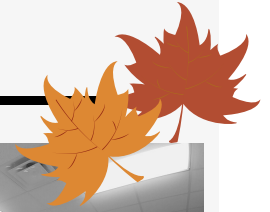




CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



As Fall 2019 comes to a close, we want to thank students, faculty, staff, and community members for helping make this an engaged and meaningful semester of activities with the Center for Mexican American Studies. We are proud to have hosted and co-hosted gatherings and dialogues for Latinx Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples' Day, LGBTQIA+ History Month, Día de Muertos, our Trae Tu Lonchera series, Latinx Mental Health initiatives, and more, on and off campus. We are also grateful to all of the visiting scholars, writers, artists, and cultural activists we featured in our programming this semester. Thank you to all of our co-sponsors on and off campus and the volunteers who helped with Dia de Muertos events. CMAS welcomed Faculty Fellow Nayelly Barrios this semester, and we awarded Supplemental Travel Funds to CMAS-affiliated faculty in support of their scholarship related to Mexican American Studies. We fundraised for the Gloria Anzaldúa Scholarship for Social Justice and Mexican American Studies—please consider making a donation to help make this endowed scholarship a reality. Thank you to all who help us work towards a more socially just future for our communities. Have an excellent New Year—we look forward to collaborating with you in 2020!

Emmy Pérez
Acting Director



OPEN HOUSE

CMAS/ CBS/ B3

TUESDAY, SEPT 17TH
12 - 2PM
EEDUC 2.216

Let's start celebrating Latinx Heritage Month at the Center for Mexican American Studies, Center for Bilingual Studies, and B3 Institute Open House. We invite you to come meet our students, student orgs, directors, staff, & faculty. Learn about what we have to offer and what's in store for 2019-2020!

We'll have *música, gorditas, flautas, sopes, and nopales guisados, with vegan options.*

For more information or accommodations, please contact (956) 665-3212

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, Sept. 17th

To launch Latinx Heritage Month, the Center for Mexican American Studies, Center for Bilingual Studies, and B3 Institute invited students, faculty, staff, and community members to an open house to learn about our initiatives—past, present and future.

CELEBRATE GLORIA ANZALDÚA'S BIRTHDAY WITH AMALIA ORTIZ

Thursday, Sept. 26th

Spoken word artist Amalia Ortiz, author of the new Xicana punk rock musical & book "*The Canción Cannibal Cabaret*" performed work from her first book *Rant. Chant. Chisme* and her latest work. She also talked about being a poet from the Valley influenced by Anzaldúa, music, & more. The event took place at UTRGV Brownsville.

Co-sponsors:
Center for Mexican American Studies, LUNA LRGV, Student Union, Leadership and Mentoring, Gallery Magazine, and First-Year Experience.



Fall 2019

CELEBRANDO LATINX MUSIC & POETRY IN THE RGV

Friday, Sept. 27th

CMAS, as part of a coalition of co-sponsors across campus, hosted an evening of Latinx Heritage Month events featuring award-winning Xicana poet Amalia Ortiz, music by Jo C., student poets, dj music, and an open mic at the outdoor stage near the Student Union on the Chapel Lawn, UTRGV Edinburg Campus. The event was free and open to the public. Student organizations sold elote, spiropapas, hot cheetos, empanadas, raspas, fried oreos, soft drinks, and water.

Co-sponsored by CMAS, Student Union, Leadership and Mentoring, Gallery Magazine, and First-Year Experience.



UTRGV Poets: Josue Puente, Joaquin Castillo, Amanda Victoria, Maria Garcia, Yelitza Saenz, Celina Gomez



Fall 2019



FROM ONE BORDERLAND TO ANOTHER: EL VALLE STANDS WITH EL PASO

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd

Pláticas on borderland trauma, resistance, healing, and imagining the future. This UTRGV CMAS event was inspired by UT El Paso's "Trauma, Resilience, & Resistance" events in Aug. 2019 hosted by their Women's & Gender Studies Program and the "New Ellis Island Rio Grande Valley Regional Dialogue" in Aug. 2019 in San Juan, TX organized by La Unión del Pueblo Entero, the New Ellis Island Committee, & the Border Network for Human Rights

Inspired by "Trauma, Resilience, & Resistance" hosted by UTEP's Women's & Gender Studies & the "New Ellis Island Rio Grande Valley Regional Dialogue" in San Juan organized by La Unión del Pueblo Entero, the New Ellis Island Committee, and the Border Network for Human Rights.

FROM ONE BORDERLAND TO ANOTHER: EL VALLE STANDS WITH EL PASO

Pláticas on borderland trauma, resistance, healing, and imagining the future.

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019
8:45am - 4:30pm
UTRGV Borderlands Room, EEDUC 3.204

<p>8:45 AM - 9:00 AM WELCOME & BREAKFAST TACOS Emmy Pérez Acting Director, CMAS</p> <p>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM HOW GUN VIOLENCE AFFECTS US ALL Mariam El-Haj Moms Demand Action Volunteer & Masters Candidate, Clinical Psychology</p> <p>9:30 AM - 10:00 AM RECLAIMING SPACE: TRAUMA AND HEALING Dr. Ernesto Ramirez Mexican American Studies Program</p> <p>10:00 AM - 10:30 AM UNDERSTANDING TRAUMATIC BEREAVEMENT Nina Enriquez Department of Social Work</p> <p>10:30 AM - 11:00 AM THE ROLE OF MEDIA & RHETORIC ON THE IMAGE, PORTRAYAL, & TREATMENT OF MEXICAN AMERICANS/LATINA/OS: PAST & PRESENT Dr. Maritza De La Trinidad Mexican American Studies Program & History</p>	<p>11:30 AM - 12:00 PM UTRGV'S CENTER FOR DIVERSITY & INCLUSION & DREAM RESOURCE CENTER Aaron Hinojosa Program Coordinator, Center for Diversity & Inclusion</p> <p>11:00 AM - 11:30 AM EL PASO WAR OF 1877: SEGREGATION, MARGINALIZATION, AND MILITARIZATION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S - MEXICO BORDERLANDS Dr. Jamie Starling Department of History</p> <p>12:00 PM - 12:30 PM THE EL PASO MASSACRE: THE REACTION OF A CHICANO ACTIVIST Dr. Jose Villareal Department of Sociology</p> <p>12:30 PM - 1:00 PM HOW WE SEE OURSELVES THROUGH THE EYES OF RGV FILMMAKERS Pepe Garcia Gilling MAIS in Mexican American Studies Candidate</p> <p>1:00 PM - 1:30 PM POETRY: A SPACE FOR COMMUNITY EXPRESSION María Luisa García MFA in Creative Writing & MAS Grad Certificate Candidate</p>	<p>1:30 PM - 2:00 PM THREAT ASSESSMENT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BYSTANDER INTERVENTION Dr. Douglas Stoves Senior Associate Dean for Student Rights & Responsibilities</p> <p>2:00 PM - 2:30 PM "I WILL DIE INNOCENT" THE EL PASO MURDER TRIAL THAT MOBILIZED THE GREATER MEXICAN COMMUNITY Dr. George T. Diaz Department of History</p> <p>2:30 PM - 3:00 PM RADICAL IMAGINATION: JOY AS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE Christina Patino Houle Equal Voice Network & Las Imaginistas</p> <p>3:00 PM - 3:30 PM MOVING BEYOND WORDS Amanda Lee Tovar MAIS in Mexican American Studies Graduate</p> <p>3:30 PM - 4:00 PM DECOLONIZING OUR POLITICAL NARRATIVES Dr. Rosalva Resendiz Department of Criminal Justice</p> <p>4:00 PM - 4:30 PM David Leal Undergraduate Student</p>
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Hosted by: **UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS)**

For accommodations contact (956) 665-3212 or josue.puente01@utrgv.edu

Image by Beatriz Guzmán Velásquez

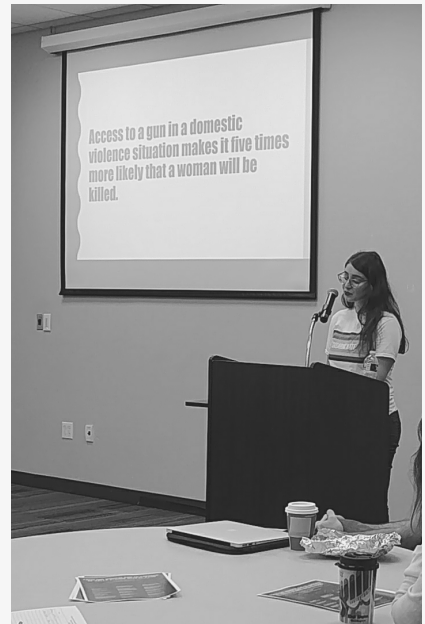


Image by Beatriz Guzmán Velásquez
Presente [present] 2019 Flowers, branches and thread on water. Dimensions vary.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY LGBTQ+ UNITED UNION

Thursday, Oct. 10th

CMAS tabled at the Student Union with other organizations for National Coming Out Day. "United Union celebrated all who have come out as LGBTQ+ or as a straight ally for equality and equity!"



RIO BRAVO: JOURNAL OF THE BORDERLANDS **UPDATES**

The latest issue of our peer-reviewed journal, edited last year by Amanda Tovar and Dr. Francisco Guajardo, is complete and will be launching in Spring 2020. Stay tuned for a launch event date. CMAS faculty fellow Nayelly Barrios is our new editor. This Fall she worked with CMAS staff on creating the new call for submissions, which will become available early next semester. We are excited to soon share both the latest issue and the new call for submissions.

CMAS FALL 2019 MEETINGS RECAP

Thank you to everyone who attended our CMAS Planning meeting on Oct. 24th, where we brainstormed and collectively planned the Center's future initiatives and Trae Tu Lonchera plática sessions. We had a follow-up meeting on Nov. 21st to reflect on CMAS fall initiatives and continued planning the future. We also welcomed the DREAM Resource Center staff to discuss possible collaborations. Also on Oct. 24th, the CMAS Gloria Anzaldúa Committee met to discuss the forthcoming Anzaldúa Historical Marker in the community, ideas for a future Anzaldúa memorial on campus, and fundraising for the Gloria Anzaldúa (endowed) Scholarship for Social Justice and Mexican American Studies.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Monday, Oct. 14th



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Monday, Oct. 14, 2019
UTRGV Edinburg Campus
EEDUC Borderlands Rm: 3.204

MY INDIGENOUS HEROINE: ROOTS OF MY CULTURALLY RELEVANT PEDAGOGY
10am - 11am
Dr. Teresa "Paty" Feria
Associate Professor of Biology, UTRGV

DECOLONIZING THE RGV PANEL
12 - 1:45pm
Celeste De Luna
Lecturer, School of Art, UTRGV
Dr. Christopher Basaldú
PhD. Member of the Carrizo Comecruado Tribe of Texas
Dr. Teresa "Paty" Feria
Associate Professor of Biology, UTRGV
Rúben Garza
Las Imaginistas

EL MURO: THE WALL SCREENING & Q&A
2pm - 4pm
Dr. Rosalva Resendiz
Co-Director of "El Muro/The Wall" & Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, UTRGV
Dr. Eloisa Taméz
RN, PhD, Professor and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, School of Nursing. She is a Bernice E. Fowler Fellow & a Frederick Douglass 200 Diplomat

BECOMING HUMAN = DECOLONIZATION
11am - 12pm
Christopher Basaldú
PhD. Member of the Carrizo Comecruado Tribe of Texas

CMAS
For accommodations contact 956 665 3212 or yajaira.rivera@utrgv.edu or emmy.perez@utrgv.edu

MY INDIGENOUS HEROINE: ROOTS OF MY CULTURALLY RELEVANT PEDAGOGY

Dr. Teresa "Paty" Feria



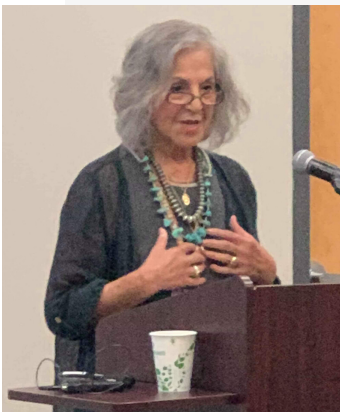
BECOMING HUMAN = DECOLONIZATION

Dr. Christopher Basaldú



EL MURO: THE WALL SCREENING AND Q&A

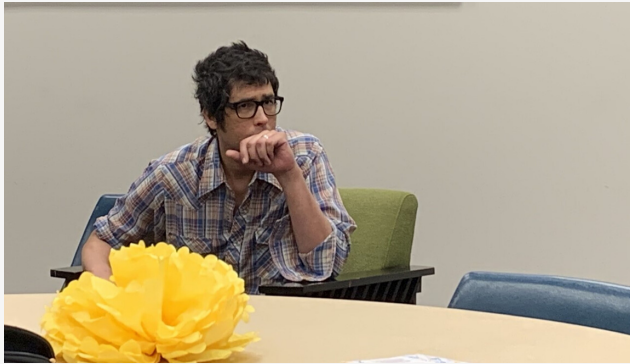
Dr. Eloisa Taméz & Dr. Rosalva Resendiz



DECOLONIZING THE RGV PANEL

Celeste De Luna, Dr. Christopher Basaldú, Dr. Teresa "Paty" Feria, Rúben Garza





Fernando A. Flores



FERNANDO A. FLORES PRESENTS HIS NOVEL *TEARS OF THE TRUFFLEPIG*

Monday, Oct. 14 & Tuesday 15

Fernando A. Flores was born in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and raised in Alton, TX. His debut novel, *Tears of the Trufflepig*, was released May 2019 by MCD x FSG Originals. Fernando was the recipient of a 2014 literary award from the Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation. His short story collection and other fiction and poetry have appeared in various publications since 2006, and he was featured as one of Ten Writers to Watch in the October 2015 issue of Texas Monthly. He lives in Austin, Texas.

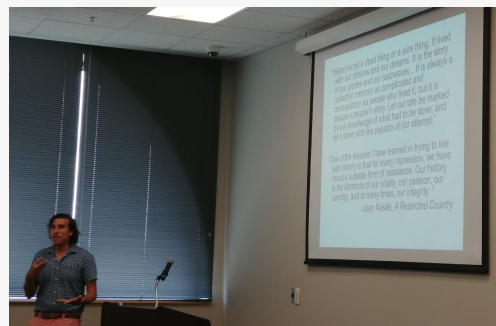
Co-sponsored by CMAS and Gallery Magazine.

GABRIEL SANCHEZ PRESENTS HISTORY OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY'S LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, Oct. 29th

Gabriel Sanchez is native of the Rio Grande Valley who grew up in Starr and Hidalgo Counties. They have a bachelor's degree in American Studies and Sociology from Marlboro College in Vermont. For the past three years, Gabriel has been conducting research and collecting oral history interviews on the history of the Rio Grande Valley's LGBTQIA+ communities and the activism, social spaces, stories, and art important to this community. Gabriel is currently collaborating with One Scene Studios to create *Pansy Pachanga*, a documentary film on the history of the Valley's LGBTQIA+ community set to be released in 2020.

Co-sponsored by CMAS, Center for Diversity & Inclusion and Dream Resource Center, UTRGV Leadership and Mentoring, and Gender & Women's Studies Program.



Gabriel Sanchez

I STAND WITH IMMIGRANTS DAY OF ACTION

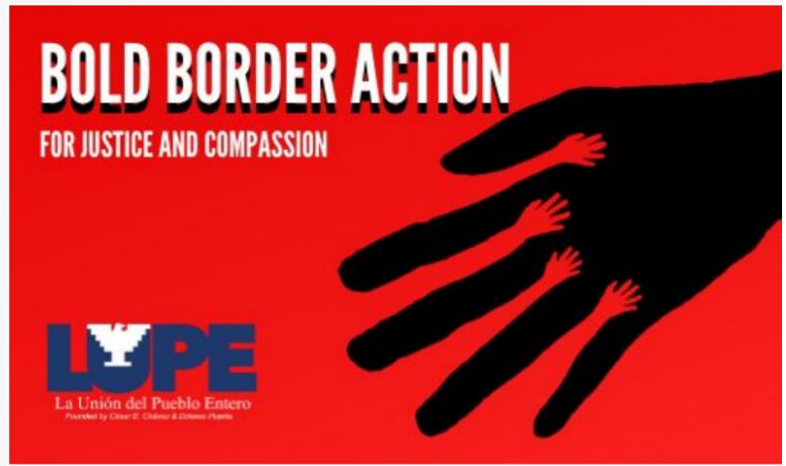
Tuesday, Oct. 22nd

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center organized and led a tabling event at the Student Union and CMAS participated in tabling at their event in support of this nationwide effort to stand with immigrants..

BOLD BORDER ACTION FAST CHAIN

Thursday, Oct. 31st & Friday, Nov. 1st

La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) organized the #BoldBorderAction, a 24-Hour 6 Day Chain Fast for the more than 2,000 immigrants who have been displaced by the “Remain in Mexico” policy (MPP). CMAS co-hosted one of the days of the fast chain with LUPE. Thank you to LUPE, LUPE staff member Ruby Fuentes, and all of the participants.



CELEBRANDO EL DÍA DE MUERTOS

Friday, Nov. 1st

The Center for Bilingual Studies (CBS) together with CMAS welcomed the RGV community into the Centers to learn about El Día de los Muertos through bilingual story time, food and candies, and activities for children. Thank you to Mónica Alvarez for presenting on the origins of El Día de Los Muertos.



Fall 2019

4TH ANNUAL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS ALTAR COMPETITION, PSJA & CMAS

Friday, Nov. 1st

FIRST PLACE WINNERS



GRACIELA GARCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



RAUL H YZAGUIRRE MIDDLE SCHOOL



PSJA MEMORIAL EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Fall 2019

4TH ANNUAL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS ALTAR COMPETITION, PSJA & CMAS

Friday, Nov. 1st

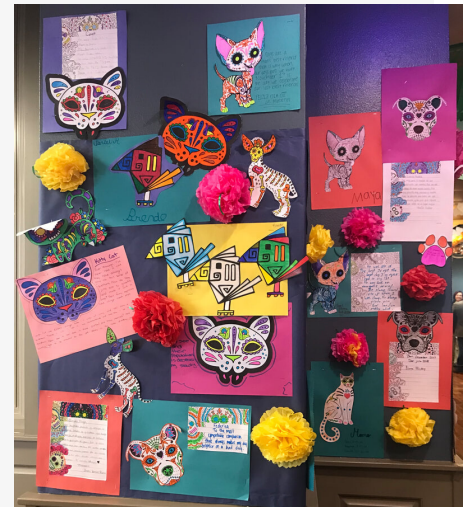
HONORABLE MENTION



DRS. REED & MOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



AUDIE MURPHY MIDDLE SCHOOL



T-STEM EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

CURANDO HERIDAS: A COMMUNITY PLÁTICA ON LATINX MENTAL HEALTH

Sunday, Nov. 10th

Discussion on Mental Health in the Latinx community hosted by Craft Cultura and co-sponsored by CMAS at International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS).

Facilitated by Misael Ramirez (Craft Cultura Co-Founder).
Panelists: Carolina Benavides, Krystal Carranza, Justina Garcia, Dr. Ernesto Ramirez, and Shawn Elliot Russell.

"Craft Cultura is a Chicanx/Latinx organization from South Texas that produces stories of empowerment. Through art, education, music and culture we create space for communities."

STUDENT-LED MARCH

Tuesday, Nov. 12th

On this day, the Supreme Court began proceedings on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. There were marches and rallies nationwide in support of DACA and undocumented individuals, and UTRGV students organized and led a march here on campus. Allied faculty and staff also participated.



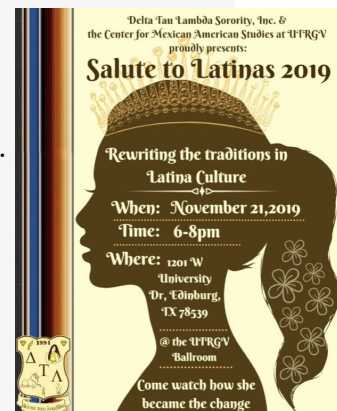
For more information on support services for students on campus, please contact the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center. Here is a link to more information and a short video on the student-led event

<https://utrgvtv.com/index.php/2019/11/12/students-hold-march-in-support-of-daca/>

SALUTE TO LATINAS 2019

Friday, Nov. 21st

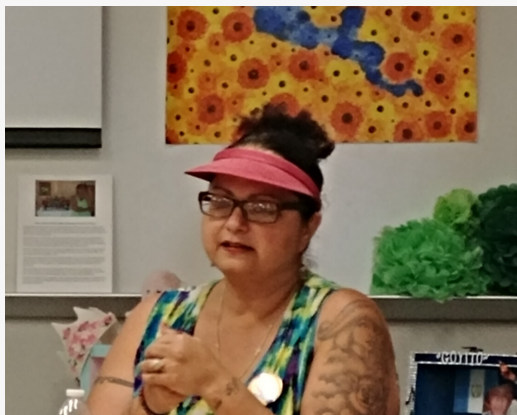
The Salute to Latinas event was hosted by UTRGV's Delta Tau Lambda – Latina Minority Sorority and co-sponsored by CMAS. The event honored Latinas in the RGV in predominately male-driven industries. The event also featured poetry by local poet/activist, Mónica Alvarez.



HOW OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY RESPONDED TO IMMIGRATION POLICIES

July 2019

The Trump administration implemented the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) in approaching how to deal with the influx of asylum-seekers coming to our Southern border. Contrary to the program's name, MPP only served to endanger asylum-seekers by sending them to wait for their asylum trials, which in many cases can take up to a year, in the volatile conditions of the Mexican border. Rio Grande Valley residents and organizations such as Team Brownsville, Angry Tias and Abuelas of the RGV, and others came together to help at the encampments set up by asylum-seekers in Matamoros.



TRAE TU LONCHERA: ANGRY TIAS AND ABUELAS

Thursday, Nov. 21th

The Center for Mexican American Studies Trae Tu Lonchera series welcomed Angry Tias and Abuelas of the Rio Grande Valley: Cindy Candia, Susan Law, and Nayelly Barrios to discuss the history and work of the organization. Angry Tias and Abuelas also discussed ways in which students and the community can help in their efforts. As well, they shared testimonios about the struggles asylum-seekers have shared with them about the difficult journey from Central America to the U.S. border.

MARIACHI JUVENIL AZTLÁN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY PERFORMANCE

Friday, Nov. 22nd

CMAS sponsored UTRGV's Mariachi Juvenil Aztlán performance for the 2019 Día de los Muertos Altar Competition winners in the PSJA School District. The performance took place at PSJA Memorial ECHS Gymnasium and about 300 hundred PSJA students attended. CMAS Faculty Fellow, Nayelly Barrios, congratulated the youth on their work and participation.



NOCHE DE MAS

Wednesday, Dec. 4th

This event was organized by Dr. Christopher Carmona and the MAS Academic program. It was an evening of presentations, performances and the Spring launch of the *Chacalaca Review*. Light food and refreshments were provided by CMAS.



SLAM POETRY PODCAST

CMAS and Emmy Pérez have collaborated with Buell Central High on poetry initiatives for a few years now. On November 12th, Nayelly Barrios continued this collaboration by judging a poetry slam at the school. She was so impressed by the students' work and accepted an opportunity to continue working with the students and teachers. On December 6th, she recorded the students reading their work and talking about their writing process and experience for a podcast to be released in January 2020.



Buell Central High School

Fall 2019

THE GLORIA ANZALDÚA SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Dear friends of CMAS: As you know, the amazing Gloria Anzaldúa was born and raised here in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the borderlands she wrote about so powerfully in her works. About fifty years ago, she graduated from Pan American College. I'm writing to request your help with **The Gloria Anzaldúa Scholarship for Social Justice and Mexican American Studies**, an endowed scholarship fund I began here several years ago. We still need over \$6,000 to meet the minimum amount for the endowment. Would you like to help us try and establish this endowment for students with a contribution, however minimal?

If so, please visit the following UTRGV scholarship link online and take note of the few extra steps here that require your typing in an abbreviated name of the scholarship to ensure the funds go to the right place. Please select or type in an amount and on the "Give To:" drop down, please select "Other". A box will appear. **Please type in "Anzaldua Scholarship"** to make a gift to The Gloria Anzaldúa Scholarship for Social Justice and Mexican American Studies. Here is the link: <https://give.utrgv.edu/students>.

If you need assistance making a donation, please call the staff at the Division of Institutional Enhancement (956) 665-5301.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and student support.

Sincerely,
Emmy Pérez



Fall 2019

CMAS FACULTY FELLOW, FALL 2019 - SPRING 2020

CMAS welcomes our first Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) Faculty Fellows! They will be collaborating with us on a number of CMAS initiatives.

Nayelly Barrios is CMAS Faculty Fellow, Fall 2019-Spring 2020, & Dr. Ernesto Ramirez is CMAS Faculty Fellow Spring 2020. Congratulations!

NAYELLY BARRIOS



is an intersectional feminist, writer, educator, activist, and Rio Grande borderlands native. She is a Lecturer in the UTRGV Writing Program and a CantoMundo fellow. She earned an MFA in Poetry and an MA in English from McNeese State University, where she edited and co-edited two journals. She is currently working on a memoir about the complexities of growing up in a family at the intersection of a patriarchal generation and a contemporary feminist generation. Her writing has appeared in Beloit Poetry Journal, Puerto del Sol, Notre Dame Review, and other publications. She is a co-founder of Angry Tias and Abuelas of the Rio Grande Valley, an organization that advocates for immigrant rights and received the 2019 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award.

DR. ERNESTO RAMIREZ

was born in San Antonio and fortunate enough to have attended fifteen different schools in ten different school districts. He moved often during his life but luckily, his roots are here in the RGV; his parents met at Pan American College. He has worked at UTRGV and its legacy institution since 2001 in various capacities as staff and faculty (in the Department of Criminal Justice, with the University Retention and Advisement Program, as liaison for the AVID for Higher Education program, as a Faculty Community Coordinator with the School of Medicine, and with University College). He sees his function as a faculty member to be a guide for students, not just in their academics but in their life. He works with community health issues as Treasurer and Board Member with the Valley Association for Independent Living.



Contact Us

Center for Mexican American Studies
1201 W University Drive
EEDUC 2.216B
Edinburg, TX 78539
(956) 665 3212
cmas@utrgv.edu

Emmy Pérez
Acting Director
emmy.perez@utrgv.edu

Yajaira Rivera
Program Coordinator
yajaira.rivera@utrgv.edu

Josue Puente
Graduate Assistant
(Community Engagement & Research)
josue.puente01@utrgv.edu

Karen Ramirez
Graphic Design & Technology Specialist
karen.j.ramirez01@utrgv.edu

Stephanie Álvarez
Associate Professor (Currently on leave Fall 2019)
stephanie.alvarez@utrgv.edu

