The Mexican Revolution is an event that Americans know little about, yet it is one of the seminal chapters in the history of Mexico. More than any other single event, the revolution was responsible for creating the modern Mexican nation-state, leading to broader democratization, land reform, anticlericalism and other far-reaching changes in Mexican society. In addition, the decade-long conflagration had a profound impact on formal and informal relations between the United States and Mexico. Resulting in the flight of hundreds of thousands of refugees, the revolution prompted the first major northern migration of Mexican citizens. In so doing, it changed the demographics of the American Southwest, energizing and shaping Latino culture in the United States. The revolution’s consequences continue to have a major impact on U.S.-Latin American relations today.

To commemorate the centennial of the Revolution, the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies will sponsor a series of events in the spring of 2010. On March 10-11 the Center will co-sponsor the History Department’s Webb Lecture series: “The Mexican Revolution: From Conflict to Consolidation, 1910-1940.” The lectures will feature distinguished scholars of the revolution from Mexico and the United States, who will discuss the violent social upheaval that took place in Mexico from 1910 to 1920, as well as efforts to implement the political and social goals of the revolution in the decades that followed. Thomas Benjamin, author of La Revolución: Mexico’s Great Revolución as Memory, Myth, and History, will provide the keynote lecture. Papers will also be presented by Carlos Martinez Assad, Don Coerver, Miguel Angel Gonzalez Quiroga, Stephen Lewis, Francisco Balderrama, Jürgen Buchenau and Linda Hall. John Mason Hart will write a foreword to the volume, which will be published by Texas A&M University Press.

In addition to the Webb Lectures, the Center will host on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 a symposium for teachers and the general public, “Remembering the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920.” The daylong symposium will feature center fellow and Mexican historian Dr. Richmond, as well as other area scholars of the revolution, who will speak on such broad topics as the Porfiriato; the Carranza victory, 1915-1920; the civil war within the Revolution: Villa and Zapata, 1914-19; the impact of the revolution in Texas; and the U.S. Intervention. Attracting interested members of the general public, these lectures will also assist teachers K-12 in integrating into their curricula materials about, and interpretations of, the Mexican Revolution. In addition to focusing on the upheaval that transformed Mexico, the program will draw attention to the extent to which the recent histories of the two North American neighbors are intertwined.

In conjunction with these events, the center will bring to campus two collections of photographs that will emphasize the bi-national implications of the revolution. “The Mexican Revolution and Beyond,” a collection of 52 works by renowned photographer Agustín Vicente Casasola on loan from the Mexican government, will provide a unique and compelling visual chronicle of Mexican life in the early decades of the twentieth century. Founder of the Archivo Casasola, one of the world’s first news photography agencies, Agustín Casasola has been rightly termed one of the giants of twentieth century photography. Consisting of nearly 500,000 images, the archive is the most important visual resource on the Mexican people during the dynamic first half of the twentieth century. “La Tierra y su Gente: The Rio Grande Photographs of Robert Runyon,” will present an American perspective of the revolution, and are drawn from the holdings of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. The two collections will be exhibited on the sixth floor of the Central Library during the spring of 2010.

For more details on these events, contact Center secretary Ann Jennings at swcenter@uta.edu, 817-272-3997.
From 1997 to 1999, while completing his master's degree in history at UT Arlington, Jimmy Bryan was the Sandra Myres' graduate research assistant at the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies. Applying his research skills to his own work, Bryan wrote his master's thesis on Walter P. Lane, a Texas soldier/adventurer who participated in the Texas Revolution, the Mexican War, the Civil War and in several Indian campaigns as a member of the Texas Rangers. Never abandoning his interest in the long-neglected Texan, Bryan continued his research into Lane's eventful life while pursuing a Ph.D. at Southern Methodist University. His dissertation, “The American Elsewhere: Adventurism and Manliness in the Age of Expansion, 1814-1848,” enabled him to understand Lane's pursuits as part of a much broader cultural phenomenon: the thirst for adventure and recognition among American males of the Jacksonian period. In 2000 Bryan edited and annotated a new edition of Lane's Adventures and Recollections, first published in 1887. Now, a decade after he began researching Lane's life, Bryan has written the first full-length biography of the Texas soldier, More Zeal than Discretion: the Westward Adventures of Walter P. Lane (Texas A&M University Press, 2008).

Although Lane could not be considered one of the better known Anglo-Texan military figures of the period, his adult life was certainly an eventful one. A native of Ireland, Lane lived in Ohio and Kentucky before moving to Texas to take part in the revolution against Mexico, participating in the Battle of San Jacinto. When the United States declared war against Mexico a decade later, Lane joined the Texas Mounted Riflemen. He fought as a first lieutenant in the Battle of Monterrey, and later claimed to have led a party to recover the remains of the executed members of the Mier Expedition, which were subsequently interred in LaGrange, Texas. In his thirties, Lane participated in the California Gold Rush of 1849, and prospected for gold in southern Arizona a few years later. The outbreak of the Civil War found Lane in Marshall, Texas, operating a mercantile business. An ardent secessionist, Lane joined the Third Texas Cavalry as a lieutenant colonel, fighting in the battles of Pea Ridge and Franklin. Severely wounded at the battle of Mansfield in 1864, Lane was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the closing months of the war. Returning to his mercantile business in Marshall after 1865, Lane dabbled in local politics as a prominent “redeemer” Democrat, working to restore white supremacy to San Augustine County following Reconstruction. He died in Marshall in 1892.

In More Zeal than Discretion, Bryan is not content to offer a straightforward narrative of Lane's career. Rather, he seeks to shed light on the culture of American masculinity in which Lane operated. To that end, the author dwells on topics that might not garner much attention in a less ambitious study, such as Lane's psychological need for recognition, his views on race, his attitude toward women (he remained a lifelong and committed bachelor), as well as how he dealt with the absence of adventure in his declining years. Whereas historians have traditionally sought to explain the behavior of westward-moving white males as a peculiarly American spirit of “rugged individualism,” Bryan links Lane’s wanderlust and desire for a life of action to the broader intellectual and cultural trends of the early decades of the nineteenth century. He draws particular attention to the ideas commonly associated with Romanticism, arguing that it informed the thinking of Americans as much as it did Europeans. He writes: “the “crucial elements of romanticism—emotion, imagination, and the elsewhere—were present at the core of the expansionist movement.” (p. 5)

In addition, and no less important, Bryan seeks to use Walter Lane’s life as a prism through which to view the process of American westward expansion. He argues persuasively that a thorough understanding of why the United States pushed westward so quickly should not be limited to politics, economics, and diplomacy, but must take into account the ambitions and motivations of those on the ground who made “Manifest Destiny” possible. Addressing the thesis of Thomas Hietala, who has argued that expansion was the product of American anxieties (over slavery, industrialization, the British, and the like), Bryan argues that a more granular approach uncovers the “confident, arrogant and aggressive” impulses that drove men like Lane to seek lives of adventure in the West. In the final analysis, these impulses “revealed as much about their nation as it did about themselves.” (pp. 5-6).

Elegantly written and thoroughly-researched, More Zeal than Discretion will no doubt stand as the definitive biography of this long-neglected Texan. Perhaps even more importantly, the author has helped scholars gain greater insight into the masculine ethos that drove thousands of young American males to find adventure in the West.

-Sam W. Haynes
Sonia Kania Named Center Fellow

Modern Languages Assistant Professor Sonia Kania has been appointed to a three-year term as a Center Fellow. Dr. Kania received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 2000. Her area of specialty is historical Spanish linguistics, particularly of the Spanish colonial period. She has edited numerous documents from both Mexico and New Mexico and has written articles regarding features of American Spanish evidenced in colonial texts. Her articles have appeared in *La corónica, Southwest Journal of Linguistics* and the Journal of the Southwest (forthcoming). Kania is a collaborator in the Cibola Project, which is concerned with the edition and publication of documents of the Hispanic Southwest from the 16th to 18th centuries. Her continuing research involves the editing of the “Probanza de méritos” of Vicente de Zaldívar, a 134-folio document dating from 1600-1602. Her book, *Mexican Spanish of the Colonial Period: Evidence from the Audiencia of New Galicia*, has recently been published by the Hispanic Seminar of Medieval Studies (New York, 2009).

Jenny Blankenship Receives Hall-Kohfeldt Scholarship

Jenny Blankenship has been named this year’s recipient of the Ida V. Hall and George Kohfeldt Scholarship. The scholarship assists students whose studies focus on the Native American Southwest. Jenny holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism with a minor in business administration from UT Arlington. She is currently a graduate student in the School of Urban and Public Affairs, focusing on economic policy and environmental issues. She expects to graduate in the spring of 2010. Active in numerous UT Arlington student organizations, she has worked as a reporter for The Shorthorn and has served as a president of the Native American Students Association. Jenny is also a professional photojournalist with more than a decade of experience in small community newspapers, magazines, and online publications, having served in positions ranging from stringer writer to associate publisher, and earned numerous Texas Press awards for writing, photography and layout designs. She is the mother of two sons, one of whom attends the Honors College at UT Arlington.

Center Unveils New Web Site

The Center is pleased to announce that its new Web site is up and running. The site will now provide information on upcoming conferences, symposia and other events; past and current issues of Fronteras; scholarships and educational resources and other Center news.

Please go to http://www.uta.edu/southwesternstudies/ to learn more about the Center and its activities.

Fronteras Goes Green

In keeping with UT Arlington’s “Mavericks Go Green” program, Center newsletter subscribers can now receive Fronteras electronically. If you would like future issues sent as an e-mail link, please go to: http://www.uta.edu/southwesternstudies/ or contact Center secretary Ann Jennings (jennings@uta.edu), 817-272-3997.

Center Fellow Updates

George Green’s chapter, “Crucial decade for Texas Labor: Railway Union Struggles, 1886-1896,” has been published in Debra Reid (ed.), *Seeking Indelible Rights: Texans and the Quest for Social Justice* (College Station: Texas A & M Press, 2009). He continues to write a history of the Texas labor movement, conducting oral history interviews with labor leaders, and collecting records for the labor archives in the library.


Ken Roemer has completed more than 20 head notes and one long introduction related to American Indian literatures for a forthcoming American literature anthology for Asia to be published by Cambridge UP. He has also completed an essay for the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Utopian literature*. Last spring he presented two papers on Native authors Paula Gunn Allen and Louise Erdrich. Much of the summer was spent on major revisions and expansions of his digital resource: *Covers, Titles, and Tables: Formations of American Literary Canons*, a compendium of tables of contents of American literature anthologies, histories, and encyclopedias from 1829 to the present.

Roberto Treviño continues his research on religion in U.S. history. His volume of essays co-edited with Richard Francaviglia, *Catholicism in the American West: A Rosary of Hidden Voices*, was awarded the Paul J. Foik Award by the Texas Catholic Historical Society in March 2009. This past year Dr. Treviño made three conference presentations and participated in a discussion about his book *The Church in the Barrio: Mexican American Ethno-Catholicism in Houston* at the Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. His essays on U.S. religion are due to be published shortly in anthologies by Columbia University Press and Blackwell Press. His current research includes a book-length project on religion in the Chicano movement and a chapter for a volume about Mexican immigration in the early twentieth century.
Ravished Virgins and Warrior Women: Gender and the Literature of the U.S.-Mexican War

by Chris Conway
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages

Scholars of nineteenth-century U.S. history and culture have documented the impact of the U.S.-Mexican War on the period’s poets and novelists, examining the themes of nationalism, Manifest Destiny and race. For example, in George Lippard’s *Legends of Mexico* (1847), which is held by Special Collections at the UT Arlington Central Library, we read striking passages such as this one: “As the Aztec people crumbled before the Spaniard, so will the mongrel race, moulded of Indian and Spanish blood, melt into, and be ruled by, the Iron Race of the North. You cannot deny it.” Recent scholarship in literary studies has highlighted the intertwining of gender with political themes in U.S. literature about the war, underscoring the ways in which writers like Lippard availed themselves of the commonplaces of melodrama and its stereotyped characters to interpret and represent the ongoing war in Mexico. In these narratives, swashbuckling U.S. soldiers symbolized the virility and racial supremacy of the United States over Mexico, while Mexican men are caricatured as degraded and barbaric. Moreover, when U.S. writers had their protagonists woo and fall in love with lovely Mexican damsel threatened by their fathers or other Mexican suitors, they allegorized the war as a war of liberation against political tyranny.

The question of what Mexican poets and writers thought about the war, and the specific ways in which they represented it, has received much less attention in U.S. and Mexican scholarship. Three years ago I set out to explore the question of Mexican responses to the war by editing a volume of historical and literary documents that would restore nineteenth-century Mexican voices to conversations about the war. The resulting book, *The U.S.-Mexican War: A Bilingual Reader* (Hackett Publishing, 2010), recovers and translates some of the archival Mexican treasures from Special Collections at the UT Arlington Central Library. While widely recognized as one of the finest collections in the country for archival holdings on the U.S.-Mexican War, few are aware of the archive’s richness in relation to Mexican journalism, broadsides and manuscripts. Thanks to my work at Special Collections, and a subsequent trip to the Hemeroteca Nacional in Mexico City, I have been able to begin answering the question of how the war played out in Mexican literature at mid-century, and more specifically, how Mexican writers intertwined gender and politics in their representations of the war. Most interesting, my research has led me to uncover heretofore forgotten Mexican women’s writings about the war.

If U.S. writers were quick to use gendered tropes to depict the war, Mexican writers did the same, but they did not represent the conflict as an inter-ethnic love story leading to liberation. Rather, Mexican writers viewed the war as nothing less than a rape of the homeland. To cite one prominent example, let’s consider “A Solemn Moment. To My Motherland” (1847) by Mexico’s most popular nineteenth-century poet, Guillermo Prieto (1818-1897). In the poem, the bombardment of Veracruz by U.S. forces is conveyed through the image of the bloody corpse of a fallen queen who dies hearing the “hurrahs” of the American forces that “drenched her homes in blood.” Envisioning the possibility of national defeat, Prieto dreads the moment when Mexican women will give comfort to the enemy “amid the remains of our brave men.” And to those compatriots who favor a negotiated settlement with the United States, Prieto indignantly proffers the image of “the violated bed/of the wife and the ravished virgin.” Such imagery of death, destruction and debasement at the hands of the United States was designed to elicit patriotic fervor and self-sacrifice in male readers. Out of the horrors of defeat, Mexican poets sought the inspiration to call on Mexicans to continue the fight. For example, in an ode titled “To the Supreme Being” published in *El Monitor Republicano* in May of 1847, a poet named R.B. calls on his readers, the sons of Moctezuma and Cuahatemoc, to protect a supplicating virgin from the dishonor and death brought upon Mexico by the barbaric bandits or latter day Conquistadores from the north.

In the case of U.S. literature, the representation of Mexican women as victims is tempered by the recurring appearance of cross-dressing women who take up arms against U.S. forces during the war, as in the case of the female protago-
nists of *The Volunteer or, The maid of Monterey* (1847) by Ned Buntline or the heroine of *The Hunted Chief; or the Female Ranchero* (1847) by Newton Curtis. As Shelley Streeby notes in *American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture*, these warrior women underscore the failure of Mexican virility during the war (120). The supremacy of Anglo-American masculinity and the debasement of a viable Mexican masculinity is then reinforced when the señorita falls in love with the Yankee invader. In Mexico’s case, such narratives of cross-dressing warrior women are non-existent with the exception of a short story by the Spanish-born writer Niceto de Zamacois titled “Don Luis Martínez de Castro or The National Guard” (1847), which was published in the Mexican newspaper *El Monitor Republicano* a few weeks after the occupation of Mexico City in September of 1847. We do not know if Zamacois might have read about cross-dressing heroines from story paper fictions brought to Mexico City by U.S. military personnel, but in his version of the plot device, the warrior heroine does not end up falling in love with a U.S. soldier. Instead, the story ends with the self-destruction of the heroine, who dies of grief after the death of her valiant lover, Luis Martínez de Castro, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Churubusco in August of 1847.

The ubiquity of imaginary Mexican women in U.S.-Mexican War literature begs the question of what actual Mexican women might have been thinking about the war. I was heartened to discover that Special Collections holds archival resources that allow us to begin answering this question. In the pages of the Mexico City newspaper *El Republicano* corresponding to 1846-1847, we find the lyrics of battle hymns written by women for soldiers to sing on their campaigns, as well as military reports about Doña María de Jesús Dosal-mantes, a young lady who volunteered her services to General Pedro Ampudia at Monterrey. “The young lady...” wrote Ampudia to José María Tornel, the minister of war, “reported to me dressed as a captain and mounted, to fight against the unjust invaders.” Ampudia continued: “I received her with the show of affection that her heroic behavior deserves, and ordered her to ride the whole line so that all the corps that makes up this army would see her...” Another exciting find was an article by María de la Salud García, a novelist and short story writer about whom little is known, other than the fact that her fiction appeared in an early women’s literary magazine called *El Semanario de las señoritas Mexicanas.* In the article that appears in *El Republicano,* de la Salud García breaks with patriarchal convention and custom by speaking publicly about Mexican politics. Most striking, de la Salud García writes that if Mexican men don’t rise to the occasion of properly resisting the invasion of their country, Mexican women “although used to leisure and household chores” shall fight the Americans like Amazons. It is fair to surmise that the editors of *El Republicano* sought to marshal intense feelings of patriotism among male readers offended at being lectured at by a woman on the subject of national defense. Finally, similar evidence of women’s vocal participation during the war may be found in another newspaper held by Special Collections, the *Diario de la Guerra,* which features a satirical poem said to have been improvised by a young lady against Valentín Gómez Farías during the Polkos Revolt in Mexico City, in March of 1847.

While it is not surprising that Mexican women would have written about the U.S.-Mexican War in some form or fashion, it is difficult to trace such voices through the archival record. My ongoing research on this period, and on women poets in particular, shows that educated, elite women were very much involved in writing about the war and involving themselves in ventures to provide support to the war effort. Not only did these women write as individuals, but they also wrote and published together, constituting a community of women writers, bound together by friendship and shared literary sensibilities. Two of the poems I selected for inclusion in *The U.S.-Mexican War: A Binational Reader,* for example, were written by no less than three women together, women who are also known to have published separately in this time period. These facts lend credence to Silvia Marina Arrom’s arguments that mid-nineteenth-century Mexico saw a modest loosening of some of the cultural strictures against women’s freedom and self-expression. Moreover, as in the rest of the Spanish-speaking world, the Romantic Movement authorized women’s voices in ways that they had not been authorized before. In the apt words of Susan Kirkpatrick, author of *Las Románticas: Women Writers and Subjectivity in Spain* (1835-1850), the traditional linking of women with emotion “was given a more positive meaning by the Romantic cult of feeling: women could now claim authority as subjects possessing a special sensibility, an expertise in empathy” (61).

My current research, anchored in some of the invaluable archival sources held at UT Arlington’s Special Collections, seeks to gather a substantial sampling of Mexican poetry from the turbulent years of 1846-1848, and analyze its tropes and themes. As I’ve tried to show in this brief article, I am particularly interested in the ways in which arguments about masculinity and femininity are expressed in Mexican writing about the war, particularly women’s literature. If Mexican women were very much the symbolic linchpin of U.S. and Mexican literary treatments of the war, why not ask what Mexican women thought and wrote about the war? It is a straightforward question, but its answer lies clouded by time and forgetting. Thankfully, archives like Special Collections at UT Arlington can be instrumental in helping us answer it.


2 This theme of the American rape of Mexico figures prominently in a novel titled *The Coeur* (1861) by Nicolás Pizarro Suárez. In one chapter, set during the fall of Mexico City, an American soldier bursts into a private residence, beats a woman to death and, upon the same bed where his victim has expired, rapes her daughter.

3 Luis Martínez de Castro (1819-1847) was a Mexico City notable active in literary circles and well known for his command of other languages. Martínez de Castro assisted in the preparation of broadsides in English calling on U.S. soldiers to desert as well as distinguishing himself at the Battle of Churubusco. Along with the children martyrs of Chapultepec and Margarita Suazo, Martínez de Castro is the most famous fallen Mexican hero of the U.S.-Mexican War.

Texas Map Society, Transatlantic History Student Organization
Commemorate Alexander von Humboldt

In early October the Texas Map Society and the UT Arlington Transatlantic History Student Organization celebrated the life of Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859), the German naturalist and explorer. Von Humboldt’s explorations of Latin America and his visit to the United States in 1804 had a profound economic, political and social impact on the nations of the Atlantic Basin, greatly influencing how Europe viewed the transatlantic world. On the sesquicentennial anniversary of his death, the Texas Map Society and THSO held symposia on campus to examine transatlantic exploration, travel writing and cartography in the era of Humboldt.

Ralph Ehrenberg, a former archivist and administrator at the National Archives and the Library of Congress and author of such acclaimed works as The Mapping of America (with Seymour Schwartz) and Mapping the World: An Illustrated History of Cartography, spoke at both events. In his THSO keynote address, "Jefferson, Humboldt, and the Mapping of Louisiana Territory," Ehrenberg described the exploratory mapping of the Louisiana Purchase, which involved considerable transatlantic exchange of geographical data and maps, as well as Humboldt’s visit to Philadelphia and Washington D.C. Ehrenberg also spoke at the Texas Map Society, delivering a paper on “The German Contribution to the Map of the American West in the Nineteenth Century.”

Other UT Arlington contributors to the Texas Map Society conference were Imre Demhardt, professor and Garrett Endowed Chair in the History of Cartography, who spoke on “Alexander von Humboldt as Cartographer: Milestone Contributions towards the Mapping of the Americas,” and Ben Huseman, UT Arlington’s Special Collections cartographic archivist, who reviewed the ongoing exhibit of Humboldt maps drawn from UT Arlington’s Special Collections and SMU’s DeGolyer Library. Huseman focused on many of Humboldt’s major publications, as well as the works of other 19th-century authors, cartographers, artists and printmakers who depicted Mexico and the American Southwest who were influenced by the German naturalist and explorer.