts, photographs, film, and art created by local artists. The exhibit features art that inspires and also tells the story of RGV history, both bad and good. The art, just like the stories told, range from big to small, encompassing various topics, from colonialism to self-reflection. Each art piece illustrates various perceptions, depending on the artist. Among the art, a library of revolutionary and activist literature is present, along with protest signs.



This photo shows the space used for the exhibit



This photo shows an image of the same protest sign used in the exhibit

nuestra

Delta mágica
 desmantling settler imaginaries & community resistance

Opening Reception: April 1, 6-9pm
 924 E. Levee Suite B **April 1 - May 31, 2023**
 on view Wednesday - Saturday, Noon-6pm

NYFA UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies CDCB

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CMAS Program Manager Samantha Lopez discussing the importance of the exhibit



LUCHA (MAS Club) members, Izabella Gaytan and Taylor Seaver representing LUCHA and volunteering.

OPENING RECEPTION — EL MOVIMIENTO CONTINÚA: CULTIVANDO NUESTRAS SEMILLAS

May, 04, 2023

CMAS partnered with La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) to curate a bilingual exhibit that would highlight eight prominent themes that explore the history, culture, and present-day influence of the farm worker movement in South Texas and the evolution of LUPE. This exhibit is part of LUPE's 20th anniversary series, and the first stop of the travelling exhibit was at the City of Alamo Museum.



The event opened with the LUPE Oración del Campesino, read by LUCHA (MAS Club) president, Luis Acosta, which was followed by CMAS Program Manager, Samantha Lopez, who acknowledged the importance of this exhibit to the many farmworker families of the RGV. LUCHA (UTRGV MAS Club) had a booth, promoting the club, its objectives, as well as discussing the importance of cherishing our histories. Not only were students and community members able to view the exhibit and learn about this history, but they were able to network with each other.

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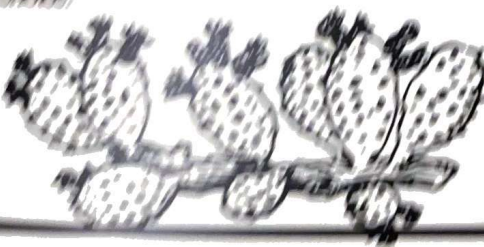


MAS GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Fall 2022 & Spring 2023

Both graduate and undergraduate students in MAS were recognized for their accomplishments during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 MAS Graduation Celebrations. Among the Fall 2022 graduates were Brishiy Cavazos, Daniella Medina, Ninfa Ramírez Gutiérrez, Jasmin Alejandre, Daisy M. Alvarado, Gerardo A. Feria, San Juanita Moreno, Yaritza Y. Marín, Arturo Treviño Jr. and Amanda Danielle Karr. Among the Spring 2023 graduates were Claudia Cuellar, Nicolás López, Luis Macías, Omar Zapata, Leonardo Rodríguez and Taylor Seaver. Students were encouraged to bring family, friends and a faculty member of their choice to celebrate their accomplishments.

Each graduate was given a sarape stole with "MAS UTRGV" embroidered on each side. Graduates were able to select a faculty member of their choice to award them their stole. Each student gave their own thank you speech, along with their faculty member of choice.



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Keep an Eye Out!

UTRGV CMAS FACULTY RESEARCH INVENTORY OF CHICANX/LATINX STUDIES

CMAS and the UTRGV Library are collaborating to create a repository of our UTRGV faculty engaged in Chicanx/Latinx Studies. This repository hopes to showcase the work of our outstanding faculty and also serve as a media contact list. It will be housed on the UTRGV Library webspace & CMAS webspace. CMAS receives many requests for interviews on the topics of Chicanx/Latinx Studies. Therefore, this will also serve as a media contact sheet. Lastly, we hope this will allow everyone to get to know each other's work and possibly develop some collaborations.

Look out for the survey coming to your inbox!



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE DRA. ALVAREZ !

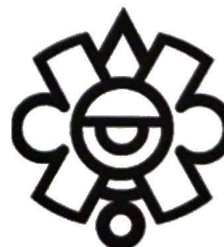
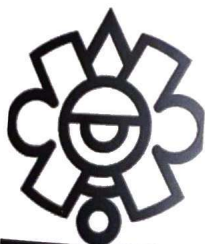
On behalf of UTRGV CMAS, students, and staff, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Dra. Stephanie Alvarez for serving UTRGV CMAS as director, and founding director, periodically from 2013-2023. Educator, leader, activist, and mother, Dra. Alvarez has tirelessly committed herself to CMAS, and the UTRGV/RGV community. The constant dedication to preserving *nuestra cultura*, while also maintaining a close relationship with students and the community amidst adversity is very much appreciated. Although we regret seeing Dra. Alvarez leave her position here at CMAS, we are eager to see the inspiring and extraordinary work that is to come.



THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS MAS GRADUATES

CMAS and the MAS program wishes to congratulate all MAS 2022-2023 MAS graduates. Your work has been fruitful and inspiring, and we are so excited to see you continue to grow as a professional and as a person.

Amanda Danielle Karr Luis Macías Yaritza Marín .
Daniella Medina San Juanita Moreno Ninfa Ramírez
Gutiérrez Leonardo Rodríguez Arturo Treviño, Jr.
Jasmín Alejandre Daisy M. Alvareado Nicol Bowles .
Brishiy Cavazos Claudia Cuellar Gerardo A. Feria
Nicolás López Taylor Seaver Omar Zapata



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