THE COLLECTIONS IN CURRICULUM

Texas State professors from diverse departments, including Modern Foreign Languages, Political Science, Southwestern Studies, Public History, and English, access the Wittliff Collections for literature, film, television, music, and photographic archives and galleries as a resource for teaching. Cyra Caronelli and Kathleen Peire are among the MFA Creative Writing Program faculty who bring students to the galleries to compose object-specific poems inspired by photographs on display. Spanish Professor Dr. Deirdre Locklin assigns students to write critical and reflective essays in response to images in the exhibitions, while Dr. Mark Budy brings his Southwestern Studies Student for an introduction to the Wittliff’s literary holdings. Curators and staff are available to speak to classes about current exhibitions, care of collections, and plans for gallery enhancements.

To schedule a class visit, click the Request a Tour link on our website: www.thewittliffcollections.ttu.edu.

ON THE COVER

Mexico City, 1901, Marcelo Carrillo

THE TIME IS Spring 2009. Connie Todd is enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Paris when her brother, Terry Todd, calls the Wittliff office.

“Steve, I just wanted to say I’ve been hearing that things are going really well over there at the Wittliff Collections,” Terry began. “No one’s calling in sick anymore, people are skipping around the hallways, and the staff is far more productive than it’s ever been. In fact, morale seems to be at an all-time high, and I’m just wondering if you have any idea why that may be.”

Then Terry and I dissolved into laughter, knowing that the joke was on his beloved sister, Connie, and on our beloved boss, the estimable Setora Todd. The truth was, yes, we were all doing fine without Connie—because her indelible imprint had already shaped the way the Wittliff Collections operated, and had helped shape the staff itself—a close-knit team of dedicated, intelligent, hardworking, creative people—a group that also enjoys laughter. A staff that seemed incredibly created in Connie’s own image.

As Terry and I both knew, Connie had brought tremendous energy, vision, creativity, and wisdom over the previous dozen years as she guided the Wittliff Collections, transforming what was once Texas State University’s “best-kept secret” into an international—

ally known creative center, a place where students come to be inspired, visitors come to be delighted, and scholars come to be nourished.

The figures associated with Connie’s tenure are remarkable—the 1,187% growth in acquisitions, the 18 books she had a hand in producing, and the 25+ major photography exhibitions she curated or co-curated, the increase in visitation from a few hundred to over 30,000 visitors annually, and her staff—which grew from three to 12 full-time employees.

But the real influence Connie had on the Wittliff Collections was her spirit—and her vision. Those of us who worked with her quickly learned that Connie never settled for good enough. For her, it always had to be excellent. She pushed herself, and she pushed us, to continually strive for excellence. She pushed us to shape truly, to never stop questioning, and to always be open to new ideas.

Connie retired as director on January 15, knowing she was leaving the Wittliff Collections in very good shape. And just as with her earlier trip to Paris, the staff realizes that even though Connie is not here in person, her remarkable and enduring legacy—not to mention the echoes of her laughter—will remain with us for years to come.

We’re extremely thrilled to announce we’ll have Connie back in the house on April 17, this time as the guest speaker at our reception for the ¡Viva México! and Vapero photographic exhibitions (see p. 13). Who better to talk about images from the permanent collection than the curator who helped to build it? Who knows, she may even burst into song with a corrida or two. ☂

—Steve Davis (Assistant Curator Steve Davis is serving as interim director while Texas State conducts a search for the new Wittliff Collections director.)

OUR DEEPIEST THANKS go to Susan Toomey Frost for generously donating her Hugo Brehme Collection to the Wittliff Collections in November. The comprehensive archive, comprised of over 1,900 Brehme postcards, museum cards, black-and-white photographs, and hand-tinted photographs, took Frost 15 years to build.

In addition to her donation of the photographs, Frost gifted an extensive library of books, periodicals, and travel ephemera related to the artist. The Hugo Brehme Collection is a valuable addition to the Wittliff’s holdings and greatly enhances the Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection. Considered to be the leading expert on Brehme’s work, Frost’s previous scholarship includes the monograph Colors on Clay, recipient of the Texas State Historical Association’s best illustrated book published in 2009 on Texas history and culture. Read more about Frost’s work with Brehme’s photo postcards at www.isis.com/tracker/brehme.html.

HUGO BRIEME (1882-1954) was born in Germany and studied photography in his native land. While in his early twenties, he traveled to Mexico where he began a lifelong engagement with the country Brehme captured images of the people and places of Mexico, and he opened his first photography studio in Mexico City in 1912.

Identifying himself as a fine-art photographer, Brehme created real photo postcards that were printed on photographic paper with a variety of tones and finishes, giving each image a richness and complexity.

His postcards include scenes of Mexico City, Xochimilco, Veracruz, Taxco, Cuernavaca, Puebla, and smaller towns; the volcanoes Popo- catépetl, Ixtaccihuatl, and Pico de Orizaba; archaeological sites and artifacts; and portraits and scenes of the daily life of the Mexican people.

Brehme was also an astute businessman and a savvy entrepreneur. He introduced the photographic Christmas card to Mexico, as well as the souvenier booklet of multiple picture postcards that became popular with collectors and which tourists could tear out and mail.

Brehme influenced many early Mexican photographers, including Manuel Álvarez Bravo, and he is known internationally for his iconic images of Mexican scenic landscapes and life. He became a Mexican citizen before his death in 1954. ☂

SUSAN FROST donates BREHME collection

from the INTERIM DIRECTOR: steve davis
NEW BOOKS: WRITERS

New books (published July–December, 2009), by authors with substantial archives in the Southwestern Writers Collection include:

- *Time of the Rangers: Texas Rangers from 1835 to the Present* by Mike Cox (Forge Books)
- *Unhanded and Unbought* by Joe R. Lansdale (Subterranean Press)
- *Literary Life: A Second Memoir* by Larry McMurtry (Simon & Schuster)
- *The Franco Hidalgo* by Rod Hightower (Simon & Schuster)
- *The Gentleman and the Gunfighter* by Mike Cox (Forge Books)

The Wittliff Collections fit me in ways that appeal to ordinary folks as well as scholars. Not only do they know how to present its materials. Now that that’s done, we’re looking forward to a great turnout for our exhibition and May 1 event,” said Steve Davis, assistant curator at the Wittliff.

While re-housing items in acid-free folders, Mary and Archival Assistant Mary García, with help from student worker Bianca Marshall, spent much of 2009 preserving and inventoring the current 135 linear feet of the Hightower archive. The materials arrived from his office already very well organized, separated into categories such as column, show files, show tapes, book files, the Lowdown (Hightower’s long-running monthly newsletter), promotional items, speeches, videos, and novels.

The Wittliff Collections fit me like a comfortable old boot, in nature. Not only do they depict our region’s broad sweep of grassroots voices, but the Wittliff team also knows how to present its treasure trove of materials in ways that appeal to ordinary folks as well as scholars.

—JIM HIGHTOWER

IN DECEMBER 2008, Jim Hightower named the Wittliff Collections as the official repository for his archival legacy, and now we are pleased to announce the next exhibition from the Southwestern Writers Collection: *Swim Against the Current: Highlights from the Jim Hightower Archive.* In conjunction with the show, May 1 will be a celebratory day featuring Hightower and friends discussing populism in Texas, served up with heaping helpings of live music and good times (sidebar, right).

“We when took delivery of Hightower’s archive in early 2009, our first priority was to preserve and inventory the materials. Now that that’s done, we’re looking forward to a great turnout for our exhibition and May 1 event,” said Steve Davis, assistant curator at the Wittliff.

Jim Hightower is considered America’s #1 populist, a man admired as a radio commentator, syndicated political columnist, best-selling author, and sought-after public speaker. Hightower believes the true political spectrum is not right-to-left but bottom-to-top, and he is dedicated to building the Powers That Be on behalf of—in his words—the “Powers That Ought To Be”: working families, farmers, consumers, environmentalists, small business owners, and “just plain folks.”

Hightower’s archive consists of over 100 boxes, which document every aspect of his long and prolific career, including the many inimitable “Hightowerisms” (such as “Even the smallest dog can lift its leg on the tallest building!”) for which he’s become famous.

Archival Assistant Mary García, with help from student worker Bianca Marshall, spent much of 2009 preserving and inventoring the current 135 linear feet of the Hightower archive. The materials arrived from his office already very well organized, separated into categories such as column, show files, show tapes, book files, the Lowdown (Hightower’s long-running monthly newsletter), promotional items, speeches, videos, and novels.

While re-housing items in acid-free folders, Mary and Bianca removed some 20 pounds of papers and staples from original papers—testimony to the archive’s wealth of documentation. There are also 1,369 photographs and 6,131 audio/visual materials—and the collection will continue to grow.

The preliminary inventory is at: www.wittliffcollections.texas.edu/www/archives/writers/hightower.html

The exhibition *Swim Against the Current: Highlights from the Jim Hightower Archive* traces the life and work of Hightower, beginning with his experience in the 1960s as an aide to the U.S. senator from Texas, Ralph Yarborough, and his first organizing efforts on behalf of family farmers and farm workers in the early 1970s.

One of the earliest pieces among the papers is a small document from 1964: a Certificate of Exemption From Poll Tax. Hightower, then a junior at the University of North Texas, because he was a first-time voter. Finally abolished in Texas in 1966 as unconstitutional, the poll tax was designed to deter poor people, especially blacks and Latin Americans, from voting, an issue in the Civil Rights Movement that inspired the young Hightower to set out on a political path.

Also on display are Hightower’s papers from his work as the national campaign coordinator for U.S. Senator Fred Harris’s crusade for president in 1976, as well as numerous campaign photos and memorabilia from Hightower’s own runs for office. Hightower served as Texas’s Commissioner of Agriculture from 1983-1991, and while in office he
STUDENTS media preferences—to help by weighing in increase our visibility, approach online social solutions, holding brain - are visiting the Collections. Visitors are using, and determine what online aspect of the Collections we've enlisted the help business students to solicit ideas for an shop business plan, once again we are collaborating with a once more. Bill Minutaglio is a white, Italian American transplant from New York who has gotten more complicated and awesome world I live under - with my knowledge of the cruelties on the streets of the city where I live. I am engaged with the life of the polis. Either ever since. My work has always been engaged with my politics. When I began writing poetry, one of my themes throughout his work. In April, Copper Canyon released his newest collection, The Book of What Remains. The recovery of narrative? potential for empowerment through writing evokes the brilliantly effusive guitar solos of masters like T-Bone Walker and Lightnin’ Hopkins. “Reading Bill Minutaglio is like listening to one of the great Texas blues legends,” says Assistant Curator Steve Davis, who edits the Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series. “Minutaglio’s reporting brings forth stories of suffering, resilience, and the passing of generations. Minutaglio’s stories offer an understanding of the sweeping evolution of music, race, and justice in Texas. Moved forward by the musical heartbeat of the blues and defined by the long shadow of racism, the stories measure how far Texas has come . . . or still has to go.” Bill Minutaglio is a Clinical Professor of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and a donor to the Wittliff Collections. His books include Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life; First: Son George W. Bush’s Black Family Dynasty; City on Fire: The Forgotten Disaster that Devastated a Town and Ignited a Lanmark Legal Battle; and The President’s Counselor: The Rise to Power of Alberto Gonzales. He has also written for the New York Times, Outside, Encarta, TALK, the Los Angeles Times, Blues & Rhythm, High Fidelity, and many other publications. His website is www.billminutaglio.com. The Wittliff Collections will be hosting Bill Minutaglio for a reading and book signing at 4:00 pm on April 27 .
ANSEL ADAMS 
photographed Moonrise, 
Hernandez, New Mexico 
after a long, unsuccess-
ful day of shooting in 
the Chama Valley. 
Driving back to Santa 
Fe in an old Pontiac 
estate wagon with his 
son Michael and 
photographer Cedric 
Wright, Adams spied 
the moon rising through 
the clouds above the 
Sangre de Cristo 
mountains. The artist 
pulled to the side of the 
road and quickly set up 
his large-format camera. 
Using the luminance of 
the moon, Adams 
calculated the exposure 
to illuminate the field of 
white crosses in the 
foreground of his iconic 
image. Ansel Adams 
(1902-1984) was a 
charter member of 
Group F/64, an 
organization that helped 
establish photography 
as an art form. As a 
technical master of the 
medium, he created the 
Zone System: a method 
of controlling and 
relating exposure and 
developing black-and-
white film. He wrote 
many books and took 
thousands of images of 
the American landscape. 
As an environmentalist, 
Adams was deeply com-
mitted to the preserva-
tion of wilderness and 
was awarded the 
Presidential Medal of 
Freedom in 1980.

Moonrise, Hernandez, 
New Mexico, 1941, 
is part of the permanent 
holdings at the 
Wittliff Collections.
the Wittliff collections GIFT SHOP is open for business

OFFERING AN INCREASING variety of events, exhibitions, and research opportunities, the Wittliff Collections serve tens of thousands of patrons a year. Achieving our mission would be impossible without the team of talented, hard-working individuals that make up the Collections’ student staff. Currently consisting of 15 undergrad student workers and one graduate assistant, these talented men and women provide support to our professional staff in every aspect of our operation.

From staffing and mailing out invitations to reclaiming the badge holders used by nametags, these students do much of the background work needed to carry out a successful event. They execute the set-up necessary for public and private gatherings, setting up chairs and tables, podiums and microphones. They operate the audio system, run the lights, and assist with traffic flow in the galleries. They mount posters and put up signage, help VIPs find their parking spots, and welcome guests as they arrive.

Now that the galleries have been expanded, our exhibitions continue to attract a more diverse audience, and these capable and dependable student employees make it possible for our doors to be open extended evening and weekend hours. They Texas provide the utmost in customer service, from giving directions over the telephone to on-site patron support. Several of our student workers have also recently volunteered for training as docents and are beginning to lead tours. The student staff is behind the scenes as well, helping with installation and un-installation of exhibitions.

As a repository of special collections for the Alkek Library, one of the areas of focus for the Wittliff Collections is working with archival staff to process new acquisitions and assist with restoration and conservation of archival materials.

The Wittliff Collections is grateful for these wonderfully dedicated people. We are so happy to know these and privileged to work alongside them.

We couldn’t do it without our STUDENTS

OVER 2000 PEOPLE have enjoyed the myriad events held in the Wittliff Collections’ spaces since last fall’s renovations.

Every semester, Texas State’s Creative Writing Program brings nationally acclaimed authors to campus for the Theresa Kayser Lindsey/Katherine Anne Porter Literary Series and the Wittliff Collections are proud to co-host as one of their event locations. Last fall we began choosing photographs from our permanent collection that evoke the authors’ work to create posters and postcards advertising the readings. Novelist Jayne Anne Phillips was the very first to appear in the Wittliff’s new performance space/gallery, even before photographs were up. Post Tom Hongual drew laughs and a whole range of emotions from the audience during his visit in October. Francine Prose read this February, and Claudia Rankine appeared April 8.

As usual, it was standing room only for Tim O’Brien, the current University Endowed Chair in Creative Writing, who spoke in November to a crowd of over 350 and answered questions about his writing. He’ll be with us again on April 21.

Our very own Steven L. Davis gave a lively presentation about his latest book, J. Frank Dobie: A Liberated Mind, during which a full house filled what a key role the Davis family played in the writing of the well-received biography.

Actress Penny Lynn White traveled from New York City to perform her one-woman theatrical show, Katherine Anne Porter: A Driving Desire, in which she brought to life the woman behind the myth using extracts from Porter’s body of work, including her personal letters.

For the fourth year in a row, the Creative Writing Program, Texas State’s Masters of Fine Arts students gather several times a semester in the Southwestern Writers Room to read—and often perform—their poetry and fiction. Word is getting around about how interesting the MFA events are, and attendance is increasing with each reading.

Susan Wittig Albert and Susan Twit held a rich conversation with each other and the audience about their new books Albert’s Together Alone: A Memoir of Marriage and Place is part of the Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series, and Tweet read from Writing Home. Their engaging discussion questioned the meaning of one’s relationship with the physical, natural place one inhabits.

See the online calendar for the most up-to-date events listings. Make sure you’re receiving announcements for all of our readings—give us a call at 512.245.2131 or indicate your preferences on our website by clicking the Join the Mailing List link.

WITH MORE THAN 30 books published together in the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection Book Series—and new books to come—it seemed natural to create a gift shop to support the Wittliff Collections’ acquisition and preservation activities.

Merchandise includes all the volumes in our book series, plus 14 out-of-print titles from the Encino Press, and public events. An exhibition poster and postcards of images by Bill Wittliff are available at the numbered edition, signed by Bill, is limited.

New this year is a large 100% cotton tote bag (shown at left) featuring another breathtaking image by Kate Breakey, titled Couple’s Hovel, on one side and the Wittliff Collections logo on the other. The bag is great for carrying books or just about anything and sells for only $15. More Collections-inspired products will be available in the near future.

While still developing the look of our website presence, we are up and running online. Merchandise can also be purchased directly at the Alkek Library, or by phone during business hours Monday through Friday.

Donors who gift $250 or more through our Friends of the Wittliff Collections program are offered some of the items mentioned above, and all donors of $100 or more receive a 10% discount on gift shop items. See everything online at www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/shop.
When Texas moved into the cattle business, its cowboy adopted many of the Mexican vaquero’s accoutrements and centuries-old methodologies of working herds in big country. Drafed by historian Joe Frantz in the early seventies to witness one of the last traditional roundups on the vast Rancho Tule in northern Mexico, Bill Wittliff fixed the vanishing vaquero tradition forever in nearly 5,000 photographs taken over a period of three years. In 2004, the University of Texas Press published the best of these in Wittliff’s monograph, Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy.

Now Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is touring more than 60 of the Vaquero images that have been digitally recreated as rich carbon-ink prints, accompanied by bilingual narrative texts from the book. Humanities Texas is promoting and traveling the exhibition to schools, libraries, museums, and other venues throughout Texas and the United States as part of its mission to support research, education, and public programs in the humanities. Information about renting the show is available at: humanites.tx.us/exhibits/la/vaquero/index.php.

Co-curated by Bill Wittliff and Carla Ellard, assistant curator of the Southwestern & Mexican Photography collection, and made possible in part by a “We the People” grant from the NEH, this new exhibition, is touring more than 60 of the Vaquero images that have been digitally recreated as rich carbon-ink prints, accompanied by bilingual narrative texts from the book.

The opening reception on May 22 from 7 to 9:30 pm. All are invited and welcome. For more information contact Gallery Coordinator Mary Mikel Stump at 512.245.2664. A collection of historical photographs taken in Mexico between 1895 and 1912, the Casasola Archive was founded in 1935 by Agustín Vicente Casasola and Gonzalo Hererra when they opened one of the world’s first photography agencies. Numerous negatives and prints have been digitized and are available for research at the National Photo Library (National Fotosfera) at the National Institute of Anthropology - Photographic History (INAH), and thousands of the negatives are in the collections of the American Franciscan convent in Pachuca, Hidalgo.
the SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION

The Collection currently comprises over 6,750 linear feet of materials from the region’s authors, screenwriters, and songwriters. Recent acquisitions listed below represent additions from August 2009 through January 2010. Not included in the momentous gifts to the collection of books, manuscripts, and audio-visual materials. The success of the Southwestern Writers Collection depends on the generous support of all of our donors. Will you say thank you? [MARK APPLEGATE] continues to donate his photo-graphics documenting the music scene in central Texas. [Gift of Applegate] A Rare footage from the AUSTIN MUSIC NETWORK showcases performances on the now-defunct independent music television channel from 1999-2004. [Transfer from the Austin History Center] A detailed model of the BRANCH DAVISIAN complex in Waco, Texas, provides a visual point of reference for researchers interested in the life of Matthew Wittmer. A major addition to the materials of GARY CARTWRIGHT includes research notes and manuscripts for his 1979 book Blood Will Tell, which chronicles the murder trials of Fort Worth businessman Cullen Davis. Also included are extensive notes and drafts for Devil Dancing. Cartwright’s 1894 true-crime study of a murder spree in the Texas/Mexico border [Gift of Cartwright & the Austin History Center] The CENTER FOR TEXAS MUSIC HISTORY donated transcripts of interviews with Texas musicians conducted by students at Texas State. Interviewees include Marca Ball, W.C. Clark, Al Dressen, Connard Hud, and Lavelle White. [Gift of the CTMH] A final installment of KING OF THE HILL materials includes scripts for the last season and many of the series’ episodes, as well as binders containing design notes and audio-visual materials. [Gift of Jim Dauterive] MARY GRAY HUGHES personal library provides insight into the literary interests of the author of The Empty Lot and other stories. [Gift of Benjamin Acosta-Hughes] Additions to the LARRY L. KING Papers include news clippings, reviews, and articles about the 1999 book, Larry L. King: A Writer’s Life in Letters, or Reflections on a Blest Eye. [Gift of King] Three 1980s letters by CORMAC MCCARTHY to ROBERT CUMBOW, author of Once Upon A Time: The Films of Sergio Leone, reveal McCarthy’s interest in filmmaking. [Gift of Cumbow] During a 1960s visit to LARRY MURPHY/MU’s Houston home, Ken Kesey’s Merry Pranksters decorated a bike belonging to Diana Hobby with the same Day-Glo paint used on their bus. The bike forms part of the Murphty Collection. [Gift of Andrew Hobby] EAGLE PENNELL’s 1978 film, The Whole Sheen Match, is widely credited as inspiration behind Robert Redford’s work in the film A River Runs Through It. [Gift of Pennell] A writing partner, Lin Sutherland, donated scripts, articles, and financial materials related to the film’s production. [Gift of Pennell] The movie company, Maverick Films, Inc. Pennell’s brother, Chuck, gifted other material, including a prop bat from Sheen’s Match and the film, and “My Dog Elvis,” an unproduced screenplay by Pennell. [Gifts of Sutherland & Pennell] BEN REIDER, author of the comic crime novels featuring Latino game warden John Marlin, recently donated his writing archive. Included are manuscripts for his novels Bone Dry, Buck Fever, Flat Cozy, Goody Trip, Gus Shy, and Holy Moly, as well as correspondence and articles relating to their publication. [Gift of Reider] The move of the TEXAS MONTHLY offices in Austin sparked a large addition to their production company, Maverick Films, Inc., of artwork and photographs to their archive. Much of the material dates back to the early days of the magazine, which was founded in 1973. [Gift of Texas Monthly] TOM WILMORE added several Uranium Savannah files to his Austin music poster collection. Kerry Awn, vocalist for the self-proclaimed “rocky comedy rock band,” designed the posters that advertise shows at the South Shore Saloon. [Gift of Wilmore] the SOUTHWESTERN & MEXICAN PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

New purchases include photographs by GRACIELA ITURRIDE and historical images of the Southwest. New gifts include photographs, books, and travel ephemera by or related to HUGO BREHME [gift of Susan Tommy Frost, see p. 21], MICHAEL O’BRIEN [gift of artist], and MARY ANN SMOTHERS BRUN [gift of artist]. In 2003, the Collections invited RICK RIORDAN, then an award-winning mystery writer from San Antonio, to join a panel discussion for the Southwestern Writers Collection exhibition season Scene of the Crime: Mystery/Fiction Detective Day June 10. Soon after that meeting, the Witliff Collections became the recipient of Riordan’s generosity as the author began donating his materials. “At the time we were very interested in Rick’s archive because we saw him as a successful author who was capturing attention in his mystery novels,” said Assistant Curator Steve Davis. “Little did we know that Rick was poised to become a literary superman.” That's certainly proved true today. Riordan is a #1 New York Times best-selling author whose Percy Jackson & The Olympians series has become a worldwide phenomenon. Riordan’s books bring Greek mythology to life for young readers by placing the gods and their “half-blood” offspring in modern-day America. In Riordan’s world, Zeus is alive and well, Mount Olympus sits above the Empire State Building, and the entrance to Hades’ underworld is in Los Angeles. The first film based on that series’ novels, Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief, was directed by Chris Columbus and opened nationwide in February. The film (which Riordan did not write) grossed a total of over 200 million dollars in its first month of release. With the success of his Percy Jackson novels, Riordan, who taught both the secondary and college levels for 15 years, was at last able to devote his energies to writing full-time. Still, he continues to make regular appearances in classrooms, speaking to school children across the United States and in Europe.

The Riordan Archive includes more than 20 linear feet of materials and over 70 editions of his work. His papers contain multiple drafts, book proposals, story ideas, character descriptions, and manuscripts illuminating his creative journey. Like many writers, Riordan dreamed of becoming a successful author from a young age, and he saved many of his early stories as well as his college English papers and exams (he was a very good student!). He even held on to the first rejection letter he received, as an eighth grader.

He has continued his generous donations to the Collections, which are now the archival repository for materials from his Tres Navarre mystery novels, his Percy Jackson novels, as well as his hundreds of short stories, his memoir, The Son of Neptune, and historical images of the Southwest.
exhibitions & events CALENDAR

exhibitions

MAR 22 – JULY 31, 2010 SWIM AGAINST THE CURRENT. Highlights from the JIM HIGHTOWER Archive This literary exhibition features manuscripts, photographs, original art, and unique artifacts that lend insight into the life and work of America’s #1 populist. Event May 1. (see pp. 6/7)

MAR 27 – JULY 31, 2010 VAQUERO: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy. These 60 new digital, carbon-ink prints by BILL WITTLIFF are made possible by Humanities Texas and a “We the People” grant from the NEH. Event April 17. (see p. 12)

MAR 27 – JULY 31, 2010 ¡VIVA MÉXICO! Honoring the bicentennial of Mexico’s fight for independence from Spain and the centennial of the 1910 Mexican Revolution with more than 100 images by a long list of renowned photographers. Event April 17. (see p. 13)

ON PERMANENT DISPLAY LONESOME DOVE Collection Costumes, props, set pieces and designs, photographs, scripts, and other “making of” materials are permanently on view from the CBS miniseries based on Larry McMurtry’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

events

APRIL

6 THE MFA STUDENTS read their poetry and fiction. 3:00 pm

8 CLAUDIA BANKEFEI reads for the English Dept’s Therese Kayser Lindley/ Katherine Anne Porter Series. Event 4:00 pm

13 BICK J. REAVES, whose major archive is held at The Wittliff Collections, reads from his latest book, Catching Out: The Secret World of Day Laborers. Book signing to follow. 3:30 pm

17 PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS RECEPTION Showcasing Vaqueria and ¡Viva Mexico! with a public reception and special program featuring CONNIE TOSS. 7:00 pm (see p. 13)

21 TIM OBIEN reads as the University Endowed Chair in Creative Writing for Texas State’s Department of English. Book signing to follow. 3:30 pm

27 BILL MINUTAGLIO reads from the newest book in the Southwestern Writers Collection Series with UT Press. In Search of the Blues: A Journey to the Soul of Black Texas. Book signing to follow. 4:00 pm (see p. 7)

MAY

1 THE LIVING SPIRIT OF TEXAS POPULISM: In Our Politics, In Our Culture Celebrating Jim Hightower’s gift of his archive, and the Southwestern Writers Collection exhibition, Swim Against the Current, with a full day of populist-centered festivities. Panel discussions and musical performances are being planned, with JIM HIGHTOWER as the guest of honor. Attendees are asked to RSVP to 512.245.2313 or southwesternwriters@txstate.edu. (see p. 3)

elsewhere in tx

MAY 8 – JUNE 26, 2010 Small Deaths. Photographs by Kate Broekly. the exhibition based on the Wittliff series book, is at the Longview Museum of Fine Arts.


special assistance

Would you like to schedule a group or class tour? Call us at 512.245.2313 or request a tour online. If you require accommodations due to a disability, please call ahead and we’ll be happy to assist.

our gift shop is open

We’ve begun to offer our literary and photographic series books, Encore Press books, posters, and other items for sale online. (see p. 11)