

Pan American Round Tables of the Valley Celebrate Pan American Observance Day at UTPA April 11, 2011



Left to right: Lily Torrez, Dr. Farzaneh Razzaghi-Library Director, Charlene Hertz – Outgoing McAllen Table Director and Alma De La Garza – Incoming Table Director

The International Programs Department of the University of Texas-Pan American and the Pan American Round Tables of the Valley joined forces to celebrate the University's traditional "Pan American Days", and the organization's annual "Pan American Observance Day", with a luncheon at the University Ballroom on April 11th.

The festivities were organized on behalf of the Upper Valley Tables by McAllen Table member Dr. Yvonne Quintanilla, Director of UTPA's International Programs Department. Several students and faculty members were present, along with members of the seven Valley Tables of Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Brownsville I & 2, Edinburg, McAllen, San Benito and Rio Grande City-Roma.

A visual presentation of past Pan American Days and photographs from the McAllen Table's archives were digitally displayed, while a delicious luncheon was served on elegantly decorated tables with silky, orange tablecloths and appropriately patriotic centerpieces.

Mistress of Ceremonies Lily Torrez, immediate past Area C Director of the McAllen Table, introduced Dr. Havidán Rodriguez, newly appointed UTPA Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who warmly welcomed everyone to the University. Dr. Servando Hinojosa, Associate Professor of Anthropology, served as guest speaker. His topic: "Latin America: An Inner Look" provided very insightful and interesting information regarding medical practices and healing in Latin America.

At the conclusion of the luncheon Mrs. Torrez made a special book presentation to UTPA Library Director Dr. Farzaneh Razzaghi, consisting of archived newspaper clippings and photographs of special events held throughout the years, which she compiled in honor of the McAllen Table's 75th Jubilee. The book will be housed in the Library's Archives and will be available for the public to use for research purposes, or just to take a look at the photographs of the members since the Table's inception in 1934.

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