

THE CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER



CMAS is the Center of Mexican American Studies at UTRGV. It supports MAS majors, minors and Graduate students as well as faculty who study the political, artistic, cultural, social and economic conditions and contributions of Mexican Americans, within a historical and contemporary context with a focus on social justice. CMAS provides programming, research opportunities and community engagement in the field of Mexican American Studies.



CMAS

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

ANA CELIA ZENTELLA
THURSDAY, FEB. 21ST

Ana Celia Zentella, PhD, is a Professor Emeritus at UCSD. She is an anthropological linguist and considered to be one of the most important linguist to work on behalf of the Latinx community. Her book *Growing up Bilingual* is a foundational text in the field of Latinx Studies. She has been honored with numerous awards and her work has been critical to the validation and affirmation of the languages and identities of the U.S. Latinx community, including Spanglish.

JUAN MORALES
THURSDAY, FEB. 28TH

Juan Morales presented on his book called, "The Handyman's Guide to the End of Times," an imagined zombie apocalypse that intertwines with personal narrative. From zombie dating to the sin of popcorn ceilings, these poems investigate the nature of impermanence while celebrating the complexities of life.

"These poems are filled with energy and velocity and are at once intimate and grand. Smart, sharp, and intimate, Morales is a truly gifted writer."--Kevin Prufer, author of "How He Loved Them"
"These poems are imbued with the work of trying to understand the histories of broken things like unions, selves, homes, pasts. They carry strategies for survival even as they document crisis and loss."--Aracelis Girmay, author of "Kingdom Animalia: Poems"

In addition to "Handyman's Guide," Juan Morales is also the author of "The Siren World" and "Friday and the Year that Followed: Poems." Morales was born in the U.S. to an Ecuadorian mother and a Puerto Rican father. He is the Department Chair of English and an associate professor at Colorado State University-Pueblo, where he also curtails the Southern Colorado Reading Series. Co-sponsored by Gallery Magazine

CHICANA MOVIDAS
THURSDAY, FEB. 28TH - MARCH 1ST

"Chicana Movidas: New Narratives of Activism and Feminism in the Movement Era" (University of Texas Press 2018). This groundbreaking anthology brings together generations of Chicana scholars and activists to offer the first wide-ranging account of women's organizing, activism, and leadership in the Chicano Movement.

Featured Dionne Espinoza, Brenda Sendejo, María Cotera, Martha Cotera, & Maylei Blackwell.

*This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities in conjunction with the Center for Mexican American Studies, FESTIBA and the Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies.

CHICANA MOVIDAS
NEW NARRATIVES OF ACTIVISM AND FEMINISM IN THE MOVEMENT ERA

EDINBURG
THURSDAY, FEB. 28TH, 2019
7 - 8PM Chicana Movidas Book Talk @ International Room, ITT Building
8:00 - 8:30PM Q&A Book Signing

BROWNSVILLE
FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2019
10- 11AM Chicana Movidas Book Talk @ Main 1.224
11 - 11:30AM Q&A Book Signing

This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities in conjunction with the Center for Mexican American Studies, FESTIBA and the Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies.

CMAS | Humanities Texas | Festiba

For special accommodations please contact: noreen.rivers@atrg.edu

IRE'NE LARA SILVA & DAN VERA
THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST

Poetry reading from *CUICACALLI/House of Song & Speaking Wiri Wiri* & *plática* on the making of *Imaniman: Poets Writing in the Anzaldúan Borderlands*
Ire'ne lara silva is the author of *Flesh to Bone* (Aunt Lute Books) which won the Premio Aztlán. Co-editor of *Imaniman: Poets Writing in the Anzaldúan Borderlands* (Aunt Lute Books).
Dan Vera is the author of two books of poetry, *Speaking Wiri Wiri* (Red Hen Press) and *The Space Between Our Danger and Delight* (Beothuk Books). He is also recipient of the 2017 Oscar Wilde Award for Poetry and the Letras Latinas/Red Hen Poetry Prize. Co-editor of *Imaniman: Poets Writing In The Anzaldúan Borderlands* (Aunt Lute Books).

ire'ne lara silva & Dan Vera

Poetry reading from *CUICACALLI/House of Song & Speaking Wiri Wiri* & *plática* on the making of *Imaniman: Poets Writing in the Anzaldúan Borderlands*

Thursday, March 21st
6:45- 8pm
Location: EEDUC 1.502

ire'ne lara silva is the author of three poetry collections, *CUICACALLI/House of Song* (Saddle Road Press), *Blood Sugar Conta* (Saddle Road Press), *Juria*, (Mouthfeel Press), an e-chapbook, *Enduring Azuceres* (Sibling Rivalry Press), as well as a short story collection, *flesh to bone* (Aunt Lute Books) which won the Premio Aztlán. Co-editor of *Imaniman: Poets Writing in the Anzaldúan Borderlands* (Aunt Lute Books)

Dan Vera is the author of two books of poetry, *Speaking Wiri Wiri* (Red Hen Press) and *The Space Between Our Danger and Delight* (Beothuk Books). He is also recipient of the 2017 Oscar Wilde Award for Poetry and the Letras Latinas/Red Hen Poetry Prize. Co-editor of *Imaniman: Poets Writing In The Anzaldúan Borderlands* (Aunt Lute Books).

CMAS | gallery | aunt lute



CMAS & LUCHA GO TO MAS K-12 TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

SATURDAY MARCH 23

This was a free workshop that offered guidelines that center on how to plan and teach Mexican American Studies at schools at all campus levels. Sessions were led by educators who have created curriculum and lesson plans for Mexican American Studies in math, social studies, history, literature and fine art.



PLÁTICA WITH CARRIZO COMECRUDO TRIBE OF TEXAS


TUESDAY MARCH 26

Juan Mancias, Tribal Chairman of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas, discussed the history of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe here in the Rio Grande Valley and their current efforts to protect indigenous lands on Tuesday March 26.

COME JOIN US!

CARRIZO COMECRUDO TRIBE OF TEXAS PROTECTORS OF THE LAND FROM THE BORDER WALL

Juan Mancias, Tribal Chairman of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas, will discuss the history of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe here in the Rio Grande Valley and their current efforts to protect indigenous land.



MARCH, TUESDAY 26TH, 2019
12:15 - 1:30 PM
@ ELABS LAWN



DEFENDING MIGRANT FAMILIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD

The Chicana Movement Coalition and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley convene a distinguished and diverse group of pro-migrant activists from the Valley to share their thoughts, research, and social justice activism experience with the UTRGV community. Speakers reflected on their experiences regarding the current status of migrant families, human rights, and the role of university, scholars and community activists in addressing the issues that migrant populations in the Rio Grande Valley face on a daily basis. While exploring the primary foci of advancing fundamental human rights and meeting basic human needs, we seek to highlight the role of higher education as a collaborator working with civil societies. The central objective of the conference is to further our understanding of the plight of migrant families as well as to motivate students, faculty and community to become advocates for the moral and humanitarian treatment of migrants. A wide range of speakers will further the discourse, understanding and critical analysis of the current plight of migrant families in the Rio Grande Valley. We intend to come together in the hopes of organizing a united front to enhance the societal well-being of all migrant families and their children. The conference purpose was to create a space where students, faculty and community may collaborate towards constructing a just world for all human kind.

SANTANA'S FAIRY TALES
TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH

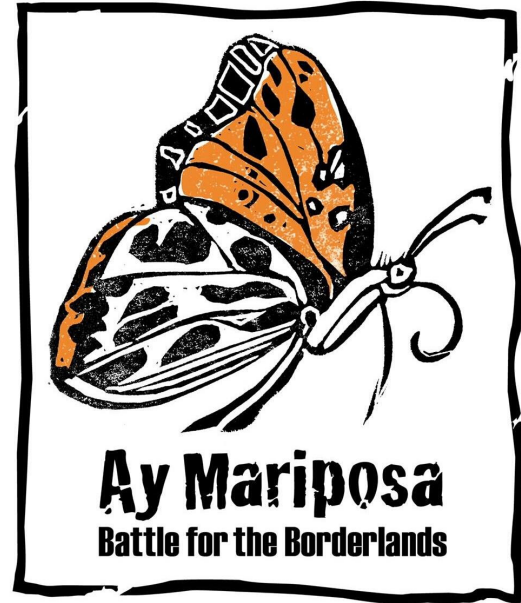
Sarah Rafael Garcia is a writer, arts educator and conceptual artist. Since publishing *Las Niñas*, she founded Barrio Writers, LibroMobile and Crear Studio. In 2016, she was awarded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, through an Artist-in-Residence initiative at CSUF Grand Central Art Center, to develop the multi-media project titled *SanTana's Fairy Tales*. Most recently, she was selected as a 2019 University of Houston KGMC and Project Row Houses Fellow. *SanTana's Fairy Tales* is an oral history, storytelling project initiated by author Sarah Rafael Garcia, which integrates community-based narratives to create contemporary fairytales and fables that represent the history and stories of Mexican/Mexican-American residents of SantaAna (inspired by the Grimms' Fairy Tales).



AY MARIPOSA BATTLE FOR THE BORDERLANDS

MODAY, APRIL 22ND

In the US-Mexico borderlands a battle rages. On one side, the United States government—armed with billions of dollars and 20,000 Border Patrol agents—has begun construction of a border wall. On the other side a rag-tag band of rebels are fighting to save the cultural and natural heritage of the region. Two women and a rare community of butterflies stand on the front lines of this battle, unlikely conscripts in a struggle for the soul of the borderlands. *Ay Mariposa* documents their story. Venue sponsored by The Historic Cine El Rey Theatre Foundation; a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to "preserving the past for the future"™ Cosponsored by the Environmental Studies Program at UTRGV, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club, and Defenders of Wildlife--Texas



12TH ANNUAL EL RETORNO: CELEBRANDO NUESTRA GLORIA

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH

El Retorno: El Valle Celebra Nuestra Gloria is an annual event honoring the late Dr. Gloria Anzaldúa, world-renowned scholar, author, poet, and theorist. Her most noted work is *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. This work was seminal in elevating an authentic perspective from the Rio Grande Valley and pushing back from the dichotomous narrative that plagued it. Above all else, Gloria Anzaldúa was a beloved friend, sister, aunt, and a guiding force for all of us who carry on her legacy.



CMAS SPONSORS SPRING 2019 MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM GRADUATION

May 9



Congratulations class of 2019! *several grads not pictured.



CMAS, CBS & B3 IN PARIS

MAY 16-18

The Center for Mexican American Studies, alongside the team from the Center for Bilingual Studies and the B3 department all attended International Conference Gloria Anzaldúa : Translating B/borders this May in Paris, France at the University of Paris VIII, Paris, France.



MESA COMUNITARIA ON MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE SCHOOLS

TUESDAY, MAY 28TH



The Mesa Comunitaria allowed us to identify school districts who will implement Mexican American Studies in their curriculum this coming Fall 2019 school year. At this event we discussed how you can include Mexican American Studies in your school district, and we discussed the impact of Mexican American Studies on Student success. Students, parents and teachers alike provided their testimonios and their experiences with success following the introduction of Mexican American Studies in their lives.

Our keynote speaker was Celina Moreno, President and CEO of IDRA. IDRA is currently focusing on the implementation of Mexican American Studies in public schools because it has demonstrated an immense amount of student success.

We were welcomed by Ruben Cortez, Texas State Board of Education from district 2. Cortez was an integral part in spearheading the approval of the SBOE's Mexican American Studies course with TEKS. He is a welcomed partner in ensuring our students have access to Mexican American Studies courses in public schools.

Mexican American focused courses can be taught as social studies, literature, and visual arts. They can be offered in English or Spanish and as a dual credit course. School districts across the state of Texas are implementing Mexican American Studies and are witnessing unwavering success. School districts in the Río Grande Valley ARE next!



CMAS IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO FINISHING THE MURAL IN SAN JUAN, TEXAS!

MAY 27

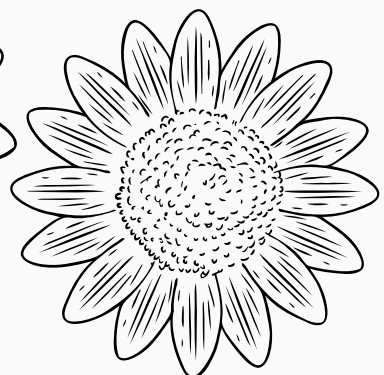
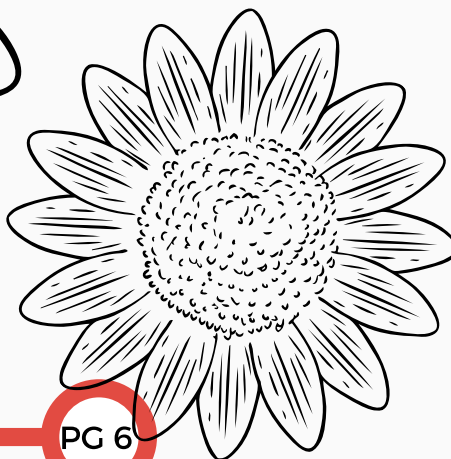
After nearly three years the beautiful mural that Dr. Stephanie Alvarez and her students initiated is finally near completion thanks to community members, PSJA students and teachers, and local artists. At CMAS we believe art is as integral part of our community. The mural is located at the San Juan Sports Complex if you wish to view it in all its glory.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Center for Mexican American Studies prides itself in assisting students and faculty. We offer supplemental travel funds to those in need. Please apply for the Fall 2019 semester as soon as possible here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pjYEmd-HHEmRJJr6kfiIJx6M3f2GeN9NkliNfedhsq1UOUY3UUc1VFhLOU5FUTA2M1I0STRNNjRaTs4u>



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Joy Esquierdo director of the Center for Bilingual Studies and professor of Bilingual and Literacy Studies and Dr. Stephanie Alvarez, director of the Center for Mexican American Studies and professor of Mexican American Studies on their grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a project focused on how to implement Rio Grande Valley history into elementary classrooms.

Their grant titled "Social Studies through Authentic and Relevant Content: Promoting Humanities Learning in Elementary Schools" (SSTARC) aims to provide opportunity and resources for k-5th grade teachers to form appropriate grade-level curricula that implement local and regional history, creating culturally relevant social studies content for students in both English and Spanish.

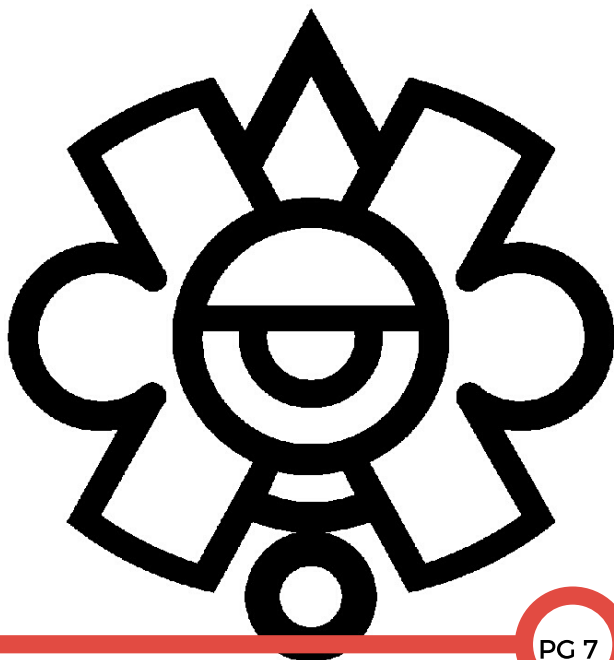
Project "SSTARC" was granted \$99,991 for the two-year collaboration between the Center for Bilingual Studies, Center for Mexican American Studies and two local school districts – Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District and Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District.

Río Bravo: A Journal of the Borderlands Update

Río Bravo: A Journal of the Borderlands is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed publication of the Mexican American Studies Center at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The journal publishes scholarly and creative works about Mexican descent communities in both South Texas and nationally. The journal promotes debate, dialogue, awareness, and insight into the U.S.-Mexico border experience.

Editor-in-Chief Dr. Francisco Guajardo and Editor Amanda Tovar are pleased to announce that the Río Bravo will be published by the end of the summer.

If you have any questions regarding the journal contact Amanda Tovar at amanda.tovar01@utrgv.edu.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Mexican American Studies professor and undergraduate advisor Dr. Maritza De La Trinidad and B3 Executive Director Dr. Francisco Guajardo on their \$2 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant created the program *Historias Americanas: Engaging History and Citizenship in the Rio Grande Valley*. This grant will be a place-based professional development program for K-12 teachers is being developed by UTRGV faculty in collaboration with Edinburg and Brownsville school districts.

The program will bring together 75 teachers from Edinburg CISD and Brownsville ISD each year over a three-year period so they can develop other methods of teaching other than what they already know in current and historical understandings of American history, civics, government and geography.

Historias Americanas had their first teacher development June 3. Teachers traveled to La Sal del Rey in Linn, Texas and the Palo Alto Battlefield in Brownsville, Texas.



Contact Us

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

Stephanie Alvarez
Director
stephanie.avarez@utrgv.edu

Emmy Perez
Associate Director
emmy.perez@utrgv.edu

Yajaira Rivera
Program Coordinator
yajaira.rivera@utrgv.edu

Amanda Tovar
Social Media Specialist & *Río Bravo* Editor
amanda.tovar01@utrgv.edu

Karen Ramirez
Graphic Design and Technology Assistant
karen.j.ramirez01@utrgv.edu



@UTRGV_CMAS



@UTRGVCMAS