Imre J. Demhardt has been named the new Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair in Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography. A German citizen and formerly senior lecturer at the University of Darmstadt, the 46-year-old Dr. Demhardt is a distinguished scholar in the field of geography and historical cartography and the holder of executive positions in several cartographic professional organizations. He will work closely with the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, as well as with UT Arlington’s Special Collections. Demhardt will teach graduate level courses on transatlantic history and the history of cartography and exploration.

Fluent in English and German with some knowledge in French and Afrikaans, Demhardt has authored five books and more than a dozen articles. A scholar of many wide-ranging pursuits, he is especially interested in the cartography of nineteenth century German imperialism. His publications include Giving Earth a Face: Petermann’s Geographical Journal and the Emergence of Modern Geography in Germany; The Geography of Tourism in the Western Cape Province (Republic of South Africa) Since the End of Apartheid; and The German Colonial Society 1888-1918. He is currently working on a study of nineteenth and twentieth-century German explorers and their maps.

Although Demhardt’s work has focused on the connections between Europe and Africa, he is quick to point out that the American Southwest is closer to his primary field of study than it might appear at first glance. German immigration to Texas during the Republic period—most notably the colonization efforts of Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels’ Adelsverein—provide what Demhardt hopes will be a natural bridge to his research on German exploration in other corners of the globe. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Imre,” says Sam W. Haynes, the center’s interim director. “Dr. Demhardt will make a substantial contribution to the History Department’s transatlantic doctoral program.” According to History Department Chair Dr. Robert Fairbanks, “Dr. Demhardt brings to UT Arlington a tremendous expertise and scholarship in a variety of fields, not only in the history of cartography but in the 19th and 20th century colonialism and tourism as well.”

Imre holds not one but two doctoral degrees. He earned his first in geography from the University of Frankfurt am Main (1995), and in 2003 earned a second in human geography from the University of Darmstadt. Demhardt also holds two masters degrees, in medieval and modern history as well as in geography, both earned at the University of Frankfurt am Main.

A prominent figure in his field, Demhardt has helped coordinate cartographic conferences in Germany and in the Netherlands. In September 2008 he served as co-organizer of the International Cartographic Association’s conference on “Shifting Boundaries: Cartography in the 19th and 20th Centuries” in Portsmouth, England. He has served as editor of three geographic periodicals, and currently serves as the assistant editor of Tourism Geographies: An International Journal of Tourism Space, Place and Environment. Recently, Demhardt has curated and catalogued two exhibitions in Germany, one to commemorate the 150th anniversary of August Petermann’s Geographische Mitteilungen, and another on the surveying and mapping of tropical regions.

In addition, Demhardt has been active in a number of international consulting projects, including a report on Kasikili Island in Namibia’s Chobe River, and rural and urban tourism in South Africa. For more than a decade, he has led guided German tour groups to destinations around the world, including the British Isles, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Central America.

The endowed chair in Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography is named after Jenkins and Virginia Garrett of Fort Worth—whose support for cartographic history helped lead to the creation of UT Arlington’s Special Collections in 1974—and was made possible by a generous gift of the Sid W. Richardson Foundation of Fort Worth.

As a professor of history at UT Arlington, Dr. Demhardt will teach graduate level courses on transatlantic history and the history of cartography and exploration.
The editors of this fifteen-essay collection published by the University of North Texas Press rightly claim to have produced the only single volume about the social and cultural history of Texas in the 20th century. Each of the authors has previously conducted research on the assigned topic. The chapters on art, philanthropy, Indians, and the home front during wars, seem to be the most exhaustively documented, but all the essays appear to be researched from a sufficiency of appropriate primary and secondary sources.

Gerald Betty asserts that the state’s promotion of tourism for the Alabama-Coushatta reservation in the 1960s led to a renewal of the tribe’s cultural identity. This reviewer is not convinced that a Taos tribesman could teach them original Creek dances, and I have read that in the 1960s they learned basket weaving from Boy Scout manuals. The author never quite describes the wretched poverty that plagued all three Texas tribes virtually throughout the twentieth century, nor does he point out that the casinos were the only factor that really broke the poverty of the Kickapoos, and for a time, the Tiguas. Nevertheless this is a satisfactory, and badly needed, summary of the history of these tribes.

In his essay on the history of Mexican-Americans, Anthony Quiroz notes that it is too early to tell the impact of Mexican immigration since 1980, but reaches some tentative conclusions, e.g., that English will continue to be the dominant language by the third generation, and that burgeoning Hispanic growth will shape the social, political, and economic future of Texas. Granted this is a social history, but since he opened the door for a broader interpretation, he probably should have spared a sentence about future demography. Oddly, the relevant information is in John Storey’s religion essay, namely that Texas became a minority-majority state in 2005, and will have a Hispanic majority by 2030. By that time Texas will have already elected its first Hispanic governor, which will have a colossal impact on the author’s theme, the Hispanics’ historic quest for identity.

Dr. Wintz’s chapter on African Americans, while otherwise sufficient, lacks any mention of the strong roles of the CIO and World War II in helping establish more opportunities for black Texans. Both are mentioned, appropriately, in the essay on Hispanics, and Angela Boswell’s chapter correctly notes the pivotal role of the war in advancing the women’s rights movement.

Ralph Wooster’s essay about Texans on the home front during the wars is well done. He observes rightly of World War I that the failure to support the war effort was not much tolerated in Texas, which makes one (admittedly obscure) event he missed all the more remarkable. The city of Waco, as well as construction on the nearest cantonment, were virtually shut down for three days by a general strike in 1918, and there were no repercussions.

Every resident has his own notions of what constitutes the best Texas fiction, which makes Mark Busby’s essay a ready target for all reviewers. How can he omit Ben Capps, an outstanding writer of western realism? How can he give such slight attention to those novelists who deal with Texas as a Southern phenomenon? How can he devote more attention to George Perry’s one fine (Southern oriented) book than to the many superb (Southern oriented) novels by William Humphrey and William Owens? But aside from these nagg ing questions, Dr. Busby does well in the space he has.

Mary Kelley deftly summarizes the history of philanthropy in Texas, a little known topic. She is not just issuing the usual praise for the benefactors, however, since she also reveals various defects, e.g., unaccountability, in past philanthropic operations.

In his essay on education, Gene Preuss apparently accepts George W. Bush’s rhetoric on the subject. Ignoring the fact that many Bush supporters in the legislature continually propose bills that would drain money from the public schools, Preuss asserts that Texas’ public schools have become a prototype for the nation. While Texas has been funding a comprehensive, standardized curriculum of public education since World War II, the same can be said of every state (and some have been doing it longer). The greater reality is that, given the state’s enormous mineral wealth that was barely taxed, it consistently under-funded education throughout the 20th century.

Gary Hartman’s essay on music presents the biggest problem in the book because it is limited to women and gender in Texas music history. While it is an instructive article in its own right, its lack of breadth means that not even the musical efforts of most women are discussed, much less very many men. A summary essay along the lines of all the others in the book would present the songs of Janis Joplin, maybe contrast Tish Hinojosa’s “San Antonio Romeo” with Bob Wills’ “San Antonio Rose,” and discuss Mance Lipscomb and Selena, et al.

The chapters, individually and as a whole, most emphatically do reflect the enormous social changes in Texas during the past century, and the editors and authors—my caviling notwithstanding—can be justly proud of this book. It is certainly worthy of adoption in Texas history classes.

—George Green, History Department
Stephanie Cole Named Center Fellow

Stephanie Cole, who joined the Center for Southwestern Studies as a fellow in fall 2008, is an associate professor in the Department of History. Though her research in the Southwest is a relatively recent development among her scholarly interests, her current concentration on the region emerges naturally from a career spent considering how gender and race are created and understood in American society, especially along the boundaries of the South.

Cole received her doctorate from the University of Florida in 1994, and joined the faculty at UT Arlington in 1996, after stints at the University of Oklahoma and New Mexico State University. Her first research project was a study of domestic work and its role in constructing race and the meaning of slavery for household servants and their employers. It is entitled Servants and Slaves in the North/South Border Cities, 1800-1850 and is under contract with the University of Illinois Press.

From the North/South border, Cole moved toward considering the border between the South and the West. Her concern here is to determine how a region like the Southwest, whose population included Native Americans, immigrants from both Mexico, China, and southeastern Europe, developed a segregated social order based on the notion that everyone was either “black” or “white.” Her first published efforts to explain both the confusion and its later resolution are “Finding Race in Turn-of-the-Century Dallas” (in Beyond Black and White [Texas A&M Press, 2004]) and “Neither Matron Nor Maid: Gender, Race, Class, and Marriage in Jim Crow Texas” (in Honoring a Master: Essays in Honor of Bertram Wyatt-Brown, forthcoming from the University of Florida).

Melody Woods Named Graduate Research Assistant

In the fall of 2008 the center hired Melody Woods as its new Sandra Myres’ Graduate Research Assistant. Since joining the center staff, Melody has been working closely with several center fellows on a wide range of research projects. She has examined the Papers of the Texas Revolution for Dr. Sam Haynes, who is studying the ways in which Anglo-Texans in 1835-36 used the memory of the American Revolution to advance the cause of independence from Mexico; copied U.S. consular archives for Dr. Douglas Richmond, who is researching the social, economic, and political conditions in the Yucatan; and read legal cases involving Texas workers during the Progressive era for Dr. George Green’s ongoing research project on the state’s labor movement.

Intent on pursuing a career as a museum curator, Melody’s own research interests are the individual and collective experiences of women during the era of westward expansion. She is currently working on her master’s degree in public history at UT Arlington. She earned her bachelor’s degree in history from UT Arlington in 2007, graduating magna cum laude. She has had internships at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth. From 2002 to 2005 she served as a volunteer at the Dallas Heritage Village, and currently works as a curatorial volunteer at the Layland Museum in Cleburne. A former substitute teacher, Melody is married with a teenage daughter. In her spare time she raises horses, and is learning to barrel race.

Center Fellow Updates

George Green has had four articles accepted for publication. “The Labor Movement in the Southwest,” was written for The Encyclopedia of U. S. Labor and Working Class History. “Crucial Decade for Texas Labor: Railway Union Struggles, 1886-1896,” was accepted for an anthology, Seeking Inalienable Rights: Texans and Their Quests for Social Justice, by Texas A&M University Press. Two essays on the Texas labor movement have been accepted for another A&M University Press collection, “The Right to Work, to Starve, to Die: Texas’ Forgotten Radical Heritage. Dr. Green continues to collect records for the Labor Archives in the Library.

Douglas Richmond published “Indian Policy of New Mexico” and the “U.S.-Mexico ‘War’” for the Encyclopedia of United States – American Indian Policy, Relations and Law. In February 2008 he presented “Enlightened Reform or French Imperialism? El Segundo Imperio en Yucatan, 1864-1867” at the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies conference in El Paso. Dr. Richmond also received the organization’s Harvey L. Johnson Prize best article award and was appointed to its Executive Board. Richmond continues to work on a new book, Yucatan during the Liberal Era, 1855-1876.

Ken Roemer won a Writer of the Year Award (reference category) from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers for the Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature. Dr. Roemer also won the Lyman Tower Sargent Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Society for Utopian Studies.

Roberto Treviño continues his research on religion in U.S. history. Texas A&M University Press published his Webb Lectures volume, Catholicism in the American West: A Rosary of Hidden Voices (co-edited with Richard Francaviglia). He presented a public lecture at Trinity University in San Antonio and a conference paper at the annual meeting of the Texas Catholic Historical Society. Dr. Treviño also participated in a roundtable discussion titled “De-Centering American Religious History: Perspectives from the Latina/o and Latin American Periphery” at the American Society of Church History meeting in Washington, D.C.
We all need perseverance and some good fortune to complete ambitious books that take years of research and writing. My big break came last winter when I was awarded a Rita and Bill Clements Research Fellowship for the academic year 2008-09 at the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University. Now I had an opportunity to move into writing full-time—to complete my book manuscript, “Frontiers of Adventurism and Intrigue: The West Florida, Louisiana, and Texas Borderlands, 1763-1825.”

“Frontiers of Adventurism and Intrigue” is a book that I did not plan to write when I began working in the field of borderlands and Texas history some fifteen years ago. I had just then completed my first book, *Inheritance and Family Life in Colonial New York City, 1664-1775* (Cornell University Press, 1992). I wished to take a new scholarly path—one linking my background in British colonial history to a study of the Texas Republic. Since I lived in Texas, why not take advantage of all the resources that might be available through a comparative study combining the history of the Southwestern United States and let’s say New England?

From these beginnings, new avenues opened as my curiosity deepened and challenges arose. Soon I found myself studying Spanish on a daily basis—a language I had not be-
before tackled—because it seemed obvious that to progress in my new field I needed to understand something of Spanish colonialism and Mexican history. I also made the perilous journey further into the past—and reaching into new geographic areas. Might not the Texas revolt against Mexico of 1835-36 have had a precursor in the Anglo-American rebellion against Spain in Baton Rouge in 1810? This last event led to the establishment of an independent “Republic of West Florida” that was soon incorporated into the United States. The study of the Gulf Coast borderlands led back to 1763, when Britain acquired territories from both Spain and France and established two new colonies—West and East Florida, extending across the littoral from the Mississippi to the Atlantic.

In brief, my quest opened paths different from those I had initially intended or had even imagined. “Frontiers of Adventurism and Intrigue” gradually took shape. My goal would be to explore connections between British-Spanish competition over strategic frontier regions and subsequent rivalry between the United States and Spain in North America. And the latter subject led directly to the beginnings of U.S. relations with Mexico.

In “Frontier of Adventurism and Intrigue,” I maintain the United States aimed at commercial and territorial predominance not unlike Britain, but diverged from English imperialism in its looser model of centralised governmental control. The book considers history from Spanish and Mexican perspectives—and not simply from an “Anglo” viewpoint. “Frontiers of Adventurism and Intrigue” bridges the national divide that commonly separates histories of British and Spanish colonial spheres.

“Adventurism” and “intrigue”—two key terms—are fundamental to my analysis. “Adventurism” refers to the efforts by individuals and groups to advance private economic interests and national power through colonizing projects, commercial enterprises, and military forays directed at loosely controlled frontier zones. Adventurism literally involved risk-taking ventures across national boundaries—and often into regions disputed between rival powers. “Intrigue” refers to policy based on secrecy or deception, stratagem or conspiracy, or covert maneuvers outside ordinary government channels. Intrigue was a prominent feature of frontier politics, especially when no single national power had clear military predominance within particular geographic zones.

One of the key subjects in my book is the connection between individual quests for profit or power and imperial aggrandizement. My book accordingly examines the phenomenon of “filibustering” as it developed in U.S. relations with the Spanish borderlands and Mexico from the 1780s through 1810s. “Filibustering” in this respect is not the familiar political maneuver used by Senators to prevent a vote on a particular issue. It instead refers to a private military expedition aimed at the invasion of a foreign country. To “filibuster” was to be a “freebooter,” i.e., a volunteer in a land or naval invasion not under direct governmental control. During the early nineteenth century, U.S. citizens quite frequently joined such expeditions for the purpose of overthrowing Spanish rule in Florida and Texas. Filibustering was a form of private adventurism in which intrigue was a prime element.

While American filibustering against the Spanish empire began during the 1780s, it grew to greater heights during the Mexican Wars of Independence (1810-1821). With Mexicans in revolt against Spain, many U.S. nationals desired to promote republican liberty by assisting the revolution to their south. And yet cooperation between U.S. filibusters and Mexican insurgents was far from simple. Mexicans had their own nationalist agenda, and were often fearful that U.S. volunteers might interfere in their country’s affairs either for private gain or to advance the expansionist ambitions of the North American republic. This theme is highlighted in my article “José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara: Caudillo of the Mexican Republic in Texas,” published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly (October, 2002). This essay was selected the winner of the 2003 Bolton-Kinnaird prize of the Western Historical Association for the best journal article of the year on Spanish borderlands history.

My discussion of filibustering—to be developed in depth in the book—is previewed in the February 2009 issue of the Western Historical Quarterly. That issue features my article: “Liberation and Conquest: John Hamilton Robinson and U.S. Adventurism toward Mexico, 1806-1819.” John Hamilton Robinson (1782-1819) was a native Virginian who exemplified both the idealistic and self-interested motives of U.S. citizens who participated in the Mexican Wars of Independence against Spain. He took on many roles during his brief life: explorer and spy, State Department envoy and armed adventurer, and finally a mapmaker of strong political intent. My article draws upon UT Arlington’s Special Collections, which holds one of the few original copies of Robinson’s famous Map of Mexico (1819). The map, an astounding work of more than five feet in height and width, has many fascinating historical and geographic observations. Thanks to support from UT Arlington’s Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, my article on John Hamilton Robinson includes several color reproductions of the map.

“Frontiers of Intrigue and Imagination” is a book that deals with historical issues of definite relevance to our time. We still are enmeshed in a world of imperial rivalries—and of political interchange and competition between various ethnic and religious groups. Issues of national sovereignty, immigration and border control, still occupy our attention in North America. My aim is to share the discoveries that I have made so that readers will think and imagine more deeply for themselves.

-David E. Narrett, History Department

“Frontiers of Adventurism and Intrigue” bridges the national divide that commonly separates histories of British and Spanish colonial spheres.
San Antonio to host spring meeting of Texas Map Society

The Texas Map Society will hold its spring 2009 meeting April 3-5 in San Antonio. Focusing on “Spanish Colonial Mapping and Map Makers,” the meeting will feature the following speakers: David Buisseret, retired professor of history and chair holder of the Virginia and Jenkins Garret Chair in the History of Cartography; John Hébert, chief of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress; John Miller Morris, associate professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio; Ricardo Padrón, associate professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia; and the keynote speaker, Richard Kagan, professor at John Hopkins University. Other scheduled events will include a tour of the Latin American collection of the San Antonio Museum of Art, and a presentation at the Alamo by Alamo curator Bruce Winders. For more information on the meeting or future activities of the Texas Map Society, please contact Kit Goodwin at goodwin@uta.edu or at 817-861-1425.

Sam W. Haynes, H.W. Brands to speak at 2009 Battle of San Jacinto Symposium

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground will hold their annual meeting at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of the University of Houston. Entitled “New Light on Old Stories,” the conference will feature scholars of the revolutionary era and a panel on archeological field work at the San Jacinto battleground. UT Arlington professor and interim Center Director Sam W. Haynes will speak on the impact of the American Revolution on the Anglo-Texans who in 1835-36 sought independence from Mexico. H.W. Brands, the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History at UT-Austin and author of Lone Star Nation: The Epic Story of Texas Independence, will give a talk on the interpretation of battlefields. Another featured speaker will be James P. Bevill, who will discuss his new book, The Paper Republic: the Struggle for Money, Credit, and Independence in the Republic of Texas. In addition, a panel of archeological experts will familiarize attendees with ongoing field research at the San Jacinto battleground. The panel will feature Roger Moore and Douglas Mangum, of Moore Archeological Consulting, which is currently leading a dig at the site; Douglas D. Scott, a professor of anthropology at the University of Nebraska specializing in forensic archaeology; Gregg Dimmick, author of Sea of Mud: the Retreat of the Mexican Army After San Jacinto; and Manuel Hinojosa, a scholar of the nineteenth century Mexican army. For more details, call (281) 496-1488, or email sjba@usa.net.