

A message from our Interim Director:

Welcome to the Center for Mexican American Studies' first newsletter!

Wow!! Spring 2018 is already here, and the Center for Mexican American Studies is planning many more activities for our yearlong series called "Nuestra Gloria" to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the publication of "Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza," written by Valley native Gloria Anzaldúa. During the Fall 2017, the center was very active hosting and sponsoring many activities. For this reason, we created this newsletter to provide you with a glance of everything that happened last semester.

Abróchense los cinturones, because CMAS will continue its work focusing and supporting research, creative work, and community activities related to the historical and contemporary experiences of Mexican Americans, Chicana/o and Latinx. We hope to see you at our future learning activities, events, etc...

I would finish by thanking ALL the faculty, staff, and students who have contributed one way or another to the success of the Fall 2017 semester. To all of them, un millón de gracias!

Wishing you a wonderful Spring Semester!

Zulmaris Diaz, Ph. D.

Interim Director of CMAS

XITO: EL VALLE

SEPTEMBER 1 & 2, 2017

On September 1 and 2, 2017 Mexican American Studies lecturer Arnulfo Daniel Segovia, graduate assistant Amanda Tovar, and the Center for Mexican American Studies organized and hosted XITO: El Valle, a workshop for educators, with Arizona based educators that focuses on culturally relevant pedagogy. Norma Gonzalez, Jose Gonzalez, and Luis Perales (Zencons) shared their liberatory and community based pedagogy with 60 people. XITO has been committed to the success of Latinx students in K-12 for nearly 10 years.

GLORIA ANZALDÚA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

The Center for Mexican American Studies held a celebration in honor of Gloria Anzaldúa's 75th birthday. Faculty, staff, and students were accompanied by Gloria Anzaldúa's niece and nephew. Professors and students alike shared the ways Anzaldúa's work influenced and positively impacted their lives.

NLIRH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**INSTITUTE**

OCTOBER 27 - 29, 2017

The Leadership Development Institute provided NLIRH activists and leaders with additional training around leadership development, civic engagement strategies, and a media academy. The LDI provided the team with additional tools and skills to further develop as leaders and build a strategy for local engagement, as well as to begin climbing the NLIRH leadership ladder and engage in additional community leadership roles.

GRISELDAS CASTILLO: BLOOD & PILONCILLO READING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Griselda Castillo read from her bilingual chapbook, Blood & Piloncillo. She spoke on how to survive off of your own work as a writer in the current climate.

NUESTRA GLORIA KICKOFF EVENT WITH AIDA HURTADO

OCTOBER 11, 2017

The Center for Mexican American Studies Kicked off a yearlong celebration of Gloria Anzaldúa's 30th anniversary of Borderlands/ La Frontera's publication with Dr. Aida Hurtado. Aida Hurtado facilitated a platica: The Obscurities of Cenote Writing: The Obscurities of Cenote Writing: The Life and Work of Gloria Anzaldúa.

RESILIENCE EN EL VALLE: REMEMBERING THE MATANZA OF 1915

OCTOBER 14, 2017

Refusing to Forget Project along with UTRGV CMAS hosted a series of events to commemorate the unveiling historical marker that recognizes the violence done to Mexican American people here in the Rio Grande Valley during an event which is referred to as "The Matanza [The Massacre] of 1915" a period of widespread, state sanctioned anti-Mexican violence along the Texas-Mexico border (1910-1920). This is a critical time in the shaping of

the Rio Grande Valley and often a forgotten part of our history where the Texas Rangers, more commonly known as "the Rinches" spearheaded much of the lynching's and violence against Mexicans and Mexican Americans.

VIGINIA GRISE'S UTRGV PERFORMANCE: YOUR HEALING IS KILLING ME

OCTOBER 18, 2017

Virginia Grise performed selected pieces from her newest work. Your Healing is Killing Me is a performance manifesto based on the artists lived experiences with health care. Your Healing is Killing me was "part performance, part lecture, part therapy this performance is unprocessed, gluten, and guilt free."



Resilience en el Valle: Remembering the Matanza of 1915



Gloria Anzaldúa Kick Off event with Aida Hurtado

TRAE TU LONCHERA (STEPHANIE ALVAREZ)

OCTOBER 27, 2017

The first Trae tu Lonchera of the Fall 2017 semester was facilitated by Dr. Stephanie Alvarez. Faculty, staff, and students alike read her article *Evaluating the Role of the Spanish Department in the Education of U.S. Latin@ Students: Un Testimonio*. Dr. Alvarez uses her testimonio to “provide reflection” on her experience “for Spanish language educators and advocates along with both qualitative and quantitative data to understand how these individuals may better meet the needs of their Latin@ students while at the same time retaining students in their program and possibly assisting in their retention and graduation from college. Dr. Alvarez lays the groundwork for “arguing the need to regard Spanish as a domestic language and the absolute necessity of including U.S. Latin@ Spanish, Literature, and culture at all levels if the Spanish curriculum.” Dr. Alvarez’s article also provides strategic interventions for making progress towards those goals.



Graduate Symposium

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS ALTAR COMPETITION.

NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2017

The Center for Mexican American Studies in collaboration with PSJA Independent School District hosted their second annual Día de los Muertos Altar Competition. Elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools participated in the celebration of our region’s rich Meso-American culture. In the elementary category, Drs. Reed & Mock won first place with García Elementary receiving Honorable Mention. In the middle school category, Alamo Middle School won first place with Liberty Middle School receiving Honorable Mention. In the high school category, PSJA North Early College High School won first place with Thomas Jefferson T-STEM Early College High school receiving Honorable Mention. All first-place winners received tickets to Disney Pixar’s Coco.

PHILOSOPHY ACROSS THE AMERICAS

NOVEMBER 2,3, & 4, 2017

Philosophy Across the Américas: Thinking La Frontera was a conference co-hosted by STC and UTRGV, which featured local, national, and international philosophers, activists, and artists, including RGV artist Verónica Gabriela Cárdenas and poet Stevie Luna, on topics including Immigration, Social Justice, Chicana/Latina Feminism, The Border Wall, Borderlands, The History of the RGV, etc. Several events were held in community venues like The Old Church Winery in McAllen, as well as the Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Museum and World Birding Center.

In addition, there were presentations by three local community organizations: The Humanitarian Respite Center, LUPE, and The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights. The event was free and open to the public.

TRAE TU LONCHERA DIGITAL STORY WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

Dr. Stephanie Alvarez, B3 Director Francisco Guajardo, and Mexican American Studies lecturer Arnulfo Segovia offered a Digital Story-Telling Workshop at the Center for Bilingual Studies. MAS has been using digital testimonios as a signature pedagogy in its Introduction to Mexican American Studies courses since they were first introduced in 2009 and found them tremendously engaging and impactful for students.

BALLET NEPANTLA

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Ballet Nepantla “explores the in-between-ness of cultures within the realm of dance, harmonizing contemporary ballet with traditional Mexican dance.” Ballet Nepantla closed out their Tejas Tour at Edinburg North High School. This is not your ordinary Folklórico, but rather a transcultural performance of music, folklórico, contemporary dance and classical ballet. Director and founder Andrea Guajardo held a Q&A session afterwards.

TRAE TU LONCHERA WITH DR. DE LA TRINIDAD

DECEMBER 1, 2017

The last Trae tu Lonchera was facilitated by Dr. Maritza de la Trinidad. Faculty, staff, and students alike read her article “We Are Asking for Equal Education”: Mexican Americans and the Quest for Educational Equity in Arizona which “addresses why Mexican Americans in Arizona filed a desegregation lawsuit in 1974 alleging de jure segregation of Mexican American students in Tucson public schools twenty years after the Supreme Court abolished legal segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Using various sources, Dr. de la Trinidad analyzes the circumstances that compelled Mexican Americans to file *Mendoza v. Tucson School District No. 1* to “demand educational opportunities for their children to push for school reforms to meet the community’s needs.” Dr. de la Trinidad’s article also “seeks to expand the history of Mexican American educational activism in the Southwest and provide a historical backdrop for current educational issues and debates in Arizona.”

NUESTRA GLORIA GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

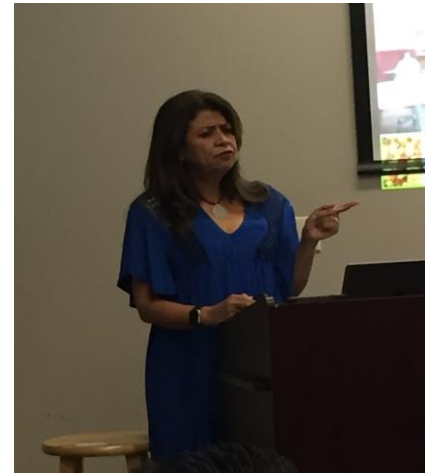
DECEMBER 13, 2017

Nuestra Gloria Graduate Student Research Symposium: Healing & Social Justice in the Borderlands Research Symposium allowed students from the Mexican American Studies graduate Research Methods course to present their preliminary research findings to the community.

LA NOCHE DE M.A.S.

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

The Mexican American Studies Program at the Brownsville Campus hosted an event where the Mexican American Studies Program on the Brownsville campus was unveiled. New courses were presented, and different events were hosted. Another important highlight of the night was the release of the 2nd volume of the Chachalaca Review with a reading and a performance by Marimba Reyna del Valle.



Aida Hurtado’s presentation

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS: ALTAR COMPETITION WINNERS



PSJA North High School



Alamo Middle School



Reed Mock Elementary School



CMAS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY
CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
NUESTRA EDUCACIÓN ES NUESTRA LUCHA