



NEWS RELEASE

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San Antonio Poetry Archive hosts poets laureate for National Poetry Month event

The San Antonio Poetry Archive at Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College will host its fourth annual National Poetry Month celebration titled “Pen to Paper: Poesía Bilingüe” to celebrate San Antonio’s literary community, on Wednesday, April 10, from 6 - 8 p.m. in the College’s Ozuna Library. This year’s event will feature presentations in English and Spanish by current San Antonio Poet Laureate Dr. Octavio Quintanilla and former Texas and San Antonio Poet Laureate Dr. Carmen Tafolla. This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Octavio Quintanilla is the 2018-2020 Poet Laureate of San Antonio and the first male to hold the position since it was established in 2012. He is the author of the poetry collection *If I Go Missing*, and his poetry, fiction, translations, and photography have appeared in journals such as *Salamander*, *RHINO*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Pilgrimage*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *The Texas Observer*, and *Existere: A Journal of Art & Literature*. He serves as the regional editor for *Texas Books in Review* and poetry editor for *The Journal of Latina Critical Feminism* and currently teaches literature and creative writing at Our Lady of the Lake University.

San Antonio-native **Dr. Carmen Tafolla** is a former San Antonio Poet Laureate (2012-2014) and former Texas Poet Laureate (2015). As an internationally recognized writer, educator, poet, and inspirational speaker, she has received various literary awards including the Tomas Rivera Mexican American Award for Children’s Books, Americas Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature, and Charlotte Zolotow Award for Best Children’s Picture Book. Some of her most acknowledged literary works include *Sonnets for Human Beings*, *The Holy Tortilla and the Pot of Beans*, *What Can You Do with a Paleta?*, *Sonnets and Salsa*, and *This River Here: Poems of San Antonio*.

The San Antonio Poetry Archive at Palo Alto College opened in 2016 and began as a project by Laurie Ann Guerrero, Poet Laureate of San Antonio (2014-2016) and Poet Laureate of Texas (2016), to capture and preserve San Antonio’s literary voice. The Ozuna Library at Palo Alto College serves as the repository for these special collections and is committed to preserving the records of local poets and poetry organizations in their original formats, including manuscripts, artifacts, and other media.

Palo Alto College, part of the Alamo Colleges District, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence, a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and a top 10 finalist for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The College is located on the south side of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy 16 and online at alamo.edu/pac.

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