

JUNE 2025

UTRGV™

Center for Bilingual Studies

FALL 2024/ SPRING 2025 INITIATIVES



MESSAGE FROM THE CBS TEAM

¡Saludos de parte del equipo del Centro de Estudios Bilingües! Nos complace presentar la primera edición de nuestro boletín informativo, un espacio en el que compartiremos la emocionante experiencia de pertenecer al Centro de Estudios Bilingües. Somos un equipo con una vehemente pasión por la labor que realizamos y por la comunidad que construimos día con día. Con este boletín, buscamos hacerles partícipes de nuestro progreso. ¡Gracias por formar parte de nuestra comunidad!

MEET OUR STUDENT ASSISTANTS



ASHLEY GONZÁLEZ

Undergraduate
Student Assistant



ANGELICA MÉNDEZ

Graduate Student Assistant

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dra. Christian E. Zúñiga
Associate Professor,
Bilingual & Literacy
Studies

¡Saludos!

We are excited to share our highlights for the 2024-2025 academic year! If we could describe this year with one word, it would be “change”. In summer 2024, our new leadership team – Ms. Michelle Cavazos, Program Manager, and myself - came together to set our goals and programming for the 2024-2025 academic year. We also welcomed a new staff: Ms. Angelica Mendez, and Ms. Ashley Gonzalez. Even the CBS suite space underwent some changes through light renovations! Together, our team has worked to continue with CBS’s mission of community engagement and research dissemination highlighting our region’s linguistic assets.

We launched our CBS Research series and hosted two presentations by invited scholars from Texas State University, San Francisco State, UT-Austin, and UTRGV. We participated in community and classroom presentations for Region One, Mcallen ISD, PSJA ISD and Weslaco ISD . We also co-hosted open house and end of semester events with the Center for Mexican American Studies to showcase our renovated suite and share more about our initiatives. Finally, we just celebrated our Torneo de Ortografía & Batalla de los Libros event where approximately 250 students from across the RGV, elementary to university, competed in Spanish literacy events. We look forward to planning another wonderful year of events for the 2025-2026 academic year!

FALL 2024 EVENTS



SEMANA DE BIENVENIDA DE UTRGV

Como parte de la Semana de Bienvenida de UTRGV, Michelle Cavazos, gerente de CBS y Raquel Pérez, gerente de CMAS se presentaron ante el alumnado de reingreso y nuevo ingreso durante el vibrante festejo de espíritu universitario que da inicio al nuevo año académico. El entusiasmante acto se diseñó a fin de ayudar al alumnado a sentirse parte de la comunidad universitaria y fue una excelente oportunidad para que Michelle conviviera con los estudiantes, compartiera conocimientos y destacara los recursos disponibles para promover un año escolar exitoso



UTRGV ROUNDUP WEEK: WELCOMING FRESHMEN

During UTRGV Roundup Week, we welcomed incoming freshmen and introduced them to the valuable resources our center offers. Students explored our supportive study spaces and services designed to help them succeed. As a hub for collaboration and academic assistance, we encourage students to make the most of our center. We're excited to support them throughout the semester!



JORNADA DE PUERTAS ABIERTAS 2024

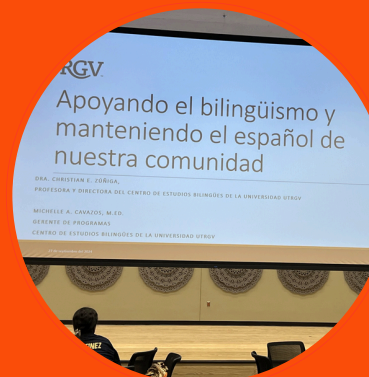


El alumnado, personal y profesorado formaron parte de una exitosa jornada de puertas abiertas en un entorno relajado, donde tuvieron la oportunidad de conocer al equipo, explorar nuestros recursos y conocer el apoyo que nuestro centro brinda a la comunidad. Para crear un ambiente acogedor y hospitalario, se ofrecieron café y conchas, un postre tradicional mexicano. Fue una experiencia memorable, gracias a la mezcla de conversación, sabrosos bocadillos e invaluable conocimientos.

REGION ONE MULTILINGUAL CONFERENCE / EMPODERAMIENTO PARA PADRES



The Center for Bilingual Studies (CBS) proudly participated in the Region One Multilingual Conference, where the Center's Manager and Director presented to parents from across the region. They highlighted CBS's efforts to support Spanish language preservation and shared the importance of maintaining Spanish at home. Parents received helpful tools and resources to encourage daily Spanish use, strengthening both language and cultural identity. This event also deepened our connection with families and empowered them to support their children's bilingual education.



CBS FALL RESEARCH SERIES



USING VIDEO-CUED ETHNOGRAPHY TO CENTER LATINE IMMIGRANT PARENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

CBS hosted an insightful session inviting the UTRGV community to explore the experiences of Latine immigrant parents in the U.S. Mexican Borderlands. The discussion focused on bilingual and bicultural development, highlighting the challenges and strengths of raising children in a cross-cultural environment. Speakers shared how parents value their children's bilingual potential, and attendees engaged in thoughtful conversations through questions and discussion.



CONECTAR IDIOMAS, CONSTRUIR ÉXITOS: MAXIMIZAR EL PODER DE LAS PRÁCTICAS DE LA HERENCIA BILINGÜE

El Departamento de Estudios Bilingües invitó a la comunidad universitaria a participar en una enriquecedora sesión sobre las prácticas bilingües de los estudiantes hispanohablantes de herencia en las aulas, desde nivel preescolar a universitario. Con el fin de analizar los diversos recursos lingüísticos que los alumnos aportan a los entornos educativos, el acto subrayó la importancia de identificar y comprender dichas prácticas.

Mediante ponencias y conversaciones reflexivas, los asistentes exploraron estrategias para reafirmar las aptitudes bilingües de los estudiantes para fortalecer su aprendizaje y logros académicos. Asimismo, se destacó la importancia de incorporar estas herramientas lingüísticas para apoyar al alumnado bilingüe y multicultural.

INVITED SPEAKERS



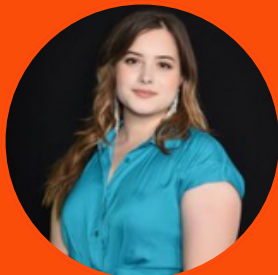
Molly E. McManus, Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Department of Child & Adolescent
Development
San Francisco State
University



**Kiyomi Sanchez-Suzuki
Colegrove, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor
Curriculum & Instruction
Texas State
University



**Almeida Jacqueline Toribio,
Ph.D.**
Professor Emerita,
The University of Texas at Austin



Carolina De Anda
4th grade Dual Language Educator
PSJA ISD
NABE Awards Chair



MENSAJE DE LA GERENTE DE PROGRAMA



SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

As part of our ongoing commitment to support the youth in our Rio Grande Valley community, CBS staff had the privilege of visiting PSJA Carmen Anaya Elementary and McAllen ISD Blanca E Sanchez Elementary schools. During this outreach event, staff and student assistants had the opportunity to engage with a group of enthusiastic fourth and fifth grade students. An inspiring message was shared about perseverance and the importance of higher education.

Our presentation focused on encouraging students to be resilient, emphasizing that their backgrounds, whether coming from Spanish-speaking communities or any other experience, should never limit their aspirations. The importance of education as a pathway to brighter futures and how every student has the potential to achieve greatness, no matter where they start, was the theme of engagement.

These were days full of hope, excitement, and connection, as CBS worked to empower the next generation of leaders in our community. We are grateful for the chance to make positive attributes to these young minds and help them visualize a future full of possibilities.

ESTIMADOS COLEGAS:

HA SIDO UN PLACER FUNGIR COMO GERENTE DE PROGRAMA DEL CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS BILINGÜES Y ESTAR AL SERVICIO DE LOS ACADÉMICOS DE B3. NUESTRA ORGANIZACIÓN, CON LA ASESORÍA DE LA OFICINA DE INTEGRACIÓN BILINGÜE, NOS HA BRINDADO LA OPORTUNIDAD DE DISEÑAR PROGRAMAS ESPECIALIZADOS QUE IMPULSAN LA VOCACIÓN Y ASPIRACIÓN DE NUESTRAS INICIATIVAS. INVITAMOS A TODO EL PROFESORADO, PERSONAL Y ALUMNADO A PARTICIPAR EN NUESTRAS OFERTAS DE FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL, INSCRIBIRSE A LA LISTA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN Y SEGUIRNOS EN REDES SOCIALES

LISTA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN:



REDES SOCIALES:



SPRING 2025 EVENTS



CBS RESEARCH SERIES- DR. DAVID MARTINEZ PRIETO

El Centro de Estudios Bilingües (CBS) llevó a cabo una edición más de su ciclo de conferencias de investigación, en la que se destacó el papel vital de los abuelos en la transmisión del lenguaje y las tradiciones de nuestra región. En esta ocasión, tuvimos el honor de contar con la participación del Dr. Martínez Prieto, cuya ponencia ofreció una reflexión profunda y conmovedora sobre la memoria cultural y el poder del bilingüismo en el entorno familiar.

Durante el acto, surgió un enriquecedor diálogo entre los asistentes, quienes relataron historias personales y reconocieron el impacto intergeneracional que proviene de sus abuelos. Este tipo de iniciativas reafirman el compromiso de CBS con el fomento de investigaciones que valoran nuestras raíces y fortalecen el sentido identitario en las comunidades fronterizas.

WESLACO ISD PARENT SYMPOSIUM

The team from the Center for Bilingual Studies (CBS) had the honor of being guest speakers at the Spring Parent Symposium, hosted by the Bilingual & ESL Department. This event was focused on providing valuable information to parents about available resources that can support the academic and personal success of their children.

The symposium featured a variety of community speakers, informational tables, and interactive spaces where attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and receive direct guidance. During our participation, CBS shared educational resources, promoted the importance of bilingualism at home, and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the connections between the community and educational institutions.



Dr. David Martínez-Prieto
Assistant Professor,
Department of Bilingual &
Literacy Studies,
The University of Texas Rio
Grande Valley



ANNUAL TORNEO DE ORTOGRAFÍA & BATALLA DE LOS LIBROS

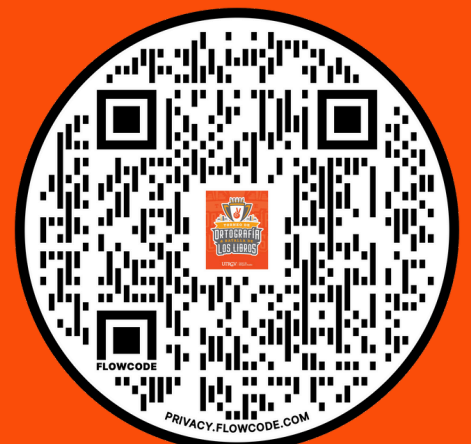


The Center for Bilingual Studies (CBS) at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) hosted the 2025 Torneo de Ortografía del Valle del Rio Grande on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 8 AM- 12:00 PM and our inaugural Batalla de los Libros event from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at UTRGV's College of Education & P16 Integration on the Edinburg campus.

The Torneo de Ortografía del Valle del Rio Grande is an annual competition in which 2nd-12th grade students from across the Rio Grande Valley and undergraduates from UTRGV demonstrate their Spanish spelling skills. The tournament aims to help bilingual students feel proud of their language and culture and promote their use of Spanish in an academic context. Our goal for this year is to continue the tradition and also increase our number of participants, so we have invited students from 37 school districts from Laredo to Brownsville.

We welcomed roughly about 250 students that participated in the event this year. Each student earned a medal for participation, and the top five winners from each category (Primaria, Intermedia, Secundaria, Preparatoria y Universitaria) earned a trophy.

Additionally, we recognized the first-place winners of each category with a Copa Rotante housed at their campus. This year, we invited three school districts for our inaugural Batalla de los Libros event, in which students from 4th-5th grade are required to study three Spanish novels highlighting the Latino experience in the U.S. and use their reading skills to compete for the grand prize.





¡GRACIAS!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for visiting the CBS/CMAS Center this 2024-2025 academic year. To all the students, faculty, and staff, we enjoyed having you attend our events - your energy and engagement truly made them memorable.

We look forward to seeing you again in the next academic school year and continue with new initiatives.

Have a fantastic and restful summer. Stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon!

¡Hasta pronto!

STAY IN TOUCH



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