Fall Program to Focus on Narco-Violence

Since 2006, when Mexican president Felipe Calderón formally declared war on his country’s drug cartels, it is estimated that as many as 30,000 people have been murdered, including police, judges, prosecutors, elected public officials, as well as thousands of innocent bystanders. Narco-violence has had a tragic and destabilizing effect on Mexican society and its political institutions. And, like the poverty that has spurred immigration, it is a problem with deep roots on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. To promote awareness of this ongoing crisis and its impact on relations between Mexico and the United States, UT Arlington will host “The War Next Door: Narco-Violence and the U.S.-Mexico Border,” a program consisting of several events to be held on campus throughout the fall semester.

The program will be anchored by a photography exhibit by Dominic Bracco, a graduate of UT Arlington who now works as a photojournalist based in Mexico City. His collection of 30 photographs, entitled “Life and Death in the Northern Pass,” present a poignant and moving portrait of Ciudad Juárez, a city that has been especially hard hit by Mexico’s drug wars. With a population of 1.5 million, Juárez, the largest of the U.S.-Mexico border cities, has become one of the deadliest metropolitan areas in the world, with 3,000 murders in 2010 alone. Bracco’s photographs evoke a world where seemingly stark moral boundaries are blurred by the gritty realities of poverty, corruption, and endemic violence.

Bracco’s photographs have been exhibited in London and Washington D.C., and published in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and Texas Monthly, among others. He has been honored with a “Pictures of the Year International Award” and received a grant from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting. The exhibit is on display in the sixth floor parlor of the Central Library through Jan. 14, 2012. Bracco will deliver a talk on his work, “The Lost Generation: Globalization, Youth Culture and Violence in Ciudad Juárez,” at noon Wednesday, Sept. 28, in the sixth floor atrium of the library.

In October, National Public Radio correspondent John Burnett will discuss his reporting from the front lines of the drug wars. Based in Austin, Burnett has been a reporter for NPR since 1986. His reports can be heard regularly on NPR’s award-winning news magazines Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Weekend Edition. Although he has covered major news stories both at home and around the world, from Hurricane Katrina to war zones in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, Burnett specializes on the issues and people of the American Southwest and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. He has filed numerous investigative reports on narcotics trafficking in Central America and Mexico. Prior to coming to NPR, Burnett was based in Guatemala City for United Press International, where he covered the Central American civil wars. Burnett will speak on “The War Next Door” at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, in the sixth floor atrium of the library.

While the horrific violence of Mexico’s drug wars has garnered considerable media attention in the United States, less is known about the subculture which such violence has created. To a growing number of Latinos, the narco-traffickers are symbols of material success, and have been romanticized in popular culture. The impact of drug trafficking on Mexican music, film, and other forms of entertainment are the fo-

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George N. Green Retires

After 45 years of distinguished service, Professor George Green retired as a full-time member of the UT Arlington History Department this spring. Arriving in North Texas in 1966 after receiving his Ph.D. from Florida State University, Dr. Green taught Texas history and labor history, and was widely recognized as an authority in both fields.

A past president of the Association of Southern Labor Historians and the Texas State Historical Association, he authored three books as well as numerous book chapters, articles, and encyclopedia entries. His first book, The Establishment in Texas Politics: The Primitive Years, 1938-1957 (Greenwood, 1979), is a standard work on the subject that remains in print more than 30 years after it was first published.

Perhaps Green's greatest contribution to the University was the founding of the Texas Labor Archives and the Texas Political Archives, now housed in Special Collections. The UT Arlington Library began collecting original records in 1967, even before the formal establishment of the Special Collections Division. Largely as a result of Green's efforts, the library became the first in Texas and the Southwest to collect the records of labor unions and their officials. Serving as the library's field agents, Green and his students began a concerted effort to contact each of the 2,500 local unions in Texas about their historical records.

He also initiated an oral history program, tape recording interviews of the state's labor leaders and rank and file union members. The Texas AFL-CIO convention voted unanimously in 1967 to name UT Arlington as the state union's official depository. By 1970, the Texas Labor Archives was well established, and was collecting oral and written records statewide. In the years that followed, the collecting focus of the archives was expanded to include Texas political collections.

Green has served as a consultant for United Steelworkers, the Texas Committee for the Humanities, General Motors, and United Auto Workers. He has been listed in the Guide to Humanities Resources in the Southwest since 1977 and in Who's Who in American Politics and International Who's Who in Education, Directory of American Scholars, since 1980.

Following his retirement this spring, the University conferred upon Green the title of professor emeritus.
**Center Fellow Updates**


Stephanie Cole’s recent publications include “Servants and Slaves in Louisville: Race, Ethnicity, and Household Labor in an Antebellum Border City” in Ohio Valley History (Spring 2011); “‘Neither Marron nor Maid’: Race, Gender, Class and Marriage in Jim Crow Texas” in Honoring a Master: Essays in Honor of Bertram Wyatt Brown (University Press of Florida, 2011); and “Quit Surfing and Start Clicking: One Professor’s Effort to Combat the Problems of Teaching the U.S. Survey in a Large Survey Hall” History Teacher (May 2010). Her co-edited volume, *Texas Women, American Women: Their Lives and Times* is fully underway, and will be published next year. She will present on aspects of her current project, “On Gender, Marriage, and Women’s Work in the Formation of Jim Crow Society in Texas” at this fall’s annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, and at the next Southern Association for Women’s Historians meeting, which will be held in Fort Worth in June 2012.

Christopher Conway’s article, “Sisters at War: Mexican Women’s Poetry and the U.S. Mexican War,” has been accepted for publication in Latin American Research Review. At present, Professor Conway is researching a conference presentation on 19th-century Peruvian and Venezuelan theater.


David Narrett will have an article published in the William and Mary Quarterly (issue of January 2012). The article is entitled “The Geopolitics of Intrigue: James Wilkinson, the Spanish Borderlands, and Mexican Independence.” Professor Narrett examines General James Wilkinson, the notorious schemer, in the general’s various endeavors for power and profit from a first visit to New Orleans in 1787 until his death in Mexico City in 1825. Wilkinson is portrayed as a man typifying U.S. imperial ambition, which had a private and individualistic dimension outside the federal government’s control.

Douglas Richmond won UT Arlington’s Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity Award in May. This year he published “Border Conflicts Between George Bush and Vicente Fox: Continued as Well as Unresolved Disputes, 2000-2006” in the *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 26:1 and also “The Failure of Mid-Nineteenth Century Liberalism in Yucatán, 1855-1876” in the *Journal of Caribbean Studies* 45:1. Two of Professor Richmond’s book reviews appeared in the *New Mexico Historical Review* and the *Journal of Southern History*. In October, Dr. Richmond presented two papers, “Carrancista State Governments during the Mexican Revolution, 1913-1920” at the XIII Reunión de Historiadores de México, Estados Unidos y Canadá in Querétaro, Mexico, and “Liberal Oppression and Maya Resistance in the Yucatan Gulf Coast, 1822-1861” at the 28th Gulf South History and Humanities Conference in Gulfport, Mississippi. He also gave a public lecture, “Venustiano Carranza’s Nationalist Victory, 1913-1920” during a symposium at Midwestern State University in November. Much of Professor Richmond’s time has gone toward co-editing, with Sam Haynes, a Web Lectures volume, *The Mexican Revolution: Conflict and Consolidation, 1910-1940*.

Kenneth Roemer’s article, “They Talk, Who Listens: Audience in American Indian Literatures–The Erdrich Example,” is scheduled to appear in August in *Reception: Texts, Readers, Audience*. In spring 2011 two of his book reviews appeared in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* and *American Literature*. In May he was named a Piper Professor of 2011. The award is for undergraduate teaching; all Texas universities, colleges, and community colleges can nominate faculty. Only 10 were awarded this year.
Center Fellows Honored for Research, Teaching

This past spring two long-time Center Fellows received awards for excellence at the university level. History professor Douglas Richmond received a Distinguished Record of Research Award, and Modern Languages associate professor Chris Conway was one of three inductees to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

A founding member of UT Arlington’s Latin American Studies program, Dr. Richmond came to North Texas in 1975, after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. The author of three books and more than 21 refereed articles and book chapters, his principal area of research has been Mexico’s revolutionary period. He is the author of Venustiano Carranza’s Nationalist Struggle, 1893-1920 (University of Nebraska Press), a biography of Mexico’s 17th president. His research interests extend well beyond the revolutionary period, however. In recent years he has published articles (some of them in Spanish) on such topics as the U.S.-Mexico War, African slavery in the Spanish colonial era, and the modern presidencies of Luis Echeverría, López Portillo, and Vicente Fox. He has also broadened his research to include other areas of Latin America, most notably with his book Carlos Pellegrini and the Crisis of the Argentine Elites, 1880-1916 (Praeger, 1989), a study of the Argentine president responsible for maintaining national unity during the depression of the 1890s. His textbook on Mexico’s history, The Mexican Nation (Prentice-Hall) first published in 2001, has become a standard text in Mexican history classes in colleges and universities throughout the United States. Recognized not only in this country for his scholarship but also in Latin America, Richmond received the Capitán Alonso de León Medal of Merit in History in 2004 from the Sociedad Nuevoleonesa de Historia, Geografía y Estadística in Monterrey, Mexico. He is currently working on a book on the Yucatán in the mid-19th century.

Dr. Conway received his Ph.D. in Literature from UC-San Diego in 1996. A specialist in 19th century Mexican and Latin American gender literature, he is the author of The Cult of Bolívar in Latin American Literature (University Press of Florida, 2003). In recent years he has turned his attention to the U.S.-Mexico War, authoring an anthology of primary source materials, The U.S. Mexico War: A Bilingual Reader (Hackett, 2010). He is currently researching the poetry of Mexican women during the conflict with the United States. Conway teaches a wide range of courses in the Modern Languages Department, and has developed two popular online courses, Hispanic Culture and Civilization, and Business Spanish. Constantly searching for new ways to incorporate technology in his classes, Conway has been described as “an expert motivator” by Modern Languages chair Ray Elliot. As a teacher, he is always seeking to use exceptionally creative ways to engage his students. In one senior level literature course, for example, the students in the class self-published their research on Spanish language primary source texts relating to the U.S.-Mexico War. Since 2008 he has served as faculty co-chair of the OneBook Program, which seeks to bring first-year students and faculty together to discuss, debate, and explore a particularly thought-provoking piece of fiction or non-fiction.

Center welcomes new support specialist to the team

The Center Director Sam Haynes reports, “We are delighted to have Elizabeth York on board as the new support specialist for the office.” York, who also goes by the nickname “BeBe,” has worked for the University for several years, and returned to campus in April after the Computer Store was moved to the University Bookstore. Her office hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, and 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

Center Fellows

Stephanie Cole, Associate Professor of History
Chris Conway, Associate Professor of Modern Languages
Imre Demhardt (Ex-Officio), Professor and Garrett Endowed Chair in the History of Cartography
Robert Fairbanks, Professor of History
Sonia Kania, Associate Professor of Modern Languages
David Narrett, Associate Professor of History
Douglas Richmond, Professor of History
Ken Roemer, Professor of English
We Are an Indian Nation: A History of the Hualapai People
by Jeffrey P. Shepherd

In his new book *We Are an Indian Nation: A History of the Hualapai People*, published last year by the University of Arizona Press, Jeffrey P. Shepherd has two main goals. The first is to chronicle the Hualapai nation’s evolution from 13 “semi separate” Pai bands inhabiting areas in modern day Northwestern Arizona into a modern indigenous nation that continues to resist political and cultural colonization. His other major objective is to produce an up-to-date tribal history of the relatively obscure Hualapai. Shepherd employs a wealth of government documents, Hualapai Tribal Council proceedings, newsletters, oral histories, and “participant observation” to piece together this story.

Shepherd covers the pre-contact, Spanish, and Mexican eras, but his examination—mirroring Hualapai conceptions of their own history—begins in earnest with the ruthless American conquest and ethnic cleansing of the Southwest. In 1883, at the request of several band leaders, President Arthur approved the creation of a reservation along the Colorado River for the “Hualapai,” whose name derives from the mispronounced name of an individual Pai band, the Amat Whala Pa’a. While these bands shared a language, core beliefs, and lifeways, their identity still revolved around band and kin. Shepherd argues that “the reservation became a focal point for a collective—or national—identity that the bands would tentatively accept and elaborate upon.” (pp. 61-62)

While Shepherd is careful to note that living off the reservation did not necessarily prohibit one from adopting a Hualapai identity, he focuses most of his energy on covering developments on the reservation. From 1883 to the present there are several major issues that he emphasizes to demonstrate that the Hualapai were simultaneously building a collective identity.

Shepherd notes how Hualapai adaptation and resistance led to several successes in dealing with these powerful interests. First, the Hualapai were able to pressure the government into locating a boarding school on their reservation, which allowed “parents to watch and protect their children from extremes of cultural transformation.” (p. 126) He deftly shows how the common boarding school experience fostered nationalist sentiment and how this culminated in a generation of nationalist-minded activists. These younger leaders created a Tribal Council and organized widespread petition and letter-writing campaigns directed at the Indian Bureau to reclaim stolen land and water. Fusing traditional and modern leadership techniques, these men were able to stoke a feeling of nationalism and sustain legal efforts. Their activism resulted in a Supreme Court decision in 1941 upholding Hualapai land claims against the Santa Fe Railroad.

The Great Depression presented challenges to the Hualapai. With jobs scarce, many worked for the Indian Division of the CCC. Again, Shepherd draws out how these common experiences created strong bonds across generational and band lines. Some even began insisting, with little success, that non-Hualapais be excluded from work crews so that more Hualapais were able to profit from the skills being learned in carrying out these projects. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 also ushered in political changes to the reservation with an increasingly centralized Tribal Council, which many members distrusted to the point where it hindered the Tribal Council’s legitimacy.

Since 1945 the primary preoccupations of the Hualapai have been creating jobs and bringing water to the reservation to stabilize the economy. Seeking to do both, Hualapai leaders lobbied for decades to bring a dam to the reservation. Despite failing in this endeavor, the Hualapai have continued to show resilience and are now concentrating on tourism as a way to bring more jobs to the reservation.

In sum, Shepherd illustrates how the Hualapai reacted and adapted to modernity and colonization in creating their national identity. While this new national identity never completely effaced band identities, the indefatigable effort of Hualapai leaders to develop their reservation and sustain Hualapai language and culture demonstrates the power of this collective identity.

This is an important book that has few shortcomings. My biggest complaint is that Shepherd never truly fleshes out the importance of military service, particularly for the pivotal interwar generation. Several of the most important leaders were veterans, but Shepherd never investigates what the experience meant to these men, nor does he touch on how their service was interpreted by those who refused to fight, or those who were rejected by local draft boards. While Shepherd is not the first to use the concept of nation-building to frame a tribal history, this is an exemplary volume. With great skill, he weaves the complexity of individuals’ responses/adaptations into the larger narrative of Hualapai efforts to create a collective history. Furthermore, this study confronts issues that have hindered the process of nation-building. In short, Shepherd accomplishes his major tasks and one is presented with both a highly nuanced history of the Hualapai nation, as well as a history of Hualapai’s efforts to build a sense of nationhood amidst its triumphs and disappointments.

-Gregory Kosc
Vicente de Zaldívar’s “Probanza de méritos”:
Documentation for the Spanish Language in the Southwest

Sonia Kania
Associate Professor of Modern Languages

As a collaborator in the Cíbola Project, my research involves the edition of the “Probanza de méritos,” a legal document dealing with the services and merits of Vicente de Zaldívar, a nephew of Juan de Oñate who served as one of the latter’s principal lieutenants during the exploration and settlement of New Mexico. The Cíbola Project, conducted by the University of California’s Research Center for Romance Studies, is concerned with the edition of documents of the Hispanic Southwest from the colonial period (16th-18th centuries). It aims to resolve two interrelated issues regarding the documentation of the Spanish exploration and settlement of this area: the accessibility of texts produced during this period and the authenticity of publications of those texts. To date, a large number of the documents that deal with the Spanish presence in the Southwest have never been published in any form, necessitating that they be consulted in the archive or library in which they are housed. Additionally, many of those texts that have been published are only available in English translation. This is problematic for two principal reasons: first, the English translations of these documents are often incomplete or inaccurate, and second, the few Spanish editions that do exist are not always faithful representations of the original due to faulty readings or lax editorial criteria. This is particularly troublesome for the philologist who must often rely on orthographic cues in order to ascertain the characteristics of the language under study.

The investigators involved in the Cíbola Project are addressing these issues through the edition and publication of a wide range of documents of the Hispanic Southwest in order to make these documents readily available to a broad readership. Current on-going projects concern documents, dealing with topics such as the exploration and settlement of New Mexico under Juan de Oñate (such as mine), the workings of Church and State in New Mexico during the 17th century, and the Pueblo Revolt of 1680-1692. In this way, the texts can serve as reliable sources not only for their historical value but also as a faithful reflection of the Spanish language of the colonial period. The study of original texts is of utmost importance in discerning the characteristics of the language in a given period, particularly for periods for which we have no oral testimony.

To provide a brief historical background to the “Probanza,” after returning from the expedition to Quivira in November of 1601, Juan de Oñate and his men found that the fledgling capital of San Gabriel had been largely abandoned during their absence. Due to their disillusionment with the enterprise, the colonists had fled to New Spain. Vicente de Zaldívar was sent to apprehend them as traitors, however, he was too late. Oñate then dispatched Zaldívar to Mexico City in April 1602 in order to petition for more enlistments and, undoubtedly, to fend off criticism of their actions in New Mexico. To support this petition, Zaldívar presented information attesting to his deeds and services in the New Mexico campaign; the end result of the bureaucratic process is the 135-folio “Probanza de méritos.” The text includes documents dating from 1600-1602 written in Mexico and New Mexico and can be divided into four discrete parts. Each part contains a separate interrogatory with witness responses regarding Zaldívar’s services in the posts he occupied, first as sargento mayor, or third in command of military affairs, and later as maestre de campo, second in command to Oñate. A probanza or “proof” can be understood to correspond to the modern concept of a reference letter with the court testifiers serving as character witnesses for Zaldívar.

In addition to its philological value, this research project serves to further our knowledge of the various cultures that have had an influence in the forging of modern American society. While Americans instinctively think of east coast settlements such as Jamestown, Virginia and Plymouth, Massachusetts as the first colonies in the United States, Spaniards were present in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country long before. They began to colonize what is present-day New Mexico in 1598, almost a full decade prior to the founding of the Jamestown colony. The documents under study are among the earliest Hispanic texts written in New Mexico and provide primary source material for one of the principal players in the early history of the South-
ties, and flora and fauna. The study of this text is essential to understanding the early history of New Mexico and in turn provides key information to the history of the Spanish language in the Southwest.

As an investigator whose principal research areas include the history of the Spanish language and Colonial Latin American Spanish, the “Probanza de méritos” holds particular interest to me as a source from which to document the characteristics of the Spanish language at the turn of the 17th century. An analysis of the linguistic forms used by the various individuals who had a role in creating the text (e.g., scribes, copyists, witnesses, and even Zaldívar himself) serves to reconstruct the sound system, grammar, and vocabulary of the language as a whole. This information has bearing on the modern analysis of New Mexican Spanish, which manifests itself in two principal dialectal varieties—Border Spanish, which is spoken in the southern third of the state, and Traditional Spanish, spoken in the north. While Border Spanish is the result of more recent immigration from Mexico, the Traditional Spanish variety has been a feature of New Mexico for over four centuries, having developed from the late 16th-century implantation of Spanish in the area. Sadly, this traditional form of the language finds itself in peril. The influence of English over the past 150 years has produced a high degree of language attrition, meaning that Traditional Spanish is not being passed on from generation to generation in a consistent fashion. This, coupled with the normative influence of more standard varieties (e.g., Mexican Spanish and the Spanish of the classroom), points toward a bleak future for this dialect, and it is predicted that it will die out within the next 60 years.

Returning to the “Probanza de méritos,” an important example of the type of knowledge it provides in the area of phonology, or the system of sounds, involves the pronunciation types known as distinción and seseo. In modern Spanish, speakers of the Peninsular variety use distinción, that is, they distinguish between the phonemes /s/ and /θ/ so that words such as casa ‘house’ and caza ‘hunt’ have distinct pronunciations, the latter word articulated with the “lisping” sound so famously associated with Peninsular speech. In all varieties of American Spanish, on the other hand, speakers use seseo, whereby the words casa and caza are homonymous, both articulated with an [s] sound similar to that of English case. In the “Probanza de méritos,” spellings such as ves ‘time,’ vos ‘voice,’ dies ‘ten’ for vez, vos, diez indicate that the scribe who wrote the document did not distinguish between /s/ and /θ/, but rather exhibited the pronunciation style that now characterizes all speakers of American Spanish. Since this feature is the single-most important difference between the two macro-varieties, this text has great worth as an original source that documents the interplay between the two dominant pronunciation types during the period of origins of American Spanish.

As far as the grammar of the language is concerned, this text serves to document forms that were common in Old Spanish and are still preserved in rural varieties, such as those of New Mexico. Two such examples are the verbs vido ‘he/she/it saw’ and trajo ‘he/she/it brought.’ These forms were used in variation with vio and trajo in medieval and Golden Age Spanish but have since been ousted from the standard language. These same forms are often found in the speech of Hispanics in the Metroplex. Despite the fact that they are currently considered “rustic,” vido and trajo have the same historic validity as modern vio and trajo.

Perhaps the most interesting lexical aspect revealed in the “Probanza de méritos” is that the text reflects the two choices Spaniards were faced with upon encountering the new reality of the Americas. In naming the new reality, they could either: (1) adapt an existing term from Spanish, or (2) incorporate an indigenous word into the Spanish lexicon. These options are seen in the use of the terms vacas de Cíbola, literally ‘Cíbola cows,’ to refer to the American bison. Although originally a designation for the Zuni pueblos, šiwin’a > Cíbola came to refer to the whole region of Arizona and New Mexico. It also serves as the basis for the terms cibolo ‘buffalo’ and cibolero ‘buffalo hunter,’ both found in New Mexican Spanish of today. Other words of indigenous origin documented in the text include maíz ‘corn’ and macana ‘club’ (from Taino) and jacal ‘hut,’ mesquite ‘mesquite,’ milpa ‘(corn) field’ (from Nahuatl).

In this brief overview of my research on the “Probanza de méritos,” I hope to have shown that the project is beneficial not only to language scholars who are interested in the study of the origins of American Spanish, but also to historians of the Southwest. It provides a faithful representation of an important document that resulted from the Spanish presence in the area and attests to the importance of carrying out original documentary research in order to shed light on the historical development of Spanish in general and of Mexican and New Mexican Spanish in particular. The ultimate goal is that the final products of my research make a significant contribution toward unravelling the history of the Traditional Spanish variety of New Mexico. While we may not be able to stop the inexorable death of this dialect, the documentation of its characteristics during its infancy will serve to honor its cultural legacy as the oldest European language variety of the United States.
Mississippi River the Subject of Fall TMS Meeting

The fall meeting of the Texas Map Society is Saturday, Oct. 8, in the UT Arlington Central Library's sixth floor parlor. Among the featured speakers are Chicago-based author Robert A. Holland and UT Arlington history Professor Christopher Morris, as well as representatives from several North Texas university map collections. Holland, author of Chicago in Maps (New York: Rizzoli, 2005), will discuss his latest book, The Mississippi River in Maps and Images (New York: Rizzoli, 2008). Dr. Morris’ presentation is entitled “Mapping the Mississippi for Science: Mapmakers as Hydrologists, from Delisle to Fisk.”

The afternoon program will feature representatives from several north central Texas universities—UT Arlington, the University of North Texas, Southern Methodist University, and Baylor University—who will give a general history of their map collections, as well as some highlights of their holdings. Following these presentations there will be a round table discussion in which these curators will talk about their work in digitizing their collections and engage in a dialogue regarding ideas and opportunities for Texas Map Society involvement. Longtime TMS member and local NBC Channel 5 Chief Meteorologist David Finfrock will conclude the meeting with his map “show and tell” session, a regular feature of TMS meetings, in which members bring their own maps to discuss with the group.

A special Friday (Oct. 7) field trip to the University of North Texas at Denton will precede the regular Saturday meeting. At the new UNT Discovery Park campus, participants will view the traveling exhibit “Places & Spaces: Mapping Science.” A preconference dinner will be held that evening at Dallas’ Old City Park. For contact information, details about the meeting, or to register, see the Texas Map Society website texasmap-society.org and click on “events.”

Narco-Violence continued from page 2

Finally, David J. Taylor, an associate professor of fine arts at the University of New Mexico, Las Cruces, will discuss his new book of photographs, Working the Line (Radius, 2010). A 2008 Guggenheim Fellow, Taylor focuses on the boundary itself, and more specifically the 276 obelisks that mark the 700-mile border from El Paso/Juarez to San Diego/Tijuana. Despite U.S. efforts to erect a barrier with Mexico, in many places the monuments, which were installed in the late nineteenth century by the International Boundary Commission, are the only evidence of a boundary separating the two countries. During the course of his field work, Taylor encountered smugglers, migrants, and U.S. Border Patrol agents. His work provides a unique view into overlapping issues of border security and the trafficking of people and drugs. His book captures the complexity of these human dynamics and its impact on the land, and in so doing seeks to look beyond the stereotypes that frame U.S. perceptions of Mexico. Taylor’s presentation, “Working on the Line: Physical, Social and Political Topography of the U.S.-Mexico Border,” will be held at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Room 148 at the UT Arlington Fine Arts Building.

All events are free and open to the public. Contact the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies at swcenter@uta.edu or call 817-272-3997 for more details.