WHAT WILDERNESS IS THIS

THE SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION celebrates another new title in its book series with a summer exhibit and conference.

What Wilderness Is This is an anthology of writings by women about their experiences in the southwestern environment. The book is published by the University of Texas Press and is in a project of the Story Circle Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women share the stories of their lives.

The exhibit and conference, scheduled June 8 and a keynote address by Kathleen Dean Moore, author of What Wilderness Is This? and the Sid W. Richardson Foundation Professor of Literary Studies and the director of the Story Circle Network, will be displayed on the main floor of the Alkek Library for the next one in the Fall issue of The Keystoner.

antology, exhibit, & conference explore women writing about the southwest

We want to bring this mural back to life and back into public view. Restoration costs for the three panels are estimated between $200,000 and $250,000. Thanks to a number of generous donors, we’ve raised $35,000 to-date, but have a long way to go. Once restored, the mural will be displayed on the main floor of the Alkek Library for the enjoyment and cultural education of Texas State students and the public at large. We are pleased to share our space with the public—it’s part of our mission—and we hope very soon to have even more to share, an expanded and enhanced space equally as warm and welcoming, with more room to house and display our treasures.

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Through prose, poetry, creative nonfiction, and memoir, the women in this anthology explore both the outer landscape of the Southwest and their own inner landscapes as women living on the land. The editors have selected nearly 100 pieces, presenting works by emerging writers as well as established voices such as Joy Harjo, Denise Chávez, Diane Ackerman, Naomi Shihab Nye, Leslie Marmon Silko, Gloria Anzaldúa, Terry Tempest Williams, and Barbara Kingsolver.

Dr. SUSAN WITTIG ALBERT is the founder of the Story Circle Network and a former Professor of English and Circle Network and a former Professor of English and Past President of the Conference on World Literature who is the author of Sustained Throughout: Stories of Women of the Dust Bowl. She is also the author of Icons of Loss and Grace: Moments from the Hispanic Southwest. Also on view will be materials documenting the ten-year history of the Story Circle Network.

ON JUNE 8 AND 9, the Southwestern Writers Collection serves as the host site for a conference and celebration of writing about place and personal history, entitled “A Land Full of Stories,” is being held by the Story Circle Network. The program includes a free public reception on June 8 and a keynote address by Kathleen Dean Moore, Professor of Philosophy and founding director of the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word at Oregon State University, who will introduce the text What Wilderness Is This. The conference offers a variety of workshops and panel discussions focused on writing about place. Further details about the Story Circle Network conference, including registration fees, are available online at www.storycircle.org/womenwrite/landstories.

Two of the four co-editors for What Wilderness Is This share connections to Texas University-San Marcos. ROBERTA D. WILLIAMS is Professor of English at San Marcos and the author of What Wilderness Is This: Essays in the English Department at Texas State and is the recipient of the TIL at Texas State University-San Marcos. She is also the author of the acclaimed “China Bayles” mystery series. Another co-editor is SUSAN HANSON, who teaches in the English Department at Texas State and is the author of Icons of Loss and Grace: Moments from the Natural World. Literary archives of both Wittig Albert and Hanson are housed at the Southwestern Writers Collection.

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OVER THE YEARS I’ve noticed that in the Wittliff Gallery collection there are scores of photographs of children taken by a large number of our artists. We didn’t target these images as a collecting priority; rather they simply happened to be among the very best each particular artist had to offer, and I thought the why of it worth exploring. Prior to the 18th century, children in art were often merely symbols, subjects for commercial portraiture, conceptualized as miniatures, and later on in the 19th century they were idealized and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again and in her, too, once more, and each of us, our terrific responsibility toward human life. —JAMES Agee

THEY’re always around.” A deceptively simple way of saying many images of children in her body of work she said, “I think it worth exploring. In images of children, photographers and viewers search for who we once were and what we have forgotten; honesty, tragedy, unpredictability, and the loveliness of amazing revelation; children provide all three at once—they’re omnipresent in the artist’s imaginary landscape. 

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LONESOME DOVE: THE PHOTOS

Coming this fall, the tenth volume in the Gallery's award-winning book series, Lonesome Dove: A Book of Photographs by BILL WITTLIFF. Published by UT Press, the gorgeously-styled (12” x 12”) book presents 112 color plates of the sepia-toned photographs taken on set by Wittliff, the screenwriter and co-executive producer. The foreword is by LARRY McMURTRY, and the introduction is by STEPHEN HARRIGAN.

OPENING AUGUST 22, an exhibition of selected photographs from the book show off the Gallery’s permanent collection of 180 Lonesome Dove images. Also on view will be props, costumes, and other “making of” materials from the popular CBS miniseries.

Steve Davis began the discussion by inviting the writers to explain the inspiration for their most recent novels. “A Bird,” the art and close-knit community of the Flamenco dance provided the long-sought-after setting for an obsessive love-affair plot based on real-life experiences.

Crook talked about a “magic” moment at Pecos Pueblo in New Mexico that led her to investigate the area and devise a novel with two intertwined plots and time periods. When Harrigan saw a woman at a little league ball game, who had a week earlier been in space, he knew right away he had the main character for a novel: a mother who is an astronaut.

Crook and Harrigan spoke extensively about the research process and its importance, whether their work is set in the past or the present. Said Crook: “It’s so exciting because it’s like a treasure hunt: you find one fact and it leads you to another. And for me the research is really what fuels the story because as you read you get ideas.” Harrigan agreed: “For me inspiration almost always comes from something you have to trust that it is something you will bring into definition.”

One member of the audience wanted to know how much of the writers’ plots are written out beforehand. “The story of a novel just hovers there,” Harrigan replied. “It’s kind of out of reach, kind of out of sight. You have to trust that it is something you will bring into definition.”

When asked if any of them had ever abandoned a novel, all three answered no. “You have to care tremendously to propulse yourself through years of working on a novel,” said Bird. Crook and Harrigan agreed.

GUESTS FROM FAR and near attended the October 28 exhibit reception and book launch for Eyes To Fly With / Ojos Para Volar, honoring one of the world’s greatest photographers, GRACIELA ITURBIDE. The exhibit was drawn from Iturbide’s Eyes To Fly With Portfolio, Self-Portraits and Other Photographs, Nancy in the Wittliff Gallery Series with UT Press, for which Connie Todd serves as curator and Bill Wittliff as series editor.

The book features FABRINES BRADU’s interview with Iturbide in which the photographer describes her creative process and personal loss. ALFREDO CASTELLANOS, director of Mexico City’s Centro de la Imagen, wrote the introduction. Both spoke at the bilingual event.

Connie Todd opened the program by welcoming special guests in the audience, among them Ramín and Rosalva López Quiños from Mexico City, founding donors Bill and Sally Wittliff, and photographer Rob Crab Schenk. She then thanked Donna Hill and presenting sponsor TIME WARNER CABLE for their financial support and PSA advertising the exhibit throughout Central Texas.

Brady’s talk, “What Is It That Guides the Eyes of Graciela Iturbide,” described her first meeting with the artist and their work on the interview. Alejandro Castellanos then presented “Graciela Iturbide: Time, Life, Death,” in Spanish, with Connie Todd’s English translation and accompanying images projected on the wall.

After the talks, Graciela generously answered questions about her creative process (with Connie as translator), and the three speakers closed out the evening by signing books and chatting with attenders.

Sarah bird | Elizabeth crook | Stephen Harrigan

WRITING ON THE LINE

TO HELP CELEBRATE the Treasures of the Southwestern Writers Collection exhibition, Assistant Curator Steve Davis moderated a discussion on November 9 between SARAH BIRD, ELIZABETH CROOK, and STEPHEN HARRIGAN, all of whom have placed archives at the SWWC. The authors talked about their critically-acclaimed novels published in 2006—the Flamenco Academy, The Night Journal, and Challenging Park, respectively—and spoke of the inspirations and processes that carry their writing forward. They took questions from the large audience, then signed books.

THE STELLAR LINE-UP continues at the Southwestern Writers Collection, with a record number of readings by poets, short-story writers, novelists, historians, and students. In collaboration with Texas State’s English Department, the Creative Writing Program and Therese Kayer Lindsey / Katherine Anne Porter Series, the SWWC has recently hosted CHARLES BAXTER, PERCIVAL EVERETT, WENDY FARIS, FORREST GANTER and C.D. WRIGHT, TYNIA L. CAROLE MASO, ELEONOR WILNER, and HELENA MARIA VIRAMONTES, as well as this year’s Mitte Chair in Creative Writing, DENIS JOHNSON.

Texas State’s Center for the Study of the Southwest and Southwest Regional Humanities Center co-sponsored L.D. and LAVERNE HARRISON, respectively—and spoke of the inspirations and processes that carry their writing forward. They took questions from the large audience, then signed books.

The second annual Mitte Chair in Creative Writing will bring into definition.”

Graciela Iturbide: Time, Life, Death,” in Spanish, with Connie Todd’s English translation and accompanying images projected on the wall.

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Graciela Iturbide: Eyes To Fly With
MANUEL ÁLVAREZ BRAVO was born on February 4, 1902, in Mexico City. He was brought up in an environment that celebrated art; both his father and grandfather were painters and photographers. In his adult years, he was mentored by Hugo Brehme and encouraged to continue photography by Tina Modotti and Edward Weston. His first significant job as a professional was Modotti’s former position as photographer for Mexican Folkways magazine in the 1930s. In that capacity, he met numerous artists including Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo and José Clemente Orozco. Throughout his long career Don Manuel and his art impacted and influenced most of today’s Mexican photographers. His images have been celebrated in numerous exhibits across Mexico, Europe, and the United States, and are the subject of over 30 books. He celebrated his 100th birthday at a grand gala at the Palace of Fine Arts and died eight months later, on October 19, 2002, in Mexico. The Wittliff Gallery is proud to include 23 Bravo photographs in the permanent collection.

Los obstáculos / Obstacles, 1929
ONE OF THE CENTRAL missions of the Southwestern Writers Collection is to preserve the papers and artifacts of principal writers, filmmakers, and musicians of the Southwest. Despite the common perception that the “paperless office” is on the horizon, we continue to amass boxes after box of manuscripts, letters, and other paper-based records. In fact, a conservative estimate of the number of documents in our holdings includes an astounding 2.5 million pieces of paper. We take our mission to heart and do everything possible to ensure that the collections entrusted to our care will be available for generations to come, and you can do the same with your personal papers at home. The following are a few helpful tips for caring for your documents:

- Don’t store papers, books, or photographs in direct light, dampness or heat. The ideal temperature for preserving paper-based documents is below 70 degrees; the ideal humidity is between 30 and 50 percent. If you are unable to maintain these conditions in your home, keep in mind that the more stable the environment, the better. Constant fluctuations in temperature and/or humidity can cause paper or bindings to expand and contract, ultimately causing structural damage.

- Don’t expose items to dust or pollution. Indoor pollution is a growing threat to personal papers and photographs. If you display your items, use museum-quality mats and frames. Glass is a good barrier and will keep away pollutants and dirt.

- Don’t handle your documents more than necessary. Don’t wrap or store items in newspaper, cardboard boxes or stationery such as manila envelopes. Store your paper-based documents flat, without creases or folds.

- Check out these new books (published between July and December, 2006), authored by our Southwestern Writers Collection and from / about Wintzell Gallery artists:
  - ALCIA HUAMADA El bosque en ritmo (Artes de México)
  - KEITH CARTER [DVD] Keith Carter directed by John Spillers (The Photographers Series / Anthropy Arts)
  - HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON [DVD]. The Impassioned Eye directed by Heinz Butler (Palms Pictures)
  - ELLIOT ERWITT Personal Best (TeNeues)
  - ELIZABETH FERRER Lola Álvarez Bravo (Turner / Aperture)
  - MARÍA GIL Graciela Iturbide (Phaidon)
  - MAJA GODÉZ Plaza de la soledad (Lannoo-2005)
  - ANNE LEBOVITZ A Photographer's Life. (Random House 2005)
  - O. RUPUS LEWETT Wiping Mary (UP Press)
  - CARLOS MONSIVAIS El centro histórico de la ciudad de México (Turner)
  - GILES MORA FSA: The American Vision (Abrams)
  - MARIA CRISTINA ORive Luis González Palma (La Azotea)
  - SEAN PERRY Transitory: The Abstract (Cloverleaf Press)

- The Special Collections staff regularly bring their expertise and knowledge about our holdings and mission to public audiences. Here are some of their recent presentations:
  - CONNIE TODD, Curator, made several presentations related to her English translation of the Spanish text in photographer Graciela Iturbide’s book Eyes to Fly With, including presentation and voiceover narration for a short video which premiered at Texas State’s Race, Ethnicity & Place Conference, and simultaneous translation during the Q&A portion of the Wintzell Gallery’s bilingual exhibition reception program. She also moderated a panel featuring Bill Wittliff and Graciela Iturbide at the 2006 Texas Book Festival.
  - STEVE DAVIS, the Southwestern Writers Collection Assistant Curator, presented the paper, “Eros in Dobie Country”, at the Western Literature Association’s Annual Conference. Steve also serves as Area Chair for Southwest Literature at the Southwest / Texas Popular Culture Association’s Annual Conference in Albuquerque.

- Tomblin and Clifford’s sister, Susan, comments from Cliffsordon State Texas pupils read by Dr. Gary Hartman, and student Hanna Loech speaking for herself about what a special experience it was to learn from “Professor Antone.”

- A live music set with Anton’s regulars Lou Ann Barton on vocals, Derek O’brien on guitar. Scott Nelson on bass, and Jay Moeller on drums had the audience singing the blues and left everyone asking for more.

- ON THE EVENING of February 28, over 170 people gath-
ered to pay tribute to the late CLIFFORD ANTOINE and thank LUCKY and BECKY TOMBLIN, and SilverStar Entertainment, for their gift to the Southwestern Writers Collection of interview and production materials from Antone’s Home of the Blues, a documentary about the legend blues lover and his Austin nightclub. The Tomblins’ gift included over 300 tapes of raw digi-
tal footage video, publicity materials, and other items relat-
ed to the documentary’s production and screening. The event featured introductions by SWWC curator Connie Todd who also expressed the Collection’s gratitude for the gift, highlights from the film, remarks by Lucky

- WE WERE HONORED to welcome AMY COBRECKE as our new Administrative Assistant handling the front office, mailing list, student workers, and event coordination. Amy received her Bachelors of Interna-
tional Studies, Business focus from Texas State in 2001. She returned to pursue her Master’s in History, with an emphasis in Public History. While in that program, she was engaged in the Archives Management class taught by our Lead Archivist Kathy Salaman, and this led her to an internship with Processing Archivist Joel Minne. Her positive experiences in Special Collections prompted her to apply for the Administrative Assistant II position after receiving her Masters. Her versatile back-
ground, expert multi-
tasking skills, and experience with public archiving made her a perfect fit. Join us in welcoming Amy to the collection staff.

- The collection staff SPEAKS OUT

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COMO FAMILIA  
celebrating texas mexican literature

—BY HERB CANALES  
Almost 400 people attended the February 10 celebration of a landmark occasion: the publication of *Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas Mexican Literature*, which is part of the Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series.

The music of Conjunto Aztlán and the traditional sounds of accordion virtuoso Santiago Jiménez, Jr., the colorful splash of Mexican rebozos (shawls) in a mini-mercado, food, all contributed to a festive and welcoming atmosphere.

The works represented in the anthology are deserving of the attention and respect accorded the day by University President Dr. Denise Trauth’s presence underscored the importance of the event to Texas State and the value she places on and about Hispanic writers, artists and historical figures of the Hispanic experience. The message to the writers on the day’s keynote speakers.

Volunteer with us

Have you ever wondered what goes on “behind the scenes” at the Southwestern Writers Collection? Find out by becoming a volunteer! We have internships and volunteer positions available for students or community members interested in gaining practical experience in an archival setting. Projects may include archiving, processing and preservation of subject guides and collection finding aide, web development, database management, or any number of projects designed to suit your particular talents. For an application or to find out more, please call Katie Saltmann at (512) 245-3861 or e-mail her at saltmann@txstate.edu.
recent ACQUISITIONS

at the SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION

The Collection currently comprises over 5,575 linear feet of materials on site from the region’s authors, screenwriters, and songwriters. Recent acquisitions listed below represent additions to the Collection from August through December 2006. Not listed are the numerous gifts and purchases of books, magazines, films, CDs, and other materials to the holdings. The success of the Southwestern Writers Collection is due in part to the generous support of our donors—thank you! Tres Navarre mystery author, RICK RIOJAN, has found success with his new “Penny Jackson and the Olympics” series of books for children. Manuscripts for The Lightning Thief, Sea Monster, and other books in the series comprise the most recent addition to his archives. [Gift of Riodan] The TEXAS MONTHLY archives continue to grow, with 86 additional boxes of editorial files from 1990–2000, as well as other business records and printed materials documenting the on-going history of the magazine. [Gift of TEXAS MONTHLY] Recent additions to the JOE R. LANSDALE archives reflect the popular author’s prolific writing career. Manuscripts include drafts for The Beast, A Fine Dark Line, Lost Echoes, and Nightshade (a screenplay). Also included in the gift are materials relating to Lansdale’s public appearances, name tags, a T-shirt, audio books, and two CDs featuring Lansdale’s singing-songwriter daughter, Kasey. [Gift of Lansdale] SilverStar Entertainment’s documentary, ANTONIE’S HOME OF THE BLUES celebrates the life and legacy of renowned Austin club owner, CLIFFORD “ANTONE” (see page 11). The film brings together rare footage of live performances and interviews with artists such as Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, and Jimmy Vaughan, and the archives include over 300 tapes of raw footage used in the production of the documentary. [Gift of Anthony “Lucky” & Becky Tomblin] The bulk of new additions to the LARRY J. KING archives is correspondence, manuscripts, research, and reviews related to the publication of his most recent books, In Search of Willie Morris: The Mercurial Life of a Legendary Writer and Editor, but other aspects of King’s writing career and personal life are also documented. [Gift of King] GROVER LEWIS manuscripts and correspondence complete the extensive archives of the former Rolling Stone, New West, and TEXAS MONTHLY writer. In addition to his magazine career, this new material documents his research and writings on subjects as varied as Bonnie and Clyde, Texas Governor John Connally, Larry Flint, Lightning Hopkins, Richard Pryor, and Jann Wenner. [Gift of Rae Lewis] Additions from JOHN SEPICH provide further insight into Notes on Blood Meridian, his study of CORNAC MCCARROLL’s pivotal work. Materials include various drafts of the manuscript, correspondence, notes, and a 1990 spiral-bound annotated manuscript, “More Notes on Cormac: McCarthy’s Blood Meridian and an Explanation.” [Gift of Sepich] Additional materials from THOMAS RICKS LINDELEY, author of Alamo Traces: New Evidence and New Conclusions, include manuscript drafts of the novel, correspondence, personal papers, books, and several photographs of the 15th anniversary celebration of the Battle of the Alamo (1836). [Gift of Lindeley] Memorabilia and other items from the AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL include a “swag” bag, passes, flyers, advertisement, and conference schedule. [Gift of Conni Todd] at the WITTLIFF GALLERY

Holdings recently topped 14,100 photographs. New purchases include: The BERNARDI-GOMEZ collection of over 600 family photographs, postcards, tins, types, ambrotypes, and daguerreotypes from Mexico; Ninety-nine 16” x 20” photographs by GRIACELA ITURRISE including many for the Ojos para volar / Eyes for Flight exhibition; 30 large format photographs of birds and flowers by KATE BREAH; Five 11” x 14” photographs, including El periquito / The Parakeet, by MANUEL ALVAREZ BRAVO; Nine con polvo, an 11” x 14” photograph by MANUEL CARRELO and Little Mary, a 20” x 24” toned photograph by JACQ SPENCER—both on display in the Little Heroes exhibit; One dye-transfer print by PAUL CAPONIGRO; One dye-transfer print by new WG artist STEVE FITCH; Recent gifts include: Two ilfochrome prints by new WG artist LARA PFEIFFER CALFE [Gift of Dennis Fagan] One photograph by DANNY LYON and two by KEITH CARTER [Gift of Bill & Sally Windsor] Eight by LEIZAR BLANCO from the 1970s [anonymous gift]. We are particularly grateful for the very generous gift donated by Andrew Smith & Claire Licorzi of 51 images by MICHEL GANDERT from the 1990s, two photographs dated 1867 by FRANCES ALBERT, and a black-and-white print by new WG artist ERNEST KNEE.

BUD SHRAKE wrote in March 1988 to his friend and literary colleague LARRY L. KING with some important news: “I have finally consented to play the difficult part of Sodbuster Two in Lonesome Dove.” Shrake’s character would appear on screen only briefly before being shot, hanged, and burned by the Suggs Gang. Shrake told King, “As of now, there is no dialogue except for screams.” Shrake noted that “Billy D. Wittliff marketed the role of Sodbuster One. But I felt that since he is also the [writer and] producer, it was more professional of me to not threaten to walk over the small matter of One or Two. There are no small roles, as you know, only small actors.”

Lonesome Dove is beloved by millions of fans around the world, but relatively few are aware of the intense preparation Sodbuster Two brought to his role. Fortunately, papers within the Edwin “Bud” Shrake Archives at the Southwestern Writers Collection bring to light this previous overlooked history.

In 2005 Shrake substantially enhanced his existing archives at the SNWC with an extensive donation that creates a near-complete collection of his archives. These documents from the ARCHIVES
on exhibit
Southwestern Writers Collection
FEB 1 – MAY 15, 2007
HECHO EN TEJAS
Celebrating the SWWC’s newly published reader of Texas Mexican literature with a selection of books, photographs, and literary excerpts reflecting the Mexican American experience as seen in the anthology. (see pp. 12-13)
JUN 1 – JUL 31, 2007
WHAT WILDERNESS IS THIS
Women Write the Southwest
Manuscripts, photographs, excerpts, biographies of selected writers, and numerous books showcase the next anthology in the SWWC series. (see p. 4)

Wittliff Gallery
THROUGH JUN 15, 2007
The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is displaying five oversized digital images from Graciela Iturbide’s Eyes to Fly With in celebration of their new Aero Mexico gate.
MAR 24 – AUG 10, 2007
LITTLE HEROES
Presenting the child as subject, in photographs from the permanent collection by 30 of the Wittliff Gallery’s renowned artists, including Lola Álvarez Bravo, Keith Carter, Marco Antonio Cruz, Russell Lee, and Mariana Yampolsky. (see pp. 4-5)
OPENING AUG 22, 2007
LONESOME DOVE
Photographs by Bill Wittliff taken on the set, plus props, costumes, and other items from the CBS film. (see p. 6)

june
8-9 
A LAND FULL OF STORIES
Conference sponsored by the Story Circle Network to mark the new SWWC anthology What Wilderness Is This. (see p. 3)

ONLINE (Directions, parking & archive info)
http://www.library.txstate.edu/spec-coll

COME CELEBRATE TEXAS’ BEST LONE STARS!
Join the Texas Cultural Trust as they honor the 2007 Honorees, including Walter Cronkite, Judith Ivey, and Bill Wittliff. This year’s spectacular show will feature headlining entertainment by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ray Benson and Friends, and Del Castillo.
For information, please call 512-536-1414 or email tmaa@txculturaltrust.org or visit www.txculturaltrust.org/tmaa.