As guests entered the grand space of Main 212, the former board of regents meeting room in the Main Building on the University of Texas campus, the view from the room’s lofty windows revealed the South Mall below, humming with its typical Friday-night activity of students and campus visitors, and in the distance the Capitol dome and the downtown skyline were illuminated through the twilight of the warm autumn evening. Inside Main 212, the room was soon filled with the powerful voice of former Metropolitan Opera star and UT Distinguished Alumnus Barbara Smith Conrad during a special private concert on November 4, 2005.

Organized by the Center for American History, the concert was held to promote awareness of the Center’s Endowment for the Study of American Spirituals. Conrad serves as artistic adviser for the Center’s program to preserve the heritage of the American spiritual. The fundraising goal for the Endowment is $3 million.

Conrad’s program included “Eternal Life” (from the text of St. Francis of Assisi), a selection of four songs from Manuel de Falla’s Siete canciones populares españolas, Edward Boatner’s arrangement of “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me,” “Take My Center collaborates with President’s Office to undertake UT Oral History Project

Buckner Papers document nineteenth-century southern plantation life.

Barbara Conrad delivers her encore at the November 4 concert in the Main Building to promote awareness of the Center for American History’s Endowment for the Study of American Spirituals.

Walter Cronkite Honored by NASA

At a ceremony hosted by the Center for American History on February 28 in Studio A of Austin’s KLRU television station, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) presented its Ambassador of Exploration Award to journalist Walter Cronkite in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of the American space program. Cronkite was the renowned anchor of the CBS Evening News during the years of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs, which culminated with the U.S. lunar landings. His marathon, live coverage of the first moon landing brought the excitement and impact of the historic event into the homes of millions of Americans and observers around the world.

Cronkite is the first non-astronaut and the only non-NASA

See Cronkite, P.3 »

Barbara Conrad Concert Promotes American Spirituals Endowment

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See Spirituals, P.8 »
Rayburn Library and Museum Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Center for American History hosted a gala celebration on December 9, 2005, in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. More than 500 people attended the event, held on the Museum grounds in Bonham, Texas. The ceremony included speakers, music, recognition of former employees of Sam Rayburn, and recognition of the listing of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum on the National Register of Historic Places on May 6, 2005.

Dr. Don Carleton, director of the Center, presided over a program that featured speakers Robert V. Remini, Historian of the United States House of Representatives; Larry R. Faulkner, president of The University of Texas at Austin; Rep. Ralph Hall, 4th District of Texas; Rep. Kenny Marchant, 24th District of Texas; Rep. Joe Barton, 6th District of Texas; William H. Cunningham, retired chancellor of the University of Texas System; and the mayor of Bonham, Roy Floyd. Dr. Patrick Cox, Associate Director for Congressional Collections at the Center, planned and managed the event.

Fort Worth attorney Dee J. Kelly, president of the Sam Rayburn Foundation and a former Rayburn Congressional staff member, presented a plaque to

President Faulkner recognizing the designation of the Museum on the National Register.

Rayburn served his north Texas district in Congress for more than forty-eight continuous years, and served the nation as Speaker of the House for more than seventeen years, longer than any other person to hold that powerful office.

Dr. Remini, a nationally recognized scholar of American politics, said that Rayburn’s contributions rank him among the most important Americans in our nation’s history. “Sam Rayburn changed the course of American history,” Remini stated in his speech.

Dr. Faulkner, who had just entered the final two months of his presidency, spoke of Rayburn’s renowned integrity. “That level of integrity should be an example to all who would hold public office,” Faulkner said. “The University embraces its responsibility to the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and I look forward to the day when the Speaker of the House says she was first inspired to run for public office when her parents took her on a tour of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum.”
Cronkite, « P. 1

individual to receive this award, which NASA presents in the form of a lunar sample—that is, a moon rock. The lunar sample is encased in Lucite and mounted for public display.

Michael Coats (Captain, USN, Ret.), director of NASA’s Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, presented the award to Cronkite. In turn, Cronkite presented the award to UT-Austin president William Powers, who accepted on behalf of the Center for American History, the archival home of the Walter Cronkite Papers. The lunar sample awarded to Cronkite is part of the 842 pounds of samples brought back to Earth during the six Apollo expeditions to the Moon from 1969 to 1972.

“We are deeply honored by Walter Cronkite’s decision to entrust this prestigious award to the Center for American History,” said the Center’s director, Dr. Don Carleton. “The Center already serves as the proud steward of his professional and personal papers, which include his coverage of the space program for CBS News. It is especially fitting that the archive documenting Walter’s distinguished career should also include one of the Moon rocks that the heroic astronauts of the Apollo program brought to Earth.”

Cronkite attended the University of Texas in the 1930s and worked as a student reporter for The Daily Texan. Friends and supporters have endowed the Walter Cronkite Regents Chair in the University’s College of Communication. He also has lent his voice to the UT Virtual Campus, a multimedia tour of the campus available on the Internet, and he narrates the University’s televised public service announcements.

The Center’s Walter Cronkite Archive is considered one of the most significant collections in existence documenting the history of television journalism. It

See NASA Award, P. 6 »
Arthur Grace’s book *State Fair* was published by the University of Texas Press in April 2006, the latest book in the Center for American History’s Focus on American History Series. Featuring more than ninety black-and-white photographs, *State Fair* is an entertaining visual distillation of Grace’s photographic odyssey through the state fairs of California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia.

In his introduction, Grace sums up the nature of his book: “In the end, when I took a step back from all the commotion and crowds, what struck me the most was how a state fair reflects the American spirit—patriotic, entrepreneurial, fun-loving, competitive, traditional. [. . .] For me, a state fair is a microcosm of America—in all its glory and weirdness—at any given point in time.”

On May 5, Grace spoke at the opening of an exhibit of his photographs at the Center’s Research and Collections division on the UT campus. He displayed and commented on images from *State Fair*, as well as many of the hundreds of thousands of photographs he has taken in America and around the world during his award-winning career that has spanned three decades as a staff photographer for United Press International and *Newsweek* magazine, and as a contract photographer for *Time* magazine.

At the May 5 program, Grace also announced the donation of his extensive personal photographic archive to the Center. The Grace archive joins those of other prominent photojournalists who have chosen the Center to house their collections, including David Hume Kennerly, Wally McNamee, Dirck Halstead, Diana Walker, and Flip Schulke.

For more information or to purchase online, visit the UT Press website at www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/grasta.html.

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Brenda Gunn, assistant director at the Center for American History who administers the Center’s Research and Collections division in Sid Richardson Hall, recently completed a one-year term as president of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA). The Society is a six-state regional organization that serves a membership of over five hundred archivists, special collections librarians, preservationists, conservators, records managers, and others interested in the preservation of America’s documentary heritage. The region is comprised of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

As president, Gunn raised the visibility of the Society nationally through its response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which in August and September 2005 wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast, affecting archives and special collections in coastal and inland cities. The Society established a web log to track the status of colleagues from New Orleans, which was devastated by Katrina. This log accumulated valuable information regarding both the well being of colleagues and the condition of archival collections in the aftermath of the storms.

Under Gunn’s leadership, the Society also worked with the Society of American Archivists (the national professional organization) to establish an emergency disaster assistance grant fund, administered by the SSA. The fund offers financial assistance to any repository that holds archival records or special collections material, for the purposes of direct recovery of collections (removing them from standing water, for example), transportation of materials to rental facilities, and purchase of supplies, boxes, and folders. The fund raised over $35,000 during Gunn’s tenure and awarded $19,500 to institutions in New Orleans and Texas.
**Changing the Face of Power Documents Women in Senate**


*Changing the Face of Power*, which is based on the outstanding photography of Melina Mara, is a fascinating, historically important visual documentary on the enormous impact that the fourteen women who have been elected to the Senate during the last decade have had on that powerful legislative body. It was published by the University of Texas Press in 2005 as part of the Center’s Focus on American History Series. In addition to the photographs of the women senators, the book includes interviews of each senator by Helen Thomas, introductions by Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland and Senator Hutchison, and a foreword by journalist Cokie Roberts.

*Changing the Face of Power* is a project of the Center for American History. “Melina’s unique documentary portrait of the women serving as U.S. senators captures a defining moment in American history,” Carleton said. “During my first meeting with Melina in Washington, it was clear to me that her work would be a valuable resource for students and researchers interested in women’s history as well as the history of the Congress. I am pleased indeed that Melina agreed to work with us. Her photographs are outstanding.”

The Center has also created an exhibit of Mara’s photographs, also titled “Changing the Face of Power,” which opened at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Subsequent venues have included museums in Minneapolis, Seattle, and Oakland. It is scheduled to open in July 2006 at the National Women’s Rights Museum in Seneca Falls, New York.

Mara, who covers national and international politics for *The Washington Post*, has worked at newspapers in Missouri, New Mexico, New York City, and the Pacific Northwest, and freelanced for the Associated Press. Her archive of women in the Senate will be housed permanently at the Center.
Glenn Scott and Richard Croxdale visited the Center for American History’s Research and Collections division last year to review the Center’s complete run of The Rag, an influential underground newspaper published in Austin from 1966 to 1977. The two former Rag staffers were preparing for interviews they would conduct during an upcoming staff reunion.

Scott and Croxdale plan to place the interviews conducted during the reunion, as well as other project documentation, at the Center in the records of The People’s History in Texas, Inc.

The interviews are part of an oral history project supported by a grant from Humanities Texas to document the weekly Rag. At the reunion, Scott and Croxdale videotaped staffers’ recollections about how the newspaper came into existence, how features and stories were selected for inclusion, how it was published and financed as a cooperative venture, and how it was sustained for eleven years.

The People’s History in Texas Records and the complete run of The Rag are part of the Sara Clark Collection on Social, Political, and Environmental Reform, a special “collection of collections” documenting social justice movements and organizations, especially in Texas. These resources include a wide range of materials documenting the protest and progressive events and reform movements of the last half of the twentieth century, primarily those that began or flowered in the period from the 1950s through the 1970s. The civil rights efforts of racial and ethnic minorities, feminists, gay liberationists, and other groups are prominent among these events and movements, as are the anti-nuclear and anti-Vietnam War efforts, rock-and-roll music, and the psychedelic drug culture of the 1960s.

With Scott and Croxdale, the late Sara Clark was a founding member and active contributor to The People’s History in Texas. Additionally, Clark was instrumental in the collecting and cataloging of the Center’s social justice collections during her eighteen years as an archivist at the Center. A description of the contents of The People’s History in Texas Records is available online at www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/00280/cah-00280.html.

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serves as the foundation collection for the Center’s extraordinary archive on the history of American news media, which includes the papers of Harry Reasoner, Robert Trout, Andy Rooney, and many other pioneers of radio and television news.

Cronkite’s NASA Ambassador of Exploration Award, featuring its Apollo lunar sample, is currently on display at the Texas Memorial Museum on the University of Texas campus.
Three-Year Project Will Document History of University

In collaboration with the University’s Office of the President, the Center for American History has embarked on an important effort to document the history of The University of Texas at Austin—from the perspective of those who have made that history.

The Oral History Project at The University of Texas at Austin is a three-year initiative dedicated to creating an archive of interviews that focus on the history of the University. These candid and detailed interviews capture not only the experiences and insights of those who have shaped UT-Austin, they capture the very spirit and character of the University itself.

Interviews focus on those individuals who have had the greatest impact on The University of Texas at Austin, such as presidents, vice presidents, faculty members, and students. Interviews will also capture the perspective of the University of Texas System, the Board of Regents, donors, and others who have made significant contributions to UT-Austin. Once completed, the interview tapes (both film and audio) and transcripts will join the University Archives at the Center. Additional projects based on the interviews, including online and print materials, will develop as the project progresses.

The project team is led by Dr. Don Carleton, director of the Center for American History, and Shirley Bird Perry, senior vice president of The University of Texas at Austin. Longtime University of Texas staff members Ralph Elder and Mary Ellen Oliver provide research support and lend their years of expertise to Erin Purdy, oral historian at the Center, who serves as the interviewer and project manager.

Purdy joined the Center’s staff in November 2005 after serving as a special projects oral historian for the History Factory.

“This is an important project,” Carleton stated, “that will provide significant information for students and researchers, not only of the history of the University, but also of the history of Texas and of higher education nationally during the last forty years.”

Interviews have already taken place with former UT-Austin presidents Dr. Norman Hackerman, Dr. Peter Flawn, and Dr. Bryce Jordan, as well as faculty members and administrators, including Professor Elspeth Rostow, Dr. James Vick, Dr. James Roach, and W. Dean Justice. Interviews have also been completed with University of Texas System leaders, including former Board of Regents chairman Jess Hay, and longtime System staff members Art Dilly and Frank Graydon. ✴
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and “Ride On, King Jesus!”

The guests included Admiral Bob Inman and his wife, Nancy; UT-Austin president Larry R. Faulkner and his wife, Mary Ann; former UT System chancellor William Cunningham and his wife, Isabella; numerous UT deans and administrative officials; several members of the Center for American History Advisory Council; and family members and special friends of Barbara Conrad who came from Austin and northeast Texas, where Conrad was reared.

Accompanied by pianist Patricia Sage, Conrad paused between the songs to share commentary about the pieces themselves, about the heritage of the American spiritual, and about her life experiences as a student at the University and as a performer who has traveled the world practicing her craft. Conrad has performed leading operatic roles with the Metropolitan Opera (from 1982 to 1989), the Vienna State Opera, Teatro Nacional in Venezuela, the Houston Grand Opera, the New York City Opera, the Pittsburgh Opera, and many other international opera houses throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and South America.

Conrad has performed much of the mezzo-soprano concert repertoire with the world’s greatest orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the London, Boston, Cleveland, and Detroit Symphonies, under the direction of renowned conductors such as Maazel, Bernstein, and Levine. She has recorded Negro spirituals with the choir of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church on the Naxos label. In 1977 she played Marian Anderson in the three-hour ABC movie Eleanor and Franklin: The White House Years.

Before Conrad’s performance at the November 4 concert, Center sound archivist John Wheat gave an overview of the Center’s music collections, which in addition to its vast collections of recordings of music and spoken word include oral histories, field and commercial recordings, photographs, and personal and business papers documenting various aspects of musicians and the music industry. President Faulkner spoke of the importance of Barbara Conrad’s contributions to her craft and to the University as well as the importance of the Center’s collections.

Dr. Don Carleton, director of the Center, hosted the program and introduced Conrad and Sage.

After the concert, Wheat commented that “Barbara Conrad’s recital at the University highlighted both her artistic stature and her particular devotion to the study and performance of the American spiritual. Miss Conrad will play an invaluable role as artistic...
adviser and ambassador for the Endowment for the Study of American Spirituals. In this capacity she will help to focus nationwide attention on the rich musical resources at the Center for American History and enhance public appreciation for this quintessentially African American music."

With current donations and pledges, the Endowment for the Study of American Spirituals is approaching one-third of its stated goal. Bob and Nancy Inman provided the seed money to establish the Endowment, and important contributions have been made by Center Advisory Council members Alfred and Meta Hausser and O. Howard and Rachel Frazier, as well as the McCombs Foundation, Jack Blanton, Beryl Milburn, and John Hubbard.

In May 2006, Barbara Conrad returned to Austin to begin a project at the Center for American History to create an extensive recorded oral history of her life and work.

Center Completes Cataloging of Texas Observer Archive

The Center for American History recently completed a project to catalog the Texas Observer Archive. This valuable collection includes correspondence, memos, photographs, and research and business records of The Texas Observer, a politically progressive newspaper based in Austin.

The Texas Observer began in 1954 as a vehicle to disseminate progressive viewpoints and to examine topics that were rarely covered in mainstream Texas newspapers. With solid roots in several local and regional Texas newspapers, going as far back as 1901 with the Austin Forum, The Texas Observer was formed through a merger of Austin’s State Observer and the East Texas Democrat, based in Marshall, Texas. Its first editor was Ronnie Dugger.

The Texas Observer has a roster of notable editors, including Dugger, Willie Morris, Greg Olds, Kay Northcott, Molly Ivins, Jim Hightower, Rod Davis, Joe Holley, Geoffrey Rips, Dave Denison, and Lou Dubose. Coverage in the Observer has grown to include global economic issues, as well as issues related to civil liberties and social, racial, and economic justice; and literature and arts, including pages devoted to literary essays and poetry.

In 1957, Mrs. Frankie Carter Randolph, a prominent Houston Democrat, provided the funds necessary to keep the newspaper in business. Other financial benefactors included Major J. R. Parten, an oil man and rancher in Houston and Madisonville, and Bernard Rapoport, a businessman and philanthropist in Waco. Parten and Rapoport, as well as former Observer editors Ivins and Hightower, and the late Observer contributing editor John Henry Faulk, have placed their papers at the Center. In 1994, the Texas Democracy Foundation assumed ownership of The Texas Observer.

A description of the contents of the Texas Observer Records is available through Texas Archival Resources Online at www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/00465/00465.html.
News Barons Examines Role of Newspapers in Texas Growth

“In this pathbreaking work, [Patrick] Cox sheds a bright light on the foibles and greatness of the Fourth Estate in Texas” — such is the assessment by historian Lewis Gould on the cover of the new book The First Texas News Barons, by Dr. Patrick Cox, Associate Director of the Center for American History.

Published by the University of Texas Press in November 2005, the book is part of the Center’s Focus on American History Series. Center director Dr. Don Carleton serves as the series editor.

Newspaper publishers played a crucial role in transforming Texas into a modern state. By promoting expanded industrialization and urbanization, as well as a more modern image of Texas as a southwestern—rather than southern—state, news barons in the early decades of the twentieth century laid the groundwork for the enormous economic growth and social changes that followed World War II. This deeply researched book investigates how newspaper owners such as A. H. Belo and George B. Dealey of the Dallas Morning News, Edwin Kiest of the Dallas Times Herald, William P. Hobby and Oveta Culp Hobby of the Houston Post, Jesse H. Jones and Marcellus Foster of the Houston Chronicle, and Amon G. Carter Sr. of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram paved the way for the modern state of Texas.

News Barons is the product of a two-year research and writing project funded by The Belo Foundation, The Houston Endowment, Inc., and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. It is Cox’s second contribution to the Focus on American History Series. His first, Ralph W. Yarborough, the People’s Senator, which depended heavily on the Center’s Ralph Yarborough Papers, launched the series in 2002. Dr. Cox currently has administrative responsibility for the Center’s Congressional History division. For more information or to purchase online, visit UT Press at www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/coxfir.html.

Book Commemorates Texas Press Association’s 125th Year

To mark the 125th anniversary of the Texas Press Association (TPA) and to document the role of newspapers, large and small, in the development of the state of Texas, the Center for American History has published The News in Texas: Essays in Honor of the 125th Anniversary of the Texas Press Association. Wanda Garner Cash, publisher of the Baytown Sun, and Ed Sterling, director of member services for the TPA, served as editors. Center director Dr. Don Carleton contributed the introduction.

The News in Texas is a collection of essays by newswomen and newsmen from across the state. The essays explore a wide variety of topics, ranging from the story of Gail Borden keeping his printing press running as he and the Texians fled Santa Anna’s advancing army, to twentieth-century editors courageously exposing corruption, to the ramifications of the ever-changing technological landscape in newspaper publishing, overseen by dedicated professionals who every day across the state produce “the first draft of history.”

Publication was made possible by support from the TPA. The Center is the archival home of the Texas Press Association Records, as well the largest collection of Texas newspaper titles in existence. The News in Texas is distributed by the University of Texas Press. For more information or to purchase online, visit UT Press at www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/casnew.html.
Winedale Spring Symposium Interprets Early Texas Houses

The Center for American History held the 31st annual Winedale Spring Symposium on April 1 at Winedale. This year’s symposium, titled “Home & Hearth: House Form and Domestic Space in Frontier Texas,” featured two speakers who discussed specific examples of the built environment in early Texas and the people and motivations that created that environment.

James C. Kearney, who teaches German at Katy (Texas) High School, spoke about the Nassau Plantation and its Herrenhaus, or manor house, that the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, or Adelsverein) built in Fayette County, near present-day Winedale, in 1843. The Adelsverein, whose intentions were both philanthropic and commercial, flourished briefly, but eventually succumbed in a dramatic bankruptcy.

Dr. Kenneth Hafertepe, assistant professor and director of academic programs and graduate studies in the Department of Museum Studies at Baylor University, traced the movements of Sam and Mary Maverick, prominent pioneers in the days of the Texas Revolution and after. He analyzed the meaning and significance of the forms and locations of their homes in San Antonio, on the Colorado River, and on Matagorda Bay. He also explained how these residences not only reflect the Mavericks’ roots in the American South, but also the diversity of antebellum Texas.

Rayburn Museum Exhibits Undergo Major Refurbishment

The Center for American History recently completed a major refurbishment of the exhibits at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum in Bonham, Texas. The refurbishment created a new, updated showcase illustrating Sam Rayburn’s many legislative contributions to American society. Most of the artifacts previously on display remain so, but changes to lighting and design bring new appeal to the material.

A new feature that has been added is the clearing of the main floor in the Main Reading Room for displaying traveling exhibits from the Center, with different exhibits featured throughout the course of a year. Independent exhibits designer Drew Patterson collaborated with the Center to refurbish the exhibits. Patterson also worked with the Center to redesign the exhibits at the Center’s John Nance Garner Museum in Uvalde, Texas, in 2003.

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum is open to the public Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bonham is located northeast of Dallas on U.S. Highway 82, between Sherman and Paris, Texas.

Bonham is located northeast of Dallas on U.S. Highway 82, between Sherman and Paris, Texas.
Buckner Papers Document 19th-Century Plantation Life

The Center for American History recently acquired the William Aylett Buckner Papers, a collection of approximately 1,400 items, including photographs, maps, newspapers, correspondence, and a variety of plantation records from the period 1822 to 1869. The Buckner Papers join the George W. Littlefield Southern History Collections at the Center, which is one of the nation’s leaders in the collection of materials related to the American South.

Purchase of this important collection of documents was made possible by special funds provided by the University of Texas System and the UT-Austin University Libraries’ Littlefield Fund for Southern History. The Center is especially grateful to Vice Provost Fred Heath for making funds from the Littlefield Endowment available for this purchase.

William Aylett Buckner was an attorney, cotton planter, and cotton commission merchant who owned the “Airlie” house in Natchez, Mississippi. He and his business partner John Hunsicker owned the Choctaw Plantation in Tensas Parish, Louisiana, in the nineteenth century.

The plantation records from the Buckner Papers cover all aspects of plantation business and life and are especially strong in documenting the institution of slavery, as well as the cotton trade made possible by slave labor. Documents include many bills from tradesmen, merchants, laborers, agents, and physicians. Records related to slavery include receipts for runaway slaves, bills of sale for slaves, and slave inventories. Family correspondence included in the Papers makes reference to slave life, as well. The Buckner Papers also include records of business deals involving several members of the elite families of Natchez, including Frederick Stanton, Alexander Farrar, David Hunt, and Levin Marshall.

Among the many remarkable documents in the Buckner Papers are a group of records documenting the business practice of mortgaging slaves—with the mortgages being held by New York banks—and a group
**Downtown Program on KLRU Television Features Center**

*Downtown*—a documentary television series co-produced by the Downtown Austin Alliance, Action Figure (an Austin-based production company), and KLRU, Austin’s local PBS station—featured the Center for American History in the second episode of its current season. *Downtown* Episode #202, “Our Collective Souls,” first aired on April 20 on KLRU. In addition to the segment on the Center, this episode features a segment on Austin’s Barton Springs Pool and a segment on Austin’s Oakwood Cemetery and the Mexic-Arte Museum’s annual *Dia de Los Muertos* parade.

The program takes a fast-paced look at the remarkable diversity and importance of the Center’s collections. Center director Dr. Don Carleton takes viewers on a tour of the Center’s archive stacks, discovering treasures and curiosities along the way. The segment also spotlights the Center’s conservation program, its exhibits, its sound collections, and the value of the Center’s public holdings and programs to researchers from around the world—inviting the viewer to come make use of its vast resources. Center staff members Brenda Gunn and John Wheat also were interviewed in the program.

Last year’s season of *Downtown*, its first, won a 2005 Emmy® Award from the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the best magazine format program in the Lone Star region. Reruns of Episode #202 featuring the Center will air on KLRU throughout the summer. Consult KLRU’s listings for dates, times, and broadcast and cable channels.

» CONT.

of records related to the financial Panic of 1837. There is also a manuscript inventory dated 1840 listing seventy slaves, mostly by first name only but a few with first and last name, as well as hand-drawn maps of the plantations named Bluff, Locustland, Choctaw Lake, and Long Branch.

The William Aylett Buckner Papers join many important collections in the Center for American History’s nationally renowned southern history collections. These collections include the Edward Alexander Parsons Collection, which documents the Louisiana Purchase, and the Natchez Trace Collection, a massive archive of original historical records documenting the region between New Orleans and Memphis, with an emphasis on the antebellum era. *
“Lone Star Treasures” Fundraiser Supports Garner Museum

Nearly two hundred people attended a gala fundraiser and dinner hosted by The Friends of John Garner Museum, the First State Bank of Uvalde, and former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr. The event, held at the First State Bank, featured the unveiling of “Lone Star Treasures,” an exhibit of several iconic documents from the early history of Texas drawn from the Center’s Barker Texas History Collections.

The gala event raised over $26,000, which the Friends have designated to help support Phase II of the ongoing renovations to the John Nance Garner Museum. Phase II includes a major repair of the Museum building’s foundation, installation of an elevator, and an extensive renovation of the second floor into exhibit and office space. Phase I, completed in 2003, was a major renovation of the entire first floor of the Museum. Only the first floor is currently open to the public.

The gala treated the attendees to a special viewing of such Texas treasures as William Travis’s diary, a first printing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Lt. Col. Nicolás de la Portilla’s notes on the Goliad massacre, and the hatchet carried by Moses Austin in 1820 on his trip to Texas. Center director Dr. Don Carleton lectured on the history of the documents and how they are used for research.

Mathematical Association of America Renews Math Funds

In March 2006, the Archives of American Mathematics at the Center for American History received an additional three years of funding from the Mathematical Association of America through the support of the Educational Advancement Foundation’s R. L. Moore Legacy Project. This generous grant will provide almost $300,000 over three years to support the preservation, access, and development of the mathematics collections at the Center. Archivist Kristy Sorensen will continue to curate the collection.

In the past year, the Archives of American Mathematics has grown to include several important collections. These include the papers of physicist Bryce S. DeWitt, who led a scientific expedition to Mauritania to test Einstein’s general relativity theory of gravity during a total solar eclipse. Other scientists had tried similar experiments nearly thirty times before, with mixed results. DeWitt’s team took a series of photographic plates during the eclipse and compared them with a set of plates taken of the night sky six months later. Analysis of these photos later proved that the beams of starlight had been pulled out of their original paths by the sun’s gravity, just as predicted in Einstein’s theory. The original plates from this experiment, as well as over ten feet of other material documenting DeWitt’s professional life, make up the Bryce S. DeWitt Papers.

The Archives of American Mathematics is the premier resource for researchers seeking primary sources in mathematics, and the only archival repository in the United States that has a full-time archivist curating its mathematics collections. With the support of the Mathematical Association of America and the Educational Advancement Foundation, the Archives of American Mathematics will continue to preserve the history of mathematics and document development in mathematics education for future historians.
Private Support Crucial to Center’s Public Work

As an organized research unit of The University of Texas at Austin, the Center for American History facilitates, sponsors, and supports teaching, research, and public education in U.S. history. In support of its mission, the Center acquires, preserves, and makes available for research archival, artifact, and rare book collections and sponsors exhibitions, conferences, video documentaries, oral history projects, and publications.

The Center for American History has four locations: Research and Collections, located in Sid Richardson Hall on the UT-Austin campus; the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, in Bonham, Texas; the John Nance Garner Museum, in Uvalde, Texas; and Winedale, a rural museum located near Round Top, halfway between Houston and Austin.

The Center’s collection focus is on the history of Texas, the South, and the Rocky Mountain West, as well as congressional history, news media and photojournalism, the energy industry, the touring entertainment industry, and other national-in-scope themes.

Public funds provide for only a portion of the annual operating costs of the Center’s many educational programs, exhibitions, conferences, symposia, publications, historic structures, and grant-funded initiatives. The Center also depends on private support to make possible many of its significant archival acquisitions. Virtually all of the Center’s collections and programs are open to the public. There are several ways you can contribute:

Give an Unrestricted or Restricted Cash Gift —
You can give a cash gift by mailing a check or money order to the address for the Center’s Administrative Offices (see above right). You can also give a cash gift online:

WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/SUPPORTUT/GIVEONLINE

(On the “Make a Gift Online” page of the Support UT website, in the “Select an Area” drop-down window be sure to designate “American History, Center for”.)

A cash gift can be paid in one lump sum, or pledged to be paid in installments.

Apply Funds to an Existing Endowment, or Create a New One —
There are currently nineteen endowments that support the Center. Most of these endowments are restricted to support particular collections or initiatives within the Center. An endowment can be established or increased in one lump sum, or the amount can be pledged to be paid in installments.

Donate a Collection or Items of Archival Material —
We will be happy to discuss with you potential gifts of collections or items of historical significance, to determine if they are an appropriate fit for the Center’s collections.

Make a Planned Gift —
You may designate a future gift to the Center to be given through your estate. Visit the University’s Gift Planning website at WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/SUPPORTUT/GIFTPLANNING/INDEX. html to learn more about charitable estate planning at the University.

Some gifts to the Center for American History bring the donor benefits from the University, as well as benefits from the Center. If you are interested in giving a potentially tax-deductible gift, please call David Dettmer, Assistant to the Director, at the Center’s administrative offices at 512 / 495 4684, or by email at ddettmer@mail.utexas.edu, to discuss your options. No gift is too large or too small in helping to preserve American history. ✉
Darrell Royal Oral History Launches Voices and Memories™ Series

The Center for American History has a long history of conducting oral history projects that collect and preserve the memories of eyewitnesses to and participants in important events in our nation’s past. To make some of this work more available to the public, the Center and the University of Texas Press are collaborating on a new book series titled Voice and Memories™.

The first book in the Voices and Memories series is Coach Royal: Conversations with a Texas Football Legend, based on interviews the Center’s John Wheat conducted with the legendary former University of Texas head football coach Darrell Royal.

The book’s narrative follows Royal’s humble upbringing in Hollis, Oklahoma, during the days of the Dust Bowl, to his playing days at the University of Oklahoma, to his remarkable twenty-year career as a head coach, to his present role as special assistant to the president of the University.

With his typical plainspoken honesty, Royal discusses successes as well as controversies, including his teams’ three national championships (1963, 1969, and 1970), the integration of UT athletics, the impact of Title IX on college athletics, his lifelong friendship with musician Willie Nelson, his decision to retire from coaching in 1976, and the renaming of Texas Memorial Stadium in his honor.

Featured at a session of the Texas Book Festival in October 2005, Coach Royal includes many never-before-published photographs of Royal and the UT football program. The interviews and photographs form part of the Center’s Darrell K Royal Papers.

Football, the defining sport of Texas, is the vehicle that carried coach Darrell Royal from humble roots to national prominence—a story preserved in this oral history drawn from the Center for American History’s collections.