

CLEMENTS CENTER FOR

SOUTHWEST STUDIES

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Volume 3, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

February 2002

From the Director:

The tragedies of Sept. 11 and the war a half a world away have made any research we have done at the Southwest Center seem extraneous this past autumn. Measured by the need to find the source of the anthrax attacks or the challenge of guiding an unmanned missile at a military target without hitting civilians, much of what we do in the humanities and social sciences appears to have little relevance. It is also the case, however, that much of our research is irrelevant by design.

Universities support two kinds of scholarly investigation: “pure” research, which is the research of discovery, and “applied” research, which seeks to apply knowledge in new ways. The Center’s fellows, thanks to its generous patrons, have the luxury of engaging in “pure” research. During the year that they spend at the Center completing a book, they follow their own scholarly agendas rather than the dictates of funding agencies or the imperatives of solving pressing societal problems.

“Applied” and “pure” research, however, are not mutually exclusive. Applied research may lead to serendipitous discoveries and pure research may have unexpected practical consequences. Who could have foreseen before September 11 that the nation would need experts on Afghanistan or speakers of Pashtun?

Because we cannot predict the specific kinds of knowledge that society will need in the future, universities neglect pure research at the nation’s peril. We need to leave openings for lines of inquiry that seem on the surface to be extraneous, for those lines may lead to solutions to tomorrow’s unforeseen problems. Similarly, we need to leave space for the mind to play in seemingly non-productive ways because that appears to foster creativity.

In that spirit, then, work at the Clements Center has gone on in the long shadow of September 11. Our three post-doctoral fellows, all completing books, have deepened their research and sharpened their writing and thinking. We have brought teams of

distinguished scholars to Dallas to critique their work. This fall teams reviewed Omar Valerio-Jiménez’s manuscript, which began as a UCLA dissertation on “*Indios Bárbaros, Divorcées, and Flocks of Vampires: Identity and Nation on the Rio Grande, 1749-1894,*” and Pekka Hämäläinen’s dissertation from the University of Helsinki, “*The Rise and Fall of the Comanche Empire, 1700-1875.*” In the spring visiting scholars will appraise the work of Martina Will de Chaparro, which began as a dissertation at the University of New Mexico, “*God Gives and God Takes Away: Death and Dying in New Mexico, 1760-1850.*” In April the Center will host a group of historians concerned with the phenomenon of social control in what was once the northernmost reaches of the Spanish empire: the present-day Sunbelt, from California to Florida, and today’s northern Mexico from Baja California to Tamaulipas. (See the speakers and titles in this newsletter). As with our two previous conferences—on “The Culture of Tourism and the Tourism of Culture” and “The Future of the Southern Plains”—this conference will result in a book of essays. Meanwhile, scholars from other universities continue to do research in the DeGolyer Library, supported by short-term grants from the Clements Center (as noted in this newsletter).

None of this work will lead us to a fail-safe smallpox vaccine or to the lair of Osama bin Laden. It will, however, result in books that deepen our understanding of the human condition in this corner of America. Should that understanding also make us more humane, then even this pure research will have some applied value.

David J. Weber

For information about the Clements Center, contact us at (214) 768-1233 or swcenter@mail.smu.edu. Our Web site is www.smu.edu/swcenter.

~~~ Welcome to the New Assistant Director ~~~

The Clements Center's Executive Board recently named Sherry Smith, SMU professor of history, the Center's Assistant Director. Her responsibilities include collaborating with David Weber and serving in his place when he is away.

Andrea Boardman's position is now that of Executive Director, as she manages the day-to-day operations of the Center, working with David and Sherry.



~~~ Spring Brown Bag Lecture Series ~~~

Location: Texana Room, DeGolyer Library

The series began on Wednesday, January 16 with a presentation by **Omar Valerio-Jiménez**: "River of Hope: Everyday Forms of Resistance along the Lower Rio Grande." After the U.S.-Mexico War, the Rio Grande became a tool of resistance for various people from both sides of the border who used the river to obtain freedom and escape from peonage, prison, the military, slavery, and bad marriages. Dr. Valerio-Jiménez is this year's Summerfield Roberts Fellow in Texas History at the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Ron Wetherington, SMU professor of anthropology, will describe his "**Excavations at Cantonment Burgwin: Solving a Mystery through History and Archaeology.**" These 2001 excavations, conducted at SMU's Fort Burgwin campus outside of Taos, NM, illustrate how a pervasive mystery, which could not be solved separately by history or archaeology, became clear when field school students combined the two approaches.

Wednesday, March 6, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

With the title, "**That My Body May Become Food For the Worms': The Treatment of the Dead in Early New Mexico (1750-1850),**" this year's Carl B. and Florence E. King Fellow in Southwest History, **Martina Will de Chaparro**, will speak about death and dying in early New Mexico. As death transformed the familiar individual into a cadaver, New Mexican Catholics demonstrated their complex relationship to death through their treatment of the corpse.

**** Thursday, March 21, 5:00-6:00 (tentative; place TBA) Special lecture on the U.S.-Mexican border: Dr. Octavio Herrera Pérez, from the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas (Univ. Autónoma de Tamaulipas).***

Wednesday, March 27, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

In his lecture, "**The Comanche Empire, 1700-1875,**" this year's William P. Clements Fellow in Southwest Studies, **Pekka Hämäläinen**, will give an overview of his current manuscript, showing how the Comanche Indians became the dominant power in the Southwest from 1700 to 1875 by building an imposing imperial system, which eclipsed the Spanish colonial power and later the Mexican outposts in the region. Pekka's recent articles are: "The First Phase of Destruction: Killing the Southern Plains Buffalo, 1790-1840," *Great Plains Quarterly* (Spring 2001, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 101-114), and "Beyond the Ideology of Victimization: New Trends in the Study of Native American-Euroamerican Relations," *Antropologi – Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society* (October 2001, Vol. 26, No. 3).

Wednesday, April 24, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Miguel López, SMU Assistant Professor of Spanish will offer a lecture on "**Remembering Ricardo Sánchez: Poet of Liberation.**" In the 1970s Ricardo Sánchez (1941-1995) was known for his political activism and autobiographical poetry that documented his youth spent in the Chicano barrios of El Paso, and on the streets of Ciudad Juárez, across the border. Sánchez was a high school dropout who joined the army, did nine years in Texas and California prisons, earned a GED and eventually a Ph.D., and devoted himself to writing and singing in the vernacular, of the barrio, the prison, and the migrant stream. His best-known books are *Canto y grito mi liberación: The Liberation of a Chicano Mind* (1973) and *Hechizospells* (1974). Professor López, author of *Chicano Timespace: The Poetry and Politics of Ricardo Sánchez*, will explain the poet's powerful legacy.



~~~ **More Clements Center Special Events Ahead!** ~~~

► **February 21, reception at 6:30, panel from 7:00-9:00 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Dallas Hall**  
**“Entertaining History: TV Producers & Scholars Discuss Difficult Choices in the Making of Historical Documentaries”**

SMU history professor Hal Williams will moderate a panel, joined by Sylvia Komatsu, Senior Vice President of TV Production at KERA/North Texas Public Broadcasting, Emmy Award Winner for "The U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848" and producer of numerous other documentaries; Julia Dyer, series producer/director, and Ken Alfers, history professor and content specialist, who together recently completed a 26-half hour history telecourse series, "Shaping America," for the LeCroy Center for Educational Telecommunications of the Dallas County Community College District; and Andrea Boardman, Executive Director of the Clements Center, a historian as well as a former TV producer, writer, and researcher. Free and open to the public. Space is limited so please call for reservations: (214) 768-3684.

► **Saturday, April 6, 2002 at SMU Meadows Museum of Art, Auditorium--A Trans-Borderland Conference:**  
**“Social Control on New Spain's North American Frontiers: Choice, Persuasion, and Coercion”**

The Spanish frontier is often juxtaposed against the English frontier as a zone of "inclusion" as opposed to English "exclusion" of subject peoples. But, the broad category of "inclusion" masks a variety of ways in which Spaniards sought to control subjects and potential subjects. This conference marks the culmination of a year-long dialogue between well-known scholars from Mexico, the U.S., and Spain, as each explores the nature of social control in the region he or she knows best, explaining how and why the institutions and practices in that region depart from or adhere to what are generally perceived as "norms" on the Spanish frontier. A book of essays will result from this event. It will be edited by conference organizers Frank de la Teja of Southwest Texas State University and Ross Frank of University of California-San Diego. **(Please see the enclosed registration form or visit our Web site.)**

► **Fall 2002: “Islam in North Texas”**

This daylong conference will bring together Muslim religious and business leaders along with representatives of Muslim communities in the region to illustrate the diversity and unity of Islam in North Texas and to exchange information with non-Muslim participants. If you have suggestions for speakers or ideas to share, please call (214) 768-1233 or email us at [swcenter@mail.smu.edu](mailto:swcenter@mail.smu.edu).

► **Spring 2003: “Who Owns the Past?: Repatriation of Native American Cultural Property”**

Over a decade after Native Americans won a limited right to the return of ancestral human remains and sacred objects, the debate among museums, tribal leaders, and members of the scientific community continues to rage. *Who Owns the Past?*, a symposium sponsored by SMU's William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, will provide a forum for discussion of the moral, political, scientific, historical, and legal issues that have arisen since systematic efforts at repatriation began. By bringing together academics, officials, and activists, the symposium aims to focus attention on the significance of Native American cultural property and to generate insight into ongoing ownership disputes. A leading academic publisher through arrangements made by the Clements Center will publish participants' papers, which will be edited by conference organizers SMU professors Susan Scafidi (law) and Mike Adler (anthropology).

► **Spring 2004: “Engendering Regions? Chicana/Latina Comparative Histories”**

One of the major contributions of Chicana studies has been the reconceptualization of the idea of the border, merging their two worlds intellectually, as well as culturally. While geography was imprinted on their minds, they imprinted themselves on the geography. The goal of our conference, the first Chicana history symposium in over twenty years, is to push the geographical analogies further—to reconsider regions, subregions, and localities across interstate, international, and conceptual boundaries. How have Chicanas “engendered” regions? As a collection of essays, a leading academic publisher through arrangements made by the Clements Center will publish participants' papers. Organizers of the symposium and editors of the volume are Professor Vicki Ruiz of the University of California, Irvine, and Professor John Chávez of SMU.



**Intriguing Work by this Winter's Clements-DeGolyer Visiting Scholars**  
~~~ Next Grant Deadline is March 15! ~~~

Once a year, in a special collaboration between the Clements Center and the DeGolyer Library, visiting scholars receive research travel grants to work in the DeGolyer's special collections. **Michael Kimaid**, our first visitor of 2002 left behind an unforgettable snowstorm in Buffalo and arrived in Dallas on January 1st. A Ph.D. candidate at Bowling Green State University, Professor Kimaid is exploring cartography as the basis for a comparative analysis of Spanish imperial and American national, political, and cultural systems during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He found that the DeGolyer's cartographic materials provided him with a very full week of activity.

Soon after his book, *The People's Senator: Ralph W. Yarborough*, appeared in bookstores, **Dr. Patrick Cox** arrived from the University of Texas at Austin to conduct research on Texas newspapers and their publishers.

Mexico City historian, **Dr. Yolia Tortolero Cervantes**, will arrive in March to catalogue the rich Mexico-related holdings of the DeGolyer Library on behalf of the Archivo Nacional de la Nación. The AGN continues to build its database of Mexican materials held in U.S. archives to assist researchers who are studying Mexican history as well as U.S.-Mexico relations.

Dr. Octavio Herrera Pérez, from the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas located at the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, will spend two weeks at the DeGolyer Library in March to further his research on the U.S.-Mexican border region. A well-respected scholar in his field, Dr. Herrera will be giving a presentation at SMU, possibly on March 21. Please contact the Clements Center for the final scheduling of this event.

To apply for a Clements-DeGolyer Library Grant, please visit our Web site, www.smu.edu/swcenter or email us at swcenter@mail.smu.edu. The next application deadline is March 15.



Southern Methodist University
William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies
Dallas Hall, Room 356
3225 University Ave.
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A Trans-Borderland Conference
Sponsored by the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies



**“Social Control on New Spain's North American Frontiers:
Choice, Persuasion, and Coercion”**



Saturday, April 6, 2002

SMU Meadows Museum of Art, Auditorium
5900 Bishop Avenue (1 block north of intersection with Mockingbird Lane), Dallas, TX

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The new Meadows Museum of Art (<http://www.smu.edu/meadowsmuseum/>) will be the venue for our conference. The museum houses one of the finest collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. It is possible that the current exhibition, *Goya's Mastery in Prints: "La Tauromaquia" and "Los Disparates,"* will be extended for our conference. Please visit our Web site for an update.

P R O G R A M

- 8:00 –8:30 a.m. Registration & coffee**
- 8:30 a.m. Opening remarks: Frank de la Teja and Ross Frank, conference conveners**
- 8:45--10:15 a.m. Texas, Coahuila, and Nuevo León**
~ **Texas:** Juliana Barr (History, Rutgers University)
"Beyond their Control: Spaniards in Native Texas"
~ **Coahuila:** José Cuello (Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies, Wayne State University)
"Hierarchies of Race in Colonial Mexico: The 'Sistema de Castas' as a Form of Social Control in Saltillo, 1777-1791"

