



MS. LUCERO MARTÍNEZ READING A STORY TO STUDENTS FROM MCALLEN ISD FOR DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS.

# Center for Bilingual Studies Newsletter

NOVEMBER, 2017

## “Ser Bilingüe

*No es solo hablar otro Idioma.*

*También es Vivir otra Cultura.”*

**-retobilingue**

## CONFERENCES

The Center for Bilingual Studies hosts teams of student researchers focused on investigation bilingual learners under the direction of Dr. Amy Weimer, Associate Director. Dr. Weimer and her team of student researchers had a busy month of research presentations! Maurício Yañez, Deanna Pollard, Fabian González, Margot Martínez, Marilu Pintor, German García, Israel Arévalo, and Arnoldo Amador presented, *Spanish and English-Speaking Practices among Mexican American College Students* at the International Research Forum in South Padre Island. Dr. Weimer also presented findings from work she conducted with her student research team on, *Theory of Mind and Inhibitory Processing in Mexican and Mexican American Children* at the

2017 Cognitive Development Society Conference in Portland. They are also working tirelessly on several other projects involving local schools and reportedly enjoy being a part of community-engaged research projects.

BESO organization president, Pamela Pérez (CBS Work Study) and GABE organization president, Deidra Tafolla (previous CBS Graduate Research Assistant), under the leadership of Dr. Joy Esquierdo, presented at the Texas Association for Bilingual Education Conference and the International Research Forum in South Padre Island, Texas and at the TABE Conference in McAllen, Texas. The presentation titled, *Impact of Bilingual, Pre-Service Teachers’ Engagement in University Organizations* is a research conducted to explore the impact a student organization can have on pre-service bilingual educators. The research focused on the experiences the student organization provides and how it plays a role in the professional growth of those involved in the organization.



Dr. J. Joy Esquierdo, Director



Dr. Amy Weimer, Associate Director



Yajaira Rivera, Program Coordinator



Lucero Martinez, Office Adm II



Yuridia Muñoz, Graduate Research Assistant



Psychology research students at the International Research Forum.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) 2017 Conference, *Biliteracy: Construyendo Puentes y Uniendo Culturas*, took place on October 18-21 in McAllen, Texas. BESO organization members and CBS staff had the great opportunity to participate and assist throughout the conference. The conference showcased One-way, Two-way or Secondary Dual Language schools from the Rio Grande Valley. The conference was filled with informative and inspirational sessions on quality bilingual, biliterate and bicultural education for all students.

In commemoration of Día de los muertos, CBS November's Bilingual Story Hour took place at McAllen Elementary schools; Blanca E. Sánchez and Víctor Fields. Dr. Joy Esquierdo and Ms. Lucero Martínez read the children book titled, *La Difunta Familia Díaz* to students from Pre-kinder-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students decorated and took home their own calaverita after the read aloud.

## BILINGUAL STORY HOUR

This month the Center for Bilingual Studies is organizing a Bilingual Story Hour centered on Christmas. The Bilingual Story Hour will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup> at UTRGV for 100 fourth grade students from La Joya ISD.

## CBS WEBSTIE

You can visit us at [utrgv.edu/center-for-bilingual-studies](http://utrgv.edu/center-for-bilingual-studies) and/or [www.utrgv.edu/cbs](http://www.utrgv.edu/cbs). You can find news of upcoming events, activities and programs, resources for teachers, and more.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The organizations GABE and TABE will be having a Teddy Bear/Toy Drive benefiting Edinburg Children's Hospital these holidays. The drive will be from December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate a new unwrapped teddy bear and/or toy, you can do so at the Center for Bilingual Office 2.216 in the Education Complex at UTRGV.

With so much excitement and happiness CBS staff congratulates all BESO members graduating December 2017.



BESO members at the TABE 2017 Conference.



Mses. Pamela Pérez and Deidra Tafolla at the TABE 2017 conference.



Sánchez Elementary students with their calaveras.

