

Center for Texas Studies at TCU

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 11 / ISSUE 1

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Texas Our Texas

Mary L. Volcansek, Ph.D.

In August, South Texas was hit by Hurricane Harvey, first in coastal areas around Victoria, Rockport and Galveston, but then with a deluge of biblical proportions in Houston and, after five days, Port Arthur and Beaumont. Mother Nature once again humbled us with her overwhelming power. I endured the wrath of Hurricane Andrew in Miami, a horrific storm but nothing to match the torrential rains that Harvey inflicted on Texas. The contrast between the two events reminded me of why I am so proud to be a Texan.

Andrew was, at the time, the most economically devastating storm to hit the United States. For a day or maybe three after Andrew struck, a level of human kindness and community, uncharacteristic of Miami, prevailed. But, then it quickly evaporated as the aftermath of the storm took a toll because of the stresses of no electricity, no water, no gas, no ATM, no access to food; primordial survival instincts came to the fore and the law of the jungle prevailed.

I watched the coverage of Harvey and saw something so distinctly different. So many selfless people rescuing victims, feeding them, clothing them, and comforting them without regard for race, socioeconomic standing or

immigration status. Almost all said something that was a variation on, "This is Texas; this is what we do." Mattress Mack, a furniture store owner in Houston, took in victims and first responders, offering them accommodations—even on \$5,000 couches and beds—and feeding them. Hey, that's my Texas.

Often, as I have remarked in more than one of these columns, Texas too often is caricatured for its presumed excesses and defined only by its politics. That's not my Texas—not the one where I grew up and not the one where I expect to grow old and die. My Texas was exemplified by the response to the disaster of Harvey. In my first class after Harvey hit, one Houston student said that her family's office building was submerged and another said that her family had spent the last days in a kayak ferrying people from flooded homes. Texans help one another; Texans have a sense of community; Texans are proud and defiant; Texans don't allow natural or manmade calamities to impede them. I am proud to be a Texan.

History Professor Gene Smith conceived the idea of a Center for Texas Studies soon after I arrived here, and I quickly embraced it. TCU formally recognized the Center for Texas Studies at TCU in 2004. Since that time, Gene and I, both only working part-time around our full-time faculty positions, fashioned public education programs to celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive. Heartland Alliance donated the first funds that enabled the Center to become a reality, but subsequently our supporters

have been legion, particularly the Burnett Foundation, the Lowe Foundation, the Justin Foundation, the Amon Carter Foundation, the Summerlee Foundation, the Houston Endowment, and the King Foundation. Because of their generosity and that of a number of individuals, the Center currently has an endowment that will sustain its current operations.

I have had a long professional career, and I count as the two proudest accomplishments of that career not to be the books and articles published nor the awards and offices held, but rather my role in founding the Center for Texas Studies and the accomplishments of my students. I am retiring at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. Because of the strong support of AddRan Dean Andy Schoolmaster and Provost Nowell Donovan, after my retirement the Center will be headed by a full-time executive director. That will allow the Center to grow, expand, and find new horizons beyond what a couple of faculty members devoting only part-time to the Center's mission could accomplish. I take great comfort in knowing that the Center for Texas Studies will evolve into something better and more meaningful than I could have imagined.

Ah-Texas, my Texas! My home.

"All hail the mighty State!

Texas, Our Texas, So wonderful, so great.

Boldest and grandest, withstanding every test.

O Empire wide and glorious, you stand

supremely blest."

God bless Texas and the Center for Texas Studies at TCU. 🇺🇸



*Embrace the spirit and preserve the freedom
which inspired those of vision and courage
to shape our heritage*

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Center for Texas Studies

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Real, Not Fake, History

Gene Allen Smith, Ph.D.

Since the fall of 2016 we have been inundated with stories of fake news, fake history, and a drive to change our past. Politicians, activists, pundits, athletes, and people of all ideological stripes have voiced their support or opposition for a variety of causes. I am a professionally trained historian who looks not only for the truth, but also for less tangible factors such as motivations and consequences. Exploring the past in depth and sharing my findings will hopefully help people to understand how things happened as they have.

At the Center for Texas Studies, we share true historical stories. In many instances, they are forgotten or unknown tales from our past. Whether it be Quentin McGown's popular History of Fort Worth courses, a guided motorcoach tour examining of the history of World War I Camp Bowie, or any other course that we sponsor through TCU Extended Education, we always try to offer a fresh and thorough historical account for our audience. Our Saturday morning workshops held at the Fort Worth Library bring attention to historical and cultural resources throughout the state that many people do not realize are available. When we conduct teacher education workshops, we send TCU professors out into the field to share new pedagogical approaches with classroom teachers. They welcome innovative and creative methods to help their students engage with the real story of the past. We design all our programs to inspire our audiences to think objectively about historical events and to conduct additional research themselves.

As TCU's mission proudly proclaims, we at the Center for Texas Studies strive "to educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community." We combine that sentiment with our own directive to "celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive." To that end, we pursue programs that highlight the culture of Texas during all periods of our past.



Moreover, we aspire to study the characters of Texas history and the events they participated in from all angles. History education at its best encompasses so much more than names and dates. Only through a thorough examination of the past, can we truly understand our present and our future.

Throughout Texas and American history, we have experienced periods of social change—whether it be the 1790s, 1850s, 1920s, or 1960s. Our modern times are no different. Knowing what has come before provides the comforting knowledge that through the trials and tribulations, we need only remember to "Lead On," as "an unrelenting force for the greater good," as TCU encourages all

its students, staff, and faculty to do. In our case, the Center for Texas Studies offers continuing education and practical tools to lead the charge to preserve, protect, and share Texas history and culture through our programs, books, and exhibitions.

Finally, I would like to offer thanks for the generous support from so many individuals and foundations as we embrace our mission to educate and entertain. Join us on our adventure as we learn true story of Texas. Because—as we so often realize—real history is often far more fascinating and instructional than theatrical versions or fake accounts could ever be!



Iconic Texas and Beyond

LeAnna Schooley, Ph.D.

Assistant Director

Most Texans experience a predictable phenomenon when they travel beyond the borders of the state. The moment you reveal your origins to new acquaintances, images gleaned from television, movies, books, and a variety of internet and social media sources leap into their minds. Whether their thoughts are more akin to *Dallas* or the recent film *Hell or High Water*, their mental pictures are far less complex than our real identities. We all understand the nuances of our own Texan-ness, but even natives sometimes forget the wide array of industries, landscapes, climates, and cultures that make our state so intriguing.

So we invite you to indulge in a celebration of Texas yourself. Attend one of our free public programs where the subject might be food, freedman towns, or fairgrounds. If you are a reader, pick up our latest

publication, *Tejano Tiger*, or another from our catalog which includes politics, art, women's history, and more. Finally, take to the road with one of our experienced guides to see local architecture, cemeteries, and parks up close, to follow a forgotten highway, or to get the scoop on TCU history.

There's always more to learn about our familiar Texan claims to fame, as well as our hidden jewels. At the Center for Texas Studies we seek out the most interesting morsels that characterize life in Texas to share with you. To find out what we'll be doing next, join our mailing list by sending an email to texasstudies@tcu.edu with the subject, "Add me!," like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CenterforTexasStudiesTCU/, or stop by our website to view the latest news.



African-American Politician Subject of Upcoming Biography

The *Texas Biography Series*, a joint project of the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the TCU Press, continues to pursue its mission of publishing cutting-edge scholarly biographies of historical Texas figures who either have no biography or no quality modern biography.

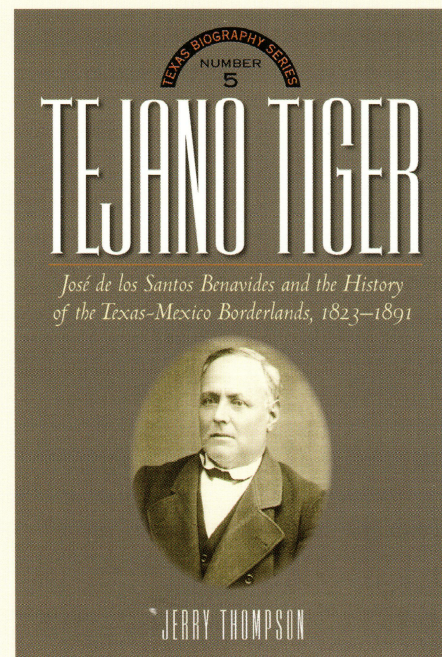
It has been a busy year. Last March we published the latest title in the Series: *Tejano Tiger: José de la Santos Benavides and the History of the Texas-Mexico Borderlands, 1823-1891*, by Jerry Don Thompson. Benavides was the highest-ranking Mexican-American Confederate officer and an important figure in South Texas politics for several decades. Thompson, a prolific author and former president of the Texas State Historical Association, is a regents professor at Texas A&M International University in Laredo and a leading authority on the history of South Texas in the nineteenth century.

We also are happy to announce that the next title in the series is now under contract. Professor Carl Moneyhon of the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, will become the first multi-title author in the biography series with his book *George T. Ruby, Texas Senator, and the Politics of Equal Rights*. Ruby was a Freedmen's Bureau agent and president of the Union League before becoming

arguably the most influential African-American politician and one of the most prominent promoters of black civil rights of the nineteenth century in Texas. Moneyhon's previous book in the series was his fine biography of reconstruction governor Edmund J. Davis.

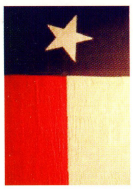
The first several titles in the series have been underwritten by a generous grant from the Houston Endowment. In 2011, the Center received an additional grant from the Carl and Florence E. King Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation, ensuring that the series will continue into the future. I am in conversation 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, Ph.D.
Texas Biographer Series



Tejano Tiger: José de la Santos Benavides and the History of the Texas-Mexico Borderlands, 1823-1891, by Jerry Don Thompson available now.





Program News

Something for Everyone in 2017 Speaker Series

Experts in history, genealogy, foodways, book collecting, preservation, and meteorology all contributed to the success of the Preserving Our Past Community History Lecture Series this year. Sharing from their own experiences, they explained tools of their trades with eager audiences who learned to identify historic photographs, to save family recipes for future generations, and to understand how Texas weather was documented over the last one hundred years along with many other useful skills. The staff of the Center sends out a special thank you to all the speakers and attendees who spent their valuable Saturday mornings with us.

Longtime genealogist Betsy Mills began the year with "Identifying Old Photographs: Preserving and Sharing," in which she pointed out clues that could help date scenes and provide names for ancient faces in historic images. For African-American History Month, Gayle Hanson presented the history of the Lake Como Community to a standing room only crowd who not only appreciated Hanson's research, but contributed their own memories to the discussion.

Historian Joyce Roach joined us for "A Horse of Her Own: Cowgirls, Variations on a Theme from the Frontier to the Footlights." Roach provided an insightful explanation of the relationship between real cowgirls and their Wild West icon counterparts. Food writer Nola McKey and several special guests delighted attendees with stories from her book, *From Tea Cakes to Tamales: Third-Generation Texas Recipes*, and offered practical tips for handing down family food traditions. With spring in full swing, Mark Fox, Warning & Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, brought a timely program about weather history and the evolution of the alert system we use today.

TCU professor Alex Hidalgo and his special guest Michael Utt, a rare book collector, visited for Hispanic Heritage Month. Hidalgo delved into the printing and distribution of Latin American history books of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries while Utt graciously displayed surviving examples of these unique works. In October, the Dallas Cowboys first archivist, Jonathan Thorn, described

the process of turning pallets of stored materials from more than fifty years of football history into an organized, searchable collection. Local historian Harry Max Hill looked back on Fort Worth during the Summer of Love and its legacy in his November presentation. Each December our partners at the library introduce projects of their own that share the Center's goal to protect the state's distinctive past. This year senior librarian Rene Gomez will discuss the twists and turns of one of the most bizarre investigations and longest murder trials in Fort Worth's history in "The Murder of William Clark."

Community History Workshops are held one Saturday each month from January through May and September through December at 10:30 a.m. in the Tandy Lecture Hall at the Fort Worth Library. They are made possible thanks to the support of the Summerlee Foundation and the Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation. For a complete schedule of upcoming events, visit www.texasstudies.org or like us on Facebook. 🇺🇸



Extended Education Courses Get Personal

Through TCU's Extended Education program, the Center for Texas Studies offers distinctive courses that put Texas topics in perspective. Do you think of your own story as part of Texas history? Well, it most certainly is and in February and October of 2017 Sandra Guerra-Cline, senior copy editor for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, taught Texans to preserve their own personal history in her course, "How to Write Your Own Obituary." Participants learned the basic elements of writing a memorial and got hands-on experience preparing a draft. As Guerra-Cline explained, by documenting your own story you not only insure that you are remembered the way you wish and get the facts correct, but you also spare your loved ones that stressful task during what is sure to be a difficult time.

In April, Quentin McGown's annual spring course featured the city's beautiful open spaces. After an evening introductory meeting, the tour on Saturday, April 29, visited Lake Worth, Trinity and Forest Parks, and several lesser-known historic spots to play outdoors. Mid-day, Quentin treated the group to a behind-the-scenes look at Heritage Park Plaza adjacent to the Tarrant County Courthouse. As the crowd finished the last crumbs from their Central Market box lunches, McGown

explained that this bicentennial-era park, closed to the public for many years, is scheduled for renovation by the city. He told the story of architect Lawrence Halprin's modernist vision for the site and its slow road to recovery. Soon, it's beautiful views and energetic water features will be open for public enjoyment once again. At the end of the day, attendees had seen a different side of their city and departed with a better understanding of the long history of public recreation in Fort Worth.

During the fall 2017 semester, Tyler Alberts, executive director of the Fort Worth Military Museum, led an evening course and Saturday tour of Camp Bowie—not the boulevard—but the historic World War I training camp which covered much of the modern day neighborhood of Arlington Heights. Using maps and hundreds of period photographs, Alberts explored the camp's history and its physical location from 1917-1919. He amazed attendees with facts about the size and scope of the camp and its lasting impact on the west side of Fort Worth.

Make your reservations early for upcoming 2018 spring courses. In February, TCU history lecturer and ordained minister Lisa



Barnett will offer a new three-night course titled, "Blessed be the Ties that Bind: The Religious History of Texas." Barnett will explore the growth of the state's many religious groups and their shifting ideologies over time. Historians, religious scholars, and genealogists alike will find this course of interest. In April, Quentin McGown will be back with a review of Fort Worth architecture from the founding of the city to World War II. We guarantee that newcomers and natives alike will learn fascinating new details in this evening class and Saturday motorcoach tour.

For details visit <http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu/> and reserve your spot today! 🇺🇸



DO SOMETHING CLASSY THIS SPRING.

Reserve your spot today: www.lifelong.tcu.edu

FEBRUARY 1, 8, & 15:

**Blessed be the Ties that Bind:
The Religious History of Texas**

with

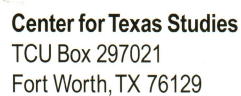
Lisa Barnett, TCU

APRIL 26 & 28:

**Fort Worth Architecture
through World War II**

with Quentin McGown

Author-Historian-Probate Judge



Fort Worth TX 76129

