Center to Co-Sponsor Webb Lectures on the Texas Revolution

The Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures have been an annual tradition for UT Arlington’s History Department. Held every spring for almost half a century, they have covered a wide range of historical topics, from medieval history to the history of American film. Surprisingly, however, they have never focused on one of the fields for which Walter Prescott Webb is best known—nineteenth century Texas. A president of the Texas State Historical Association and professor of history at UT Austin for many years, Webb was one of the pioneers in an effort by scholars to popularize the history of the state, and to examine its uniqueness as a region.

On March 7, 2013, the History Department and the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies will present the 48th annual Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures, “Contested Empire: Rethinking the Texas Revolution.” As its title suggests, the conference will seek to offer new perspectives on a topic which, to a large degree, has been left to historians of the state by scholars who specialize in the United States or Mexico in the early nineteenth century. The need for fresh perspectives is particularly important and timely, in view of new trends in the study of the American Southwest. Whereas Webb and others in the twentieth century focused primarily on the ascendancy of Anglo-Americans, more recent scholarship has tended to characterize the borderlands regions as ever-changing, liminal spaces, in which diverse peoples competed for dominance. Accordingly, next year’s Webbs will seek to integrate the Texas borderlands into a broad, geopolitical, and cultural framework, connecting the region and its peoples to a wider world. By bringing together historians from the United States and Mexico, the conference will endeavor to bring new perspectives to the study of the origins of the events that gave birth to the Texas Republic and its subsequent incorporation by the United States. Addressing issues related to the Anglo-American role in the Texas insurrection will be Eric Schlereth of the University of Texas at Dallas and Sam W. Haynes, director of the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies. An intellectual and cultural historian, Dr. Schlereth will examine the process of expatriation for American citizens who migrated to Texas during the early decades of the nineteenth century. Dr. Haynes, who is currently working on a book on Texas during the 1830s and 1840s, will examine the impact of the American Revolution on the Texas separatist movement. The Mexican side of the conflict will be the focus of lectures by Miguel Soto, of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, and Will Fowler, of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Professor Soto has written widely on early nineteenth century U.S.-Mexico border relations, and is the translator and editor of the Spanish language edition of David Pletcher’s The Diplomacy of Annexation. Dr. Fowler, author of Santa Anna of Mexico, widely regarded as the best biography of the controversial Mexican leader, will discuss the ways in which the 1835-1836 Texas insurrection was covered by the Mexican press. The evening keynote address will be delivered by Amy S. Greenberg, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of the widely acclaimed Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire, and the soon-to-be published A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln and the U.S. Invasion of Mexico. Dr. Greenberg will examine the Texas independence movement in the larger context of American imperialism.

The essays will be subsequently published as an anthology by Texas A&M University Press, and will be edited by Haynes and Center Fellow Gerald Saxon. Gregg Cantrell, Erma and Ralph Lowe professor of history at Texas Christian University, will write an introduction to the volume.
Center Receives $30,000 Summerlee Foundation Grant

In December, the Center received a $30,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation to continue its work on a multi-year project to digitize and put online the UT Arlington Library’s extensive U.S.-Mexico War archives. Now in its second year, the project is a collaborative effort between the Center and the UT Arlington Library to build a website, “A Continent Divided: the U.S.-Mexico War.” Providing digitized primary source materials and explanatory text on a wide range of topics related to the war, the website seeks to be the most comprehensive internet resource available for researchers and educators on the 1846-48 conflict. The Summerlee Foundation grant has made it possible to hire a content editor, translator, transcriptionist and web designer, who are working with Center director Sam Haynes and Karen Horsfall, head of Digital Library Services, to develop new content for the site. This fall the website will feature three new content areas: the coming of the war, campus life, and the U.S. army’s occupation of Mexico City, as well as an interactive timeline. To continue the project, the Center has applied for a three-year, $350,000 digitization grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Robert Caldwell Receives Hall-Kohfeldt Scholarship

Robert Caldwell has been named this year’s recipient of the Ida V. Hall and George Kohfeldt Scholarship. The scholarship assists students whose work focuses on the Native American Southwest. A student in the Transatlantic History program, Caldwell holds master’s degree in the Interdisciplinary Heritage Resources Program at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. A member of the Choctaw-Apache community of Euharli, La., he is an active member of UT Arlington’s Native American Student Association. His wide-ranging academic and research interests include social history, cultural anthropology, and ethnography. He is currently doing research on Chocowar migration patterns in the southeastern United States during the early decades of the nineteenth century, a project which enables him to draw attention to the ways in which the American Southeast and the American Southwest intersect.

Kyle Carpenter Receives Garrett Award

The Virginia and Jenkins Garrett Endowed Fellowship is awarded each year to a graduate student in history doing archival, non-cartographic research in the UT Arlington Special Collections. History master’s student Kyle Carpenter received the fellowship for the 2011-12 academic year based on his archival research on the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, one of the most important land companies doing business in Texas on the eve of the Texas Revolution. Although much has been written on Stephen F. Austin and the empresario system, Austin’s competitors in the real estate business in Mexican-held Texas have attracted considerably less attention. The Texas Land Company’s activities—and the role of Anglo-American land speculators in general—help to illuminate the economic causes of the separatist movement that brought about the independence of Texas. Carpenter completed his undergraduate study at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he received a bachelor’s degree in history. He is currently writing his Master’s thesis, a comparative study of the Mexican independence movements of Central America and Texas.

Kenneth M. Roemer Receives Awards

Between May 2011 and May 2012, Center Fellow Ken Roemer received University, UT System, and state-wide recognition for his classroom and one-on-one teaching. Most recently he received UT Arlington’s Graduate Dean’s Award for Excellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring. In part this was recognition for his students’ achievements: in the past eight years the six students who completed dissertations under his direction all either accepted or were offered tenure track teaching. Most recently he received UT Arlington’s Graduate Dean’s Award for Excellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring. In part this was recognition for his students’ achievements: in the past eight years the six students who completed dissertations under his direction all either accepted or were offered tenure track teaching. The UT System’s Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award and the Minnie Stephens Hall-Kohfeldt Scholarship recognize the excellence of a faculty member’s work. His wide-ranging academic and research interests include social history, cultural anthropology, and ethnography. He is currently doing research on Chocowar migration patterns in the southeastern United States during the early decades of the nineteenth century, a project which enables him to draw attention to the ways in which the American Southeast and the American Southwest intersect.

In Memoriam, Virginia Garrett 1920-2012

UT Arlington lost a great friend in April with the passing of distinguished map collector and philanthropist Virginia Garrett at the age of 91. A native of Fort Worth, Virginia shared with her husband, Jenkins Garrett, a passion for collecting. In the 1950s and 1960s, as Jenkins began to accumulate materials relating to the history of early Texas, Virginia became interested in maps and other cartographic materials. Over the course of several decades, she amassed a collection that included 375 atlases and 900 maps, dating from the 1500s until 1980, reported to be one of the largest collections of its type in private hands.

Eighth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography

Friday, October 5, 2012
Sixth Floor, Central Library
The University of Texas at Arlington Lectures begin at 9 a.m.

“Pearls of the Antilles: Maps of Caribbean Islands” is the theme for the Eighth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography and the accompanying exhibit at UT Arlington Library’s Special Collections. The focus of the event is maps and how they reflect and shaped the history of Caribbean islands. David Buisseret, former holder of the Garrett Endowed Chair on the History of Cartography and widely published in the histories of both cartography and the Caribbean, will begin with a presentation on the “Spanish Foundations of Caribbean Cartography.” After introducing the medieval portolan chart tradition in Iberia, Buisseret will discuss charts from the Columbus period, indigenous contributions, the establishment of the navigation school at Seville, the stages of the master map (padrón real), Spanish manuscripts and German editions, and the mapping of Florida, the Gulf of Mexico (1559), and briefly touch on subsequent cartography of the Caribbean. John D. Garrigus, associate professor of history at UT Arlington, is an expert in the French Caribbean and will present “After Mountains, More Mountains: French Cartography and Topography of the Antilles, 1600-1800.” In this presentation, Garrigus will analyze maps of France’s Caribbean islands, and describe why mapping was so important to attempts to hold the French empire together after the loss of Canada in the French and Indian War.

Max Edelson, associate professor of history and co-director of the Early American Seminar at the University of Virginia, will present “Serling the Ceded Islands: Cartography and Colonization in the British West Indies, 1763-1786.” These include the islands of Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Tobago, and through mapping, the British imagined how these islands could be claimed, developed, and reconstituted as colonies in an era of imperial war.

Daniel Hopkins, associate professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Missouri at Kansas City will present...
Center Fellow Updates

Samantha W. Haynes completed two essays, “Manifest Destiny and the American Southwest,” and “The Texas Revolution as His- torical Revisionism.” The first will appear in A Companion to the Era of Andrew Jackson, for Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, to be published this fall; the second will appear in the second edition of his anthology, Major Problems in Texas History, published by Cengage. He and co-editor Douglas Richardson also completed the 45th annual Walter Prescott Webb essay collection, Remembering the Mexican Revolution: Conflict and Consolidation, 1910-1940, to be published this fall by Texas A&M University Press. He is also writing and editing content for the website “A Continent Divided: the U.S.-Mexico War,” a joint project of the UT Arlington Library and the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies. In May he received the College of Liberal Arts Research Award for his recent book, Unfinished Revolution: The Early American Republic in a British World (Virginia, 2010).

Stephanie Cole is researching gender, intermarriage, and women’s role in the formation of Jim Crow society in Texas, and has recently presented on discrete aspects of that scholar- ship at the Southern Association for Women’s History and the Southern Historical Association. In addition, her co-edited vol- ume, Texas Women, American Women: Their Lives and Times is in the final stages of editing, and will be published by the Uni- versity of Georgia Press in early 2014. She continues to serve in various capacities in the Texas State Historical Association and other professional organizations in an effort to both enrich scholarly attention to, and expand public awareness of, women’s history in Texas.

Last fall Robert Fairbanks presented a paper at the 14th Nation- al Conference on Planning History in Baltimore entitled “The State, the City, and the Early Public Housing in the Southeast, 1937-1960.” In addition, he read a paper at the 75th Interna- tional Planning History Society Conference in Sao Paulo enti- tled “The Housing Act of 1937 in 2011 after a 25-year career in library administra- tion as assistant director for Special Collections, associate direc- tor of the Library, and dean of the Library. He is now a full-time faculty member in the History Department, a dream he has had since arriving at UT Arlington in 1986. He is currently working on a biography of Texas empresario Sterling Clack Robertson (1875-1842). His two most recent books are Collecting Texas, with Thomas Kriemeck, published by the Book Club of Texas in 2010, and Historic Texas from Before the Civil War, with David Bourgeois, Jack Graves, and Richard Francaviglia, published by the Uni- versity of Texas Press in 2009. Saxon was recently president of the Society for the History of Discoveries, 2009-2011, and is currently vice-president/president-elect of the Texas Map So- ciety.

Stephanie Cole, Associate Professor of History
Chris Cornwess, Associate Professor of Modern Languages
Inna Demidh (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
Ken Rozema, Professor of English
Gerald Saxon, Associate Professor of History

Center Fellows

Sonia Kania is working on an article that will appear in the Fall 2013 issue of Romance Philology. The article is a critical edition of the fourth part of the manuscript document known as the “Prohaza de méritos” (1680-1682), which deals with actions of Vicente de Zaldívar during the conquest and colonization of New Mexico at the turn of the 17th century. Zaldívar was the nephew of Juan de Oñate, the first governor of New Mexico, and served as one of his chief officers.

David Narrett published an article on General James Wilkin- son, frontier powerhouse par excellence, in the Jan. 2012 issue of The William and Mary Quarterly. The article is entitled, “Geopolitics and Intrigue: James Wilkinson, the Spanish Bor- delands, and Mexican Independence.” He is completing a major book manuscript on colonial adventurism and imperial rivalries in the Louisiana-Florida Borderlands, 1763-1800.”

Kenneth Roemer received the Graduate Dean’s Award for Ex- cellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring. He was the first Lib- ral Arts faculty member to receive the award. In the spring his co-authored article “Elephant or Chameleon?: Simms Collect- thologies” appeared in The Simms Review. In the summer: “It’s Not a Poem. It’s My Life: Navajo Singing Identities” appeared in Studies in American Indian Literatures. The latter was an essay that grew out of an invited paper presented in France. He also presented papers at the Society for Utopian Studies conference and the Native American Literature Symposium.

Gerald Saxon stepped down as dean of the UT Arlington Li- brary in fall 2011 after a 25-year career in library administra- tion, as assistant director for Special Collections, associate direc- tor of the Library, and dean of the Library. He is now a full-time faculty member in the History Department, a dream he has had since arriving at UT Arlington in 1986. He is currently working on a biography of Texas empresario Sterling Clack Robertson (1875-1842). His two most recent books are Collecting Texas, with Thomas Kriemeck, published by the Book Club of Texas in 2010, and Historic Texas from Before the Civil War, with David Bourgeois, Jack Graves, and Richard Francaviglia, published by the Uni- versity of Texas Press in 2009. Saxon was recently president of the Society for the History of Discoveries, 2009-2011, and is currently vice-president/president-elect of the Texas Map So- ciety.

Where the West Begins: Debating Texas Identity
by Glen Sample Ely

n Where the West Begins, Glen Sample Ely attempts to shed light on an old debate among historians: Is Texas southern (slav- ery and cotton), western (cowboys and cattlemen), or unique (the Texas Revolution and Republics)?

Ely draws evidence from primary and secondary sources, picks apart the historiography of historians, and determines that West Texas is decidedly western, with a history distinctly western. That distinguishes it from East Texas and the latter’s Old South influences. This award-winning book, published by Texas Tech University Press in 2011 as part of its Plains Histories series, investigates and topples many time-worn Texas his- tory myths, while placing the history of Texas west of the 100th meridian firmly alongside those of the Old and New West.

The author begins by examining how scholars have char- acterized Texas, juggling it between the West and the South. The Anglo-centric, western frontier theories of Eugene C. Barker and Walter Prescott Webb held sway for much of the twentieth century before historians of “Texas’s Southern Revolution” came to the fore in the 1980s. These historians of “Texas’s Southern Revolution” came to the fore in the 1980s. These historians argued that West Texas is both unique from the rest of the state and an integral part of it, describing the phys- ical nature of the region, marking “where the West begins.”

In his second chapter, Ely counters the prevailing nar- rative that Texas was a dutiful member of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Texans in the shatterbelt region, from the Anglos in North Texas down to the Tejanos and Ger- mans west of San Antonio, where slavery never took root, were generally against secession, voting against secession and avoiding conscription. Tejanos in the Trans-Pecos even harassed the retreating forces of Confederate Brig. Gen. Sib- ley’s Army of New Mexico as he abandoned much of West Texas.

Tejanos along the frontier deserted from home-guard militias, Texas Ranger battalions, and Confederate units in large numbers during the war. Union forces from the federal territory of New Mexico occupied Texas west of the Pecos from August 1862 through June 1865 and even contemplated using the region as a staging area for the invasion of the rest of the state.

Interestingly, Ely has proven that Texas ranchers illegally traded with the Union enemy (and Mexico). Through care- ful sifting of oft-overlooked documents, he proves conclu- sively that the Goodnight-Loving Trail to New Mexico was not blazed after the war, as one would have it, but at least as early as 1864 by Lone Star cattle-drivers. John Chisolm too had direct links to Union beef contractors and West Texas was already west of the frontier. Ely is known for his work on the railroads and the corresponding influx of whites into the region altered this coexistence.

Still, Ely argues, this segregation, though blatantly racist and wrong, was not as violent and rigid as the segregation of African Americans in Central and East Texas. He notes that of the 489 recorded lynchings in Texas between 1882 and 1938, only seven (representing three Tejanos and four blacks) occurred west of the 100th meridian.

In the fourth chapter, Ely relates how twentieth-century settlers in West Texas farmed and ranched the region despite the environmental limitations imposed by the arid climate. The attempt to use agriculture suited to wetter regions, live- stock raising and irrigated farming, led to overgrazing and denuded grasslands, failed farms and high-salinity soil, and finally vanishing groundwater and depleted aquifers. The Anglo-controlled region of farmers and ranchers, he con- cludes, will be seen by future historians as “a mirage, a tem- porary phenomenon, or an apocalyptic blip” (p. 128).

Ely concludes Where the West Begins by returning to his original question: “Is Texas southern, western, or unique?” He writes: “The answer is all three” (p. 128). The author refers to the insights of scholars like John Stricklin Spratt, Randolph Campbell, Richard Flores, and James Crisp to explain that Texans and their mythmak- ers have clung to the cowboy image of West Texas and the exceptionalism of the Texas Revolution to escape the ever-barring burden of southern history (slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, etc.). This confusing jumble of identities has meant that historians of the South and West often ignore Texas. Ely complains that Texas historians who focus on the southern heritage in East Texas have long mini- nized West Texas just as the “New Western History” ig- nored it. West Texas, Ely concludes, is a distinct region of the state that is fully western, and uniquely deserving of scholarly study.

—Gene Rhea Tucker, The University of Texas at Arlington
A

though slums and inadequate housing for the poor have been an issue in the United States since the mid-19th century, the problem gained so much attention by the 1930s that the federal government decided to intervene with a program of slum clearance and public housing. Scholars have done a good job of documenting the effort to clear slums in the East and Midwest, but there has been little published on slum clearance and public housing in the Southwest. I am completing a book project that does just that by examining five Southwestern cities—Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Albuquerque and Phoenix—to see how they responded to federal programs between 1933 and 1965 to eradicate their slums. At least one scholar account suggested that Southwestern cities probably shied away from early public housing because their leaders were socially conservative and did not agree that the federal government should help the poor by providing housing for them. My study suggests that Southwestern civic leaders and city officials were not as conservative in these matters as they are sometimes portrayed and used federal legislation for slum clearance and public housing to promote urban order, civic health and public safety. As city builders, they shared similar characteristics with civic leaders around the nation in their commitment to slum clearance and public hous-

ing. Indeed, four of the five cities I stud-

ied fully embraced public housing and slum clearance after Congress passed the Housing Act of 1937. Unlike places with strong reform tradi-
tions such as New York City, Cincin-
nati, and Chicago, much of the support for slum clearance in the Southwest came from the busi-

ness community, al-

though religious lead-
ers, women's groups and community groups also pushed for slum clearance and public housing. During the Great Depression, federal officials publicized the ill ef-

ect of slums by emphasizing not only how slums shaped the behavior of the poor who lived there, but how slums threatened the larger city by promoting an increase of crime, sickness, and civic indifference. A leading sociologist best re-
flected this view when he wrote, “The slum is a sociological problem” and “sets its mark upon those officials of self-appointed ethics who would give them attitude and behavior problems peculiar to itself.” Such a definition of slums suggested they were distinctive areas of disintegration and disorganization, a cancer like force that undermined the sense of community as well as social and civic responsibility among those who resided there, thus threatening the welfare of the entire metropolis.

Business leaders and other city builders who wanted to eradicate barriers to their city’s growth and development brought such into view. As a result, all five Southwestern cities created housing authorities by the late 1930s to partici-

pate in slum clearance and public housing. Houston, which is often viewed as one of the most conservative cities in the nation, built 2,215 units of public housing, including two projects for African Americans containing 897 units. It also cleared 1,278 units of slum housing. San Antonio, whose Mexican American barrio nearby downtown was character-
ized by a federal official as “one of the most extensive slums to be found in any American city,” found the New Deal’s of-

fer of slum clearance and public housing particularly attrac-
tive. Indeed, San Antonio in the late 1930s secured 2,554 units of public housing including two projects that cleared a portion of the Mex-
ican-American barrio on the city’s near west side.

Dallas also target-
ed a Mexican Ameri-
can barrio, called Little Mexico, for slum clearance and public housing after it had cleared part of the Hall Street-

Thorndale slum on the national scene for a massive public housing project for African Americans. The Roseland Homes project provided not only better housing for social workers and social workers, but also community setting including a park, an auditori-
um, and an environment to promote more tenant interaction and encourage better citizenship. In addition, the Dallas Housing Authority bought additional property from Anglos and African Americans. By the end of World War II, the city had completed 1,750 units of public housing, much of it on former slum sites. Smaller Phoenix also cleared slums and expanded the limited public housing for African Americans, Anglos and African Americans. Of the five cities, only tiny Albuquerque, with a population of a little more than 45,000, failed to erect public housing or demolish slums in the 1930s, despite the prediction of the Albuquerque Tribune that the city “would go strong for the public housing program.” Rather than serious misgivings about the program, political turmoil and controversy be-
tween local and federal officials appeared the greatest reason the city failed to participate in slum clearance and public housing.

By the late 1950s both public housing and urban renewal became increasingly controversial because of three developments.

World War II heightened slum clearance and public housing for the poor but it did not stop plans for future projects. All four cities seemed satisfied that their initial programs were primarily positive additions in the war on slums and all four made plans to request additional federal public housing and slum clearance money when the war ended. According to the Dallas Housing Authority, public housing projects had reduced ex-

penses to taxpayers and government by lowering the costs for public services needed in slum areas. Other communities had documented lower crime and juvenile delinquency in public housing projects and an increase in property values in nearby neighborhoods.

Houston was pleased with its pub-

lic housing program to apply for an allotment of 3,300 units after the war, while San Antonio requested 1,885 units, and smaller Phoenix applied for 1,065 new units.

Albuquerque erected additional public housing in all of these cities, especially from builders and realtors, local governments cooperated closely with the hous-
ung authorities to secure more public housing. Soon after Congress passed the Housing Act of 1949, all of the cities but Albuquerque erected additional slum clearing public hous-
ing. They also made plans to take advantage of the Housing Act’s new programs called urban redevelopment. Under urban redevelopment, the federal government provided money to purchase slum areas, clear them, and sell them to private developers who would build additional housing (although not necessarily for the poor). Dallas, concerned with growing racial unrest in South Dallas as African Ameri-
cans moved into previously all white neighborhoods, not only turned to public housing to ease the housing shortage for Dallas African Americans but planned additional public housing and slum clearance under the urban redevelopment section of the act. For instance, housing authorities erected four post war projects for African Americans including a massive 1,500-unit proj-

ect in West Dallas. As a result, between 1950 and 1954, Dal-
las added 6,225 units of public housing.

By the late 1950s both public housing and urban renewal became increasingly controversial because of three develop-

ments. First, social theorists in the 1950s started to de-

scribe the role of neighborhood in shaping individual beha-

vior. As a result, slums seemed less menacing than they had been earlier and large-scale community development public housing projects appeared not as necessary as before. Second, there became an increasing preoccupation with citizen rights possibly in response to the excesses of Nazism, fascism and communism, with their emphasis on subverting the rights of individuals for the public good by employing the allowed cleared land to be used for non-residential purposes making some question the use of eminent domain for this purpose.

In Southwestern cities, citizens often voiced concerns over the use of eminent domain to take land from property own-

ers and turn it over to private developers. In Dallas, Republi-

can Congressmen Bruce Alger used his power to rally Dallas citizens against both public housing and urban redevelop-

ment in the late 1950s. The growing emphasis on preserving individual rights reached an apex in Phoenix and Houston with citizen revolts against housing codes and zoning, one of the new requirements to secure federal slum clearance funds from the Housing Act of 1954. Indeed, new efforts to prevent slums from developing, part of the Housing Act of 1954, were vigorously fought especially for many Southwesterners, even though civic leaders en-

dorsed such programs. In three different occasions Phoenix citizens voted down proposals for a housing code because “it threatened people’s property rights.” San Antonio residents also defeated a proposed housing code as being too intrusive. A disgruntled Houston landlord reacted violently after his city passed a housing code in 1961. When a housing code inspector tried to close down an apartment building because it failed to meet housing code standards, the landlord shot and killed him and his two companions. When questioned why he shot them, the killer claimed “They were trying to rob me. I was right protecting my property.” Houston residents also opposed zoning, another require-

ment to participate in the urban renewal program, because it was “communist inspired” and threatened the right of land ownership. When civic leaders pushed a referendum to allow zoning in Houston in 1962, nearly 57 percent of those cast-

ing ballots voted no.

Robert B. Fairbanks

Professor of History

Changing Attitudes about Slum Clearance

and Public Housing in the Urban Southwest

Central housing for San Antonio’s Mexican Americans. Courtesy FSA/OWI Collection, Prints and Photographs Division (Library of Congress)

Corral housing for San Antonio’s Mexican Americans. Courtesy FSA/OWI Collection, Prints and Photographs Division (Library of Congress)


4 San Antonio Housing Authority, “Annual Report, 1945,” typescript (SHA, San Antonio); Minutes, PHA, December 16, 1944.


8 The Dallas Housing Authority also developed additional public housing for Anglos and Mexican American Americans.


Virginia Garrett Lectures continued from page 3

“Cartography and Cadastre in a Slave-Plantation Society: Eighteenth-Century Maps of St. Croix, Danish West Indies (U.S. Virgin Islands).” He will show how the mapping of the island of St. Croix heavily relied upon the pattern of taxed landholdings superimposed by the Danish colonial administration back in the 1730s.

S. Blair Hedges, professor of biology at The Pennsylvania State University, will present “Solving Biological Questions with Historical Maps of Caribbean Islands.” Having developed an online web resource for exploring Caribbean cartography (caribmap.org) in addition to his numerous accomplishments in evolutionary biology, Hedges will here trace some of the complex history of Caribbean toponyms found on maps and demonstrate how these are important in determining where old but important museum specimens were collected.

Accompanying the lectures is an exhibit at UT Arlington Library’s Special Collections titled “Pearls of the Antilles: Printed Maps of Caribbean Islands,” featuring more than 70 maps and prints, drawn solely from the collections at UT Arlington. The exhibit will run from August 2012 through January 2013.

Attendees to the lectures are also invited to attend the Texas Map Society’s Fall Meeting at The University of Texas at Arlington Library, sixth floor parlor, the following day, Saturday, October 6. There will be an overall Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico theme to most of these presentations as well. Among the featured speakers for the TMS meeting will be Jim Bruseth, who will be presenting “How Maps Doomed a Seventeenth-Century French Expedition and Enabled a Twentieth-Century Shipwreck Discovery: The Story of La Salle’s Ship La Belle.” Bruseth is the former director of the archaeology division at the Texas Historical Commission that sponsored the excavation of La Belle, one of the most exciting recent finds in the history of North American archaeology. For further details on the Texas Map Society’s meeting see their website at texasmapsociety.org/events.html.