Johnny Payne is Director of the Bilingual MFA in Creative Writing at UTEP. His novels include Kentuckiana (a featured selection of Kentucky Public Television for 2001), North of Patagonia, and The Ambassador's Son. His plays, including The Devil in Disputanta and The Serpent's Lover, have been produced in Chicago and Virginia on both professional and university stages. Payne received his doctorate in Comparative Literature from Stanford University and his MFA from the University of Alabama. Over the past decade, he has consulted and lectured for the State Dept. and been an advisor to two U.S. Ambassadors. Currently he is writing Maysville, a novel set in abolitionist Kentucky. His ethnographic fieldwork in highland Peru has recently appeared as the volume She-Calf and Other Quechua Folk Tales.

Daniel Chacón is author of Chicano Chicanery as well as various short stories and plays. His fiction has appeared in several journals, including ZYZZYVA, Americas Review, Bilingual Review, Colorado Review, New England Review, and Callaloo, and his plays have been produced in California and Oregon. He just finished his first novel, and the shadows took him, forthcoming from Atria Books.

They will also discuss the Bilingual MFA program at the University of Texas El Paso.