"Changing Images of the Southwest" to be Explored in Lectures, Essays...

Students of Southwestern history, culture, and geography will want to note March 11, 1993, on their calendars. That marks the time of the day-long Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures series at UT Arlington. The topic, "Changing Images of the Southwest," will be explored from four perspectives.

"Elusive Land: Changing Geographic Images of the Southwest" will find Center Director Richard Francaviglia describing the different ways the region has been viewed over the last four centuries. According to Dr. Francaviglia, who is an historical geographer, there have been several Southwesterns. Using the methodology of his discipline, including an analysis of maps and landscape images, Francaviglia will describe how Native Americans, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo Americans have defined the region to meet their purposes and needs.

"On Coyotes and Crosses: That Which Is Wild and Wooden of the Twentieth Century Southwest" will be presented by Marta Weigle, who will explore images of the region and how they developed. Weigle will begin with the Hotel Alvarado, the Santa Fe Railroad's Southwestern style hotel that pioneered the regional style that we have come to accept as timeless today. A professor of American Studies at the University of New Mexico, Weigle is a lively speaker, and has authored several books on the Southwest, including Hispano Folk Life of New Mexico, and Brothers of Light, Brothers of Blood. Her presentation is guaranteed to stimulate the audience.

"The American Southwest: Conventions and Inventions in Art and Literature" by Karl Doerr, will show how the written word about the region has mirrored the region's cultural development. Doerr, a professor of literature and Director of International Studies at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, will show that the region's short stories, novels, and other literature provide a revealing commentary about peoples' relationship to place and to each other.

"The Spanish Written Word: Changing Images and Neglected Legacy of the Spanish Southwest" by Oakah Jones, will point out the enduring Hispanic traditions of the Borderlands. Professor Jones, of Purdue University, is an authority on the early Spanish development of the region and has written numerous books, including Nueva Vizcaya: Heartland of the Spanish Frontier, and Paisanos: Spanish Settlers on the Northern Frontier. In this presentation, he will show us how Hispanic culture has endured in the region through several centuries, and how it has left an indelible legacy on the region's cultural and historic traditions. Essays by these Webb lecturers will appear in the 1993-94 Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Essays series, which will be edited by David Narrett and Richard Francaviglia, and published by the Texas A&M University Press.

The Webb Lectures are open to the public; three lectures will be on Thursday morning (8 a.m. to Noon), with Professor Jones' presentation being at 7:30 p.m. at the University Center. For more information, please contact: Stephen Maizlish, Chair, Webb Lectures Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19529, Arlington, Texas 76019-0529.

Hispanic Homeland Defines Character of Southwestern Subregion

The Southwest is a diverse region with many subregions. One of the most important, historically and culturally, is what geographer Richard Nostrand calls the "Hispano Homeland," the upper Rio Grande country from around Albuquerque north through Santa Fe, Taos, and into southern Colorado. Nostrand has written an exciting book about how cultural identity is created and sustained in what some consider the heart of the Southwest. True to his training as a cultural/historical geographer, Nostrand documents numerous stages in the development of the Hispano homeland, including early Hispanics, formative colonization, Indian articulation, expansion, Anglo intrusion, Mexican immigration, and village-rural-urban population dynamics. The Hispano Homeland helps one understand the persistence of powerful cultural images and even stereotypes that characterize the area today. It is available from the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK 73070-0787.
A Southwestern Treasure—Discovering UTA’s Special Collections

When researchers think of important libraries that contain important historic resource materials about the Southwest, names like the Huntington Library (San Marino), Bancroft (Berkeley), The Center for American History (UT Austin), and the DeGolyer Library (SMU Dallas) come to mind. In recent years, however, another important library has established a reputation for excellence: UTA’s Special Collections.

The Special Collections Division was established in 1974 as a result of the donation of some 10,000 books, documents, periodicals, and newspapers by Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins Garrett of Fort Worth. Central to the Division is the Jenkins Garrett Library. In addition to books, the Garrett Library contains manuscripts, broadsides, sheet music, and ephemera. Subsequent additions to the collection have been made on a regular basis by purchase and donations.

The Jenkins Garrett Library is continuing to add not only rare items but also standard histories and bibliographies of Texas and the American West, newspapers, biographies, county and community histories, works of noted Texas authors, and important sets in microform. The library also acquired original imprints entered in Thomas W. Streeter’s comprehensive Bibliography of Texas, 1795-1845, with particular concentration on the publications of Samuel Bangs, the first printer in Texas and three Mexican states. The Garrett Library now has the most complete Bangs imprint collection in Texas. The Garrett Library also contains the largest collection of books, broadsides, broadsheets, war orders, lithographs, maps, patriotic music, and other publications on the Mexican-American War, and continues to grow in this area with many acquisitions from Mexican as well as other American sources. By the early 1990s, the Special Collections had drawn researchers from around the country, including the producers of a forthcoming PBS documentary on the Mexican-American War, which is scheduled for 1996 release.

Four years after Special Collections was established, the Cartographic History Library was begun to complement the division’s book and manuscript holdings. Originally focusing on the Texas and Gulf Coast region, the cartographic collection has broadened its focus to include maps on the discovery of the Americas and the Mexican-American War, and maps representing the work of noted cartographers such as Ptolemy, Hondius, Ortelius, Mercator, Blaeu, Coronelli, and De l’Isle. The collection also includes globes, atlases, travelers’ accounts, government reports, and related documents. Moreover, the Cartographic History Library, in conjunction with the Department of History, sponsors one of the few graduate courses in the nation on Cartographic History. In a short time, the Cartographic History Library has developed into one of the finest young map libraries in the nation.

Special Collections also contains the Robertson Colony Collection of manuscripts. Dr. Malcolm D. McLean, a noted Texas historian, served as compiler and editor of these documents, which were published in a series of volumes titled Papers Concerning Robertson’s Colony in Texas. This series is the most comprehensive study ever published concerning any colonization project in the United States. Since the Robertson Colony Collection covers the early period of Texas colonization through the formation of the present Texas Constitution, it forms an invaluable complement to other areas of the University’s Special Collections.

In addition to historical records of the age of exploration, discovery, and the Texas Republic, UTA Special Collections also contains materials on the twentieth century. The Texas Writers Collection, for example, includes notes, typescripts, and manuscripts of Walter Prescott Webb, Ben King Green, A.C. Greene, Benjamin Capops, Buckley B. Paddock, the Fort Worth Federal Writers Project, and many other authors of importance in the literary heritage of Texas.

Another important collection of predominantly 20th century materials to Special Collections is the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection. This collection consists of 180,000 black and white photographic prints, 112,000 film negatives, and 1,000 glass negatives, which together document virtually every aspect of life in Tarrant County, Texas, from the early 1870s through the 1970s. This collection is one of the few complete newspaper morgues in the nation which is open to the public.

Another major acquisition is the collection of Basil Clemons, a self-taught photographer whose work took him to Alaska, the Yukon, and Pacific Northwest in the years before World War I. After the war, Clemons returned to his native Texas to live and to work. The 17,000 photographic prints and negatives in the collection document life in the oil field boom town of Brekenridge in West Texas during the 1920s and 1930s. In a broader sense, the collection epitomizes life in small town America.

In 1967 the UTA Library established, with assistance from the M.M. McKnight Memorial Fund, a statewide program for collecting and preserving records of organized labor in Texas and the Southwest. Now a part of Special Collections, the Texas Labor Archives houses more than 225 collections of individuals and labor organizations, including the Texas AFL-CIO and the Central Labor Councils of Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Waco, Houston, Lubbock, Baytown, and the Sabine area. The Texas Labor Archives also holds the papers of noted labor organizers, various labor locals, and legal records relevant to labor. In addition, the Labor Archives records the reminiscences of men and women who have made significant contributions to the growth of the labor move-
"Discovering Arlington's Heritage" Symposium to Bring UTA and Community Together

It has been said, and written, that “all history is local history.” Certainly, the way a community develops is a reflection of local, regional, national, and even international conditions and events. Consider Arlington, which, in the last century, developed from a small agricultural community on the Texas & Pacific Railroad to a large suburban community (population 250,000) in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolis. The explosive growth of Arlington during the 1970s and 1980s was related, in part, to its Sunbelt location and aggressive promotion by civic leaders. UTA's growth has paralleled the city's. A two-day symposium (March 27 & 28, 1993) will bring UTA scholars and local historians from Arlington's Fielder Museum together to discuss the community's heritage. According to the museum's acting Director Dorothy Rencurrel and Center Fellow Douglas Richmond, the symposium marks the first time that UTA and the Fielder Museum have jointly cooperated on a history program. This hands-on symposium will focus on the type of “detective work” that historians do in telling the story of community development, including interpreting historical photographs, maps, and early records. The Saturday lectures and workshops are followed by a Sunday field trip to Arlington’s historic sites. Participants include scientists, political scientists, historians, and geographers. The public is welcome, but will need to register in advance. For a program and information about this symposium, contact the Center.

Southwestern Pioneers’ Saga Documented in New Book

The history of the Pennington Family was part of the epic 19th century saga of frontier settlement. Like many early Arizonans, the Penningtons migrated from Texas with the expanding 19th century frontier. In *With Their Own Blood: A Saga of Southwestern Pioneers*, Virginia Culin Roberts documents the hardships of frontier life in the area around Tucson when Anglo populations and Apache Indians were locked in mortal combat. Roberts' book is unusual in that she tells the story from the perspective of a woman: Larcena Pennington Scott. This is a poignant story filled with tragedy, grit, and perseverance, and students of Southwestern history and frontier history will want to add it to their collection. *With Their Own Blood* is available from TCU Press, Box 30783, Fort Worth, Texas 76127, (817) 921-7822.

Higher Education in North Texas, the Hoblitzelle Foundation of Dallas, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Initially, the thrust of the project was the microfilming over several years of the records of the Mexican State of Yucatan. This project preserved approximately 1.6 million rapidly deteriorating documents dating from 1683 to 1933. The project also produced a printed *Catalogue of Yucatan Documents and Newspapers on Microfilm in The University of Texas at Arlington Library* (Arlington, Texas, 1983). A similar project, this one on a national scale, was carried out in Honduras in 1979 and 1982-85 through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and with UTA funds. The Honduras Project microfilmed records dating from 1605-1950 located in the National Archives and in Ecclesiastical, Judicial, and Municipal archives of the country.

In addition to its collecting efforts, the Special Collections Division provides a full range of archival processing and conservation work by professional archivists and curators. The Division sponsors many major exhibitions, hosts visiting scholars and meetings. Researchers interested in using UTA's Special Collections are invited to contact Gerald Saxton, Assistant Director, Special Collections. For those planning to visit, regular hours of the Special Collections Division are: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, contact: The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, Special Collections Division, Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019-0497, (817) 273-3393 (Telephone); (817) 273-3392 (Fax).

Editor’s Note: This article was based on a story that appeared in *The Compass Rose*, the Special Collections newsletter.
“Spiritual Geography” of Southwest Offers New Insights into Land and Life of Region

James Griffith, Director of the University of Arizona’s Southwest Folklife Center, has spent thirty years roaming the Pimería Alta in search of the region’s folklore. His latest book, Beliefs and Holy Places: A Spiritual Geography of the Pimería Alta, offers insights into the relationship between culture and place in southern Arizona and northern Sonora. The folklore of Native Americans (Yaqui and Papago) and regional Spanish/Mexican Catholicism is brought to light through oral history traditions. Griffith’s Pimería Alta emerges as a haunted (and haunting) land where culture, environment, and history are powerfully interconnected. The spiritual content of the region’s formal landscapes (cemeteries, shrines, churches) and natural features (caves, springs, mountains) is described. Beliefs and Holy Places is available from the University of Arizona Press, 1320 North Park Avenue, Suite 102, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

Teachers Are the Focus of Forthcoming Geography Institute

How can teachers learn to teach geography more effectively? That was the question, and the challenge, posed by the Center’s Geography and Cartography Advisory Committee. They responded by proposing and developing a two-week (June 7-18, 1993) Teachers’ Institute that addresses the five themes of geography: location; place; human-environment interactions; movement; and regions. In order to make this Institute a “hands-on” experience, the Committee decided to focus on railroad transportation and its changing relationship to the region. Participants will include UTA professors and representatives from the region’s railroads. The Institute will be intensive, with morning lectures and afternoon workshop experiences. Several field trips including a tour of a railroad yard, railroad station, the Age of Steam Railroad Museum in Dallas, a trip between Dallas and Fort Worth on Amtrak, and a ride on a restored steam train, will be part of the Institute. Historical materials in UTA’s Special Collections and other materials from the National Geographic Society will be used by the teachers and presenters. Teachers who complete this Institute will be awarded three graduate credit hours. To learn more about the Institute, contact the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019-0497 (817) 273-3000, Ext. 4931.

Center Forms Community Advisory Board

One of the Center’s most important goals is “outreach”—reaching the community to share ideas and publicize important Center projects and programs. In October, the Center brought together seven people to help with that important task. Each has a strong interest in educational excellence, the quality of community life, and our region’s heritage. The group met with Ryan Amacher, UTA’s new President, Ken Philp, Chair of the History Department, Gerald Saxon, Assistant Director of Special Collections, and Richard Francaviglia, Center Director. In selecting the group, the Center sought a balance based on geography and interests. The Advisory Board members are:

Michael Blackman, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth; Adelfa Callejo, Senior Partner, Callejo and Callejo, Dallas; William Dunaway, Senior Vice President, Bank One, Arlington; David Finrock, Meteorologist, KXAS T.V., Dallas; Leland Hodges, The Hodges Companies, Fort Worth; Dwayne Humphrey, Vice President, Hughes Simulation Systems, Inc., Arlington; Steve Pickens, President, The Nocona Boot Company, Inc., Nocona.

Mr. Jenkins Garrett of Fort Worth will serve as Chair of the Board. According to Richard Francaviglia, Center Director, “The formation of this group now positions the Center to develop significant, long-term relationships with community leaders, which is among the most important of the Center’s—and UTA’s—goals.”
Free Trade Agreement Likely to Affect Historic Relationship Between U.S. and Mexico

Mexico and the United States have shared a long history of important, though often contentious, trade relations. Currently, their total trade of goods across the 2,000 mile border exceeds $50 billion. In a reversal of historic trends, Mexico has emerged in recent years as a major importer of U.S. goods as well as an exporter of many products.

Development of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) involved significant changes in outlook for Mexico. Since Mexican President Carlos Salinas came to power in 1988 with a new economic and political agenda, he has presided over an impressive array of economic liberalization measures. Precipitated greatly by movements in Europe toward economic integration in that area of the world, both U.S. and Mexican economic policies have embraced concepts of free trade in a regional context. After surmounting political obstacles on both sides of the border, the two nations (along with Canada) began talks about NAFTA in 1991.

The speculation has turned from discussions of if and when the trade agreement will become a reality to questions regarding the impact of the NAFTA. One of the most influential studies, by the U.S. International Trade Commission, concluded that the overall impact on the U.S. would actually be rather negligible since Mexico is a relatively small economy and tariffs on both sides of the border had already been reduced significantly. The Commission did recognize a greater, and essentially positive, impact in the southwestern region of the U.S. Texas, in particular, has been suggested to gain the most from reduced tariffs and hence increased trade between the U.S. and Mexico.

Texas exports to Mexico have already surpassed $10 billion annually and lead all other U.S. states in terms of sales across the border. In fact, some 40 percent of all U.S. exports to Mexico originate in Texas. Professor Sidney Weintraub of the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin has conservatively estimated that Texas industries could realize an increase of $1.8 billion in sales to Mexico over a ten-year period of phasing in the NAFTA. Capital-intensive and high technology industries, such as electronics, computers, and aircraft, are destined to benefit the most from greater exports, with many of these firms being concentrated in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Free Trade Agreement will also accelerate a process of liberalizing Mexican laws regulating foreign investment, which opens opportunities for franchising, direct investment, and joint enterprises.

Concerns have been raised about potential negative effects of the Free Trade Agreement, particularly in the areas of loss of U.S. jobs and environmental threats along the border. The conclusion of many U.S. labor leaders has been that the NAFTA will lead to a massive loss of jobs as U.S. companies seek the abundant supply of cheap labor in Mexico. However, low-wage economies in Asia and elsewhere will continue to exist as a magnet for U.S. companies, with or without a North American Free Trade Agreement. Furthermore, many economists have argued that increased economic expansion in Mexico, along with the reduced trade barriers, will create many jobs in U.S. export-oriented business. The net result could actually be an increase in employment opportunities in this country.

To many, including the Clinton Administration, the area that deserves the greatest attention in terms of potential harm is the impact on the environment and quality of life as economic activity increases along the border. Much of the border infrastructure, from energy and transportation to health and sanitation, is already utilized beyond its capacity. Such critical areas as sewage treatment, disposal of hazardous wastes into ground water supplies, and others need to be given a high priority as the NAFTA moves forward. According to many observers in these and many other areas, NAFTA will be one of the major forces in shaping the changing relationship between the U.S. and Mexico for the foreseeable future ...

Dale Story

Dale Story is Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department at The University of Texas at Arlington, and he also serves as a Center Fellow. He was a speaker at the historic conference “Changing U.S.-Mexico Relations,” held at UTA in April 1992.

Neighbors—UTA and Mexican University Sign Agreement

A cooperative agreement between The University of Texas at Arlington and the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UNAL) in Monterrey, Mexico, was ratified on November 4, 1992. Signed by UTA President Ryan Amacher and UNAL Rector Manuel Silos Martinez, the agreement authorizes cooperative programs in all areas, including science, engineering, and the humanities. President Amacher was accompanied by several UTA administrators and professors, including Center Director Richard Francaviglia and Center Fellow Dale Story, who met with their Mexican counterparts. The agreement opens new frontiers and opportunities for both universities. It paves the way for faculty exchanges and the sharing of scientific and non-scientific materials, teaching, and technical information. Dr. Francaviglia reports strong possibilities in the area of historical studies, including the developing relationship between northern Mexico and the American Southwest. Monterrey, a major industrial/cultural city and the capital of Nuevo Leon, is about one and a half hours by air from Arlington. Both communities, and universities, are positioned to benefit from recent developments in international relations.

Center attracts funding for projects

Although the Center is supported by UTA, its programs depend on outside funding. For example, the “Discovering Arlington’s Heritage” symposium mentioned elsewhere in this issue will cost about $4,000. Funds for it were raised from diverse sources, including grants from the Texas Committee for the Humanities, and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life Foundation. In these difficult financial times, funding must be assembled from diverse sources. All contributions, no matter how large or small, are extremely important.

Other projects are being planned. Some require cooperative commitments from corporations and granting agencies. The proposed Teachers’ Institute (described in both the last issue of Fronteras and on page 4 of this issue), for example, is a case in point: In order to be done properly, the Institute will require about $30,000. We are pleased to report that $10,000 has already been provided, but the balance of funding $20,000 is being raised through grants from private foundations, including the region’s railroad corporations.

The Center invites contributions that are targeted to specific projects, such as the Teachers’ Institute, and gratefully acknowledges all support.

Meet the Center Faculty

David Narrett, Associate Professor of History, has recently developed a strong scholarly interest in the field of the American Frontier. Dr. Narrett, who began teaching at UTA in 1984, is currently researching a book, The Frontier Republics: Vermont, Texas, and the Growth of the Union. This book will compare and contrast the historical experience of two radically different states that have one element in common: Both were independent republics before joining the United States. Dr. Narrett intends to gear his book to a broad audience, especially college students, as well as to scholars. His book will address the issue of how cultural values, geography, and economic forces influenced political action and allegiance in frontier regions. This comparative approach to frontier history is important to understanding the balance between regional and national loyalties that have shaped our nation’s culture as well as political system. Dr. Narrett, a specialist in the American Colonial Era, is the author of Inheritance and Family Life in Colonial New York City (Cornell University Press, 1992). This book recently won the 1992 Hendricks Manuscript Award as the best study on the Dutch colonial experience in North America.