

Michael Oates is an independent video documentarian who has been documenting the lives of Guatemalan migrants in southern Delaware and their relatives in the rural villages of western Guatemala. Carrying videotaped messages back and forth between family groups, he has gained the trust of many families, who speak freely (on tape) about their "dream" of the United States, and the legal, social, and economic realities encountered living here. Depending on their "legal" status and intentions about remaining here, these migrants create different "dreams" about their homeland that sustain them and motivate choices about their futures --along with the difficult decision to remain or return. Using video segments of life in Delaware and Guatemala as a catalyst, the panel will explore the how this migrant culture finds and adapts its myths in a foreign land.