



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Partnerships

The Center for Texas Studies has been busy this year bringing old projects to completion and planning and executing new ones. Foremost among those coming to completion is the set of projects revolving around the Texas Legation Papers. Thanks to the generosity of J.P. Bryan, Mary Ralph Lowe, and Chancellor Victor Boschini TCU was able to secure possession of the Texas Legation Papers (1836-1845) for five years ending in January 2013. The papers were returned with great ceremony to the Texas State Library and Archives in Austin. However, in addition to the use to which the papers were made for classes and research during those five years, TCU continues to benefit from its tenure as custodian of these important documents. A grant from the Jane and John Justin Foundation allowed the Center to sponsor Professor Kenneth R. Stevens' transcription and annotation of all of the papers now available in his *The Texas Legation Papers 1836-1848*, published as a joint venture between the Center for Texas Studies and the TCU Press. Dr. Stevens was given the 2013 Will Rogers Medallion First Place Award in Western Non-Fiction for that work.

In addition, the Jane and John Justin Foundation underwrote the creation of a website (<https://texaslegation.tcu.edu>) where original images of all of the papers can be accessed. Technological glitches delayed launching of the website until this



autumn. Now, however, because of the navigation software D-Space and the meticulous efforts of Assistant Director LeAnna Schooley, one can easily search the documents by subject, by author, by date and more. The Center is devising an appropriate means to make the website known to teachers of Texas history in our state's elementary and middle schools. The website is a goldmine for teachers and others wishing to have access to original documents.

The Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the TCU Press were also partners in production of Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Nick Kotz's book, *The Harness Maker's Dream: Nathan Kallison and the Rise of South Texas*. The book chronicles Nathan Kallison's journey from Russia in 1890 to South Texas, through the Great Depression and two World Wars. Kallison landed in San Antonio in 1899 and developed the largest farm and ranch supply business in the Southwest. This epic story of a Russian Jewish immigrant and his impact on South Texas intends to encourage us all to embrace our immigrant past.

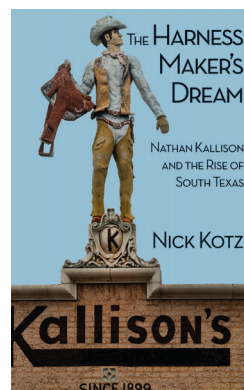
On the drawing board is an exhibition of art by Texas painters, "Deep in the Art of Texas," borrowed from the Torch Energy Advisors' Collection. Some 65 outstanding paintings comprise the

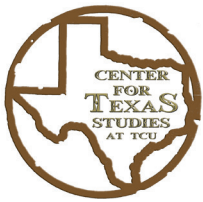
exhibit that will begin its statewide tour in Corpus Christi in September 2014. Accompanying the exhibition is a catalog compiled by the Center's Guest Curator Michael Duty that includes essays by him, recently retired Director of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art Dr. Ron Tyler, and collector J.P. Bryan, as well as color plates of the paintings. The exhibition will tour for almost two years.

The Center continues its regular programs on personal history, teacher education, continuing education courses, collaboration with the Texas State Historical Association for the annual Quiz Bowl, and partnerships with various Fort Worth entities. We are proud of what we have accomplished in less than a decade and look forward to new and exciting endeavors to celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive.

Mary Volcansek, Ph.D.

Executive Director





FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Political Characters Make Texas Unique



With Gene Smith off galavanting as a distinguished lecturer at the U.S. Naval Academy for this academic year, I have been given the honor of working with the Center for Texas Studies at TCU. This is indeed an honor, for as a native Texan who has spent a career studying Texans, and particularly Texans in national government, I have a fascination with the role of Texas in our American Republic.

To be sure, Texas has sent its share of characters to the nation's capital. Early in the 20th century, Joseph Weldon Bailey was among the first Texans to have a significant leadership position in Congress, and he used his influence in part to institute an income tax, observing that only rich northerners would ever be inconvenienced by the Sixteenth Amendment. Morris Sheppard, the father of Prohibition, when sent an alcoholic beverage by a Jewish member of the New York delegation, responded by sending his colleague a ham sandwich. John Nance Garner served as Franklin Roosevelt's vice president for two terms, famously observing as he left Washington that the second position "wasn't worth a bucket of warm spit" (though he was misquoted in what was really a more colorful analogy).

Mid-century, Sam Rayburn spent years as one of the most respected leaders in Washington with famed common sense, observing that "any jackass can kick down a barn, but it takes a carpenter to build one" as a saying to encourage responsible governing. Rayburn's protégé Lyndon Johnson was the first Texan to be majority leader in the Senate and President of the United States; he had an earthy sense of humor and famously displayed his scar from gall bladder surgery to the Washington press corps. Jim Wright spearheaded the building of DFW Airport and, when a colleague visiting asked him how much federal money was involved, he replied "not a dollar more than the law allowed." "Good Time" Charlie Wilson was once described by his Navy commander as "the best officer I ever commanded on board and the worst in port."

Late in the century came a Republican takeover in the House of Representatives. Dick Armey fostered a maverick image by trying to save the cost of rent by bunking in the House Gym. Tom DeLay became known as "The Hammer" for his strong conservative leadership. Kay Bailey Hutchison became the first woman to serve Texas in the Senate. The George Bushes, father and son, served as president a combined 12 years and helped usher in a new era of Texas leadership.

Now, in the 21st century, Texans are emerging as leaders in Washington once again, even as the challenges of a polarized nation become more profound. The Center for Texas Studies, with

its eyes constantly upon Texas, will help chronicle all that makes this state unique. Politics is but one indicator of that, but surely the heritage of leadership that has characterized Texas in the past will continue.

Jim Riddlesperger

Interim Director





Award-winning Series Lines Up New Biographies

The Texas Biography Series, a joint project of the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the TCU Press, continues to win acclaim for its biographies of important Texans. The first volume in the Series, Light Cummins' *Emily Austin*, won the prestigious Liz Carpenter Award from the Texas State Historical Association for the best book on Texas women's history. Carl Moneyhon's *Edmund J. Davis* was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters' best scholarly book award. And most recently, Richard McCaslin's *Fighting Stock: John S. "Rip" Ford of Texas* was awarded the A. M. Pate, Jr. Award in Civil War History by the Fort Worth Civil War Roundtable. Congratulations to these three TCU authors for jobs well done!

The goal of the Biography Series is to publish cutting-edge scholarly biographies of historical Texas figures who either have no biography or no quality modern biography. The first several titles in the Series have been underwritten by a generous grant from the Houston Endowment. In 2011, the Center received additional grants from the Carl and Florence E. King Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation, ensuring that the Series will continue into the future. As we go to press, two more books are under contract and well under way. Dr. Laura McLemore of LSU-Shreveport is nearing completion of her biography of the Houston clubwoman and historical preservationist Adele Briscoe Looscan; the book will go through the editorial process this fall. Dr. Jerry Don Thompson of Texas A&M International University is well into his research for his biography of Santos Benavides, a prominent South Texas political figure and the only Mexican American Confederate general. I am in conversation with several other potential authors and am always on the lookout for scholars with interesting projects. If you, or someone you know, is working on a biography that would be appropriate for our series, please drop me a line at g.cantrell@tcu.edu, and I will be happy to send you a copy of our Author's Guidelines and discuss your project with you.

Gregg Cantrell

Editor, Texas Biography Series

Smith reports in from United States Naval Academy

I have stepped aside from the Center for Texas Studies to serve as the 2013-14 Class of 1957 Distinguished Chair in Naval Heritage at the United States Naval Academy.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a scholar who does not have much opportunity to teach naval/maritime history at TCU. I truly feel honored that I was chosen as the seventh chair in this position. My wife, Tracy, and son, Banning, have viewed this as a grand adventure on the East Coast, where we can explore American Revolution and War of 1812 sites and stories, especially those in conjunction with my recent book, *The Slaves' Gamble: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). Arriving in Annapolis, Maryland—the capital of the state and the site where George Washington surrendered his military sword to the civilian government in December 1783—in mid-July 2013, we escaped much of the Texas heat. Yet we have found other trials and tribulations such as heavy traffic, high prices, and far too much crab to eat. Then processing into the federal system proved more difficult and troubling than I could have ever dreamed—it took me four weeks to get an ID card, access to



USNA computers, and a parking pass. The happiness and simplicity of life at TCU never looked better than it did during those trying days.

Teaching midshipmen at the USNA is truly a wonderful opportunity. They are incredibly bright, respectful, and very polite. Seeing them reminds me that our future is not as bleak as I have often thought. Yet, on October 1, 2013, I was forced to take a furlough along with other civilian faculty here at the Academy. For a week, I wondered if I had made a bad decision to come to Maryland; Congress' insensitivity to the plight of average Americans really dampened my spirit and hopes and expectations for the future. Fortunately, the Department of Defense recalled all civilians a week later. While I had returned to work, thousands of Americans remained at home on furlough without pay. That has been a frustrating and demoralizing feature of being only a few miles from Washington, D.C.

The changing of the fall leaves combined with hints of cooler weather reminds us that we are not in Texas. Yet, I find myself watching TCU football every Saturday, trying to find smoked brisket and authentic tacos, and remembering that I will be back at TCU and the Center for Texas Studies before too long. Whereas Texans once yelled "Remember the Alamo," this transplanted Texan still cries "Remember the Center for Texas Studies." Our work continues even though some of us are not presently there.

Gene Allen Smith

*2013-14 Distinguished Chair
in Naval Heritage
United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, Maryland*





Program News

There's Always More to Learn About Texas

Through TCU's Extended Education program, the Center for Texas Studies offers courses specially crafted for folks who love all that makes Texas distinctive. In spring 2013 conservation-advocate George Bristol detailed his experience working to preserve natural and cultural resources during the last half of the 20th century in his two-night course, "On Politics and Parks." Also, perennial-favorite Quentin McGown offered an evening orientation and Saturday tour of historic sites highlighting Fort Worth's atomic-age architecture including a stop at the recently saved Fuller House currently undergoing restoration.

During the fall 2013 semester, Quentin returned to teach the first in his three-part survey of the history of Fort Worth. Attendees explored the early history of the region



and the growth of the city up to 1890. In "Why Cowboys Are Our Heroes--Or Are They?" Judy Alter asked participants to consider the development of the myth of the American West through a study of literature and art. The course included lively discussion and a field trip to the Amon Carter Museum.

In Spring 2014 look for new courses on Texas leaders and troops in the Civil War, on the distinguished role of individual Texans in military actions from the early-19th to late-20th centuries, and Quentin's centennial tour of historic Lake Worth. For details visit <http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu/> and reserve your spot today!



Workshops Demonstrate the Value of Public History

In our ongoing effort to help everyone be his or her own historian, the Center organized nine free Saturday morning workshops in 2013 with the generous support of the Summerlee Foundation and the Sommerfield G. Roberts Foundation, both of Dallas. Presenters describe how they conduct research, highlight underutilized historic resources, reveal their most fascinating discoveries, and offer practical advice for caring for private collections at home as part of this series designed to remind all Texans that we must do our part to preserve the past.

This year historian T. Lindsay Baker recounted the exploits of Machine Gun Kelly in North Texas and discussed the challenges of researching organized crime sites in Texas. TCU professor Max Krochmal introduced the new Texas Communities Oral History Project created to recover and preserve the history of racial, ethnic, gender and economic groups traditionally underrepresented in historical

archives. Joy Summar Smith used items from the Dr Pepper Museum to demonstrate tips for caring for special objects. Because preserving a family legacy is not restricted to paper and photographs, Carol Clark Montgomery of Clark Gardens near Mineral Wells explained the process of transforming a private landscape into a lasting public legacy. Similarly, Paul Camfield spoke of his father's impact on a generation of North Texas children bringing along the hat and glasses worn by Bill Camfield's iconic Icky Twerp (See photo, above). In "Hispanic Texas: Genealogical Stewpot," Janet Khashab explored the wide range of documents available to the descendants of early Texans for research. These presenters and others like them share the Center's goal to protect the state's distinctive past.

Community History Workshops are held one Saturday a month from January – May and September – December at 10:30 a.m. in the Tandy Lecture Hall at the Fort Worth Public Library. For a complete schedule of upcoming events visit www.texasstudies.org/PublicHistory.htm

"Every person is a historian."

History Students Vie for Best in State

The Center for Texas Studies hosted the 2013 Texas Quiz Show regional tournament on TCU campus April 20. Teams of three representing area middle schools answered questions about all things Texas to earn the right to represent the Dallas-Fort Worth region in the finals. Hillwood Middle School from Keller ISD moved on to the statewide contest held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's Texas Spirit Theater in May. Community television stations rebroadcast the competition locally. The state champions won trophies, bragging rights, and the honor of being the best and brightest.

The quiz show provides teachers with an exciting tool to promote Texas History Month as required by the Texas Legislature. The Texas State Historical Association sponsors the event in conjunction with Texas History Day (an affiliate of National History Day), a yearlong education program that culminates in an annual state-level history fair for students in grades six through twelve. For more information visit <http://texasquizshow.org>



Editor Leads Texas State Historical Association

This fall finds me halfway through my term as president of the Texas State Historical Association. The TSHA is the oldest continuously operating learned society in the state, having been organized in Austin on March 2, 1897. By my count, I'm the 70th president of the Association, a list that includes several famous Texans, including former Governor and Senator Oran M. Roberts (the first TSHA president), U.S. Senator John H. Reagan, and Ambassador Alexander Watkins Terrell. It is a longstanding tradition of the TSHA to alternate its presidency between academic and non-academic members, and as an academic Texas historian, it's been a particular honor for me to take my place among the list of my fellow Texas historians who have served as president—a list that includes my friends Robert A. Calvert, Alwyn Barr, Randolph B. Campbell, Jerry D. Thompson, George N. Green, Robert Wooster, Frank de la Teja, and Walter Buenger. I'm also following in the footsteps of several presidents with Fort Worth and TCU ties, including the late Jenkins Garrett, a famed Fort Worth lawyer and philanthropist; Ron Tyler, who also served as the Association's executive director for two decades; the late Ben Procter, who taught in the TCU History Department for half a century; and immediate past president Watson Arnold, who in addition to his successful surgical practice at Cook Children's Hospital also earned a PhD in History from TCU several years ago.

It has already been an enormously challenging experience, as the Association is in the midst of an ambitious fundraising campaign aimed at raising \$10 million to fund and endow its various programs. Though still technically in the "quiet" phase of our campaign (it's not a very well-kept secret!), we have already passed the \$4 million mark.



Success will allow the Association to continue to publish the Southwestern Historical Quarterly and the Texas Almanac; maintain and enlarge the Handbook of Texas Online; operate its education programs

including Texas History Day, the Webb Society, the Junior Historians program, and teacher workshops; and of course hold its annual meeting, which attracts some 700 Texas historians and history-enthusiasts each year. In recent years, the TSHA has collaborated with the Center for Texas Studies at TCU on two schoolteacher workshops, and since 2007 the Center has hosted the Association's regional tournament of its Texas Quiz Show program for elementary and middle-school students. With 16 full-time employees and a million-dollar annual budget, the TSHA is one of the largest and most active historical societies in the nation, dwarfing even most of the national historical organizations in the scope of its operations.

My term as president will come to an end next March at our annual meeting in San Antonio. At that meeting I'll give my presidential address (which will be at the historic Menger Hotel) and then hand the gavel to my successor, John Nau of Houston. I hope that readers of this newsletter and friends of the Center for Texas Studies will join me next spring for a weekend of stimulating presentations and fellowship with other Texas History aficionados. For further information on the Texas State Historical Association, its many programs, and its annual meeting, visit: www.tshaonline.org.

Gregg Cantrell

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