

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Center Goes Deep in the Art

Mary L. Volcansek, Ph.D

The year of 2014 has been a good one for Texas, and likewise, a positive one for the Center for Texas Studies at TCU. Rising job growth, sales tax collections and building permits in the first nine months of 2014 all point to a vibrant and growing economy in the Lone Star State. Politics remain lively, and all forms of the arts thrive. Texas seemingly emerged from the Great Recession with its head still high and its prospects limitless. What a terrific time to be celebrating all that makes Texas distinctive!

The Center's primary project this year has been the launch of "Deep in the Art of Texas," an exhibition of paintings and drawings from the soon-to-be-opened Bryan Museum in Galveston. The exhibition includes approximately 70 paintings, most of which have not previously been on public display, and which represent work by a wide variety of Texas artists over the last 100 years. Michael Duty was guest curator of the exhi-

bition and also editor of the accompanying catalogue, a joint project of the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the TCU Press.

The exhibition opened Sept. 26 at the Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi, where it will remain on display until Jan. 4, 2015. Dr. Ron Tyler (retired director of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth), J.P. Bryan (collector and guiding force for the Bryan Museum), Michael Duty, Jamie Christie (director of the Bryan Museum), and I were all graciously hosted by the Art Museum for the opening festivities. Dr. Tyler and Mr. Duty made provocative presentations for the museum's benefactors on the Saturday morning following Friday night's opening reception.

The Center also has other projects under way. Two educational programs on Texas politics were held for Region 11 social studies teachers in October, providing educators with extensive primary source materials. More stimulating sessions are being planned for the spring.

And, the Center is once again joining Humanities Texas to offer a Teacher Institute on the Colonial Era and the American Revolution, which will be held on the TCU campus for three days in June 2015.

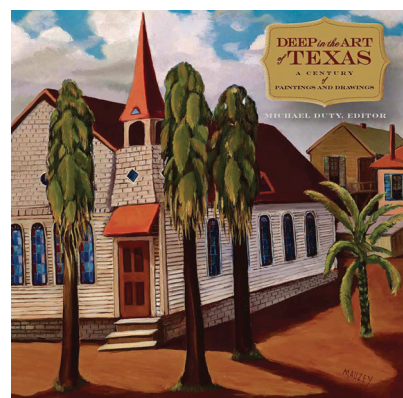
While the Center undertakes and seeks out new projects, it also continues to work with

old partners to maintain high-quality programming, such as the Annual Texas Quiz Bowl with the Texas State Historical Association and the Saturday-morning community history workshops with the Fort Worth Public Library. A vibrant set of continuing education courses were available in both the spring and fall of 2014, and an interesting group will be offered in Spring 2015.

The Center was officially founded in 2004, and we are proud of what the small band of Gene Smith, our outstanding assistant directors and I have been able to accomplish. As we enter our second decade, we look forward to creating and establishing new programs.

We are grateful to have been supported financially by so many special institutions and individuals, particularly the Amon Carter Foundation, the Burnett Foundation, the Justin Foundation, the Lowe Foundation, the Sommerfield G. Roberts Foundation, and the Summerlee Foundation. These groups have either enabled us to undertake specific programs and initiatives or provided the essential endowment that facilitates Center operations. Our goal is to reach an endowment of \$2 million and we are only approximately \$400,000 short of that number now.

Please join us as we enter our second decade in our mission to celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive.



Writing the Books on Important Texans

Preservationist Adele Briscoe Looscan is the subject of an upcoming biography



Houston clubwoman and historical preservationist Adele Briscoe Looscan

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 an additional grant 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, three 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; we anticipate the book going to press before year's end. 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. Dr. James S. Olson of Sam Houston State University is working on his biography of Dr. Lee Clark, the father of modern oncology (and a descendant of one of TCU's founders).

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.

*Gregg Cantrell,
Texas Biographer Series*



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ahoy, Texas!

Gene A. Smith, Ph.D

During the summer of 2014, I returned from my wonderful one-year leave as the “Class of 1957 Distinguished Chair of Naval Heritage” at the United States Naval Academy.

It was truly the professional experience of a lifetime. As a naval-maritime historian and author, to be invited to teach at the national academy that trains naval officers was truly an honor.

The midshipmen (and women) are outstanding young leaders who exhibited character, class, discipline and a strong work ethic. Having the chance to teach a specialized course on the War of 1812 in the Naval Academy Museum and sitting at a conference table that the Emperor of Japan gave as a gift to Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry was just icing on the cake. Whenever we had questions about naval vessels or armaments, we simply walked out of the conference room and found an artifact in the museum that explained the issue. I may never have that



teaching opportunity again. Annapolis, Maryland, is also at the center of the Colonial experience. The Maryland State House is where General George Washington surrendered his sword to the Articles of Confederation Congress in Dec. 1783, ensuring that the United States would have civilian control over the military. The preserved 18th-century city was also one of the locations of a tea party in



Oct. 1774. Around virtually every corner you turn, you will find a site of historical interest — which was wonderful for a historian who focuses on early America.

Yet despite the area’s historical attributes, it is virtually impossible to find good tacos, Tex-Mex, or BBQ. So while I ate an abundance of crab, I certainly found my-

self longing for Texas food, Texas friends, and the Center for Texas Studies.

During my sojourn, LeAnna Schooley ran the Center’s operations and everything functioned like clockwork — she is the quintessential professional, and we are lucky that she is a part of the team. Before I left, she and I had planned community history workshops, Extended Education course offerings, and other projects that are still in the works. So while I was not physically in Texas, my fingerprints were all over the Center’s operations. Now that I have returned and am easing back into my position, LeAnna is retraining me so that I can do my job as well as possible.

This fall I will be combining my interests of Texas and food. During late October, I am serving as a BBQ ribs judge at the 27th Annual National Championship Barbeque Cookoff in Meridian, Texas. What better way is there to “celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive” than at a Texas BBQ contest? Yum, yum, I’m glad that I’m home!

**DO SOMETHING CLASSY
THIS SPRING.**

Reserve your spot today!
<http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu>

TWO NIGHTS: APRIL 7 AND 9:

**A History of Tarrant
County Nightclubs
from Prohibition
to the Sixties**

with
Harry Max Hill

APRIL 23
OR APRIL 25:

**Fort Worth:
Queen City
of the Prairie**

with
Quentin McGown



Program News

Take a Closer Look at 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 the spring of 2014, TCU's own award-winning Civil War historian Dr. Steven Woodworth taught "Texans in the Civil War," a journey through the wartime exploits of notable Texas generals and their troops. Perennial-favorite Quentin McGown also offered an evening orientation and Saturday tour of historic sites on Lake Worth in celebration of its 100th anniversary. Students learned about the past and future of the lake while taking in the views from stops at the Fort Worth Nature Center and the Inspiration Point Picnic Shelter.

During the fall 2014 semester, Quentin returned to teach the second course in his three-part survey of the history of Fort Worth. Attendees explored the history of the region and the growth of the city from 1890 to World War II. In a two-night course, "Texas Power & Personality in the U.S. Congress," TCU political science professor Dr. Jim Riddlesperger and Dr. Tony Champagne of UT Dallas told tales of the fascinating Texas characters who shaped congressional politics in the 20th century. Lone Star politicians not only impacted national policy, but also crafted a modern state here at home.

In Spring 2015, look for Quentin's course focusing on Fort Worth's 19th-century roots, which will be offered April 23 and 25. Beginning with an overview of the natural and prehistoric history of the area, he will discuss early settlement attempts, the founding of the military outpost, the establishment of the city, and the economic and social trends that defined early Fort Worth. A guided motorcoach tour on Saturday will visit the significant historic sites discussed.

To learn more about the city's exciting 20th-century nightlife, sign up for "A History of Tarrant County Nightclubs from Prohibition to the Sixties," a two-night course offered April 7 and 9. Independent scholar Harry Max Hill will take you on a journey through the lively—and sometimes dangerous—club scene of the past. For details, visit <http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu/> and reserve your spot today!



Monthly Workshops Offer Local History — and More

Thanks to the support of the Summerlee Foundation and the Sommerfield G. Roberts Foundation, the Center organized 10 free Saturday-morning workshops in 2014.

During the lectures, presenters describe how they conduct research, highlight underutilized historic resources, reveal their most fascinating discoveries, or offer practical advice for caring for private collections at home. Each talk is part of this series designed to remind all Texans that we all must do our part to preserve the past.

• Dr. Ken Stevens, a TCU history professor, began the year with "Lone Star Rising: The Diplomatic Relations of the United States and the Republic of Texas," based on his 2012 publication *The Texas Legation Papers, 1836-1845* from TCU Press and the Center for Texas Studies.

• For African American History Month, Brenda Sanders-Wise, executive director of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, discussed the ongoing work of her organization, including its growing museum collection and community outreach programs.

• Bud Kennedy joined us for "Remembering Fort Worth's Iconic Restaurants," which balanced nicely with Jim Parsons' and David Bush's presentation on art and architecture in Dallas' Fair Park.

• Temple College professor Gene Rhea Tucker focused on prohibition-era North Texas in his talk "Beer and Bootlegging in Thurber and Beyond."

• Pulitzer-Prize winning author Nick Kotz used his own family story to demonstrate the challenges and rewards of putting genealogical research into a statewide context, like he did in his 2014 work, *The Harness Maker's Dream: Nathan Kallison and the Rise of South Texas*.

• Dr. Roberto Calderon of the University of North Texas provided a fascinating review of archival

“Every person is a historian.”

the Mexican History of North Texas.

- Baylor University professor Dr. Kenneth Hafertepe encouraged his audience to consider ethnic influences, design trends and technological advancements in monument production when touring historic cemeteries.

- With an election just days away, Dr. Jim Riddlesperger delivered a timely presentation on the state's political history and present voting trends.

- Each December, the Center's partners at the library introduce projects of their own that share our goal of protecting the state's distinctive past. Senior Librarian Rene Gomez will reveal examples of the library's latest digital efforts and review outside volunteer projects (to which anyone can contribute) in “Local History Uploaded: Preserving Fort Worth Online.”

Community History Workshops are held one Saturday a month from January through May and September through 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



Above: Historic Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth. Above, left: Extended Education students examine Whiting Castle on Lake Worth.

Partnership with Region 11 Education Service Center Facilitates Teacher Training

This fall, the Center for Texas Studies partnered with the Region 11 Education Service Center (ESC) in Fort Worth to provide on-site teacher workshops to area school districts. Getting away from a demanding classroom routine to pursue professional development can be challenging for local educators.

A generous grant from the Amon G. Carter Foundation enables the Center to send TCU faculty out into the community to provide accessible learning opportunities right where they are needed, at no charge to the school.

By coordinating efforts with the ESC, the Center identified schools seeking academic expertise in history and political science, then scheduled programs specifically tailored to meet their goals. As part of the package, an ESC staff member was available to follow the professor's remarks with an interactive session full of techniques that employed new content in the classroom, in accordance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

In light of the upcoming election season, schools expressed a particular interest in speakers who could tie Texas political history with current races and emerging trends. Political science professor Dr. Emily Farris visited Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, and Dr. Gregg Cantrell, the Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair in Texas History, traveled to Birdville ISD. Both gave lectures filled with Texas voting history and shared plentiful links to digital collections of primary documents ready for classroom use.

More than 130 teachers received essential training, which met their continuing professional education requirements and offered new tools to fill an ever-expanding toolbox needed to engage students. The success of these two pilot presentations means additional workshops are on tap for Spring 2015.

Students Converge on TCU for Quiz Bowl

The Center for Texas Studies hosted the 2014 Texas Quiz Show regional tournament on TCU campus Saturday, April 12. Teams of three from area middle schools vied to represent the Dallas-Fort Worth region in the finals by answering questions about all things Texas.



Theo Homeschool from Plano moved on to the statewide contest, which was held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's Texas Spirit Theater in May. This year, the broadcast was available for fans to watch at home via a live Internet stream. The state champions won trophies, bragging rights and the honor of being the best and brightest.

The quiz show also provides teachers with an exciting tool to promote Texas History Month, which the Texas Legislature requires to be taught. 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 <https://texasquizshow.org/>.



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