

Director of the Cambodian Association of San Antonio and UTSA Associate Professor. “But San Antonio is better described as a multilingual and multicultural city, with dozens of ethnic community-based organizations, several of whom offer heritage language programs for young students in an effort to preserve their languages.” Members of these groups will be on hand before and after the film to answer questions about their language learning and cultural programs during the community organizations fair.

Some of the languages in San Antonio other than Spanish include German, French, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic, Japanese, and Polish, among many others.

Speaking in Tongues lends the case for multilingual education a human face – four human faces. Jason is a first-generation Mexican-American whose immigrant family embraces bilingualism as the key to full participation in the land of opportunity. Durrell is an African-American kindergartner whose mom hopes that Mandarin will be his ticket to a brighter economic future. Kelly is a Chinese-American recapturing the Cantonese her parents sacrificed to become American. Julian is a Caucasian eighth-grader eager to expand his horizons and become a good world citizen. Together, they represent a nexus of challenges facing America today: economic and academic inequities, de facto segregation, record numbers of new immigrants and the need to communicate across cultures.

“Language is a doorway to understanding,” co-director Marcia Jarmel explains. “In that way, language is kind of a metaphor for Americans opening their minds to other ways of thinking and being in the world. It’s very concrete – you learn a skill that can help you communicate – but it also does something else to your worldview. And we’re talking about both of those things in the film.”

The panel following the screening will explore the issue from several angles, such as the importance of heritage languages as a local and national resource as well as the role of multilingualism in international relations. Participants include Dr. Maryellen Garcia, Associate Professor of Spanish, Dr. Wayne E. Wright, Associate Professor in the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies and author of *Foundations for Teaching English Language Learners* (Caslon Publishing), and Mimi Yu, Associate Director of the East Asia Institute. The interactive panel and audience discussion will be moderated by Dr. Peter Sayer, Assistant Professor in the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies.

Doors open for the community organizations fair at 6:00pm on November 19th and *Speaking in Tongues* screens at 6:30pm at the Main Campus of UTSA in room 0.106 of the Main Building.

To view a trailer and learn more about *Speaking in Tongues* visit <http://www.speakingintonguesfilm.info>.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF BICULTURAL-BILINGUAL STUDIES

Bicultural-Bilingual Studies was one of the founding academic units when the University of Texas at San Antonio first opened its doors in 1973. Three decades later, the department is a leader in preparing researchers, educators, and community leaders.

Department faculty and students study, design, and participate in bilingual and/or second-language teaching, Mexican-American studies, multicultural functions of society, migration, transnationalism, and ethnic studies.

A diverse range of degree programs are offered in Bicultural-Bilingual Studies. It is home to the undergraduate program in Mexican-American Studies as well as master's degree programs in bilingual education, bicultural studies, and teaching English as a second language. The nationally recognized doctoral program in culture, literacy, and language prepares researchers in the areas of Mexican-American and Latin@ cultures, biliteracy and bilingual education, and applied linguistics.

ABOUT THE EAST ASIA INSTITUTE

The UTSA East Asia Institute's mission is to promote appreciation and understanding of East Asian societies and cultures both on campus and in the community through research, outreach, networking, education, student/faculty exchange, and business development and cooperation.

The East Asia Institute organizes seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, film festivals, visual art exhibitions as well as bringing in performing art groups from China, Japan, Korea, and other Asian nations. It also encourages faculty research collaborations both within UTSA and with participating East Asian university researchers.

In addition, the Institute promotes business collaborations and cooperation among UTSA, San Antonio, Texas and other East Asian cities and countries. The East Asia Institute helps to build an important educational, cultural, and business bridge between the Orient and San Antonio.

ABOUT PATCHWORKS FILMS

Founded in 1994 by directors Ken Schneider and Marcia Jarmel, PatchWorks Films is a San Francisco-based production and distribution company specializing in films that explore contemporary social issues through intimate character stories. PatchWorks seeks innovative partnerships with constituencies that advocate for these issues. *Speaking in Tongues* is PatchWorks' third feature documentary. Visit www.patchworksfilms.net for more information.