The Lamar University History Department and the Texas Gulf Historical Society have entered into a formal arrangement giving the department editorial management of The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record. Published annually since November 1965, the Record is a well-established, regionally recognized publication which is indexed in national databases. Its purpose it examine the people, events, and institutions that have contributed to the development of East Texas and the Gulf Coast region, and toward that end it welcomes papers from scholars from all disciplines.

Previous issues of the Record have included essays on the Civil War, Spindletop, ethnic groups (Acadians, Africans, Italians, and Jews), industry (shipbuilding, sawmilling, oil drilling, and rice farming), Lamar University, Arthur Stillwell, Lorenzo de Zavala, and the Big Thicket. In short, the Record chronicles the political, military, social, cultural, and economic life of the region.

For more information or to submit papers for consideration, contact: Editor, The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record, Lamar University History Department, PO Box 10048, Beaumont, TX 77710. Email: TexGulfHist@lamar.edu By Jimmy Bryan

DEPARTMENT GAINS EDITORSHIP OF REGIONAL JOURNAL

BRYAN EARNS PROMOTION AND TENURE

The History Department congratulates Dr. Jimmy Bryan, Jr., who was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the department and granted tenure. Bryan came to Lamar University in 2007, after earning his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in 2006. A specialist of the cultural history of early nineteenth-century America, he has published More Zeal than Discretion: The Westward Adventures of Walter P. Lane with Texas A&M University Press (2008). He teaches courses on cultural history, nineteenth-century expansion, Texas, and the Civil War.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

FALL 2011

HISTORY’S HAPPENINGS
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:
• Undergraduate advising for history majors for spring semester 2012 begins October 27, 2011. Make an appointment today!
• Registration for spring semester 2012 opens November 10, 2011.
• Save the date! National History Day is coming to Lamar on February 23, 2012.
WEBB SOCIETY KEEPS ACTIVE

The Lamar University chapter of the Webb Society will meet with other chapters in Mexia, Texas, in November to learn about and tour this oil-boom era town. Stops will also include nearby Fort Parker.

In other news, members assisted Dale Ferris, a long-time benefactor of the Webb Society and History Department, in moving his 3000-book donation to the Port Arthur Public Library. On behalf of the library, the Webb Society and the department would like to thank Mr. Ferris for his very generous donation.

Interested in joining the Webb Society? We welcome any Lamar University student interested in Texas or local history. You do not need to be a history major to become a member! For more information, contact Dr. Jimmy Bryan, faculty advisor.

By Jimmy Bryan

FACULTY FEATS

Department faculty members have advanced our historical knowledge through recent publications and presentations. Dr. Jeff Forret, a specialist in American slavery, spoke at the 6th Annual Constitution Day, delivering his paper, “Fugitive Slaves, the Constitution, and the Civil War.” He promoted his appearance on the Jack Pieter radio show heard on KSET 1300 AM. He also recently published “‘He Was No Man Attall’?: Slave Men, Honor, Violence, and Masculinity in the Antebellum South,” which appeared in Fathers, Preachers, Rebels, Men: Black Masculinity in U.S. History and Literature, 1820-1845, ed. Timothy R. Buckner and Peter Caster (Columbus: Ohio State Unversity Press, 2011), 23-40.

Dr. Jimmy Bryan has edited The Martial Imagination: Essays on the Cultural History of American Warfare, currently under review by Texas A&M University Press. This groundbreaking study gathers twelve scholars from across the country, experts in History, American Studies, Literature, and other disciplines. The anthology includes an essay by Dr. Bryan on the mystique of the Texas Ranger.

BROWN BAG SERIES WELCOMES GRAD STUDENTS

The brown bag series continues and now welcomes history grad students. Meetings allow rigorous intellectual exchange focused on faculty research. Participation in the series allows faculty the opportunity to receive feedback on their current projects from colleagues.

October’s meeting discussed Dr. Jimmy Bryan’s “Agents of Destiny: The Texas Rangers and the Dilemma of the Conquest Narrative,” an account of the development and problematic nature of the Texas Ranger mystique in American culture.

During November’s meeting, participants will discuss Dr. Yasuko Sato’s work on Japan during 1941-1945 titled, “Why Did Takamure Itsue Encourage Wartime Support Among Japanese Women?: Resuscitating Japan’s Antiquity for a Global Paradigm Shift.” All meetings are held in the Ralph A. Wooster Conference Room. Contact Dr. Jimmy Bryan for more information.

By Jimmy Bryan
STUDY ABROAD

During summer semester 2011, the department offered a study abroad course in Greece and Turkey. This course provided an engaging and thought-provoking look at the history of sacred architecture in the ancient world. Dr. Rebecca Boone, an intellectual and cultural historian of Renaissance Europe and Associate Professor in the department, guided students to sites such as the Parthenon in Athens, the Cave of the Apocalypse on the island of Patmos, the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, and the Roman ruins at Ephesus, to name a few.

Students on the trip marveled at the beauty of the sites and were also able to observe the cultural differences of these nations as opposed to our own.

Dr. Boone held daily discussions with students to gauge their understanding of the historical and cultural significance of each location. The experience proved invaluable to participants, and provided a new facet to historical learning that cannot be harnessed in traditional classroom instruction. For many participants, this trip inspired a new interest in classical history and a desire to take another course of this nature.

By Cassandre Durso

DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS TO WELCOME MAYOR AMES

Becky Ames, current mayor of Beaumont, will visit Dr. Mary Scheer’s Women and Gender class on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 5:15pm to discuss Women in Politics. She hopes to illustrate the importance of women in politics as well as the struggles they face in a male-dominated field.

Mayor Ames has played a prominent role in the business, political, and civic life of Beaumont since the 1990s, not only as an at-large city council member (1994-2007) and mayor (2007-present), but also as executive director of Atria Collier Park Retirement and Assisted Living Community.

Mayor Ames attended Hardin Jefferson High School and then Texas A&M University. In addition to her political and business contributions, Mayor Ames devotes time to many civic organizations in Beaumont, including the Beaumont Rotary Club, the Tyrrell Historical Library Association, and the Julie Rogers Gift of Life board.

Anyone interested in attending Mayor Ames’ discussion is welcome. For more information on her appearance, contact Dr. Scheer: mary.scheer@lamar.edu

DURSO TO REPRESENT LAMAR AT PHI ALPHA THETA CONVENTION

Cassandre Durso, M.A. student and teaching assistant in the department, will attend the 2012 Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Durso, who served as past president of the Mu Chi chapter of PAT at Lamar University, will serve as our chapter’s delegate.

She will also present her paper, “Two Deaths that Reversed Destiny: How the Murders of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino Changed the City of Palermo.”

Durso’s research examines how the murders of these two public figures by the Sicilian mafia sparked outrage among the residents of Palermo, motivating them to take back the city from mafia control. The spiritual and cultural revival that resulted has proven important for the revitalization of Palermo.

Congratulations to Cassandre and best of luck!
Have history department related news to include in the next issue? Contact Dr. Mengerink:
mamengerink
@my.lamar.edu

The pets for this installment of Pet Corner come from the home of Carol Atmar, full-time instructor for the department...

Hi, my name is Teddy. I came to live with Carol last fall, when someone found me alone on the road. I was just a tiny kitten then. Dr. Mengerink couldn’t take me home because of his other cats. Dr. Scheer couldn’t either because her house was full, too. Dr. Bryan gave me a saucer for my milk, but he couldn’t take me home. I needed a home and Carol came to my rescue!

I paid her back by being really cute and helping out around the house. See, I even mix drinks for Carol! I also look after my new baby sister, Dolly. I’m Dolly, and Carol rescued me, too! I got separated from my momma when I was a day old, and Carol brought me in and fed me with an eye dropper. I am now 3 months old and adorable! See how pretty I am?!

Teddy is a good big brother. We take naps together sometimes.

Teddy and Dolly chillaxin’. How can you resist that face?

Teddy is working hard...or it is hardly working?