



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Texas: A State of Excitement

ew things warm the heart of a proud native Texan more than seeing our great state featured in *The Economist* magazine's July 12-17 issue last "Lone Star Rising," noted that Texas now hosts more Fortune 500 companies than any other state and, with people flocking to the state, Texas is now the fastest growing state. Five Texas metropolitan areas have seen the greatest job growth in the last decade, and the recession has not eliminated the state's budget surplus. In short, there are a lot of reasons to pursue the Center for Texas Studies mission of celebrating all that makes Texas distinctive.

A number of exciting projects will be started or come to fruition in the next twelve months. "Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps" appeared at the Union League Club in New York City, the Centennial Museum at the University of Texas El Paso and the Old Jail Art Center in Albany. The exhibition had opened in November, 2007 in Dallas at the "Old Red" Historic Courthouse and traveled to the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, the Mayborn Museum in Waco, the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburgh and the Texas Tech Museum in Lubbock. Almost 50,000 people saw the exhibition. Appropriately, "Going to Texas" will ended its run in Fort Worth at the National Cowgirl



Museum and Hall of Fame January 3, 2010. Not only did its appearance in Fort Worth herald the conclusion of a productive statewide tour, but also marked the first exhibition that the Cowgirl Museum opened since construction began on the new Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

The catalogue that accompanies "Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps" reproduces all of the maps and includes historical essays written primarily by TCU faculty members or people who earned their Ph.D. degrees in history from TCU. The catalogue was a featured selection at the Texas Book Festival in the state capitol in November, 2008, and won an award from the San Antonio Conservation Society in March, 2009, in recognition of its contribution to preserving Texas History.

The Center for Texas Studies and TCU serve as custodians of the Texas Legation Papers (1836-1845) until January, 2012. Because of the generosity of the Jane and John Justin Foundation, the Center will be publishing a book that reproduces the most important of these papers and tran-



scriptions of all 264 documents, along with interpretive essays. Professor Ken Stevens of TCU's History Department is editing the collection that will be published in 2011. The grant from the Justin Foundation also underwrites creation of a search and data retrieval system that will allow students, teachers and the public to access images of all of the original documents, along with archival notes and transcriptions, through the Center for Texas Studies website. Work on development of the system is well-under way and will be officially launched after publication of the book.

The Center for Texas Studies looks forward to this year as these and other projects develop while we continue to seek collaborative relationships with organizations in the Metroplex and around the state. Like the state we celebrate, only the boundaries of our imagination can limit what we are able to accomplish as we aim to educate people about the qualities that make Texas's Lone Star rise.

Mary Volcansek, Ph.D.

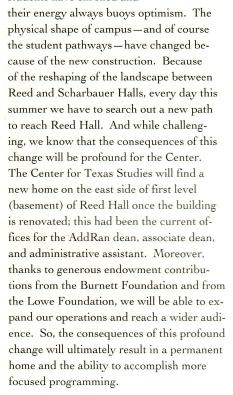


#### FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### Consequences of Change

uring the past year the Center has learned a great deal about the consequences of change. We have watched the former Brown-Lupton Student Center be razed and the new Scharbauer Hall rise like a phoenix from the ashes. It will anchor the end of a cam-

pus commons that stretches east from the new Brown-Lupton Student Center. And despite the economic woes facing the country, the TCU campus remains an exciting place to be. An increased number of students have enrolled and



The consequences of my joining the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History on a joint appointment as Curator of History have been profound as well. During the past year I have worked to strengthen the relationship between the Museum, the Center, and the University along a number of fronts. In fact, the first Fort Worth history exhibit in the rebuilt Museum, which opened to the public on November 23, 2009, focuses on streetcars from the 1870s to the 1930s and has a component

that touches on TCU during the 1920s. The expected 1+ million people during the first year should learn more how TCU's relationship with the community emerged and evolved. Additionally, in early 2010 the Museum will launch a history lecture series for adults and the Cen-

ter will sponsor one of the early lectures. Currently we are also negotiating to have the Center sponsor Teacher Education Workshops, free of charge to teachers, to be held at the Museum. The Center has also teamed with two local school districts and the Museum in applying for Department of Education Teaching American History grants. All told, these efforts should permit the Center to reach a larger teacher audience during the future and permit the Museum to expand its outstanding teacher education offerings.

We are rapidly approaching another important milestone for TCU, the consequences of which cannot be underestimated. During the spring of 2010, the Center and university will begin a multi-year celebration of "A Century of Partnership" or the centennial of TCU's return to Fort Worth in May 1910. Culminating during the early fall of 2011, this university celebration will highlight the development of the university and its special relationship with the city of Fort Worth. Orchestrated by the Chancellor's office, this university-wide initiative will embrace the unique relationship that has developed between the university and the city during the last century and for the

future. The Center will undertake two projects during this period: one is a TCU pictorial history with brief interpretive essays; the second will be a website for people to share and archive their TCU memories.

Thanks to the generous support from many individuals as well as the Amon G. Carter Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation, the Center continues to offer teacher-education and community history workshops. During April 2009 the Center hosted the North Texas regional competition for the Texas State Historical Association's Texas History Quiz Bowl, with high school student from across the area descending on the TCU campus. Thanks to the Justin Foundation, the Center is also working on a multi-dimensional publication project involving the Texas Legation Papers in which the manuscripts will be made available to the public in a published format as well as on website. The Texas Biography Series, edited by Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair in Texas History Dr. Gregg Cantrell, saw publication of its first volume, Light Townsend Cummins' Emily Austin of Texas, 1795-1851. The CTS-sponsored exhibition "Going to Texas: Five Hundred Years of Texas Maps" will be coming to Fort Worth during the late fall of 2009. Lastly, check out the Extended Education Learner's Guide for a series of Centersponsored self-fulfillment courses.

Don't forget, as Thomas Jefferson suggested, "History by apprising [people] of the past will enable them to judge of the future." In other words, remembering what we have accomplished and the mistakes we have made will permit us to share those lessons with the future!

Gene Allen Smith, Ph.D.

## A night that shaped TCU's future

n 1896 TCU had moved from Thorp Springs to Waco for financial reasons. The city of Waco and the Convention of Christian Churches had made financial assurances, yet those promises never fully materialized. On several occasions financial duress almost necessitated closing the University. Then on the evening of Thursday, March 23, 1910, a dramatic event shaped TCU's future.

Shortly after study hours began that evening, a group of students in the Main Building smelled smoke. Looking for the source of the smell, someone suddenly realized that building was on fire and the whole roof ablaze. While students and faculty on the lower floors had the time to remove their valuables, those on the fourth floor lost everything.

By the following morning, the fire had gutted the entire building. Yet this disaster truly had a silver lining.

In early May 1910 the TCU board of trustees accepted an invitation and generous offer from Fort Worth civic leaders. These businessmen, operating under the charter of the Fairmount Land Company, offered TCU some 50 acres of land with utility and sewer

service: \$200,000 in cash, half to be provided by the Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) and the Christian churches in the city, and other half to come from sale of 400 lots near the university provided by the Fairmount Land Company; still, other lots near TCU would

be sold by the company and proceeds split with TCU; lastly, the North Texas Traction Company promised to construct a streetcar line to the university. In return TCU returned to Fort Worth, holding classes during 1910-1911 in a series of two-story rented buildings on corner of Weatherford & Commerce Streets, diagonally across from Tarrant County Courthouse. In September 1911 TCU moved to its present location, with classes beginning in three buff-colored brick and concrete reinforced buildings - Administration Building (Reed Hall), Jarvis Hall, and Goode Halle.

This union between Fort Worth civic boosters and TCU represented the beginning of 100 years of profitable relationships for both. It is impossible to imagine Fort Worth without TCU, and TCU without Fort Worth. As such, between the spring of 2010 and the fall of 2011 TCU will celebrate a Century of Partnership. Join us in that celebration!





## Program News



#### **Extended Education**

Working with TCU's Extended Education program, the Center continues to offer the community high quality courses that educate and enlighten the public. During the fall of 2008, the Center offered ever-popular Quentin McGown's course on Fort Worth history, 1890-1941. Additionally, prize-winning historian Dr. Paul Boller offered a course on electing a president during the presidential election season. During the spring of 2009 Quentin offered a bus tour that examined Fort Worth architectural history.

This fall Quentin offered another course in his trilogy on Fort Worth history. Dr. Aaron Pan, Curator of Science at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History offered a course on prehistoric Texas, including the landscape and dinosaurs of the area. Please check out the Extended Education webpage at http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu/default.asp for our Spring 2010 offerings.

#### **Community History** Workshops

The Center for Texas Studies continues it cooperative community history programming with the Fort Worth Public Library and the "Preserving Our Past" series. These public programs are designed to increase the public's understanding of how the past has helped create a sense of what truly makes Texas and Texans distinctive. Funded by the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, these sessions are generally scheduled from 10:30-12:00 on the first Saturday of each month (January-May and September-December) and are held in



the Tandy Lecture Hall at the downtown Fort Worth Public Library.

Every person is a historian. These sessions are designed to make the public aware of the often overlooked historical resources around them and how each person can help preserve these items for posterity. For a complete schedule of coming events, please visit our website at: http://www.texasstudies.com/ PublicHistory.htm

#### **Teacher Education**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Amon G. Carter Foundation, the Center for Texas Studies continues its commitment to support public, private, and home-school teachers by providing professional development oppor-

tunities. Given the uncertainties facing state and local governments, and especially facing public school funding, we will offer workshops to



an increasing number of districts and regions. During the 2008-2009 academic year the Center presented five programs consisting of three to five sessions program - a total of 18 thematic workshops incorporating both content and pedagogy. Teachers return to their classrooms with a broader understanding of United States and Texas history and geography, and with materials to use in their classrooms. Additionally, members of the TCU history department, working on behalf of the Center, have partnered with the Fort Worth ISD on "Project Insight," funded by the U.S. Department of Education, for the 2009-2011 academic years.

# Texas Women / American Women: New Historical Scholarships and Fresh Approaches

More than one hundred enthusiastic participants gathered at TCU on February 27-28, 2009, for a symposium entitled "Texas Women/American Women: New Historical Scholarship and Fresh Approaches." The purpose of the symposium was to investigate linkages between Texas women's history and the latest currents in borderlands and southern American history. The Center for Texas Studies and the Department of History cosponsored the event.

On Friday, Elizabeth Hayes Turner (University of North Texas) delivered an address, "The Bride of Texas: Gender and the Selling of a Southern State," in which she explained the use of gender in marketing Texas during the 1936 Centennial. On Saturday, Juliana Barr (University of Florida), Laura Edwards (Duke University), and Marjorie Spruill (University of South Carolina) discussed the latest trends in women's history in the American South and borderlands. Jean



Stuntz (West Texas A&M University), Angela Boswell (Henderson State University), and Judith McArthur (University of Houston-Victoria) tied those talks explicitly to Texas. After lunch, participants broke into interest groups to discuss future programming and publications. The first outcome is a Facebook group, the Texas Women's History Network. Anyone interested in being on the e-mail list may contact Rebecca Sharpless at R.Sharpless@tcu.edu

#### Texas History Quiz Bowl

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, more than 100 middle school students descended on the TCU campus to participate in the Texas Quiz Show. Hosted by the Texas State Historical Association and held in conjunction with Texas History Day, TCU served as the Dallas-Fort Worth regional host for this TV-style quiz that show pits middle school students against one another answering questions about all things Texas. Each spring, teams of three students representing their respective schools battle it out to determine which teams will advance to the semi-finals and finals, held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and rebroadcast on community television stations. The State champions win trophies and other prizes and the honor of being the best and brightest in the great state of Texas. For more information see: http://www.tshaonline.org/supsites/ quizshow/index.html



#### **Texas Biography Series**

Last spring the Center for Texas Studies, teaming with the TCU Press, published the first volume in the new Texas Biography Series. The series is the brainchild of Dr. Gregg Cantrell of the TCU History Department, who holds the Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair in Texas History and serves as the series editor. The series grew out of the realization that there are many important figures in Texas history who deserve a first-rate scholarly biography but whose biographies, in the current difficult environment of academic publishing, might not find a home at a large national press. Working with TCU's development office, Center staff prepared a successful proposal several years ago that secured a generous grant from the Houston Endowment to underwrite the first several volumes in the series. Five books are now under contract and in various stages of production.



The first book in the series is Emily Austin of Texas, 1795-1851, by Professor Light Townsend Cummins of Austin College. Emily Austin was the sister of Stephen F. Austin and mother to a large family that went on to lead prominent careers in nineteenth-century

Texas. But she was an important and fascinating woman in her own right, taking an active part in the management of her large estate and in the affairs of the Republic, and later the state, of Texas. Her story also has much to teach us about the lives of women in the antebellum South and Texas.

Early reviews of Professor Cummins' book have been positive, and the Center looks forward to the impending publication of the next title in the series, Edmund J. Davis of Texas:

Civil War General, Republican Leader, Reconstruction Governor, by Professor Carl H. Moneyhon of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Currently at press, Moneyhon's book, like Cummins', will be the first published biography of its subject. Also soon to go to press is the third title in the series, Fighting Stock: John S. "Rip" Ford of Texas, by Professor Richard B. McCaslin of the University of North Texas.

With this strong start, the Center believes that the Texas Biography Series will soon achieve a reputation as the preeminent publisher of Texas biographies. In bringing to the public these lives of important Texans, the Center for Texas Studies continues to fulfill its mission of "celebrating all that makes Texas distinctive."



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