FROM THE DIRECTOR

At different moments an academic unit such as CMAS can lend emphasis to different parts of its mission and program, and this semester we find ourselves lending such emphasis to our public programming and community outreach. In these pages you will find accounts of CMAS cooperative involvement with raulrsalinas’ well-known and very successful cultural project in South Austin – Resistencia Books and Red Salmon Press – as we jointly sponsored a Dia de la Raza literary festival. We also continue our close relationship with Coronado Studios of Austin, Texas and the Serie Project, which makes it possible for us to have a marvelous rotating art exhibit at CMAS. Our keen interest in the arts is also evident in our sponsorship of an exhibit of the recent work of one of the great artists in our community, Malaquias Montoya, an exhibit entitled, “Premeditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment.” And if all this were not enough, by January, 2005, CMAS will have also sponsored three scholarly conferences – Abriendo Brecha / Haciendo Camino, US Latinos/Latinas in WW II, and the IUPLR Triennial meetings, “Siglo XXI: Latino Research into the 21st Century”. Academics, the arts, and community outreach were also much in evidence in the CMAS sponsorship of a tribute to the late Gloria Anzaldúa organized by a committee of community activists, faculty, and students ably chaired by CMAS faculty affiliate, Professor Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez. We do many things at CMAS, and do them well. Our very successful public programming and outreach programs are but two examples.

Bienvenida / Open House and Inaugural Serie XI Art Exhibit

CMAS kicked off this fall semester of programming with the “Bienvenida & Serie XI Inaugural Art Exhibition” on Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at the Center for Mexican American Studies.

This open house event was free and open to the public and was attended by faculty, students, staff, artists, and members of the local community. The exhibit will be housed in the Center for Mexican American Studies through January 30, 2005 and features artwork by: Alejandro Almanza, Alejandra Almuelle, René Alvarado, Francisco Delgado, Miguel Escobedo, Marilú Flores Gruben, Adreon Henry, Tamiko Kawata, Joe López, Ann-Michelle Morales, Carlos Pineda, George Rivera, Anabelle Rodríguez, Ramiro Rodríguez, Luis Valderas, Sharon Wilcutts, Liliana Wilson, & Susan Whyne. This exhibition is the eleventh installment of the Serie Print Project, administered by Coronado Studios and Serie Project, Inc. Founded in 1993 by Sam Coronado, the project produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by both established and emerging artists. Its mission is to make fine art available to the wider community by producing affordable serigraph prints.

“Cuatro Vistas” by René Alvarado, 2004. Serigraph
Dia de La Raza: Forjando Lazos Culturales / Comunitarios a Través De Las Artes
(Building Cultural Community Through the Arts)

The first annual Dia de la Raza Celebration took place at the Texas Union Showroom on Tuesday, October 26, 2004. Dia de la Raza traditionally celebrates the arrival of Columbus to the Americas, however, today it has become a contested celebration because of its failure to acknowledge and emphasize the contributions of the indigenous and mestizo people in this land. This celebration aims to honor and recognize the importance of reclaiming our indigenous heritage in the U.S. This event commemorated the Mexican American and Chicana/o cultural and artistic legacy, in the customs of floricanto, by creating a space where we celebrated together and incorporated the broader UT and Austin communities. Floricanto or flower songs are gatherings of musicians, artists, and writers in the spirit of the mexica tradition.

The Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, in collaboration with the UT Hispanic Faculty/Staff Association and Resistencia Bookstore/Casa de Red Salmon Arts hosted an evening of festivities, in floricanto tradition, that included music by Austin band, Conjunto Aztlan and performances by José Montoya, raúlsalinas, Erika González, Carmen Tatolla, and the UT Ballet Folklórico. José Montoya, raúlsalinas, and Carmen Tatolla are nationally acclaimed cultural activists who have given voice to the Mexican American community through the visual and literary arts. José Montoya from Sacramento, California is a renowned poet, visual artist, musician, and a founding member of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF). The RCAF is a collective of artists who played an instrumental role in the struggle for civil rights in the sixties and continue to advocate for social justice through their work in the cultural and visual arts.

raúlsalinas is an Austin poet, human rights activist, and founder/director of Resistencia Bookstore/Casa de Red Salmon Arts. Carmen Tatolla is an internationally acclaimed writer, poet, scholar, as well as performance artist. Erika González is an up and coming poet who represents the wealth of talent and potential of our local youth. Conjunto Aztlan is a traditional conjunto band that delivers música del movimiento chicoano. UT Ballet Folklórico provides awareness of Mexican culture through dance by providing educational presentations on campus, in Austin and surrounding communities.

Gloria Anzaldúa Tribute

The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) and The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies (CWGS) at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin Commission for Women, ALLGO, Resistencia Books, Red Salmon Arts, and BookWoman sponsored several events honoring the life and work of Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa.

The tribute began on Friday, October 22, 2004 in the Texas Union at The University of Texas at Austin, followed by an evening reception at Las Manitas Avenue Café, and culminated on Saturday morning, October 23, 2004 at ALLGO’s Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery Street, in Austin.

Rockefeller Race, Rights & Resources Colloquium

"From Mammmies to Mamacitas: Feminist Methods in Performance" was presented on Monday, November 8, 2004 in Gebauer 4.200C, by Joni Jones, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance, and Deborah Paredez, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance, College of Fine Arts. This presentation is the second in a Series on Scholarship & Political Engagement at UT Austin brought to you by the Center for Mexican American Studies and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin.

US Latinos & Latinas & WWII

"Themes from the U.S. Latinos and Latinas & WWII", was presented on Monday, November 15, 2004, in the Campus Club Bar (Lounge Area). Presenters included: Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, Associate Professor, School of Journalism; Brenda Sendejo, Master’s Candidate, Department of Anthropology; and Emilio Zamora, Associate Professor, School of Information.

World War II was a major turning point for U.S. Latinos, changing the worldviews of an entire generation affected by the unwavering discrimination they faced before and after returning from the war. Many Latino veterans as well as Latinas who worked in military installations and in other jobs previously denied them questioned the status quo, and made astounding civil rights advancements for their people - in school desegregation, in voting rights, in basic civil rights. Powerful organizations grew out of this era, including the G.I. Forum and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The centerpiece for the WWII Latinos and Latinas project is an oral history archive that will be housed at two libraries at the University of Texas at Austin: the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection and the Center for American History. The archives will start opening to the public in 2005. For more information about the WWII Latinos and Latinas Oral History Project, please visit http://www.utexas.edu/projects/latinohistory/index.html

US Latinos & Latinas & WWII
These events provided an opportunity for students, artists, and community members to get together and celebrate the many contributions of Gloria Anzaldúa's work to our personal, political, educational, and spiritual lives. The tribute included dialogue about community health with a focus on diabetes, and included recuerdos and performances by notable artists and scholars such as Cherríe Moraga, Celia Herrera Rodríguez, Lourdes Pérez, Ana Sisnett, and sharon bridgforth. Everyone who participated in these events found a time and space where they could express and experience a multitude of emotions, powerful messages of hope, and inspiration to persist in our work for social and political change.

The development of this tribute is also noteworthy as it resulted from a collaboration of individuals connected to both the university and local communities and this also gave honor to Gloria's life and work as an alumna of UT Austin with deep South Texas roots. For more information regarding this tribute and specific information about the program, please visit the tribute website at http://www.techmex.net/anzaldua/index.htm

The Mexican American Library Program Turns 30!

The University of Texas Libraries, the Nettie Benson Latin American Collection, and the Center for Mexican American Studies, hosted a reception and exhibit at the Benson Latin American Collection celebrating thirty years of service by the Mexican American Library Program. The reception was held on Thursday, November 11, 2004 at Sid Richardson Hall Unit 1, from 4:30 - 6:30 PM.

The Mexican American Library Program at the University of Texas at Austin was formally established in 1974 by the University of Texas Libraries to support the educational needs of students of Mexican American and U.S. Latino culture and history. It is also designed to support the research activities of the faculty of the Center for Mexican American Studies. For more information about the archival materials and communities represented in this collection, please visit the University of Texas Library online at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/benson/mals/mals.html

Recent Works by Malaquias Montoya
"Premeditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment"

Exhibit Dates
January 5 - 30, 2005

Artist Reception & Talk by Malaquias Montoya
Friday, January 14, 2005
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Julia C. Bulidge Gallery
Dougherty Arts Center
1110 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX

This exhibition features silkscreen images and paintings, and related text panels dealing with the death penalty and penal institutions - inspired by the escalation of deaths at the hands of the State of Texas in recent years. Sponsored by the Center for Mexican American Studies, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin in collaboration with La Peña and Resistencia Bookstore / casa de Red Salmon Arts.

Artist Biography

Malaquias Montoya was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and raised in the San Joaquin Valley, California. He was raised in a family of seven children by parents who could not read or write either Spanish or English. The three oldest children never went beyond 7th grade education, as the entire family had to work as farm workers for their survival. His father and mother were divorced when he was 10 and his mother continued to work in the fields to support the four children still remaining at home so they could pursue their education.

Since 1968, Montoya has lectured and taught at numerous universities and colleges in the San Francisco Bay area including Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley. He was a Professor at the California College of Arts and Crafts for 12 years, 5 of which he was Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department. As Director of the Taller de Artes Graficas in Oakland for 5 years, he produced various prints and conducted many community art workshops. Montoya, a visiting Professor in the Art Department at the University of Notre Dame in 2000, continues as a Visiting Fellow for the Institute for Latino Studies also in Notre Dame, Indiana.

Montoya has been a Professor at the University of California, Davis since 1989. His classes, through the departments of Chicana/o Studies and Art include silk screening, poster making, mural painting, and a focus on Chicano culture and history. Montoya's work includes acrylic paintings, murals, washes, and drawings but he is primarily known for his silkscreen prints which have been exhibited nationally as well as internationally. He is credited by historians as one of the founders of the "social serigraphy" movement in the San Francisco Bay Area in the mid-1960's. His visual expressions, art of protest, depict the struggle and strength of humanity and the necessity to unite behind that struggle. Montoya now resides in Elmira, California.

Exhibit selections include:
(top right) The Killing of the Innocent, Acrylic Painting, 2002
(left, top to bottom) The Hanging Series 3, Silkscreen 2002; Mumia Abu Jamal, Charcoal/Collage, 1989; The Executioner, Silkscreen, 2003
**Siglo XXI: Latino Research into the 21st Century: IUPLR Triennial Conference**

January 27 - January 29, 2005
Doubletree Guest Suites in Austin, TX

**THE CONFERENCE IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) in collaboration with the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce its triennial Conference to be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Austin, Texas. The Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) Consortium is comprised of 18 Latino research centers located at universities throughout the country. Since its inception in 1983, IUPLR has worked with leading research centers to forge interdisciplinary study that advances knowledge and understanding of the Latino experience in the United States. One of the fundamental missions of IUPLR is to advance the national intellectual presence of Latino scholarship.

**PURPOSE**

The aim of the conference is to encourage and share the scholarship that is being generated by researchers at these institutions. Such a gathering will not only provide a venue to present the latest work in the various areas of Latina/Latino Studies, but also strengthen its personal network.

**LISTING OF IUPLR MEMBER CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University; National Latino Research Center, California State University, San Marcos; Dominican Studies Institute, City College/CUNY; Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College/CUNY; Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University; The Julián Samora Research Institute, Michigan State University; Smithsoninan Center for Latino Initiatives; Smithsoninan Institution; Stanford Center for Chicano Research, Stanford University; Mexican American Studies & Research Center, U. of Arizona; Chicana/o Studies, UC-Davis; Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA; Latino/a Research & Policy Center, University of Colorado at Denver; Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development & Public Policy, University of Massachusetts at Boston; Southwest Hispanic Research Institute, University of New Mexico; Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame; Center for Mexican American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin; Chicano Studies Research Program, The University of Texas at El Paso; Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies, Wayne State University.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Dolores García at 512-475-6973 or via email at doloresg@mail.utexas.edu. Please check the CMAS website at http://www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas for up-to-date information about the conference.

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**Abriendo Brecha / Haciendo Camino: Activist Scholarship on Race, Identity and Mestizaje in the Americas Conference**

The University of Texas at Austin
February 24 - 26, 2005

**THE CONFERENCE IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The Rockefeller Program for Race, Rights, and Resources in the Americas, in association with the College of Liberal Arts, Center for Mexican American Studies, the Center for African and African-American Studies, and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, is pleased to announce the second annual "activist scholarship" conference.

**OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of this conference are two fold. First, we hope to carry forward the highly productive dialogue initiated in the February 2004 conference, “Abriendo Brecha,” concerning the practice of activist scholarship. Broadly speaking, we understand activist scholarship to be research and creative intellectual work in alignment with communities, organizations, movements or networks working for social justice. The second objective is to create a forum for intellectual exchange around the key themes of the Rockefeller Residency program: “Race, Rights and Resources.” We envision the conference to be a dialogue between students, activists, and scholars based on their expertise and political experience. We encouraged proposals for presentations, both as papers and through alternative media, related to these conference themes. Within these broad topic areas, we are especially interested in comparative research and analysis related to politics and cultural dimensions/manifestations of race, identity and mestizaje. Topics to which we will give special priority include, but are not limited to: ethics and activist research; race, gender, and sexuality; migration and national boundaries; social and political movements; mestizaje and politics of identity.

**FORM**

Paper sessions: we envision the paper sessions as an opportunity for students, faculty and community-based activist intellectuals to present research findings, creative work, and advanced research proposals which have an activist scholarship orientation. UT faculty members, students, and local activist intellectuals will chair and serve as respondents in these sessions. Given the character of this conference, we especially encourage presentations conceived as collaborative efforts between academics and activists. Workshops: we also encourage submission of proposals for workshops focused on some facet of “activist research” methodologies. These workshops will be “hands-on” discussions, facilitated by the person or people who submit the proposal. The conference organizers may also initiate additional workshops of their own conception. Examples of these methodology workshops include: Ethical-political dilemmas in activist research; how we put our research results to use; proposal. The conference organizers may also initiate additional workshops of their own conception. Examples of these methodology workshops include: Ethical-political dilemmas in activist research; how we put our research results to use; activist research; race, gender, and sexuality; migration and national boundaries; social and political movements; ethic methodology workshops include: Ethical-political dilemmas in activist research; how we put our research results to use; activism and feminist theory and activist research.

**REGISTRATION**

All registration will be handled online at the following website: http://www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas/abriendobrecha/register.html

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Dolores García at 512-475-6973 or via email at doloresg@mail.utexas.edu or check the CMAS website at http://www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas for up-to-date information about the conference.
The workers began organizing in 1993, in a local Immokalee church to discuss how to better their community. They too often high school students from the valley and border towns are afraid to consider attending institutions outside of their community because they seem too large or too far from home. They would like to introduce them to the University, life on campus, and life in Austin, as well as the different Latino/non-Latino student organizations on campus. This year, the conference will focus on (1) admissions process and financing your education, (2) acquiring basic financial literacy skills, (3) increasing cultural awareness, and (4) increasing civic participation as well as community involvement.

Guest speakers will include: David Rice, author of “Give the Pig a Chance & Other Stories” and “Crazy Loco” and mentor/teacher at Edcouch-Elsa High School under the administration of the Llano Grande Center for Research and Development; Dr. Angela Valenzuela, professor of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, Education Chair for Texas LULAC, and author of “Subtractive Schooling and Leaving Children Behind”; and Elvira Prieto, academic advisor for the Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. We will also include entertainment by various local bands and will feature a performance of David Rice’s short story “She Flies” by the Nushank Theatre group from Austin, Texas. We are looking for approximately 50 - 75 students, faculty, and staff volunteers for this weekend to provide the prospective students with a personal tour (3 students to 1 volunteer ratio) of campus. This conference promises to be a weekend of fun, excitement, education, and long-lasting invaluable experiences for our participants and volunteers. If you have any questions about this conference or to find out how to participate as a volunteer, feel free to contact Dagoverto Zavala, LULAC’s Conference Committee Chairman at longhornlulacparliamentarian@yahoo.com.

¡Taco Bell entiende, MEChA no te quiere! UT Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán

MEChA is collating with other organizations in order to “Boot the Bell” from The University of Texas at Austin. Mechistas have been involved with the boycott of Taco Bell through helping the main organizer of the boycott in Austin, the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP).

Las Raíces: The workers began organizing in 1993, in a local Immokalee church to discuss how to better their situation in their community and lives. They organized themselves into the Coalition of Immokalee Workers; went public with the human trafficking and slave work cases; and in 2001 they held their first-ever boycott of a major fast-food company -Taco Bell. The CIW members are Latina/o, Haitian, and Mayan Indian Immigrants, Mexican, Haitian and other nationalities (mostly African-American). The farm workers make 40-50 cents for every 32 lb bucket of produce they pick, which has not changed in over 25 years; despite legal requirements. Most ask why the workers stay here, implying that if they do not like their situation that they should consider leaving; sometimes with a racial undertone of “why don’t you go back to where you came from”.

Well first, you have to look at why these workers come here in the first place. You have to take into account the Diasporas, the model of immigration, and the affect of globalization on their communities. Farm workers come from Mexico to the United States in search of work. A reason for this may be attributed to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); this has a direct impact on Mexican farmers and their ability to sell their own crops. This leads to the displacement of these workers to the United States.

Many people ask why Taco Bell, arguing that there are four other chains in which YUM! is the parent company. Taco Bell is owned by Yum! Brands; which is one of the world’s largest restaurant companies (beating out McDonald’s); and this company (like others) pressures its suppliers for the lowest possible prices, which causes a downward pressure on wages and working conditions in their suppliers’ operations. The workers work in a space where they don’t have the right to overtime, organize, health insurance access, sick leave option, and are forced to operate on a per bucket piece rate. This has been an unchanged reality of the workers since 1973. Yum! Brands has admitted to having demanding power over their suppliers to ensure the humane treatment of animals, but it refuses to communicate with the CIW to establish guidelines for ensuring the humane treatment of the very people who supply their tomatoes. Taco Bell is the public face that has the power to bring growers to the negotiating table.

Ramasa / Supporters of the Taco Bell boycott:

Religious, labor and student groups and individuals, including the Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church, Edward James Olmos, Noam Chomsky, the United Farm Workers Union, and MEChA nationwide have helped lead the establishment of “Boot the Bell” committees across the nation. These groups come together to ask one question: “Can Taco Bell guarantee its customers that the tomatoes in its tacos were not picked by forced labor?” They have still failed to answer this question. We are working in Austin to raise consciousness about the boycott and the farm workers’ situation everywhere. The CIW has been brought to the UT campus by Acción Zapatista, the Campus Greens, Resist FTAA!, and SLAP. In November, SLAP coordinated a whole week of events including: a bike in movie; a main talk given by Gerardo Reyes Chavez (from the CIW) and Sean Sellers (student farm worker alliance); a demonstration from the Guadalupé Taco Bell location to the Union Taco Bell location; meetings with several religious groups, the Institute of Latin American Studies Students’ Association, and the National Lawyers Guild.

Cosecha: Immokalee has grown from being a politically powerless and voiceless community into a powerful community. It did this by not taking power, but by recognizing its own power and using it to exercise its right to be heard. In recognition of their work and organizing three CIW, members were recently presented the 2003 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, the first time the award has gone to a US-based organization in its 20 years of existence.
Taco Bell does have the power to make the changes the CIW is demanding. Taco Bell maintains the argument that because it only purchases a small percentage of Florida’s overall tomato production, it only has a limited influence over its suppliers. But Taco Bell forgets that they are still profiting from the worker’s mistreatment and that it has the power to change what is happening in the fields. Taco Bell has the chance to set the standard in worker treatment. Nevertheless, until they recognize this power and chose to exercise it; we will boycott the restaurant. We will also continue to encourage the University of Texas at Austin to end its contract with Taco Bell, so that this company will not continue to profit from modern-day slavery, and the exploitation of workers and students at this campus (The Union’s contract with Aramark expires in May 2005).

For more information about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the Taco Bell Boycott, and how to support this cause, please feel free to contact Raquel Rodriguez at sosaigirl326@hotmail.com or visit the CIW web site at www.ciw-online.org.

Finally, we are happy to share some important noticias. Our esteemed elder, raúlrsalinas, was honored with a lifetime achievement award for his path breaking and internationally celebrated poetry and commitment to social justice by the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC) at the annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Lila Rosas, doctoral candidate in history and student-activist, is the new CAMS administrative intern at Red Salmon Arts. She and raúlrsalinas recently co-facilitated a two-week SOY (Save Our Youth) writing clinic with students of Ken Zafiri’s eighth-grade English class at Burnet Middle School in October. The students will produce a chapbook and perform their poetry at Resistencia Bookstore in the proceeding months. Red Salmon Arts, through its Café Libro series, continues to empower and give voice to poetry as new talents emerge. This last season Resistencia and Red Salmon Arts have established their place on Austin’s south side through their grassroots activism and dedication to Chicana/o, Latin@, and Native American literature and arts.
The Austin Latino Theater Alliance (ALTA) proudly announces its united effort to produce La Pastorela, a traditional Yuletide play that has been performed in Native American/Latino communities since the late 16th century, when Spanish priests first introduced it to the Native people of this land. The script and music, passed on from generation to generation, imparts lessons of wisdom through drama and humor as shepherds embark on a journey and encounter manifestations of evil that attempt to keep them from reaching their destination. The play will be performed at ALGO’s Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery Street.

This year’s La Pastorela production is the result of collaborative efforts by five of Austin’s preeminent Latino theater organizations: LUPE Arte, Teatro Vivo, Teatro Humanidad, Nuthank Theater Collective and Teatro Liberación-Liberation Theater as well as local artists JoAnne Reyes-Boitel, Joe Basquez, Alejandro Diaz, Tomas Salas, Clemencia Zapata and many more. La Pastorela’s cast includes trained actors/dancers and musicians and several student volunteers. The crew consists of professional designers and technicians working as mentors with community interns. This cross-cultural and cross-generation production will directly involve children, teens, adults, and elders from the community. This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts as well as Wells Fargo, members of the Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board and private donations.

To join ALTA as a sponsor or volunteer please call 512.391.1844. Check www.lapastorela.com for more information. Make La Pastorela a tradition within your holiday celebrations. Join us!

NOTES FROM THE CMAS ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Elvira Prieto, CMAS Academic Advisor

My first couple of months at CMAS, and UT have been both extremely busy and highly gratifying. The CMAS staff, faculty, and students I have had the pleasure of working with so far, have made my transition from NYC to Austin smoother than I could have imagined. Between getting to know faculty through course administration, to sharing in the daily responsibilities of administrative work at CMAS, to advising undergraduates, to vicariously re-living some of my own graduate experiences with my sister Linda, to participating with UT and local community members at events like Sabado Gigante, Dia de la Raza, the Gloria Anzaldúa Tribute, and Dia de Los Muertos, I am beginning to feel right at home.

After a busy couple of weeks of Registration Advising, I can honestly say that getting to know my advisees and discussing academic and professional goals is a highlight of my work, and I am truly impressed by the quality and character of CMAS students. I look forward to another rewarding semester. Those of you who will complete your academic studies this spring, can also expect to hear from me early in the spring semester regarding plans for the CMAS Graduation.

I am very happy to announce CMAS is working towards redesigning the CMAS website in conjunction with the computing services staff at the College of Liberal Arts. We hope that bringing the management of the site in house, will allow us to incorporate increasingly up to date dynamic content including information about CMAS, our faculty, and students in a manner that is readily accessible to all members of the CMAS community. You can expect to hear more from me in relation to this project during the coming months as we work towards a launch time frame of late Spring ’05. I want to thank the students who have already given me valuable feedback and suggestions for the website. Happy Holidays!

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

John M. Gonzalez
Assistant Professor of English and Faculty Associate of the Center for Mexican American Studies
Dr. Gonzalez recently published a major article titled “The Warp of Whiteness: Domesticity and Empire in Helen Hunt Jackson’s Ramona,” in the journal, American Literary History, a book review in Western American Literature on “When We Arrive: A New Literary History of Mexican America” by José F. Aranda and a book chapter, titled “The Whiteness of the Blush: The Cultural Politics of Racial Formation in Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton’s The Squatter and the Don,” in the anthology “Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton: Critical & Pedagogical Perspectives” (University of Nebraska Press). Dr. Gonzalez, also received a College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Fellowship for the Fall 2004 Semester and was named a Ransom Fellow for 2004-05.

Richard R. Valencia
Professor of Educational Psychology and Faculty Associate of the Center for Mexican American Studies
Dr. Valencia served as an invited Discussant on an “Assessment” panel at a recent conference, titled “English Language Learners Struggling to Learn: Emergent Research on Linguistic Differences and Learning Disabilities.” The conference was organized by the National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems, and was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, on November 18 - 19, 2004.

Barbara J. Robles
Assistant Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, and Faculty Director, UT Latino Financial Issues Program and Faculty Associate of the Center for Mexican American Studies
Dr. Robles has published an article in the current issue of Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies, Vo. 29, No. 2, Fall 2004. The article is called “An Asset Approach to Educational Diversity Policies: Exporting Democracy.”

James R. Niculopulos
Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and Faculty Associate of the Center for Mexican American Studies
Dr. Niculopulos, recently published a compilation of corridos by various artists titled “The Roots of the Narcocorrido”, Folklyric CD 7053 (El Cerrito, CA.: 2004). The CD includes 26 tracks containing 22 corridos spanning a period from the 1880s to the 1970s. Professor Niculopulos did the selection, transcription, translation and analysis. The CD also contains a 39 pp. booklet and a limited number of copies are available directly from Professor Niculopulos @ $15.00 each.

Dr. Niculopulos recently presented “The Corrido on the Spot: Impact of the Independent Labels of South Texas and Northeastern Mexico (1948-1960)” at the 13th Annual Spanish & Portuguese Department Conference on Hispanic American Literature in Austin, Texas. In 2003, he was an invited participant in the Conference on the Impact of the Independent Labels of South Texas and Northeastern Mexico (1948-1960) at UT’s School of Liberal Arts. He recently also received a fellowship from the United States-Hong Kong Services Organization, Inc. to continue his research on the recording industry of the 1950s and 1960s. His research interests include the Border Corrido, the corrido as a cultural artifact and the corrido industry in the United States.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NHI Great Debate at the UT School of Law**
Susana Alerman, Member, Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association

The School of Law at the University of Texas at Austin hosted the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) Great Debate on October 29-30, 2004. Approximately 135 high school sophomores from several states but mainly Texas competed in several events. These events included Mock Trial, Debate, Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Oratory. Additional information can be obtained from the National Hispanic Institute (NHI).

**New CD by Conjunto Aztlan**

"From Aztlan with Love"

CD Release Concert and Dance

Sunday, December 19, 2004

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste D-200

(Off of E. Alpine behind Expose; under the water tower)

Austin, Texas 78704

Admission is $5 and the cd will be available for sale for $10. This price is a special promotion for the cd release party only. "...at the risk of seeming ridiculous, all true revolutionaries are guided by great feelings of love." These words, attributed to el Comandante Che Guevara, launch "From Aztlan With Love C/S A/F," the second cd by Conjunto Aztlan. All of the songs in this collection are original love songs composed by Juan Tejeda and Jose Flores Peregrino wrought to their final musical shape with the talent and vision of Clemencia Zapata and Eric Flores. With this second cd, Conjunto Aztlan continues its spiritual and musical journey born out of the Xicano Movement in Austin, Texas, in 1977. Since then, Conjunto Aztlan remains steadfast in its purpose: to celebrate, promote, and expand the musical, cultural, and spiritual legacy of the Chicano people.

**Los Musicos / The Musicians**

Juan Tejeda (vocals, button accordion) is a teacher, musician, songwriter and poet. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, he is one of the founding members of the Conjunto Aztlan. Clemencia Zapata, a Chicana born in San Antonio, Tejas who became a resident of Austin in 1985 by way of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a well-known ground breaker in several intersecting Austin worlds including music, cultural arts and activism. José Flores Peregrino (bajo sexto, vocals), originally from Laredo, Texas is a musician, songwriter, author, and jefe of the traditional Mexica ceremonial group, Xinachtli. Eric Flores (bass, vocals, guitars, mandolin) is a multi-talented musician, songwriter and founder of the popular Austin band, Surtovicina.

**Contact:** Rose Reyes at 512-892-7509 or rose_reyes@sbcglobal.net

Season’s Greetings

The Staff and Faculty at the Center for Mexican American Studies would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a relaxing break.

See you next semester!

Iles deseamos que pasen los días festivos llenos de paz y felicidad.
Noticias de CMAS
Produced by Elvira Prieto with the assistance of student intern Itzel Suarez, and CMAS staff. This newsletter is intended to provide the university community with information about CMAS programs, activities, and related university and local community events. We hope to make Noticias available once a semester in print with an online version to be updated more frequently. Students, faculty, staff, and community affiliates are welcome to provide brief articles or announcements that highlight past, current, upcoming activities, events, and/or accomplishments that exemplify our community’s academic, cultural, and social contributions to the campus and beyond. We would like to recognize Jesse Herrera for his work as photographer for CMAS sponsored events included in this edition of Noticias. ¡Gracias!