

CLEMENTS CENTER FOR
SOUTHWEST STUDIES
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

www.smu.edu/swcenter
Editor, **Andrea Boardman**

Volume 6, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

From the Director:

Last autumn's overcast skies were decidedly un-southwestern, but Andrea Boardman and Ruth Ann Elmore kept the Clements Center aglow. We heard some terrific talks in our brown bag lunch series, and have more to come this semester. The evening lecture series on *Picturing the American West*, which we have co-sponsored with the Art History department, continues into spring semester with distinguished visitors and lively topics. In the autumn we hosted a fabulous day-long symposium with the Meadows Museum, *New Spain: The First Flowering of American Colonial Arts*. In the spring we'll sponsor another day-long symposium, this time on twentieth-century politics in Western America with financial help from the Tower Center. Details about the semester's forthcoming events are in this newsletter.

Many of our activities make ripples beyond our local community. For the last six years we've hosted annual symposia that have become, or will become, books. Last year, for example, saw the publication of *Continental Crossroads: Remapping U.S.-Mexico Borderlands History*, a collection of ten essays from an earlier symposium. Edited by Samuel Truett and Elliott Young, the book appeared under the imprint of Duke University Press. This spring's

symposium will lead to a book published by the University of Kansas Press.

The three Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellows who take up residence on our campus also have an impact well beyond it. Each fellow, selected from stiff national and international competition, is here to finish a book. Each gives a public presentation on campus during their fellowship year. Andrew Graybill, who did his doctorate at Princeton and holds an assistant professorship at the University of Nebraska, spoke in the fall about his comparative history of Texas Rangers and Canadian Mounties. This spring we'll hear from Laura Hernández-Ehrisman, an American Studies PhD from the University of Texas, Austin, who will talk about "Fiesta" and public

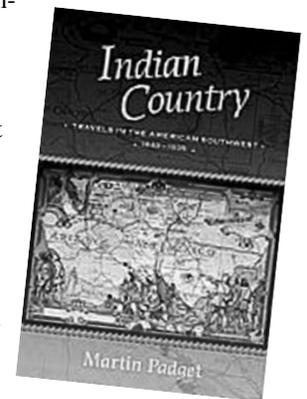
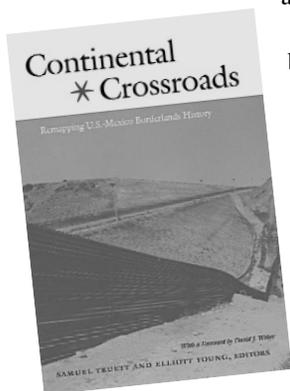
culture in San Antonio, and Brian Frehner, a University of Oklahoma-trained PhD, who will talk about early exploration for petroleum on the Southern Plains. Some of our fellows even travel to Taos, NM, in the summer to give public lectures at SMU's Fort Burgwin campus. The fellows' biggest and most enduring impact, however, comes from the books that they complete at the Center. This last year, for example, saw the appearance of former fellow Martin Padgett's book, *Indian Country: Travels in the American Southwest, 1840-1935*, published by the University of New

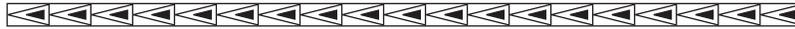
Mexico Press. Last year also saw a highly unusual publication. The summer issue of *Journal of the Southwest*, published at the University of Arizona, dedicated an entire issue to "Scholarship from the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies," filling its pages with essays by seven of our former fellows: by Sam Truett (1997-98), Heather Trigg (1999-2000), Marsha Weisiger (2000-01), Andrea Kökény (Fulbright Fellow, 2001-2002), Flannery Burke (2002-2003), and Tisa Wenger (2002-2003). Martin Padgett (2000-2001).

Universities do, of course, have a responsibility to produce knowledge as well as consume it, and scholarly production benefits the producers as well as the consumers. Last semester one of my students told me how "very cool" it was to read George Wilkins Kendall's *Narrative of the Texan-Santa Fé Expedition*, first published in 1844. Thanks to SMU's Clements Center and DeGolyer Library, Kendall's *Narrative* is available in a modern edition, along with other "cool" books that we publish in the Library of Texas series, such as Frederick Law Olmsted's *Journey through Texas* (1857), which appeared under our imprint in late 2004.

Rain or shine, then, the Clements Center continues its mission to provide a hospitable environment for producing and disseminating knowledge about southwestern America.

— David J. Weber





Fellows' Updates



Sylvia Rodríguez, Laura Hernández-Ehrisman, Joy Kasson

On December 4th, **SYLVIA RODRÍGUEZ** (2003) and **LAURA HERNÁNDEZ-EHRISMAN** (2004-05) created history for Clements Center fellows. It was the first time that a former fellow from out-of-state was invited to be one of the guest scholars at a current fellow's manuscript workshop. Each fellow is offered a workshop in which a small group of scholars gather to suggest ways to deepen and strengthen a manuscript to make it more attractive to a publisher and the public. Laura's topic is "Inventing the Fiesta City: Heritage and Performance in San Antonio's Public Culture." **JOY KASSON**, Professor of American Studies & English at University of North Carolina, was the other guest scholar. Her most recent book is *Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History*. Sylvia is a professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. *Acequia: Water-Sharing, Sanctity and Place in Hispanic New Mexico*, the book she completed while a Clements Center fellow will be published by SAR Press, School of American Research, in late 2005.

GREGG CANTRELL (1996-97) sent news that he is the series editor of the new Texas Biography Series, being published by the TCU Press in cooperation with the TCU Center for Texas Studies. The first two authors are already under contract with more to come. If you're working on a biography of a Texas figure, let Gregg know! (g.cantrell@tcu.edu)

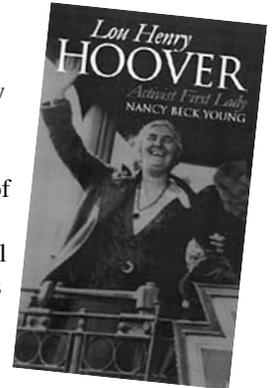
PEKKA HÄMÄLÄINEN (2001-02) won the Western History Association's **ARRELL M. GIBSON AWARD**, for the best essay of the year on the history of Native Americans. Pekka's essay, "The Rise and Fall of Plains Indian Horse Cultures," appeared in the *Journal of American History*, December 2003 (Volume 9, No. 3).

JULIANA BARR (1999-2000) has had an article accepted for the June 2005 issue of *The Journal of American History*: "From Captives to Slaves: Political Commodifications of Indian Women in the French and Spanish Borderlands." The essay grew out of research for her

current book manuscript and from a new research project on the Indian slave trade in the Mississippi Valley. It explores the multiple, coercive exchanges of women—captivity, bondage and enslavement—among Europeans and Indians across the eighteenth-century hinterlands of Comancheria, Apacheria, Spanish Texas and French Louisiana and shows the importance of women in European and Indian political economies of war and imperial rivalry.

NANCY BECK YOUNG (1996-97) sent news of her book, *Lou Henry Hoover: Activist First Lady*, recently published by University of Kansas Press. It should be available by the time this newsletter appears. Her next project is on the work of the U.S. Congress during World War II.

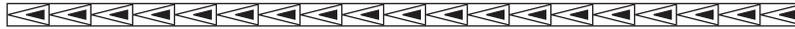
BILL DEBUYS (1999-2000) was in Brazil during the fall semester with eight students from the College of Santa Fe as part of a new documentary studies undergraduate major. They were in residence at the Instituto Terra in Aimores, Brazil. "The Instituto is a reforestation and educational enterprise founded by the photographer Sebastio Salgado and his wife Lelia, and is a truly inspiring and impressive undertaking."



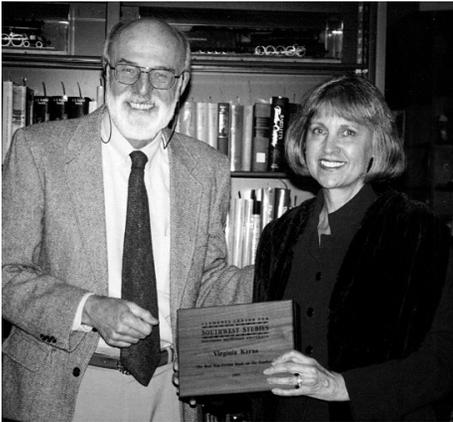
Emails are great especially when they bring us images from afar: **ANDREA KÖKÉNY** (2001-2) and Miklos Kiszin sent photos from Hungary announcing the July arrival of charming Boldizsár, then **MARTIN PADGET** (2000-2001) and Sara Penrhyn Jones sent a lovely portrait of Lena Penrhyn Jones, who was born in September.

In December the Clements Center bid farewell to Fulbright Fellow, **DR. STEPHEN HENRY TOTANES**, who completed his fall residency and moved on to a semester at Santa Clara University, where he will teach a course on Philippine History and continue his research on Franciscan missions in the Southwest.

can we come up with some
text to go here?
something to highlight?



**Virginia Kerns wins Clements Book Prize for
*Scenes from the High Desert: Julian Steward's Life and Theory***



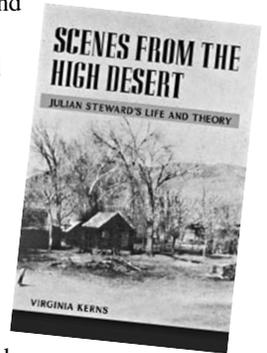
Clements Center director David Weber presenting award to Virginia Kerns

On November 12, Virginia Kerns came to Dallas to accept her \$2,500 prize for 2003 William P. Clements Prize for the Best Non-Fiction Book on Southwestern America. Speaking to an audience of anthropologists, archaeologists, historians, and the general public,

Kerns highlighted the roots and significance of Steward's work. "What took Kerns to the top is the combination of an interesting, significant biography with a cogent discussion of theoretical matters, all demonstrating how a discipline important to understanding the Southwest emerged and developed," wrote David Farmer, committee chair of the judging panel. "I especially admire the way Kerns addresses Steward's male-centered approach to anthropology. She helps the reader understand attitudes of the time while elucidating the forces in Steward's life that shaped his opinions about women."

In his book review, Richard O. Clemmer, University of Denver, wrote "Kerns has accomplished a remarkable feat: the biography of a major figure in anthropology that tackles issues at the core of the discipline and its history yet presents a readable and at times entertaining narrative." [2004 Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (1 (3): 728]

Julian Steward (1902-72), a prominent twentieth-century anthropologist and theorist, was arguably the first in his field to focus consistently on the intersection of nature and culture. His environmental perspective, which he called cultural ecology, influenced generations of archaeologists and cultural anthropologists. Although Steward considered his ideas to be a product of scientific inquiry, Virginia Kerns, drawing on the evidence of his own life, suggests that they had a far more complex genesis. In her recent book, *Scenes from the High Desert*, she locates the primary source of his theory in the landscapes of the arid West and in autobiographical memory. Virginia Kerns is a professor of Anthropology, College of William & Mary.



For more information about the book prize, please visit the Center's Web site at www.smu.edu/swcenter



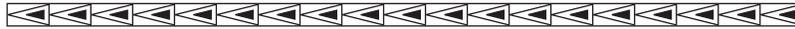
A Journey through Texas, or a Saddle-Trip on the Western Frontier

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED returns to Texas but this time it is in a new publication in the Library of Texas Series, edited by David Farmer and David J. Weber. A landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, is known today for his design of university campuses, private estates, and parks—most notably Central Park in New York City. In his younger life, though, Olmsted was hired by the *New York Daily Times* to write about the land and people of Texas and, above all, to judge the impact of slavery on that frontier state. Between December 1853 and May 1854, Olmsted traveled from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande, penning fifteen letters published in the *Times*. Frederick's younger brother John, who traveled with him, compiled the letters and published them in book form in 1857. The first printing of *Journey through Texas* (2,500 copies) was a great success and since then has become a classic for its



revealing portrait of Texas society before the Civil War. The Library of Texas edition comes with an authoritative introduction and annotation by Randolph B. Campbell, Regent's Professor in the Department of History at the University of North Texas and author of a number of acclaimed books, including *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State* (2003). This edition of Olmsted was handsomely designed by Bradley Hutchison and printed on acid-free paper. We have printed 500 copies, of which 450 are for sale. Our edition cannot be purchased through retail bookshops.

For details about ordering this book and others in the Library of Texas series, please contact Betty Friedrich at (214) 768-3231 or bfriedri@smu.edu or by mail at DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, Box 750396, Dallas, TX 75275-0396. For order forms, see <http://www.smu.edu/swcenter/lot.htm>



The William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies and the John G. Tower Center for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University invite you to attend

“The Political Legacies of the American West”

Saturday, February 26, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Hughes Trigg Student Center Theater, McFarlin Blvd. and Hilltop Lane

“Anyone interested in the politics of our time should attend this event. There is much to learn from the research of these historians!” — **TEXAS GOVERNOR WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR. (1979-83, 1987-91)**

“Political Legacies” grew out of the idea that one cannot understand American politics without understanding western politics. Western politicians, trends, organizations, and movements have driven the American political agenda for much of the century. Historians will offer original work on key issues, personalities, and themes, offering both stimulating questions and provocative answers about the nature of the political west and its relationship with national politics.

8:00 Registration

8:30 Welcome

8:45 Introductions by Jeff Roche, organizer, Department of History, College of Wooster

9:00 Region, Identity, & Progressive Politics

Michael Steiner, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

“Carey McWilliams, Western Regionalism, and the Politics of Place: Creating a Radical Regional Voice, 1922-1937”

Amy Scott, Ph.D. candidate in History, University of New Mexico

“Lifestyle Politics, Hip Capitalism, and Micropolitan Urbanism in the American West”

Andrew G. Kirk, Department of History, University of Nevada- Las Vegas

“Ecotopia and Political Realism: Green Consumerism and Counterculture Libertarianism”

10:15 Break

10:30 Western Myth & Political Reality

Robert Alan Goldberg, Department of History, University of Utah

“The Western Hero in Politics: Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan, and the Rise of the American Conservative Movement”

Karen Merrill, Department of History, Williams College

“The Illusions of Independence: Texas Oilmen and the Politics of Petroleum”

R. Douglas Hurt, Department of History, Purdue University

“Agricultural Politics in the Twentieth-Century American West.”

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Authenticity & the Politics of Place

John Herron, Department of History, University of Missouri-Kansas City

“The Call in the Wild: Nature, Technology, and Environmental Politics”

Ignacio Garcia, Department of History, Brigham Young University

“White or Brown But Not Equal; Latinos in the Politics of the West”

Scott H. Tang, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

“Becoming the New Objects of Racial Scorn: Black Politics and Racial Hierarchy in Postwar San Francisco, 1945-1960”

2:45 Break

3:00 The West as America

Darren Dochuk, Lilly Fellow in History, Valparaiso University

“‘They Locked God Outside the Iron Curtain’: The Politics of Anti-Communism and the Ascendancy of Plain-Folk Religion in the Postwar West”

David M. Wrobel, Department of History, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

“The Politics of Western Memory”

4:00 Roundtable Discussion – Panelists & Audience

5:00 Closing Remarks

5:15 Symposium concludes



Ronald Reagan, courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library, Simi Valley, CA



“The Political Legacies of the American West”
Saturday, February 26, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
Hughes Trigg Student Center Theater, McFarlin Blvd. and Hilltop Lane

REGISTRATION FORM

This seminar is open to the public. Students are encouraged to attend.

Name: _____

Organization or school (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration fee (please check where applicable):

General admission (tax is included):

- \$ 5.00
- \$20.00 with hot lunch buffet (must be paid in advance)*

Student admission:

- Free admission for conference only
- \$10.00 with hot lunch buffet (must be paid in advance)*

Whatever your choice of the above, PLEASE register in advance, either by mail, phone, or online at **http://smu.edu/swcenter/political_legacyes.htm**. To register by phone, call **214-768-3684**.

The lunch buffet menu is posted on the registration Web site.

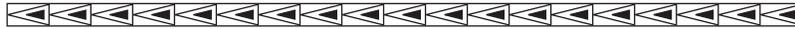
*Please mail your check for the lunch buffet made out to *Clements Center for Southwest Studies*:

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST STUDIES
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
P.O. BOX 750176
DALLAS, TX 75275-0176

If you need special accommodations or more information, please email or call the Clements Center:
swcenter@smu.edu or 214-768-3684

Driving directions: <http://www.smu.edu/maps/download/>

Parking information: <http://www.smu.edu/maps/VisitorsParkingMap2003-04.pdf>



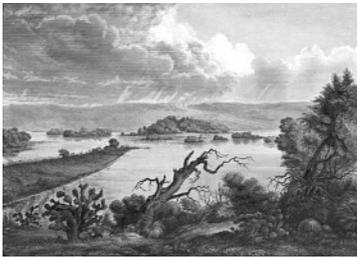
Spring Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20:

Picturing the American West – Lecture Series
Meadows Museum Auditorium, 5:30 pm

Points of Viewing: Arthur Schott (1814-1875) and the U.S.-Mexico Boundary

Professor Robin Kelsey, Harvard University



As part of his work on the United States-Mexico Boundary Survey, the naturalist Arthur Schott recorded positions along the boundary in a series of sketches that were reproduced in 1857, in the survey's official report. A number of scholars have noted the compelling strangeness of

these illustrations, but little work has been done to account for it and to interpret these pictures as historical documents. Professor Kelsey will argue that this series of illustrations drew from an archive pictorial style the ingeniously affirmed the legitimacy of the boundary and of the survey for which Schott worked. This ingenuity itself, however, raises question for us today concerning the doubts that it was mustered to calm.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26:

Clements Center Brown Bag Lecture
Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Inventing the Fiesta City: Heritage and Performance in San Antonio's Public Culture

Laura Hernández-Ehrisman, Clements Center Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America

Professor Hernandez-Ehrisman will discuss her manuscript, which is a study of memory and modernity in San Antonio's annual celebration of Fiesta. She focuses on the ways that women invented the Fiesta tradition in the 1890s in order to make a place for themselves in the city's public culture and reveals how both Anglos and Mexican Americans used the festival to sell the "Mexicanness" of the city. She addresses the implications of Fiesta for interethnic relations in the city's past and for its future. "[Image: Alamo, 1895, Battle of Flowers Association, *San Antonio Express*]

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3:

Picturing the American West – Lecture Series
Meadows Museum Auditorium, 5:30 pm

Taos, the Artists' Paradise

Peter Hassrick, writer and independent art scholar

In 1908, the California publishing luminary, anthropologist and promoter, Charles Lummis, challenged American painters to adopt the Southwest, and particularly the area around the village of Taos, New Mexico, as a subject for their art. This, he waxed hyperbolically, was "a wonderland of the

pictorial in geography and in humanity." Artists, he contended, would not only discover themselves and their true aesthetic voices there, but would find it a fundamentally transformative experience in the process. This talk address those lofty contentions as it explores the work of the six founding members of the Taos Society of Artists, their individual creative contributions and their collective mission.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9:

Clements Center Brown Bag Lecture
Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Needs and Opportunities in Texas Banking History: The Barr-Rowe Currency Collection at DeGolyer Library.

John Rowe and Martin Davis, collectors

The Barr-Rowe Currency Collection, recently donated to the DeGolyer Library, is the finest collection of Texas bank notes in the United States. Hundreds of Texas towns are represented. Two experts in the field will discuss how bank notes can be studied as specimens of the printing and engraving trades, as examples of popular iconography, as evidence in micro-histories of individual banks and communities, and as part of the larger story of economic history of Texas and the United States. Marty Davis, an attorney and CPA, has written and published scholarly articles on Texas and South Carolina history. John Rowe is the founder of Southwest Numismatics, the leading coin and currency dealer in the region. With his brother-in-law B.B. Barr, Mr. Rowe has donated his bank note collection to SMU.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17:

Photography Exhibit
Hawn Gallery within the Hamon Art Gallery, Meadows School of the Arts. 5:00-7:00 p.m. Gallery talk at 5:30. Reception in the Taubman Atrium.

Dis-Reality of the Southwest

Jeff Junkin, Master of Fine Arts in Photography, SMU

"My particular style of photography is the construction of multiple frames that are assembled together to create a whole. By juxtaposing frames taken at different distances to create a single panorama, my goal is to enable the viewer to deduce or imagine the correlation between early Native Americans' sacred and residential places and the surrounding landscapes. This exhibit includes sites from Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado. The photographs include a beautiful stream around the Spiro Mounds in Oklahoma, which served as a primary water source for Native Americans of that region. Capturing the culture through nature and the spiritual qualities of this area was a stirring experience."

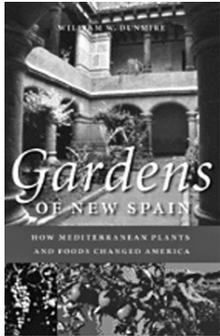


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26:

Symposium: The Political Legacies of the American West (see pp. 4-5)

Wednesday, March 2: Clements Center Brown Bag Lecture
Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

“Apples, Coriander and Watermelons: Spanish Plantways to Texas”



WILLIAM W. DUNMIRE, retired National Park Service naturalist and writer-photographer will give a slide-illustrated talk about one of the most significant fusions in the history of international cuisine — how cultivated plants and foods from the Old World made their way from pre-Columbian Spain to the colonial frontier of the Greater Southwest. His talk is based on his new book, *Gardens of New Spain: How Mediterranean Plants and Foods Changed America*, published by University of Texas Press. Books will be available for sale and signing.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2:

Special Guest Lecture & Book-Signing

SMU Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
3060 Mockingbird Lane (in the Park Cities Plaza, just west of intersection with I-75/Central Expressway)

Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution

James E. Crisp, Department of History, North Carolina State University

Sleuthing the archives, including those at DeGolyer Library, James Crisp has made important finds—and revisions—to Texas history. He will discuss how he applied his expertise in Texas history and followed clues that led him to significant discoveries. Ron Tyler of the Texas State Historical Association described Crisp's book as “a fascinating historical adventure ... Crisp shows us how little we know about such familiar events and personalities and suggests challenging implications for his new findings.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 3:

Picturing the American West – Lecture Series

Meadows Museum Auditorium, 5:30 pm

Formal and Reportage Portraits by Laura Wilson
Laura Wilson, Photographer

For 25 years Laura Wilson has crisscrossed the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains States and the borderlands between Texas and Mexico photographing people and the land on which they live. These photographs, combining portraits and informal reportage, are her observations on the contemporary West. She has seen firsthand the physical and emotional costs of ranching and the depopulation of the Plains. She has photographed the desire for community in the debutante cotillions of Laredo, and on the playing fields of sparsely populated West Texas towns. She has observed the longing for spiritual life in the Hutterite communities of Montana and the creative forces driving the repopulation of Marfa, Texas. In looking at these contemporary portraits, Wilson will discuss the question of truth in a portrait and what these portraits imply about the West today.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31:

Special Guest Lecture & Book-Signing

Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, 6:00 p.m. – reception;
6:30 lecture; 7:30 book-signing

Richard J. Orsi, Emeritus Professor of History, California State University, Hayward

Sunset Limited: Towards a New History of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the American West

Dr. Orsi will examine new approaches to interpreting the significance of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the history of the American West during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Contrary to the nearly universal, malevolent “Octopus” myth that dominates popular culture and standard historiography, the Southern Pacific identified its corporate wellbeing –long-term growth and reliability of rail traffic and the value of its lines and land grants – with economic and social development in its hinterlands.



The Southern Pacific's settlement and environmental activities open up new insights not only into that corporation's regional influence, but also into the general history of railroads and the West. Orsi's presentation will introduce ideas from his just-released book, *Sunset Limited: The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Development of the American West* (University of California Press, 2005), which is based on research in archives throughout the United States, including the DeGolyer Library.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31:

Picturing the American West – Lecture Series

Meadows Museum Auditorium, 5:30 pm

Professor Charissa Terranova, SMU

New Urbanism in Dallas: Pragmatics of Profit or the Morals of Authentic City Experience

Despite its inauguration some 20 years ago, the New Urbanism movement has remained new. Perhaps the real logic of success behind New Urbanism is its ability to live and be practiced beyond the auspices of the original design team, Duany and Plater-Zyberk. An example of New Urbanism idealism realized locally, the newly developed live-shop area known as West Village, has given a fresh airy life to inner Dallas. West Village has brought small-town Main Street to big-city downtown. It begs a question, though: Is this urban development merely sprawl dressed in a zoot suit or does West Village actually deliver the much vaunted promises of a better and more valid democracy offered by Duany and Plater-Zyberk in the earlier years of the movement?

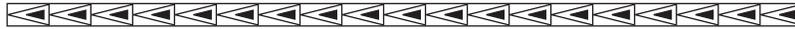
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6:

Clements Center Brown Bag Lecture

Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Brian Frehner, Clements Center Fellow for the Study of

continued on page 8



Clements Center – DeGolyer Library Research Travel Grants

Southwestern America

“‘What Happened to the Man with the Mysterious Black Box?’: Doodlebugs, Geologists, and the Oil Industry, 1900-1917”



Professor Frehner will answer the question posed in the title of his presentation by recounting the history of oil prospecting and the professionalization of petroleum geology in the early-twentieth century. Some of the earliest oil prospectors were known as “doodlebugs” because they

relied on supposedly scientific devices that took a variety of shapes and forms. While some devices bore a sophisticated appearance with dials, meters, and bells, others took the shape of simple, black boxes. These prospectors often met with remarkable success throughout the early days of the oil industry. By the early-twentieth century, however, the emerging discipline of petroleum geology had begun to coalesce and displaced many doodlebug prospectors. Universities throughout Oklahoma and Texas instituted geology departments and began to train their students to locate oil through the application of geological principles. University-trained geologists increasingly

demonstrated more success at locating oil, formed their own professional association, found permanent employment in oil companies, and in the process usurped authority from doodlebugs as expert oil-finders. [Image: Fortune 21 (May 1940), 4]

THURSDAY, APRIL 14:

Picturing the American West – Lecture Series

Meadows Museum Auditorium, 5:30 pm

John Rohrbach, *Curator of Photographs, Amon Carter Museum*

From Adams to Adams: Redefining the American West?

Ansel Adams’ awe-inspiring views of seemingly undisturbed nature set the photographic definition of the American West through the middle decades of the twentieth century. In the early 1970s, Robert Adams (no relation) overly rejected that idealist aesthetic, redefining the West as a mundane string of suburban developments tied together by street lamps, highways, and strip malls. In so doing, he influenced subsequent generations of photographers to focus on the human-inflected West. Immediately, historians called it a paradigmatic transition marking the shift from romantic modernism to postmodernist alienation. But is the break as clean as we would like to believe? By exploring the continuities between Adams and Adams, this lecture will suggest how dependent contemporary landscape practice remains on Ansel Adams’ vision.

The Clements Center’s newsletter is published semi-annually at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. For an email version of this newsletter or for more information about the Clements Center’s grants, fellowships, publications and programs, please visit our Web site at www.smu.edu/swcenter or contact us at Dallas Hall, Room 356, (214) 768-1233 or swcenter@smu.edu.



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