

The William P. CLEMENTS CENTER for Southwest Studies

Fall/Spring 2026-2027
Volume 27

Established in fall 1996, the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University promotes research by awarding grants and fellowships, supporting the publication of academic investigation, and providing public programming on fields of inquiry related to Texas, the American Southwest, and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CLEMENTS CENTER DIRECTOR, ARIEL RON

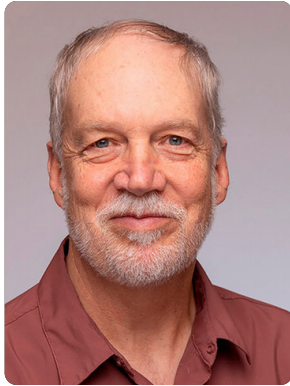
I want to begin with a note of gratitude to Ashton Reynolds for his term as Assistant Director, and especially for staying on with us a few extra months when we needed him. Our new Assistant Director is Brennan Rivas, herself a former Clements fellow who comes to us after a postdoctoral fellowship at Wesleyan University's Center for the Study of Guns and Society. Brennan brings unprecedented thematic expertise to the position, and we are thrilled she has joined the team. Neil Foley continues in his role as Associate Director. There has also been much change at the top levels of SMU leadership, with a new university president, provost and dean of Dedman College. Finally, the DeGolyer Library's long-time director, Russell Martin, has been named director of the Rees-Jones Library of the West, scheduled to open sometime in 2027. Thanks to our endowments and commitment to the Clements Center's work, our core programs remain secure. At the same time, I think it is possible that the next few years will see a few constructive changes to facets of our model. For now, we continue to do what we've always done.

Whereas last year's fellows brought a distinctly nineteenth-century flavor, this year's group is very much focused on the twentieth century, and more particularly on the pivot of the 1960s and 70s. Chelsea Ball is writing about women's rights activists and maternalist discourse in the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. She makes a powerful argument for the crucial yet understudied role of the four western states of Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Utah in determining the ERA's fate. Carlos Parra is writing a history of Spanish-language television in southern California with an emphasis on cross-border influences. His book is sure to mark a major addition to the historiography of American culture and media. Jian Gao, who recently completed a book on Chinese immigrants to Mexico, will be developing a new project aiming to show that the landmark 1965 immigration law was less of a policy departure than typically assumed. Finally, senior fellow Daniel Herman is working on a provocative reinterpretation of the Inner West's political trajectory from the Populist era to the Reagan Revolution, grounding his analysis in the region's political-economic shifts during the twentieth century. Please be sure to read more about each of these projects in the individual fellows' profiles.

This year we are especially excited for our symposium, "After the War: Rebuilding the Republic in North America, 1865-1876," which kicks off with a workshop at El Colegio de México in Mexico City. The symposium is co-organized by Erika Pani and Paolo Riguzzi of El Colegio, David Vázquez Valenzuela of the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, and me, though the leading light here is really Erika. It will bring together a fabulous cast of historians of Mexico and the United States to explore how the republic was reinvented and reconfigured, on both sides of the border, after having been almost destroyed by civil war in the 1860s. This symposium is dear to us because it forwards our aim, best articulated by our own historian of Mexico, Pablo Mijangos, of writing histories that cross borders freely to consider the problems of North America wholistically. Our next symposium, planned for 2027-28 and led by former fellow Alyssa Quintanilla and Camilla Fojas of Arizona State's School of Social Transformation, will also speak to this theme in focusing on the "Infrastructures of the U.S.-Mexico Border." For more information, please visit our website.

Research Fellows

INTRODUCING THE 2026-27 CLEMENTS CENTER RESEARCH FELLOWS

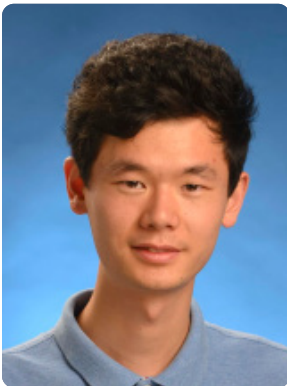


Daniel Herman is this year's Bill and Rita Clements Senior Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America. He received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1995 and is presently Professor of History at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. Herman is a returning Clements Center fellow from the 2007-08 cohort.

Daniel Herman broke maybe six plastic six-shooters, also some windows, when growing up in Phoenix. He went off to a small college in California, Pitzer, in 1979 to be a hippy (sort of) and soon fell under the sway of historians. He wasted the Reagan years pretending to be writerly (in San Francisco) while typing for lawyers by day, faux smoking (tobacco) at night, and imagining himself on a motorcycle. Though not cool, he met others who were. Enthralled by Roderick Nash's *Wilderness and the American Mind*, he entered UC Berkeley's doctoral program in 1989, emerged in 1995, and struggled against impostor syndrome as an adjunct. He never really won that battle but got a tenure-track job at Central Washington University in 2000 and has stayed ever since. Still under Nash's spell, Herman wrote *Hunting and the American Imagination* (dissertation turned book) then spent way too much time investigating Arizona history (a boyhood interest), which concluded with three books: *Hell on the Range*, *Rim Country Exodus*, and an historical novel, *The Feudist*, not very good but a fun project done with his dad.

No longer young or even middle aged, Herman is pursuing another old interest by writing a political history of the Inner West (the fourteen Plains and Rockies states), tentatively titled "Cowboy Progressives: The Inner West and American Reform, 1890-1988," a project that brings him to the Clements Center. He is married to Margareta and proud (!) dad of Pearl (both are pearls, if you think about it), who is eleven and has zero interest in her dad's ramblings, books, or hobbies (hiking, running, rock hunting), and even less interest in his favorite teams (Dodgers, Sun Devils). She shares, however, her parents' love of novels and art, and some of their eccentricities.

Welcome back, Daniel!



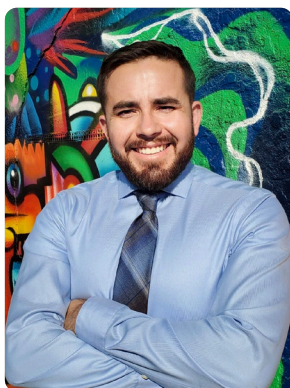
Jian Gao is this year's David J. Weber Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America. He received his PhD in History from the University of Texas at Austin in 2024 and is currently Assistant Professor of History and Presidential Scholar at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Gao's research focuses on Chinese migration to the Americas, especially the transnational connections linking China and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

Jian Gao's work has appeared in *History Compass*, *The Latin Americanist*, the *Asian Journal of Latin American Studies*, and other journals. His scholarship has received awards from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, the World History Association, the Latin American Studies Association, and other professional organizations. Gao's first book, *Journeys of Longing and Belonging: Migration and the Modern Chinese Mexico*, is forthcoming with the University of North Carolina Press in the David J. Weber Series in New Borderlands History. Based on his dissertation, the project received the 2025 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and the 2025 Dissertation Award from the World History Association. He is currently at work on a second book, "The Making of Modern Immigration Control: Labor, Birthplaces, and the National Origins Quotas," which examines how exclusionary practices persisted in U.S. immigration policy after 1965 through labor certification, country caps, and the H-1B visa lottery.



Chelsea Ball is this year's Bill and Rita Clements Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America. She received her PhD in History from the University of Oklahoma in 2021 and is currently Director of Museum Studies and Assistant Professor of History at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma. Ball specializes in U.S. women's and gender history, the American West, and public history. Her research focuses on the debates over the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and feminism in the Western United States.

Ball's publications include a chapter in the edited volume *The North American West in the Twenty-First Century* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2022), which traces the Equal Rights Amendment from the 1980s to today. She also published a chapter on ERA activist Wanda Jo Peltier Stapleton in *This Land is Herland: Gendered Activism in Oklahoma from the 1870s to the 2010s* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2021). Currently, Ball is working on a book manuscript titled "West of Feminism: The Equal Rights Amendment Campaign in the American West, 1972-1982." She argues that the battle to ratify the ERA was not based in organizations and feminists on the East Coast, where the amendment had already passed, but instead the unratified western states of Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Utah. There, activists drew on pioneer and suffrage imagery to campaign for the amendment and utilized their statuses as mothers and religious leaders to distance themselves from "radical" feminism. The ERA debate in the unratified western states (mainly the Southwest) illuminates not a retreat of feminism in the region, as other scholars have argued, but instead a rejection of the term itself even while activists worked for gender equality. The project reenvisions the role and geographical power of second wave feminism's pinnacle piece of legislation and illuminates the forgotten role of feminism in the western women's rights movement.



Carlos Francisco Parra is this year's Summerlee Foundation Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America. He received his PhD in History from the University of Southern California in 2021 and is currently Assistant Professor of History at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. Parra's published research covers topics ranging from the origins of the first U.S.-Mexican border fences in Southern Arizona, the cultural assimilation of ethnic Mexican students in the early New Mexico public school system, and the cultural history of Spanish-language television in greater Latino Los Angeles.

Utilizing archival research at multimedia film and television collections as well as oral history interviews, Parra will use his time at the Clements Center to develop his book manuscript on the history of Spanish-language TV in Southern California. Parra's book examines the role of Spanish-language TV as an ethnic-oriented mass media outlet which promoted a bicultural Latino identity meant to empower migrant and U.S.-born Latinos in reaching the American Dream. The success of the then relatively small Univision and Telemundo stations in Los Angeles held major implications for Latino communities throughout the Southwest and broader United States.

Since the completion of his PhD, Parra has participated in several prestigious fellowships, including appointments with the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Latino Center. In addition, Parra provided consultation for the Smithsonian's 2023-2025 "¡De Ultima Hora! Latinas Report Breaking News" exhibition and in 2024 curated a bilingual local history museum exhibition titled "Beyond Fronteras: Treasuring an Arizona Border Community's Past and Future." Coordinating this federally-funded effort on behalf of the Santa Cruz County government in Arizona, Parra worked with local high school youth and teachers to develop the "Beyond Fronteras" exhibition which also featured the creation of a border community history mural at the Nogales, Arizona, public library.

THE CLEMENTS CENTER WELCOMES DR. BRENNAN GARDNER RIVAS



Brennan Gardner Rivas is excited to be joining the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies as its new Assistant Director. She received her PhD in History from Texas Christian University in 2019 and held a Bill and Rita Clements Fellowship (2020-21) for *The Revolver Must Go: The Rise and Fall of a Gun Control Movement*

in Texas, under contract with Yale University Press. Prior to this appointment, Rivas was Senior Postdoctoral Researcher and Associate Director at the Center for the Study of Guns and Society at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Rivas is a historian of the nineteenth-century United States and the American Southwest, specializing in legal history and gun studies. Her work seeks to excavate the political and cultural context of historical gun laws and gun violence, underscoring the long American tradition of regulating weapons in the name of public safety. Because Rivas's research speaks to current controversies over the meaning of the right to bear arms, she has served as an expert witness in numerous Second Amendment cases across the country.

Rivas's publications have appeared in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, *UC Davis Law Review*, and *New Histories of Gun Rights and Regulations* (Oxford, 2023), and forthcoming articles are slated to appear in *American Violence: Histories, Structures, and Legacies* (Routledge, with Evan Turiano) and *Colorado Law Review*. She has also contributed to blogs like the Duke Center for Firearms Law's *Second Thoughts*, SHEAR's *Panorama*, and *Washington Post: Made by History*.

Having grown up in the DFW Metroplex, Rivas is delighted to be returning to the Clements Center and putting down roots at SMU. As an avid college football fan, she is eager to go "boulevarding" and cheer for the Mustangs. Rivas is also the proud dog mom of Aberdeen "Abby" Rivas, a rough collie who has earned Canine Good Citizen and Novice Trick Dog titles.



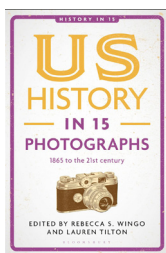
Gabby English, who graduated last May with degrees in Dance Performance and Psychology, interned with the Clements Center and the DeGolyer Library last spring and fall. She did an exemplary job in every way and earned the chance to continue working for DeGolyer over the summer. Here she describes her work as of last April:

This semester, I am interning with the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University, where I am helping archive and preserve historical materials to create a lasting institutional memory. My work includes physically transferring materials to the DeGolyer Library, organizing and categorizing files to make them more accessible to researchers, and completing Oral History interviews to support future preservation efforts. Through this process, I am gaining hands-on experience in the practical side of archiving and learning how to preserve, organize, and thoughtfully present historical records. I am also developing valuable professional skills in organization, digitization, research, and scholarly communication while deepening my understanding of the Center's history and mission. Currently, I am close to finishing this project and am completing the second-to-last step of the process. I have had a wonderful experience organizing the files and working to catalog them online. Soon, the project will be complete, and the archives will be available to view both online and in person. I have also completed multiple interviews with individuals previously or currently connected to the Clements Center, including Jane Elder.



Fellows News

Cathleen Cahill (2009-10) is serving as Acting Director of the Penn State Richards Civil War Era Center through June 2027. Her essay “Native American Women & the Politics of Portraiture at the Turn of the 20th Century” was published in the collection *US History in 15 Photographs* (Bloomsbury, 2026) edited by Rebecca S. Wingo and Laura Tilton.



Marc S. Rodriguez (2003-04) took his first (sadly only half-time) sabbatical in years. He spent the year combing archives in Texas while also working as the Editor of the *Pacific Historical Review*. He spent a wonderful month as the Roosevelt Visiting Professor at the Roosevelt Institute of American Studies (RIAS) in the Netherlands.

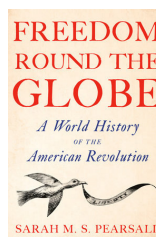
Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez (2007-08) has received an NEH fellowship to conclude his ongoing book project on Comanche captivity. He has also published several articles over the past year, including “El cautiverio en las relaciones hispano-comanches, 1700-1821” (in *Cuadernos de Historia Moderna*) and “España y los indígenas del Alto Misisipi” (in *Historia Moderna Desperta Ferro*), and the chapter “Divulgar la historia militar del lejano septentrión novohispano: desafíos y oportunidades” (in *La historia militar y la sociedad* edited by Alberto Guerrero Martín and Víctor García González). Joaquín presented at the annual meetings of the American Society for Ethnohistory and the West Texas Historical Association, and at the XX Jornadas Internacionales de Historia de las Monarquías Ibéricas in Medellín, Colombia. And he delivered guest lectures at several institutions, including the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, the Panhandle Archaeological Society of Texas, the San Antonio Mission Indian Descendants, and the Museo de Historia Mexicana in Monterrey. Salud, Joaquín!

Maurice Crandall (2016-17) delivered the keynote address at the 2026 End of School Year Banquet for the Yavapai-

Prescott Indian Tribe’s Academic Support Programs.

Tiffany González (2022-23) shares that she was elected to serve on the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Nominating Committee, selected to serve on the 2027 Big Berks Program Committee, and received a Big 12 Faculty Fellowship for the 2026-27 academic year. The Big 12 Faculty Fellowship will allow her to make strides on her second book project, a biography of Irma Ragel, the first Mexican American woman State Representative in Texas. On a more personal note, she and her husband welcomed their first child in October 2025—Linda, a girl with a beautiful personality. Congratulations, Tiffany!

Sarah Pearsall (2017-18) has just released her book, *Freedom Round the Globe: A World History of the American Revolution*, out with Knopf Doubleday (U.S.), Picador (U.K.), and Rowohlt Berlin (Germany) in May 2026. The book is based on a course she began designing during her time as a Clements Senior Fellow, a fellowship for which she remains so grateful. We are so glad to count you among our alumni fellows, Sarah.



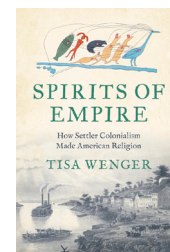
After fifteen years at SMU, and thirteen of those as Director of the Clements Center, **Andrew Graybill** (2004-05) moved this summer across the Metroplex to TCU, where he succeeds Gregg Cantrell (1996-97) as the Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair in Texas History. Andy reports also that he’s got two new books under contract: “The Longhorn’s Journey from Spain to the Plains” (Texas), on which he is collaborating with photographer Joel Salcido, and “Longhorn Country: The Texas Cattle that Built America” (Liveright/Norton), both underwritten by a generous gift from the Sid W. Richardson Foundation.



Douglas Miller (2014-15) announces his promotion to Professor of History

at Oklahoma State University. Congratulations, and Go Pokes!

Tisa Wenger (2002-03) shares news of the release of her latest book, *Spirits of Empire: How Settler Colonialism Made American Religion* (UNC Press, 2026). On a more personal note, her daughter Sophia, who was born in Dallas during her fellowship year, graduated from Yale in 2025 and recently started working as an editorial assistant for Hachette Group in NYC. And her youngest son, Dylan, graduated from high school this spring and is heading to Princeton in the fall. All of a sudden, she and Rod are empty nesters. Congratulations, Tisa!



Katrina Jagodinsky (2011-12) has been promoted to Full Professor of History at the University of Nebraska Lincoln on the merit of her digital, prize-winning project, *Petitioning for Freedom* (petitioningforfreedom.unl.edu). She also holds an NEH Fellowship for 2026-27 that will support her next manuscript on habeas histories in the American West. She’s excited to meet prospective graduate students interested in legal histories to discuss the generous funding opportunities available for PhD students at University of Nebraska Lincoln. Clements Center friends are invited to visit their website (uslawandrace.unl.edu) to learn more about graduate student opportunities.

Julia Maria Schiavone Camacho (2007-08) announces the release of her review article, “Asian Americans in the Heartland,” in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Migration Studies* in April 2026.

Eric Schlereth (2019-20) shares that in 2025, *Quitting the Nation: Emigrant Rights in North America*, the book he worked on during his time as a fellow, received an Honorable Mention for The Norris and Carol Hundley Award from the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. Congratulations, Eric!

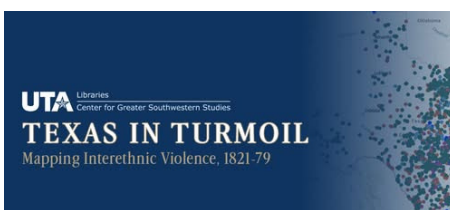
Fellows News

Farina King (2016-17) has finished her term as the Secretary of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) and is excited to attend the NAISA 2026 conference in Temuco, Chile. She is serving as a program co-chair of the Western History Association 2026 Conference in Portland with Katrina Jagodinsky and Michael Lansing. Farina hopes to see the publication of two major book projects in 2027: a textbook co-edited with Kiara Vigil titled "Native American and Indigenous Studies: Gatherings from the Field," and a volume co-edited with Michael D.K. Ing titled "Written to the Lamanites": Indigenous Perspectives on Mormon Narratives of Indigeneity."

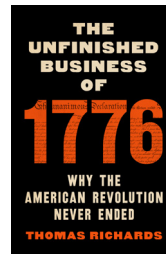


Farina also taught a summer study abroad program for the second time in 2026 with the University of Oklahoma in Arezzo, Italy. Co-led with Dr. Emily Burns, the course focuses on Native Americans and the American West in Italy. She and Dr. Burns are working on an edited volume about this program theme. If any friends of the Clements Center would like to know more and possibly contribute, please let Farina know.

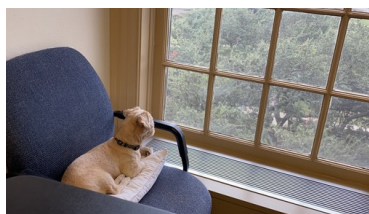
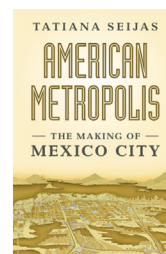
Sam W. Haynes (2019-20) continues to work on his digital humanities project, *Texas in Turmoil, Mapping Interethnic Violence, 1821-1879* (<https://sites.libraries.uta.edu/texasinturmoil/>), which launched in November 2025. The site maps and analyses almost 3,000 sites of conflict between the many peoples of Texas, from Mexican independence to the end of the so-called Indian Wars.



Tommy Richards (2017-18) published a new book in 2026, *The Unfinished Business of 1776: Why the American Revolution Never Ended* (The New Press). This fall he began his ninth year teaching at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia. Congratulations, Tommy!

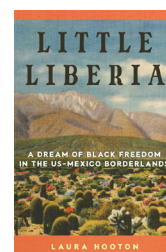


Tatiana Seijas (2020-21) announces the release of her new book, *American Metropolis: The Making of Mexico City* (Cambridge University Press, 2026). Much of this book was written during her fellowship year at the Clements Center, under the supervision of her canine companion, Osita (pictured here).



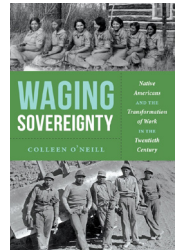
Tatiana was in Santa Fe for Spring 2026 while on sabbatical working at the New Mexico State Records Center & Archives and the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives for her borderlands study. A highlight of her stay was visiting the Museum of International Folk Art for a special viewing of their eighteenth century hide paintings.

Laura Hooton (2023-24) is pleased to announce the publication of her monograph *Little Liberia: A Dream of Black Freedom in the US-Mexico Borderlands* (University of Oklahoma Press, June 2026). She also was recently awarded the Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Outreach Award at NMSU for her work with students on

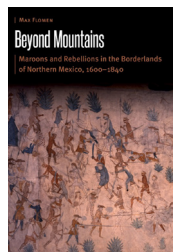


public history of African Americans in New Mexico. Congratulations, Laura!

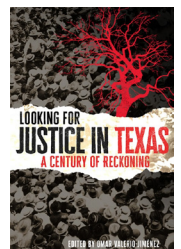
ToniAnn Treviño (2024-25) has just signed an advance contract for her book, *San Antonio After Sundown: The Long War on Drugs & Envisioning Rehabilitation in Mexican Neighborhoods*. The University of Pennsylvania Press has picked up the manuscript for its Politics and Culture in Modern America Series. Congratulations, ToniAnn!



Colleen O'Neill (2002-03) is happy to report on the publication of her newest book, *Waging Sovereignty: Native Americans and the Transformation of Work in the Twentieth Century* (UNC press, 2026). Congratulations, Colleen!



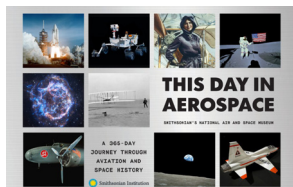
Max Flomen (2023-24) shares that he will begin serving as coordinator of Native American Studies at West Virginia University in fall 2026. His first book, *Beyond Mountains: Maroons and Rebellions in the Borderlands of Northern Mexico, 1600-1840*, will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in December. Congratulations, Max!



Omar Valerio-Jimenez (2001-02) is thrilled to be the president-elect of the Western History Association for 2028 when the annual conference will be in Austin, Texas. His edited anthology, *Looking for Justice in Texas: A Century of Reckoning*, will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press in September 2026. Congratulations, Omar!

Joseph Abel (2011-12) shares that he has an article forthcoming (Aug 2026) in

the *Journal of Southern History* entitled “The President’s Committee on Government Contracts and the Failed Integration of the Texas Aircraft Industry.” Along with Amy Stamm and

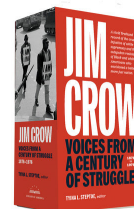


Jennifer Levasseur, he edited a book entitled *This Day in Aerospace: A 365-Day Journey through Aviation and Space History* (forthcoming late 2026). Joseph

also published a piece in *Air and Space Quarterly* entitled “My Top Pick: A Mighty Wind” (Summer 2026), and was interviewed by NPR about Black aviator Chauncey Spencer and the history of African Americans in aviation. Cheers to a productive year, Joseph!

Tyina Steptoe (2012-13) announces that she was awarded the 2025 Lorraine A. Williams Leadership Award from the Association of Black Women Historians and is the new series editor of the Race and Culture in the American West Series at the University of Oklahoma Press. She has two new publications: *Jim Crow: Voices from a Century of Struggle 1876-1976* (Library of America/Penguin Random

House, 2025), and a chapter called “It’s Brisket, Mija: A Culinary Journey in Three Acts,” in *Culinary Mestizaje: Racial Mixing and Foodways Across the United States*, edited by Rudy Guevarra, Jr. and Felipe Hinojosa, 128-136 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2025). Congratulations, Tyina!

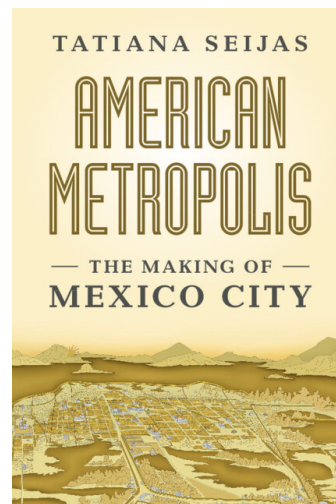


Gavin Benke (2014-15) reports that his forthcoming book, *Capitalism’s Tomorrows: Imagining the Future of Business*, will be published by the University of Chicago Press in mid-2027. Congratulations, Gavin!

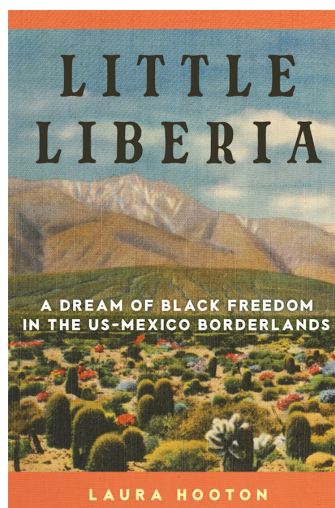
RECENT BOOKS PUBLISHED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CLEMENTS CENTER

American Metropolis: The Making of Mexico City (Cambridge University Press, 2026).

In this deeply researched book, Tatiana Seijas (2020-21) reveals a rich tapestry of stories about essential workers who remade and transformed the city. Her narrative style carries readers to a unique place and time with residents from around the world who sold food, facilitated transportation, provided care, and valued the city’s silver. Free and enslaved people from Africa and Asia, immigrants, and Native Americans pursued opportunities in a wealthy, yet deeply unequal environment, where working people claimed parts of the city for themselves. They carved out spaces to create new businesses and protect their livelihoods, altering the cityscape itself in the process. *American Metropolis* brings Mexico City to life from the perspective of the working people who carried out its transformation.



Little Liberia: A Dream of Black Freedom in the US-Mexico Borderlands (University of Oklahoma Press, 2026). Laura Hooton (2023-24) tells the story of early-twentieth-century African Americans who created an agricultural community in northern Baja California, Mexico, which they called *Little Liberia*. As a transborder activist community, the people of Little Liberia sought to counter the forces of white supremacy in North America, primarily by building a stable financial and political foundation for African Americans. The story of this community, told in full for the first time in *Little Liberia*, is one of Black innovation and cross-cultural enterprise at a time of racial persecution and political turbulence—a little known but instructive chapter in the intersecting history of Black America and the borderlands of the Southwest.



SMU Graduate Student News

Tim Bowman (PhD, 2011) is stepping down as department chair at West Texas A&M University to become the Vincent-Haley Professor of Western American Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of the American West. His latest book, due out next year, is tentatively titled *Two Roads to Justice: Antonio Orendain and the Texas Farmworkers' Revolt* (UT Press, 2027). Tim continues to serve as co-editor (with Alberto Rodríguez) of the "New Directions in Tejano History" series with the University of Oklahoma Press and is always interested in hearing about book manuscripts. Congratulations, Tim!

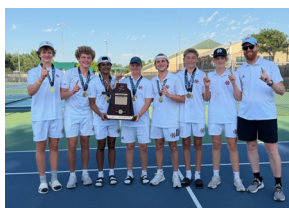
Tim Seiter (PhD, 2024) shares that his first book, *Wrangling Pelicans: Military Life in Presidios*, won two awards: the Summerlee Book Award from the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast at Lamar University, and the Excellence in Historic Preservation Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Congratulations, Tim!

Roberto Andrade Franco (PhD, 2020) announces that his article, "Crawford, Álvarez and the Decline of the Superfight," is a finalist for the 2026 Dan Jenkins Medal for Excellence in Sportswriting. Another article, "Why the Spirit of WWE Legend Eddie Guerrero Lives On," will be anthologized in *The Year's Best Sports Writing 2026*. Well done, Roberto!

Aaron Sánchez (PhD, 2014) announces the forthcoming release of a collection of creative non-fiction essays that sit at the intersections of history, nature writing, and memoir. Titled *My Country of Sand and Stone: Essays on the Southwest*, the collection will be published by Texas Tech University Press in 2027. Aaron was selected to present at the symposium "Anglos and Mexicans: Still Making Texas," commemorating the fortieth anniversary of David Montejano's foundational *Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas*. Aaron continues writing and research for his long-term project, "Elefantes in the Room: A History of Mexican American Civil Rights Social Conservatism in the Twentieth Century and Beyond."

David Rex Galindo (PhD, 2010) shares that he has been promoted to Associate Professor of History at the University of North Texas. In April, he presented his research on the administration of justice within the religious orders in the early modern Hispanic World at the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, in Puebla, Mexico. David's Dentonian son, Mateo, is now two years old, keeping his parents quite busy. Congratulations, David!

Austin Miller (PhD, 2024) organized a WHA roundtable for graduate students interested in teaching careers in independent schools. He continues to teach American Studies at Holland Hall in Tulsa, and also guided the Dutch boys tennis team to the Oklahoma 4A State Championship in his first year as head coach.



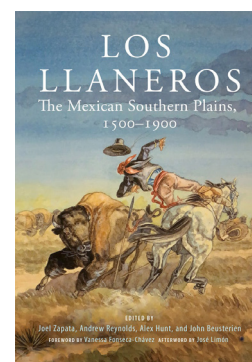
Matthew Babcock (PhD, 2008) helped conceptualize and organize a panel at the 2025 WHA Conference in Albuquerque, presenting a paper titled "Defending the Texas Borderlands: Antonio Cordero and Spanish-Indigenous Alliances."

Clive Siegle (PhD, 2007) informs us that he has packed his classroom in a suitcase and is now traveling the historic Columbia and Snake rivers in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark as the onboard lecturer on the American Cruise Lines cruise ship *American Harmony*.

Jimmy L. Bryan, Jr. (PhD, 2006) has accepted an appointment as chair of the Lamar University Department of History as he continues as director at the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast. During the past year, he presented on research from his "This Empire Grim" book project at the Society for Historians of the Early Republic (Providence, RI), Western Literature Association (Oklahoma City), Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association (San Francisco), and the Society for the Study of the American Gothic (Salem, MA). Bryan also presented on John Sayles's *Lone Star* (1996) at the Alliance for Texas History (Fort Worth).

George T. Díaz (PhD, 2010) presented his paper, "Mapping Mexican Criminality: Segregating the Texas Prison System," at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition Symposium at Yale University in May of 2026. His paper was drawn from his essay, "'A Knife-Using People': The Classification of 'Mexicans' in Texas State Prisons in the early 20th Century," which appears as a chapter in the forthcoming collection he co-edited, *Texas Behind Bars: Histories of Punishment and Detention in the Carceral State* (UT Press, 2027).

Joel Zapata (PhD, 2019) has just released a new collection, co-edited with Andrew Reynolds, Alex Hunt, and John Beusterien, titled *Los Llaneros: The Mexican Southern Plains, 1500-1900* (OU Press, 2026). This diverse collection of essays brings much-needed attention to the ethnic culture and history of the Llano, the vast grassland plains encompassing the Texas Panhandle, eastern New Mexico, and corners of Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Congratulations, Joel!



Thanks to Ruth Ann for being the absolute best and taking care of all of us over the years! Ruth Ann, you always made me feel at home at the Clements Center, and I will always be grateful.
Tisa Wenger (2002-03)

Dear Ruth Ann, I will remember your kindness and wit. Thank you for helping us build a community during a global pandemic! I trust you will now have the full-time joy of sharing your days with your family. Abrazos,
Tatiana Seijas (2020-21)

Ruth Ann Elmore is the nicest person I have met in the field of historical studies. When I arrived at the Clements Center over two decades ago she helped me with everything I needed throughout my stay. She and Professor David Weber made my visit one of the most fruitful years of my academic career. Over the past two decades it was always a pleasure to see her at the WHA to catch up, take a few photos, and crack a few jokes.
Marc Rodriguez (2003-04)

Our weekly lunches were a hoot, and I am forever grateful that they introduced me to Columbo and The Golden Girls.
Max Flomen (2023-24)

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH ANN ELMORE

"Sue Fran," as my then 3YO son glossed her (inadvertently but indelibly) upon our arrival in Dallas in 2011, was the best professional colleague I've ever had. She was exemplary in running the Clements Center, of course, but that hardly captures what she meant to the place. Ruth Ann was the beating heart of our little operation on the third floor of Dallas Hall, unswervingly committed to the Center and its mission, and above all to our residential fellows. It was a true privilege to work alongside her for thirteen years.

Andrew Graybill (2004-05)



Ruth Ann made me promise to bring him by. It was Halloween, 2005. My two-year-old, Noah, was gearing up to trick-or-treat around SMU with his little pals from daycare. Ruth Ann wasn't going to miss it. Much to his parents' surprise, Noah decided to dress as a doctor. He insisted to anyone who would listen that he was a "scary doctor." But as he made his way around campus, his astronomical cuteness was interfering with that message. What does a guy have to do to have his scariness acknowledged by the public? He was a bit deflated by the time I brought him to Ruth Ann's office. "Oh my GOODNESS!," she exclaimed when he walked in with his scrubs, white jacket, stethoscope, and plastic jack-o'-lantern. Nodding while she looked him over, she bent down and told him, gravely: "very scary." He beamed.

What a gift it was to work alongside Ruth Ann during my blissful year at the Clements Center. We can all recite the superpowers that made her the unflappable, expert, can-do, glass-always-more-than-half-full, problem-solving, cheerleading, hilarious, wise, grounded, indispensable person-who-knows-where-all-the-bodies-are-buried, wiseacre saint who just made everything work for us lucky fellows. But I think what made her the indisputable center of the center was something more mysterious. She knew how to make all of us feel like our scholarly work was genuinely important while quietly reminding us, through example, that work isn't everything.

"Very scary!" Ruth Ann always knows what to say.

Brian DeLay (2005-06)

Ruth Ann and I share several indelible memories from Clements Center dinners at the Grape (RIP). Unfortunately, almost all of them concern conversations that are unprintable. However, what is printable is our dinner in Philadelphia. When Ruth Ann came to my home city for the OAH, she asked for the most stereotypical Philadelphia experience ever, so I took her to Pat's Steaks in Philadelphia. She gamely ate outside with me on the wax paper (no plates at Pat's) as a local drumline came up to play beside us to raise money. I have since inducted her into my own local Philly hall of fame, but as a Cowboys fan, she has rejected that honor.

Tom Richards (2017-18)



Congratulations on your retirement! Thank you for being such a great host and welcoming me and Stephanie to Dallas during my fellowship year. When I think of my time at SMU, I think of chatting with you during coffee breaks in the office. I know the place won't be the same without you.

Gavin Benke (2014-15)

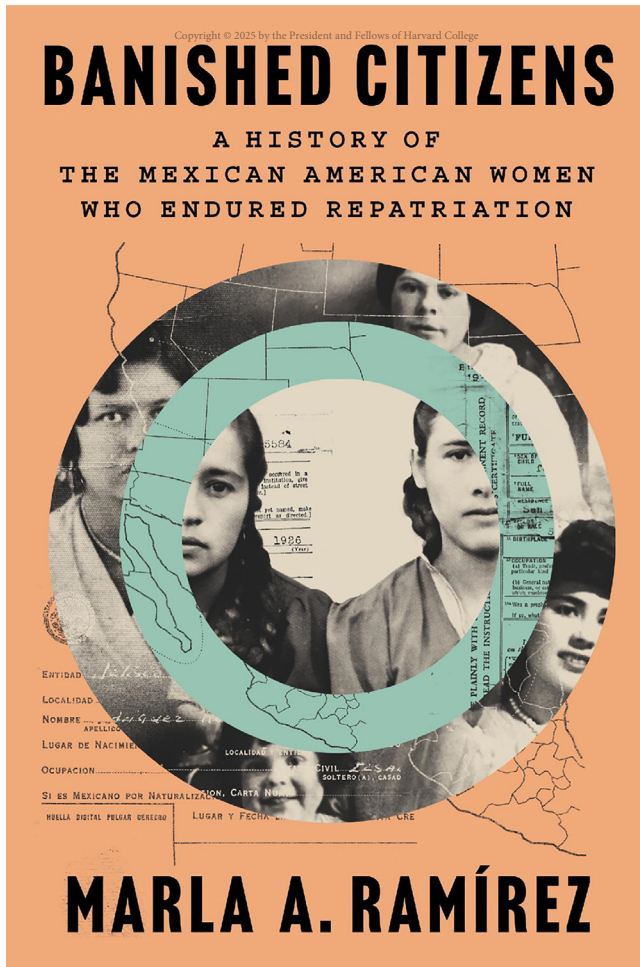
I was part of one of Ruth Ann's last cohorts, and was so thankful to have her help and support throughout the year. Our Tuesday lunches were one of the highlights of the year. Thanks Ruth Ann!
Laura Hooton (2023-24)

Thank you for your decades of dedication to the Clements Center and for making it such a welcoming place for so many students and scholars. You are sorely missed!
Matthew Babcock (PhD, 2008)

Ruth Ann is the best! She made everyone feel welcome and proud to be part of the center.
George Diaz (PhD, 2010)

Book Prize Winner & Finalist

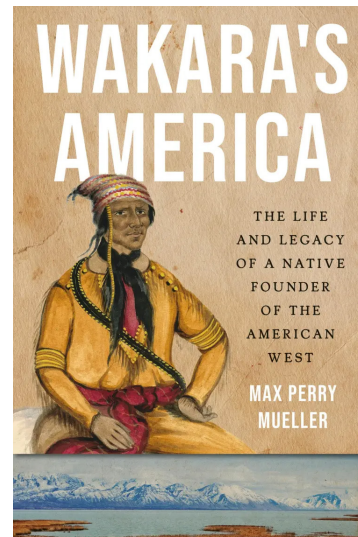
ANNOUNCING THE DAVID J. WEBER BOOK PRIZE WINNER AND FINALIST



The 2025 David J. Weber Prize for the Best Nonfiction Book on Southwestern America will be presented to **Marla A. Ramírez** at a special ceremony and book signing at SMU honoring her volume, *Banished Citizens: A History of the Mexican American Women Who Endured Repatriation*. See our website for date and time.

The judging committee wrote:

“Drawing from oral histories, private family collections, government archives, and the best of western, immigration, and women's historiography, Marla A. Ramírez's *Banished Citizens* completely shifts our understanding of Mexican repatriation during the Great Depression, vividly demonstrating that ‘repatriation’ was in fact long-term banishment from the United States for many U.S. citizens and their descendants. By engaging the family histories of banished Mexican American women in particular, Ramírez mounts a convincing argument that the effects of U.S. banishment policies and practices during the 1920s and 30s are still highly consequential for countless people on both sides of the border today.”



The judging committee also recognized a finalist: Max Perry Mueller, *Wakara's America: The Life and Legacy of a Native Founder of the American West* (Basic Books, 2025).

In 2011, the Clements Center and the Council of the Western History Association agreed to sponsor a new book prize to be administered by the WHA. The **David J. Weber Prize for the Best Nonfiction Book on Southwestern America** was presented for the first time at the 2012 annual meeting of the WHA. The purpose of the prize is to promote fine writing and original research on the American Southwest. The competition is open to any nonfiction book, including biography, on any aspect of Southwestern life, past or present, copyrighted in the previous year.

2025-26 SYMPOSIUM: INDIGENOUS CROSSINGS

Co-sponsored by Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University and The Newberry Library, with support from the Center for the Southwest at the University of New Mexico, the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest at the University of Washington, and the Department of History at Princeton University, and co-organized by Rani-Henrik Andersson (University of Helsinki), Elizabeth Ellis (Princeton, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma), Joshua L. Reid (University of Washington, Snohomish Indian Nation), and Samuel Truett (University of New Mexico).



This symposium anchored visions of the past and future into a deeper planetary archive, one linked to Native nations and Indigenous communities and their historical border crossings world-wide. It sought to connect exciting new work in global indigenous studies with Native-centered work on place, mobility, climate-change and justice, human and other-than-human kinship, migration and sanctuary, borderlands and border crossings, Native trans-national relationships and social movements, and indigenous politics, identities, diplomacy, and cross-community relations in historical contexts of global change.

Participants gathered twice to present and workshop their papers: first at **SMU's satellite campus in Taos, New Mexico** during the 2025 fall semester, and again in spring 2026 at **The Newberry Library in Chicago**.

Participants: Camden Elliott (Auburn University), Robin Garcia (University of Virginia), Kumu Kanoelani Davis (Ho'aka Mana), Jessica Jiang (UC Berkeley), Ryan Tucker Jones (University of Oregon), Kendall Lovely (UC Santa Barbara), Yusuf Mansoor (University of Connecticut), Pedro Munaretto (Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina), Hayley Negrin (University of Ill. Chicago), Jon Parmenter (Cornell University), Jorge Ramirez-Lopez (UC Santa Barbara), Lindsey Willow Smith (University of Minnesota), Mary Peterson Zundo (Independent Scholar).

CLEMENTS CENTER- DEGOLYER LIBRARY RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Clements Center for Southwest Studies offers **Research Travel Grants** to applicants who *live outside the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area* in order to encourage a broader and more intensive use of the special collections at DeGolyer Library. Great strengths of the Library include early voyages and travels, especially those bearing on the European exploration of the New World. The collection of Western Americana is numbered among the finest in the country, and the library also has exceptionally well-developed collections in the fields of business history and transportation history, in particular the history of railroads. Their holdings in the history of science, especially geology, also have much to offer the researcher, as do our special collections in the history of art, especially in the Stanley Marcus collection.

For information about applying for a Clements/DeGolyer Travel Research Grant, please visit our website at www.smu.edu/swcenter and follow the links under *Grants*.



2026-27 SYMPOSIUM: AFTER THE WAR: REBUILDING THE REPUBLIC IN NORTH AMERICA, 1865-1876

A joint symposium held in 2026-27 co-sponsored by the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU and El Colegio de México, co-organized by Erika Pani (El Colegio de México), Paolo Riguzzi (El Colegio de México), David A. Vázquez Valenzuela (Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila), and Ariel Ron (Southern Methodist University).

This two-part symposium will bring together historians of Mexico and the United States to explore how the republic was reinvented and reconfigured, on both sides of the border, after having been almost destroyed by war. Americans conceived the period after the Civil War as that of Reconstruction, while Mexicans spoke of the republic's Restoration after the wars of Reform and Intervention. Both labels speak to reality transformed, but also to wishful thinking and different aspirations. Symposium participants from the United States and Mexico will examine in parallel chapters the different visions of what should become of the North American republics after the wars of Reform and Intervention in Mexico and the Civil War in the US; the problems and challenges faced by those who strove to put nation and republic back together; and the impact of war and its political, social and economic reverberations.

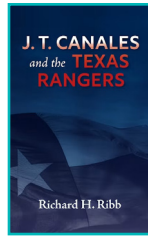
The symposium will gather first in fall 2026 at El Colegio de México in Mexico City, and again in spring 2027 at SMU's main campus in Dallas, Texas.

Participants: **Kate Masur** (Northwestern University), **Cath Andrews** (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas), **Chris Bonner** (University of Maryland-College Park), **Fernando Castrillo** (Universidad Autónoma de Puebla), **Sven Beckert** (Harvard University), **Sandra Kunz** (Colegio de México), **Gregory Downs** (UC Davis), **Héctor Strobel** (Instituto Moro), **Benjamin Johnson** (Loyola University Chicago), **David Vázquez** (Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila), **Noam Maggor** (Queen Mary University London), **Paolo Riguzzi** (Colegio de México), **Charles Postel** (San Francisco State University), **Daniela Marino** (Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia), **Cori Simon** (University of Oklahoma), **Romana Falcón** (Colegio de México), **Joshua Paddison** (Texas State University), **Pablo Mijangos** (Southern Methodist University), **Thavolia Glymph** (Duke University), and **Irina Córdoba** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

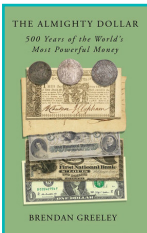
2026-27 EVENTS CALENDAR



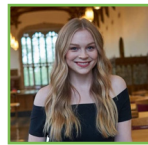
Kahn Distinguished Lecture:
Thursday, August 27, 2026
Matthew Butler, University of Texas
Mexico's War of Religion?
The Revolution of 1910-1940
 6 PM Lecture with Q&A
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU



Evening Lecture:
Thursday, December 3, 2026
Richard Ribb, Independent Scholar
J.T. Canales and the Texas Rangers
 6 PM Lecture with Q&A
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU



Evening Lecture:
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Brendan Greeley, Princeton University
The Almighty Dollar: 500 Years of the World's Most Powerful Money
 6 PM Lecture with Q&A
 McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall
 3225 University Blvd, SMU



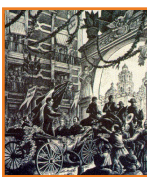
Noon Talk: Wednesday, December 9, 2026
Chelsea Ball, University of Central Oklahoma
West of Feminism: Gender, Religion, and the Politics of the Equal Rights Amendment in the American West
 12 Noon
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU



Noon Talk:
Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Jian Gao, Arizona State University
Journeys of Longing and Belonging: Migration and the Modern Chinese Mexico
 12 Noon
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU



Noon Talk:
Wednesday, February 17, 2027
Carlos Parra, University of Arizona
Translating the American Dream: Spanish-Language Television in Latino Southern California, 1962-2021
 12 Noon
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU



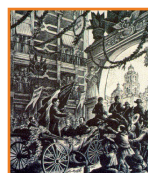
Symposium:
Thursday and Friday, October 8-9, 2026
After the War: Rebuilding the Republic in North America, 1865-1876
 Dallas, Texas
 Co-sponsored with El Colegio de México



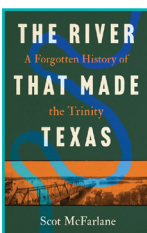
Evening Lecture: Tuesday, March 23, 2027
Dan Herman, Central Washington University
Legacy of Reform: The Inner West and American Politics, 1890-1988
 6 PM Lecture with Q&A
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU



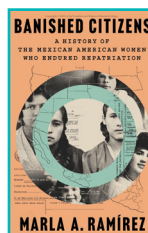
Clements Center WHA Reception:
Friday, October 23
Unsettled: New Wests, New Lessons
 6:30 pm
 The Portland Hilton Downtown, Portland, Oregon — Visit the Clements Center's booth in the exhibition area and join us for our annual reception.



Symposium:
Thursday and Friday, April 15-16, 2027
After the War: Rebuilding the Republic in North America, 1865-1876
 Dallas, Texas
 Co-Sponsored with El Colegio de México



Evening Lecture:
Thursday, October 22, 2026
Scott McFarlane, Independent Scholar
The River That Made Texas: A Forgotten History of the Trinity
 5:30 PM Reception
 6 PM Lecture with Book Signing
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU
 Co-sponsored by Friends of SMU Libraries and DeGolyer Library



Book Prize Award Lecture:
Date TBA
Marla A. Ramirez, UW Madison
Banished Citizens: A History of the Mexican American Women Who Endured Repatriation
 6 PM Lecture with Q&A
 Texana Room, Fondren Library
 6404 Robert S. Hyer Lane, SMU

Please check our website for updates

and for any fall or spring events that may be scheduled: www.smu.edu/swcenter.

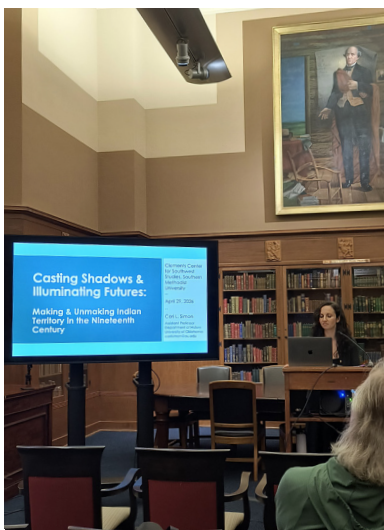
Seen and Heard



2025-26 fellows **Adrian Chavana**, **Cristina Urias Espinoza**, and **Len Smith** pose inside Dallas Hall and take a field trip to the San Antonio Mission Trail.



Adrian Chavana (center) with his outside readers **Juliana Barr** (right) and **Jennifer Denetdale** (left) following his manuscript workshop. Attendees also included **Cori Simon**, **Ariel Ron**, **Tim Seiter**, **Ashton Reynolds**, **Len Smith**, **Cristina Urias Espinoza**, **Neil Foley**, and **David Rex Galindo**.



2025-26 Weber Fellow **Cori Simon** delivers her Noon Talk in the Texana Room at DeGolyer Library.



2025-26 Senior Fellow **Len Smith** presents a lecture titled "The Law of the Land: The Public Domain in Texas and French Algeria in the 19th Century."



Scholars gather for the manuscript workshop of 2025-26 Clements Fellow **Cristina Urias-Espinoza** in Dallas Hall.



The Clements Center's beloved former Assistant Director, **Ruth Ann Elmore**, pictured with **Katrina Jagodinsky** at a recent WHA annual meeting.



Former fellows **Mary Mendoza** (left), **Katrina Jagodinsky** (center) and **Cathy Cahill** (right) "in the wild" at a recent gathering.



TCU's mascot, Super Frog, visits the Clements Center table at the 2026 Alliance for Texas History meeting on the TCU campus. **Brennan Rivas** says: "Go Frogs!"

Address Service Requested

COMING SOON: REES-JONES LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN WEST



Located at the north end of SMU's campus, adjacent to Fondren Library, SMU's main library, the Rees-Jones Library will be a premier destination for scholars, students, and history enthusiasts. This dedicated space will house the Rees-Jones collection of Western Americana, which consists of thousands of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and other artifacts, alongside the holdings of the DeGolyer Library and its complementary special collections.

Designed to inspire discovery and collaboration, the library will feature warm, inviting study areas, intimate reading nooks, and a grand reading room lined with glass-front

bookshelves. A state-of-the-art digitization and conservation lab will preserve rare materials, while a map room and gallery will support hands-on learning. Exhibition and seminar rooms will bring history to life, and a beautifully designed outdoor area will offer a welcoming retreat for reflection and conversation.

The Rees-Jones Library will also be home to new staff appointed to support the library, as well as special collections staff, collaborative research librarians, and digitization and conservation experts, ensuring a dynamic hub for research and scholarly communication, innovation, and engagement with the history of the American West.

Welcome to a new chapter in discovery.