Texas State’s faculty and its academic centers publish hundreds of books, journal articles, papers on research, monographs, recordings and other pieces every year. Here’s a sampling of some that looked particularly interesting:

Land of the Permanent Wave: An Edwin “Bud” Shlake Reader
Steven Davis, editor
Assistant curator, The Wittliff Collections

In this unique anthology, Davis brings together Bud Shlake’s best journalism, fiction and film, while also making innovative use of the acclaimed writer’s previously unpublished correspondence. Drawing from the extensive Bud Shlake archives at the Southwestern Writers Collection, Davis incorporates many of the author’s humorous letters, exploring the real-life connections between Shlake’s journalism and his novels, between his life and his art in this latest book in the Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series. (University of Texas Press)

Are We There Yet?
Roger Jones
Associate Professor, English

This collection of 46 poems, organized around the theme of travel (both physical and metaphorical), received the 2008 Texas Review Prize. The poems, all of which were previously published in journals, cover topics such as time, parenthood, childhood, memory and the metaphysical and psychological uncertainties that come with age and experience. The volume follows two other award-winning poetry collections by Jones — Remembering New London (1980) and Strata (1993). Jones is a past recipient of the Academy of American Poets Prize, and his work has been nominated four times for a Pushcart Prize. (Texas Review Press)

The Choral Director’s Cookbook
Lynn Brinckmeyer, contributor
Assistant Professor, Music

When editor Alan Gumm, professor of music education at Ithaca (N.Y.) College, rounded up 57 of the best college choir directors in the country to submit tips on their trade, of course he would include Lynn Brinckmeyer, Texas State’s director of choral music education and current president of the National Association for Music Education, the world’s largest arts education organization. The contributors were asked for “recipes” for better performances, workshops, recordings, leadership, team-building and more. It is an ideal source for both beginners and experienced directors and conductors. (Meredith Music Publications)

Writing for the Government
Libby Allison
Associate Professor, English
Miriam F. Williams
Assistant Professor, English

Taking a rhetorical approach to writing for government, the authors aim to train students to be “adaptable” writers, regardless of their job or their writing tasks. Students are encouraged to consider audience, purpose and cultural context as they strive for effective communication. The authors also include discussion of the theory, principles and ethics of government writing; writing to communicate internal policy (rules and regulations, handbooks and guides, memorandums); writing to communicate public policy (reports, grants and proposals); and writing and designing government Web sites. Examples help students to imagine the many writing scenarios they will encounter as professionals, as well as the practical implications of their writing. (Pearson Education)

Essentials of Physical Geography
James F. Petersen
Professor, Geography

How the Earth works — as a complex system of interrelated factors — is an important concept for physical geography students to comprehend. Essentials of Physical Geography combines the expertise of Petersen and fellow geographers Robert Gabler of Western Illinois University and Michael Trapasso of Western Kentucky University to help students understand the Earth’s natural features, the processes that influence them, and how they are interrelated; what factors influence their geographic distribution; how environments affect humans and how humans affect nature; and what factors contribute to our planet’s environmental diversity. The eighth edition highlights the digital technologies that physical geographers use in their studies. Extensive sections explain world climates and environments, and landform development. Discussions of climate change and global warming are also featured. (Brooks/Cole)
Tennyson and Victorian Periodicals: Commodities in Context
Kathryn Ledbetter
Associate Professor, English

Despite Tennyson’s supposed hostility to periodicals, the Victorian poet published more than 60 poems in serial publications, from his debut as a Cambridge Prize-winning poet with “Timbuctoo” in the Cambridge Chronicle and Journal to his last public composition as poet laureate with “The Death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale” in The Nineteenth Century. In this first book-length study of Tennyson’s record of publication, Ledbetter shows that, while Tennyson thought of periodicals as “vapid gift books,” he made a career-long habit of contributing to periodicals and in the process revealed his awareness of his interdependent relationship with them. In reviewing Ledbetter’s book, the London Times Literary Supplement said, “That so many rich new areas of study are suggested by this book testifies to its wide-ranging and engaging research, and its several appendices will be of great use to future bibliographers and scholars.” (Ashgate)

Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History
R. Jon McGee, Richard Warms
Professors, Anthropology

In this comprehensive survey of the history of theory in anthropology, McGee and Warms excerpt seminal works by more than 40 writers on Western and non-Western cultures, including Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Max Weber, Max Gluckman, Ruth Benedict, Margaret Mead, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Eleanor Leacock and Arjun Appadurai. Articles introduce readers to both current and formational ideas in cultural anthropology and cover topics such as the origins of evolutionism; the foundations of sociological thought; and cultural influences on personality, gender, the family, government structures, myth, linguistics, psychology, morality, politics and more. McGee and Warms provide the in-depth commentary readers need to understand each article and its relationship to the social and historical context in which it was written. (McGraw-Hill Publishers)

Wives, Mothers, and the Red Menace: Conservative Women and the Crusade Against Communism
Mary Brennan
Associate Professor, History

In the years following World War II, many Americans saw communism as a real danger to domestic security and the family. Consequently, millions of women expanded their notions of household responsibilities to include the crusade against communism and in the process discovered their power to effect change through activism. Brennan’s book details the anti-communist activities of prominent conservatives Jean Kerr McCarthy, Margaret Chase Smith, Freda Utley, Doloris Thauwald Bridges, Elizabeth Churchill Brown and Phyllis Schlafly, revealing how the willingness of these deeply conservative women to leave the domestic sphere and engage in politics evinces the depth of America’s postwar fear of communism. Brennan argues that these women pushed the boundaries of traditional gender roles and challenged assumptions about women as political players by entering political life to publicly promote their ideals. (University Press of Colorado)

Bloom's Classic Critical Views: Edgar Allan Poe
Robert T. Tally Jr., volume editor
Assistant Professor, English

This new addition to Bloom’s Literary Criticism library provides critical reviews and essays on Poe’s works by contemporay or near-contemporary writers. While Harold Bloom is nominally the book’s editor, Tally, who specializes in American literature, wrote and edited the introductions and head notes for the critical selections. The volume features reminiscences from people who knew Poe and well-known assessments of Poe’s life and works by Charles Baudelaire, Stéphane Mallarmé and D.H. Lawrence. Pieces by Walt Whitman, Margaret Fuller, Robert Louis Stevenson, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry James examine Poe’s work. Tally points out that, for the aristocratic Frenchman Baudelaire, who helped to establish the largely fictional image of Poe as a suffering artist, Poe was a genius suffocating in the basely democratic United States. For Hawthorne, he was a great teller of tales but not so great a critic — a humorous observation, says Tally, since Poe wrote an unflattering review of Hawthorne’s Twice-told Tales. (Chelsea House)
Texas music is like no other music in the world. Spanning a broad and diverse range of genres, including blues, gospel, ragtime, jazz, R&B, rap, hip-hop, conjunto, Tejano, Cajun, zydeco, polkas, schottisches, western swing, honky tonk, progressive country, Americana, folk, rock and roll, and others, the music of Texas reflects the tremendous ethnic and cultural diversity of the state's people. The History of Texas Music is the first comprehensive study of the state's rich musical heritage. It examines how and why Texas has produced unique styles of music, as well as many of the nation's most influential artists. Although scholarly in its research, it is written in a way so that anyone who loves Texas music can enjoy learning about the fascinating musical heritage of the Lone Star State. (Texas A&M Press)

Romulus Linney: Maverick of the American Theater
John Fleming
Chair, Theatre and Dance

Fleming provides the first book-length examination of the life and career of critically acclaimed playwright Romulus Linney. Relentlessly challenging in his choice of dramatic subjects, Linney has earned seven lifetime achievements for his playwriting. Using extensive interviews with the playwright (and his collaborators) and having access to the playwright’s personal files, Fleming offers an in-depth, incisive look at how Linney’s life has informed his plays and provides directors and actors insight into the forces that motivate Linney’s complex characters. The clear, accessible writing should enlighten fans, students, teachers and producers of Linney’s work. (Smith & Kraus)

Sacred Realms: Readings in the Anthropology of Religion
Richard Warms, James Garber, R. Jon McGee, editors
Professors, Anthropology

This textbook results from the editors’ two decades of experience teaching one of Texas State’s most popular classes — Anthropology of Religion — to more than 20,000 Texas State students. The 44 essays in Sacred Realms capture the excitement and breadth of the study of religion and represent the best of current academic work in the field. The book compiles classic and current anthropological approaches to religion and offers ethnographic examples of religious practices in cultures around the world. Sections cover major topics such as religion and society, ritual, altered states of consciousness, healing, death and more. New to this second edition is an examination of the intersection between religion and politics in global culture. Essays help to give students the tools they need to understand and analyze religion and to consider its important role in current world affairs. (Oxford University Press)

The Mass Media and Latino Politics
Federico Subervi-Vélez
Professor, Journalism and Mass Communication

The Latin American population has become a major force in American politics in recent years, with expanding influences in local, state and national elections. The candidates in the 2004 campaign wooed Latino voters by speaking
Spanish to Latino audiences and courting Latino groups and PACs. Recognizing the rising influence of the Latino population in the United States, Subervi-Vélez has put together this edited volume, examining various aspects of the Latino and media landscape, including media coverage in English- and Spanish-language media, campaigns and survey research. (Lawrence Erlbaum Publishers)

The Blue Rock Review
Connie Todd, contributor
Curator, The Wittliff Collections

Todd sits on The Blue Rock Review editorial board, published out of Wimberley by the Blue Rock Artist Ranch and Studio. Volume 3, Number 1, features her essay on the state of the art of photography as it relates the issue’s theme of “Seeing,” as well as five photographs she selected from the permanent collection and discusses with regard to the topic. The images range from the 1837 Corpse of Maximilian by François Aubert to the 2003 Niño ciego y serpiente de fuego from Marco Antonio Cruz’s contemporary series The Blind in Mexico. The issue’s front and slip covers also feature Cruz’s photograph. (Blue Rock Artist Ranch and Studio)

Randall Reid: Layers of Perception
Randall Reid
Professor, Art and Design

The text in this monograph includes two essays: Layers of Perception by arts writer Suzanne Deats and Thinking Inside the Box by Clint Willour, curator of the Galveston [Texas] Arts Center. Deats discusses the meaning and resonance of Reid’s intricate textures, while Willour addresses the concepts that drive the art’s structure. This elegant, slip-cased volume is designed in the same square proportions as Reid’s art. Assistant Professor Michelle Hays is responsible for the design and typography. The size is intimate — more of a private treasure than a coffee table book. It incorporates fine papers, embossing and die cuts that underscore the enigmatic quality of the art by echoing the subtle incidents and surprises inherent in each work. In addition to his faculty position, Reid is a working artist who is widely exhibited and collected. (Square Ship Press)

Therapeutic Exercise for Physical Therapist Assistants: Techniques for Intervention
Barbara Sanders
Chair, Physical Therapy

Co-authored by William Bandy of the University of Central Arkansas, this book is the first and only textbook that offers physical therapist assistants the therapeutic exercise training specific to their needs. The authors give readers the knowledge and skills to effectively implement patient treatment plans under the direction of a physical therapist, with detailed descriptions for the gamut of therapeutic exercises, including range of motion, stretching, open chain resistance training, plyometrics and functional return. Readers will learn the purpose, position and procedure for each technique for a complete understanding of how to guide patients in performing these exercises. (Lippincott Williams and Wilkins)

Morality Stories: Dilemmas in Ethics, Crime & Justice
Joycelyn Pollock
Professor, Criminal Justice

Through these 18 short stories, Pollock and her co-authors writer-teacher Michael Braswell and editor Scott Braswell delve into important moral and ethical questions that confront those who work in the criminal justice field. What are we willing to sacrifice for the welfare of others? Is there room for mercy in the heart of justice? In each story, characters are judged as much by the good they fail to do as by the bad they carry out. They acknowledge regrets, express remorse and accept responsibility. Each story contains a list of discussion questions. (Carolina Academic Press)

Media Violence and Aggression: Science and Ideology
Lori Bergen
Director, Journalism and Mass Communication
Tom Grimes
Professor, Journalism and Mass Communication

Is our society harmed by media violence? This new book asserts that studies claiming to show a link between childhood consumption of media violence and later aggressive behavior as adults are wrong. Grimes and Bergen (with co-author James Anderson of the University of Utah) argue that the alleged causal link between children’s consumption of media violence and their aggression as adults is illusory. Instead, the authors argue that those studies use faulty research methods that define both media violence and aggression too broadly. They suggest that it would be more productive to study the link that takes place within children who already have, and therefore come to media violence with, emotional problems. (Sage Publications)