This year Mexico commemorates the bicentennial of its War for Independence. To mark this event, the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies will bring to campus distinguished historian Jesús Francisco (Frank) de la Teja, who will speak at 12 p.m. in the Central Library's Sixth floor Parlor on Monday, September 20th. The title of his presentation will be: "The Mexican War of Independence: Roots of the Texas Revolution."

As chair of the history department at Texas State University-San Marcos, Professor de la Teja has published extensively on Spanish, Mexican, and Republicera Texas history. He is the author of the award-winning San Antonio de Béxar: A Community on New Spain's Northern Frontier, widely regarded as the most comprehensive study of San Antonio during the Spanish colonial period. The author of numerous scholarly articles, he has also edited A Revolution Remembered: The Memoirs and Selected Correspondence of Juan N. Seguín, as well as two collections of essays on eighteenth century Texas. His educational works include a co-authored college-level history textbook, Texas: Crossroads of North America and a co-authored high school U.S. history textbook, American Anthem.

Although de la Teja has taught Texas history at Texas State for almost two decades, he is not a native of the state. Born in Cuba and raised in New Jersey, he earned both his bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Seton Hall University. His interest in Texas history began at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his doctorate in colonial Latin American history, working with Nettie Lee Benson. While completing his graduate studies, de la Teja worked for two years as a research assistant for novelist James Michener, who was then writing his epic novel, Texas.

In 2007, Gov. Rick Perry appointed de la Teja to serve the first-ever two-year term as the state historian of Texas. The Legislature created the position to enhance Texans' knowledge about the state's history and heritage, encourage the teaching of Texas history in public schools, and consult with top government officials on the promotion of Texas history.

**Location Details:**
Date: Monday, September 20th  
Time: 12:00-1:00 pm  
Light refreshments will be served  

**For More Information Contact:**  
The Center for Greater Southwestern Studies at;  
817-272-3997 or swcenter@uta.edu