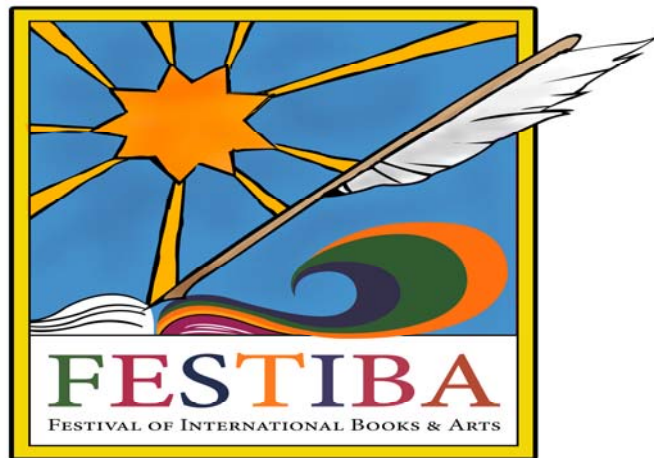




In Conjunction with
The College of Arts and Humanities

Presents



Festival of International Books & Arts 2008

“Celebrate and Experience Arts and Ideas”
March 24-29, 2008

FESTIBA 2008

The Festival of International Books & Arts 2008 (FESTIBA 2008) will celebrate the Arts and Humanities, encourage literacy, and broaden cultural awareness through books, poetry, drama, lectures, musical concerts, artistic exhibits, presentations in design, dance, theatre, films, and more! FESTIBA 2008 will provide opportunities for university faculty and students to participate in the exchange of arts, research, and ideas as well as engage the community through hands-on events, interactive exhibits, historical re-enactments, light and music show presentations, storytelling, panel discussions, creative writing, movies with commentary, music workshops, competitions and concerts. Through FESTIBA 2008, participants will be encouraged to celebrate and experience arts and ideas and prepare for studies in the arts and humanities.

We are please to announce the expansion of FESTIBA to a regional event with the participation and support of Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, Congressman Henry Cuellar, and Congressman Salomon Ortiz. We welcome the return of the Texas Book Festival, now bringing over twenty visiting authors to the Rio Grande Valley. Since 1995, with the backing of First Lady Laura Bush, the Texas Book Festival has become one of the premier literary festivals in the country. In its twelfth year, the Texas Book Festival is more than a celebration of books and Texas writers; it's also a celebration of the joys of reading and a benefit for Texas public libraries. The Texas Book Festival is held yearly in October at the State Capitol in Austin. This year the presence of the Texas Book Festival will be seen at FESTIBA through the “Reading Rock Stars” program and the participation of visiting children’s authors.

UTPA’s commitment to education includes developing a pipeline of students through programs such as **GEAR UP** (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a national program designed to prepare students for postsecondary education. The University of Texas Pan American FESTIBA 2008 program will collaborate with Gear-Up Grant middle schools to transform low-income Hispanic middle school students into successful readers by providing opportunities for these students to experience “books and arts, and the exchange of ideas” and foster and encourage a love for reading and other skills for lifelong learning.

This year FESTIBA will be enhanced by the participation of two important educational organizations, the Region One Education Service Center and Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. Founded in 1966, RIF is the oldest and largest children's and family nonprofit literacy organization in the United States. With the collaboration of Region One and RIF, FESTIBA 2008 will promote the skills necessary for success, including oral/written communication, critical thinking skills, creativity, and a change in attitude towards literacy. FESTIBA 2008 will also provide individuals of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our multicultural community.

FESTIBA is being modeled after HESTEC--Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC) Week. HESTEC is a year-round leadership program that aims at increasing the participation rates of Hispanics in science and engineering fields through

leadership workshops, hands-on competitions, interactive exhibits, and professional development courses for educators. It is anticipated that more Hispanics will enter the science and engineering fields as a result of HESTEC. Likewise, it is anticipated FESTIBA will increase students' interest in and appreciation for reading, leading to improved success in secondary education and to better preparedness for post-secondary education.

Who will participate?

UTPA students and faculty, Texas Book Festival authors, GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), Region One Education Service Center, Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF), invited guest scholars and presenters, local public schools, and the general community.

FESTIBA HIGHLIGHTS:

Congressmen Hinojosa, Ortiz, Cuellar

Congressional roundtable discussion on Literacy

Texas Book Festival guest authors

UTPA Book Fair

Lost Cultures: The Aztecs – a new book and art exhibit featuring a striking black and white photo collection which focuses on raising awareness about forgotten or misunderstood cultures
Cooking Tent

UTPA Distinguished Speaker Series: Author Denize Chavez

Jose Hernandez and the Mariachi Sol de Mexico

Mariachi High School Workshop and Competition

***The Last Conquistador*, Documentary film**

“Artists Who Write”

An art performance series featuring artists from the Texas Commission on the Arts Cultural Connections' touring roster along with UTPA Art Department students and faculty. We also will have a video installation in the Clark Gallery curated by David Freedman entitled “I Haven't Even Thought About It Yet”

Local and International Authors Exhibit and Signing

Nuevas Voces - The Journal of Young Adult Literary Arts
student creative writing competition

Numerous Musical Chamber Concerts and Solo Concerts

Mariachi Middle and High School Workshop, Competition, and Concert

Various Art and Design Exhibits

Theatrical productions

Student Directing Projects

Butterfly Garden – Butterfly Bingo

Panels by Creative Writers and Poets

Various Speakers, Readings, and Panels on Languages

Spanish and French Student Dramas

Rondel Davidson Memorial Lecture Series (History)



- FESTIBA is also designed to support literacy and promote ongoing relationships with the University students, public school students, parents, teachers, and the community.
- According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), over 40% of the U.S. Latino population cannot read the basics, and The Texas Education Agency's statistics show that during the 2003-2004 school year, students in the Region One Education Service Center Area (ESC 1, encompassing 38 school districts in 7 counties in Deep South Texas) had an attendance rate of 95.7%, but the four-year dropout rate was 8.4%.
- In an effort to strengthen the culture of higher education, UTPA will enable youth from low-income communities to succeed in middle and high schools and prepare them for a college-level education.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Dahlia Guerra, Dean
College of Arts and Humanities
The University of Texas-Pan American
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-381-2175
guerrad@panam.edu

Mr. Mark Lacy
Director of Colleges & Athletic for Development
The University of Texas-Pan American
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-381-3337
mlacy@utpa.edu