

# CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER



¡Feliz año nuevo!

We want to take this opportunity to share a little of what the Center for Mexican American Studies engaged in this past semester with all of you! It was such a great pleasure to witness students, community members, artists and scholars alike come together on more than one occasion in support of our events, engage in meaningful pláticas and celebrate nuestra comunidad.

We look forward to the Spring semester, our continued dialogues and your input. Mil gracias por su apoyo.

-The Center for Mexican American Studies

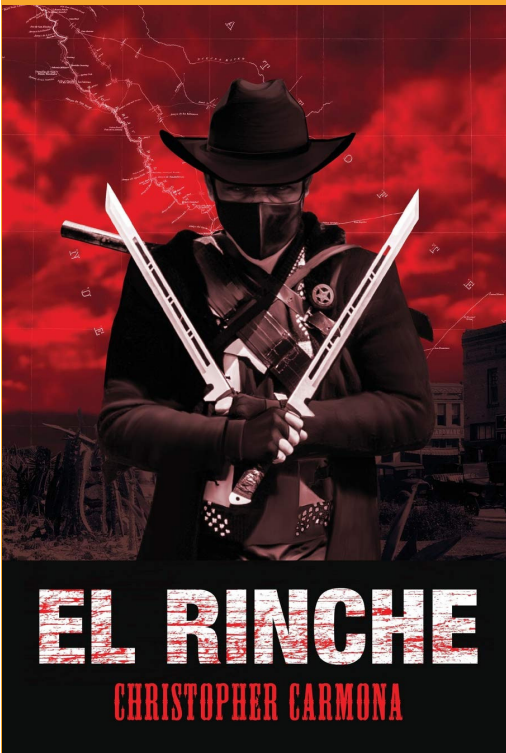


## CMAS

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

**CARMONA BOOK  
PRESENTATION: LATINX  
HERITAGE MONTH  
OCTOBER, WEDNESDAY 3RD  
AND THURSDAY 4TH**

Dr. Carmona's presentation on his book El Rinche "Resilience in a Time of Terror: Writing El Rinche and the Telling of the Unrecorded History of La Matanza 1910-1920".



**BOWLES BOOK  
PRESENTATION: LATINX  
HERITAGE MONTH  
OCTOBER, FRIDAY 5TH**

Dr. David Bowles did a plática titled "Indigenous Roots of Storytelling & Poetics".



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY  
OCTOBER, MONDAY 8TH**

CMAS Honors Indigenous Peoples' Day with a Plática by Dr. David Bowles. Professor Bowles discussed the importance of Indigenous People's Day in Chicana communities and how as an author & scholar he continues the tradition of Indigenous storytelling and poetics in his own work. Dr. Bowles specializes in Náhuatl language, offers classes in Náhuatl and is a published author on Indigenous myths of México.



**CMAS CLOSES OUT LATINX  
HERITAGE MONTH  
OCTOBER, MONDAY 15TH**

Fuerza del Valle members, domestic workers themselves, surveyed over 250 domestic workers to produce a study to document workplace conditions such as labor abuse and sexual abuse. The panel discussed from the women who they themselves are not just the workers, but the primary investigators of this groundbreaking study who chose to take part in conducting the study due to their own experiences with injustices in the workplace and their hope that the study would make a change. The study is the first of its kind in terms of magnitude and location.



**CMAS OPEN HOUSE  
OCTOBER, TUESDAY 16TH**

The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) offered an Open House to learn about what CMAS has to offer, meet staff, faculty, students, and the directors. Learn about student orgs, resources like travel funding, research support, and more.



**EFREN OLIVARES**  
**OCTOBER, THURSDAY 25TH**

Efrén C. Olivares is the Director of the Texas Civil Rights Project’s Racial and Economic Justice Program. He handles and supervises cases in state and federal court involving institutional discrimination, constitutional violations, immigrants’ rights, disability and economic rights, among others. Efrén is passionate about working to provide equality of opportunity to people regardless of their ethnic or racial background, and their economic or immigration status. He represents clients in state and federal courts, including on appeals, as well as before international human rights bodies. Efrén immigrated from Mexico to Texas with his family at the age of 13, and is devoted to advocating for the constitutional and human rights of immigrants and their families. He writes frequently on issues of relevance for the rights of immigrants in South Texas, and has represented hundreds of families separated from their children under the federal administration’s “zero-tolerance” policy last summer.



**CMAS AND PSJA ISD 3RD ANNUAL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS ALTAR COMPETITION**  
**NOVEMBER, THURSDAY 1ST AND FRIDAY 2ND**

1st Place Winners:  
 Elementary School: Reed-Mock  
 Middle School: Audie Murphy & Liberty  
 High School: Memorial



**DANIEL CHACÓN**  
**CO-SPONSORSHIP**  
**NOVEMBER, FRIDAY 6TH**

Co-Sponsored by: CMAS, Creative Writing Club, Gallery, and the Creative Writing Novelist, essayist, editor, teacher and radio host, Daniel Chacón is the winner of the American Book Award and spent an evening with students and community reading from his most recent book *The Cholo Tree*.



**MARIACHI/ FOLKLÓRICO FOR  
PSJA ISD DÍA DE LOS  
MUERTOS ALTAR  
COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS  
NOVEMBER, THURSDAY 8TH**



**PSJA Memorial  
Día de los Muertos Altar Competition  
November 2nd**



**Audie Murphy Middle School  
Día de los Muertos Altar Competition  
November 2nd**



**PSJA Memorial  
Día de los Muertos Altar Competition  
November 2nd**

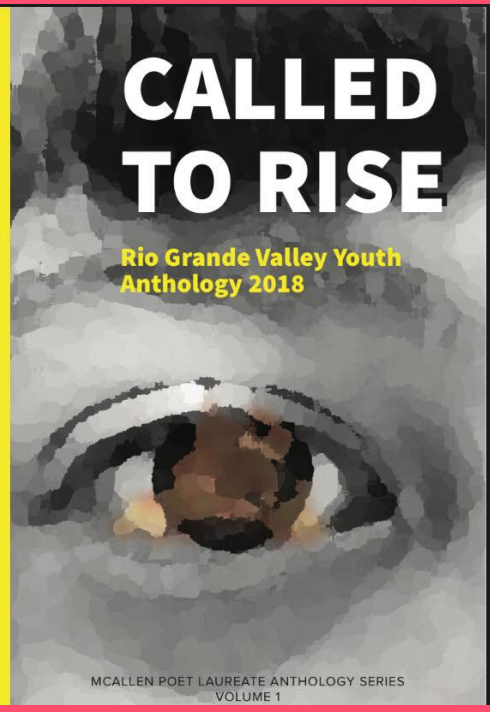
**EDCOUCH ELSA WALKOUT  
50TH ANNIVERSARY  
NOVEMBER, WEDNESDAY  
14TH**

In collaboration with NETA & South Texas Conjunto Association, the heroic Edcouch-Elsa Walkouts of Nov. 1969 were a combustion of the many years of experiencing racism, segregationist policies, and discrimination. The Mexican American students, however, realized their own potential even if others did not and had the courage to envision Edcouch-Elsa as a great place to receive an education. We commemorated this day at Edcouch Elsa ISD with walkout participants who gave their testimonies, a state proclamation and some 500 plus community members & current students.



**CALLED TO RISE  
RISE NOVEMBER 15TH, 2018**

McAllen Poet Laureate,  
Edward Vidaurre &  
FlowerSong Books  
Presented  
a Book reading and signing  
of Called To Rise: RGV  
Youth Anthology 2018.  
Called to Rise is a collection  
of poetry by the youth of  
the Rio Grande Valley  
edited by McAllen Poet  
Laureate, Edward Vidaurre  
and available on  
Amazon.com.



**XICANISMA: RAPE CULTURE  
AND DECONSTRUCTING  
MACHISMO  
NOVEMBER, TUESDAY 27TH**

Cassandra Alicia is the founder of online Latina feminist platform "Xicanisma." Boasting over 300k followers, Xicanisma aims to disrupt oppressive narratives through critical analysis and humor. Though Xicanisma was created to make a space for Chicanas/Latinas, Xicanisma highlights the struggles of all marginalizxed groups of people. Cassandra is also the co-host of "Bitter Brown Femmes", a podcast that offers critiques and commentary of social justice, pop culture, and Latinx issues.



**EDCOUCH ELSA WALKOUT  
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING  
NOVEMBER, FRIDAY 30TH**

The Edcouch-Elsa High School Walkout of November 14, 1968, was a defining moment in Rio Grande Valley history and a key component in the Chicano Civil Rights Movement as the event provided an entire community with the reassurance that their voices could and did make a difference. Fifty years later, we celebrate the fruit of their heroic actions. The documentary screening to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Walkout. This was the first time this documentary was shown publicly. The screening was followed by a short Q&A session between the audience and participants who were part of the historic Walkout.



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