The College of Liberal Arts at Southwest Texas State University

Professorship in Southwestern Studies to be Named for Jerry and Cathy Supple

Southwest Texas State University’s recent designation as the NEH Southwest Regional Humanities Center is the happy culmination of SWT President Jerome H. Supple’s long-term interest in the study of the American Southwest. Dr. Supple, who recently announced his retirement effective August 2002, established SWT’s Center for the Study of the Southwest in 1990. Since then, he has watched the Center gain national recognition for its interdisciplinary exploration of the region’s history, peoples, cultures, and physical environments. Dr. Supple and his wife Cathy helped the Center to obtain two challenge grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities — one to endow the Center and one to designate it as the NEH Regional Humanities Center — in addition to seven other grants from NEH and/or

Porter House Receives National Landmark Designation

Since it was purchased and restored through a community effort, led by Bill Johnson and the Burdine Johnson Foundation 1997-2000, the childhood home of novelist Katherine Anne Porter (in Kyle, near San Marcos) has become a major literary center, attracting audiences to readings by nationally-acclaimed novelists and poets such as National Book Award-winner Tim O’Brien, MacArthur Foundation Grant-winner Leslie Marmon Silko, Former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, and Pulitzer Prize-winner Annie Proulx. The University’s MFA Program in Creative Writing also oversees a writer-in-residence at the House, and MFA students attend writing workshops there given by visiting writers and SWT’s widely-published MFA faculty.

In April, the Katherine Anne Porter House was designated as a National Literary Landmark by the Friends of Libraries USA, in partnership with the Library of Congress. “Ms. Porter was an important author and the site is important in that she spent her childhood years there and later wrote about the site in her work. In addition, the site is accessible to the public, is maintained beautifully, and provides wonderful literary events to the public,” said Gail Bialas, manager of the Texas Center for the Book, a program of the Library of Congress that nominated the House for Literary Landmark designation.

Porter, author of many short stories and one novel, was born May 15, 1890, in Indian Creek, TX, and died Sept. 18, 1980, in Silver Spring, MD. A Southerner who led a cosmopolitan life, her circle of acquaintances included Mexican President Miguel Obregón, Nazi Party Leader Hermann Göring, and Southern writers Eudora Welty and Allen Tate, and she was often invited to the Johnson White House. In the early 1890s, after her moth-
Dean's Message: Our Name Should Reflect Our Accomplishments

Dear Friends,

In recent months you may have followed the news about Southwest Texas State University’s quest to change its name to “Texas State University.” Although SWT’s governing body, the Texas State University System Board of Regents, tabled the name-change proposal at its February meeting, it left the door open to reconsider the proposal later.

The proposal to change SWT’s name has generated both strong support and opposition by raising the question of “what’s in a name?” Proponents of the change assert that the word “Southwest” in the University’s name implies an institution of only regional impact, rather than a major university of global impact. Opponents say the present name serves the University well. What is unquestionable is the University’s growing impact outside our region. If we use some of the College of Liberal Arts’ recent accomplishments as indicators of SWT’s influence beyond our campus, then the University’s impact is certainly global. U.S. News and World Report, for example, has recognized our Department of Geography as a significant provider of geographers for U.S. government agencies, especially important now given the country’s need for experts trained in the cultural and political causes of terrorism. Similarly, the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service, in our Department of Political Science, is recognized for training public and non-profit managers in the ethical values and technical competencies associated with outstanding public service. Accomplishments within our humanities departments are also making a national impact:

• The Katherine Anne Porter House was recently designated as a National Literary Landmark. The Porter House, operated in conjunction with SWT’s MFA Program in Creative Writing, holds regular readings and workshops by SWT’s award-winning faculty and by acclaimed writers from around the country.
• A book on Katherine Anne Porter, edited by SWT English faculty, has been named by CHOICE Magazine as an Outstanding Academic Publication for 2001. CHOICE recommends book purchases to the nation’s academic and research libraries, and only 10 percent of the books it reviews make its “Outstanding” list.
• The Center for the Study of the Southwest and SWT have been designated by the National Endowment for the Humanities as the site of the new NEH Southwest Regional Humanities Center, one of eight centers throughout the U.S. to serve as cultural hubs — researching, preserving, and interpreting the region’s history and cultural resources for a national audience.
• The Department of Philosophy offers the Dialogue Series, a program unique among the nation’s philosophy departments in presenting some 50 informal discussion sessions each semester on philosophical and ethical topics affecting students in their everyday lives. The series draws students from across campus to hear discussions led by SWT faculty experts and distinguished scholars from around the country.
• The Department of Anthropology is proposing to offer a master’s degree in anthropology, in response to demand for such a degree across Texas and beyond. The well-respected department enrolls the largest number of undergraduate anthropology majors in the state, many of whom continue into graduate programs at other Texas universities.
• The Center for Texas Music History has published the second issue of its national journal, The Journal of Texas Music History, the first publication to focus on the entire spectrum of Texas’ distinctive music history.
• Recently, a number of national speakers have visited the College of Liberal Arts to present forums on global issues. The speakers include Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tx), Astronaut Charles Duke, Bush Administration Senior Advisor Karl Rove, and Daniel Callahan, bioethicist for the Centers for Disease Control.

This issue of Mosaic focuses on the accomplishments of the humanities departments in the College of Liberal Arts; a future issue will feature successes in the social sciences. The research of Dr. Sharon K. Ugalde, Professor of Modern Languages, is an outstanding example of our faculty’s ability to affect the global community and to bring the world to our campus. Some of Dr. Ugalde’s literary research has led her to examine the social, political, and gender problems emphasized in the poetry of post-civil-war Spain. Dr. Ugalde is completing the first anthology of some 30 women poets born between 1925 and 1949 — poets whose work reflects the prevailing poetic styles of the period and also delineates a female poetic tradition that has been little studied until now. In the classroom at SWT, Ugalde finds poetry a powerful tool in leading students toward a fuller understanding of the human experience. In the broader world, her research is sure to influence critical thought on Spanish poetry.

Through the work of Liberal Arts programs and individual faculty members, we are being acknowledged increasingly as an intellectual hub of scholarship and achievement. We are a different institution than we were just 20 years ago — a recognized power in Texas higher education. The name “Texas State University” will fit us well.

Ann Marie Ellis, Ph.D., Dean

Mosaic is published twice a year by the SWT College of Liberal Arts. SWT is a member of the Texas State University System and an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution. Mosaic’s circulation includes some 2,000 copies distributed to alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the College of Liberal Arts. If you are receiving more than one copy of Mosaic, please let us know. We welcome your correspondence and comments. Mail to Dean Ann Marie Ellis, Flowers Hall 313, SWT, 601 University Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666; fax to 512/245-8291 or email to ef12@swt.edu. Visit the College of Liberal Arts website at www.liberalarts.swt.edu.
Philosophy for Lunch:
Dialogues Cross Academic Boundaries

Nearly every day during the fall and spring semesters, the Department of Philosophy offers SWT students and faculty the opportunity to examine current events and lifestyle issues from a variety of philosophical viewpoints, in its Philosophy Dialogue Series. Each semester, the department schedules some 50 informal discussion sessions that participants can attend during lunch or early afternoon, on subjects such as terrorism and peace, hospital bioethics, prayer in public schools, the moral dimensions of environmentalism, the selfish nature of love, sport and a meaningful life, coping through humor, and experiencing music from different perspectives. Participants can also examine the more technical aspects of philosophy in sessions such as Nietzsche’s and Hitler’s philosophical legacies, Howard Van Till’s teleological argument for God’s existence, and knowledge and rational action. Discussions are led by visiting philosophers and experts and by faculty from all SWT colleges.

The Dialogue Series is an activity of the Philosophy Department’s Critical Thinking Complex and the introductory philosophy course taken by more than 2,000 students each semester. The series serves to supplement classroom instruction in critical thinking. Through the series, students have the opportunity to apply their critical thinking skills to real issues.

"No other program in the country offers so much philosophical presentation on such a range of topics, on a daily basis," said Philosophy Department Chair Vince Luizzi, who adds that the series has enhanced the campus’ intellectual climate by promoting interdisciplinary learning. "Faculty members from many departments cooperate to lead the dialogues, showing how philosophy applies to other disciplines and how our philosophy curriculum is enriched by the many voices addressing it," he said.

Luizzi aims to enhance the Dialogue Series by securing an endowment that would fund one lecture per semester by a prominent speaker. The department recently hosted a lecture on bioethics by Daniel Callahan, director of a bioethics research institute of the Centers for Disease Control, which drew a campuswide audience. The department plans to bring a speaker on the topic of poverty and hunger in Fall 2002 and a speaker on spirituality in Spring 2003.

If you have an interest in co-sponsoring such an event with the department or attending the series, please call Dr. Vince Luizzi, Chair of the Department of Philosophy, 512/245-2285.

Regents Table Proposal to Change SWT's Name

Calling the timing "not right," SWT’s governing body voted unanimously in February to table a proposal to shorten the school’s name to Texas State University. The vote by the Texas State University System Board of Regents was unanimous. No time frame for reconsideration of the proposal was stipulated, but SWT President Jerome Supple said he is confident that sometime in the future the board will pass it. "The Board did not say no," he said. "Tabling the proposal keeps it alive. Support from the SWT family is strong. We need to send the message that this is the beginning and not an end."

Regent Patricia Diaz Dennis said, "Nothing negative is implied about the issue by this vote. It’s not the right time." The Regents are in the process of seeking a replacement for Supple, who will retire in August. Had the Regents approved the name change, the next step would have been consideration of the matter by the Texas Legislature, and the incoming SWT president would have inherited the proposal as a legislative priority.

The proposed name change has been a topic of interest on campus and among alumni nationwide for the past two years. Proponents of the name change assert that the "Southwest" in the university’s name implies an institution of only regional impact, rather than the major university with global impact that it actually has become. The University is working to attain classification as a doctoral-granting institution and proponents fear that its regionalized name will forever hinder a rise in stature. Opponents assert that SWT’s present name serves the university well, and some alumni fear that changing the name will devalue their diplomas, which carry the SWT name. Like most universities that undergo name changes, SWT will offer new diplomas for a nominal fee if the name should change.

SWT has had five names in its history. Those names have been:

- Southwest Texas Normal School —1899-1918
- Southwest Texas Normal College —1918-1923
- Southwest Texas State Teachers College —1923-1959
- Southwest Texas State College —1959-1969
- Southwest Texas State University —1969-present

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Dr. David Callahan, of the Centers for Disease Control, speaks on bioethics.

Professor Karen Knox, right, leads students in a discussion of current controversies in social work ethics.
Center for Texas Music History Reaches a Wide Audience

Many of the influences shaping the sound, the symbolism, and the economy of early Texas music are not from Texas, according to an article by Karl Hagstrom Miller in the Fall 2001 issue of The Journal of Texas Music History, published by SWT’s Center for Texas Music History. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, writes Miller, traveling minstrel troupes began introducing Texans to commercial song from throughout the nation. Radio and the phonograph also brought national and international sounds and styles to the people of Texas. Moreover, many of the performers we think of as “Texans” were in fact transplanted natives of other states and countries. Whatever its origins, the music emanating from Texas was perceived as different from the music of the rest of the nation. And, reaching ever-wider audiences, the music continues to be embraced as a distinctively Texan art whose history deserves study and preservation.

Since it was inaugurated in 2000 to study and preserve the musical history of Texas and the Southwest, the SWT Center for Texas Music History has promoted activities that have reached a large audience. The Center has gained state and national recognition for its course offerings, publications, concerts, CDs, and a variety of other efforts.

Now entering its third year, the Center has expanded class sizes to accommodate an increased number of students, and the Center’s Journal of Texas Music History — the first academic journal to focus on the entire spectrum of Texas music history — has attracted national attention to the program, bringing scholars and students to SWT for research and coursework. The Center has produced two well-received compact disks in its Travelin’ Texas series, featuring selections from widely diverse Texas artists such as Asleep at the Wheel, Tish Hinojosa, Marcia Ball, Joe Ely, Slaid Cleaves, Step Rideau & the Zydeco Outlaws, Aztex, W.C. Clark, and others. The most recent CD, produced in October 2001, includes such Texas artists as George Strait, Delbert McClinton, Sara Hickman, Billy Joe Shaver, Eliza Gilkyson, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and others. And the Center’s popular Texas Music History Unplugged lecture and concert series has brought to campus prominent Texas musicians to perform and discuss how Texas music reflects the historical and cultural evolution of the Southwest. The Center also sponsored singer/songwriter Willis Alan Ramsey, who performed to a standing-room-only audience.

On other fronts, the Center will publish The Handbook of Texas Music with the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Music Office in the Office of the Governor. Look for the Handbook in 2003. SWT students have researched and written nearly 200 articles for the Handbook, which will be the definitive encyclopedia of Texas music history and a companion publication to the larger New Handbook of Texas. Also in collaboration with the Texas Music Office, the Center has created the Texas Music Bibliography, an extensive on-line bibliography of books, articles, and other publications pertaining to the history of music in Texas and the Southwest that enables students and researchers to search on-line for materials relating to Texas music history. The Center has acquired a number of new collections for SWT’s Texas Music Archives, including the Guadalupe San Miguel Jr. Archives, the Texas Heritage Music Foundation Archives, the Mike Crowley Music Archives, and the Roger Polson and Cash Edwards Music Archives. In addition, students have conducted oral interviews with various individuals involved in music, which will become part of the permanent archive. The Center also has been asked to collaborate with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin to present an exhibit about Texas music in the fall of 2002. The project will be done in conjunction with the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville and with the Austin-based PBS television program Austin City Limits, which has showcased more than 500 of America’s best musical performers in its 27 years on the air.
**SWT Students are Among the First to Hear About O’Brien’s New Book**

Although writer Tim O’Brien’s new novel, *July, July*, won’t be published by Houghton Mifflin until October 2002, SWT graduates and undergraduates have already had the opportunity to become acquainted with its plot and characters by attending O’Brien’s public readings on-campus and by taking his creative writing courses in the Department of English. The novel follows 11 main characters, most of whom are women, from their youth in July 1969 to their middle age in July 2000. O’Brien reveals that the characters’ youthful outlooks are shaped by the 1960s sense that the world is going to become a better place and that their middle age is sometimes tempered by disillusionment. “The book was challenging and fun to write,” O’Brien tells students, explaining that it represents his first attempt to write a novel dominated by women’s voices.

O’Brien, in his second year at SWT as holder of the Mitte Chair in Creative Writing, is author of seven novels and short story collections, including the 1990 collection on Vietnam, *The Things They Carried*, the title story of which is among the most anthologized stories of its time. In his graduate writing workshops, O’Brien asks his students to submit one or more manuscripts each week for him to review. He returns the manuscripts with “hard-nosed advice” on character and plot development, story pacing, language usage, and more — the kind of advice he says they would receive from a publishing-house editor. And he regularly meets with students individually to go over manuscripts line by line, giving them the benefit of his more than thirty years of experience in writing award-winning fiction. O’Brien, a Vietnam veteran, is considered the most important writer about the Vietnam War era. *The Things They Carried* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and won the prestigious French Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger. O’Brien’s 1979 book *Going After Cacciato* won the National Book Award, and his 1994 novel *In the Lake of the Woods* received the James Fenimore Cooper Prize from the Society of American Historians.

“I’ve had some terrific students already, ones who have an aptitude for knowing what a good story is,” said O’Brien, pointing out that SWT’s relatively new MFA Program is attracting outstanding students from around the country, in competition with the well-established creative writing programs at Stanford, New York University, Iowa State University, and elsewhere. “Since we must compete nationally for the best students, it would help our program immensely to be able to change the university’s name to ‘Texas State University.’ Students from New York think ‘Texas’ sounds far away, but they think that ‘Southwest Texas’ is even farther,” O’Brien said. *(Please see story on SWT’s name change, page 3.)*

O’Brien’s upcoming book, *July, July*, has been excerpted several times recently in *The New Yorker* and Esquire magazines, and *Esquire* will excerpt it again this summer.

**NEH Designation**

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SWT’s other prestigious humanities programs and art collections, including the Katherine Anne Porter House and MFA Program in Creative Writing, the Hispanic Writers Collection, the Southwestern Writers Collection, the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, and the Center for Texas Music History, will receive $378,900 from NEH, to be matched 3:1 to create an endowment of $1.5 million supporting the NEH Center’s educational programs regionally and nationally. In support of the endowment, SWT will establish The Jerome H. and Catherine E. Supple Professorship of Southwestern Studies, honoring the Supples for their commitment to the study of the Southwest *(please see related story on page 1).*

Dr. Mark Busby, director of SWT’s Center for the Study of the Southwest, will direct the NEH regional center project. He said, “The National Endowment for the Humanities’ designation of SWT as the Southwest Regional Humanities Center marks the culmination of one of Jerry Supple’s major initiatives during his tenure as president. He realized that we were poised as a regional university to demonstrate the national and international significance of understanding the particulars of place. He and Cathy focused much of their energies on building our regional programs, knowing that we could gain national recognition as the locus for knowing the Southwest. The Regional Center designation and the endowment in the Supples’ name are fitting legacies.”

**Book on Katherine Anne Porter Wins National Recognition**

*CHOICE Magazine* has named a book edited by two SWT professors an Outstanding Academic Publication for 2001. The book, *From Texas to the World and Back: The Journeys of Katherine Anne Porter*, was edited by Dr. Mark B. Busby, director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest, and Dr. Dickie M. Heaberlin, Professor of English, and it was published by TCU Press. *CHOICE Magazine* makes recommendations on book purchases to academic and research libraries. The magazine names only 10 percent of the books it reviews to the Outstanding Academic Publication list.

The book also was selected by the *San Antonio Express News* as one of the best books about Texas for 2001.

**Students Publish San Antonio Missions Guide**

Visitors can now tour the Alamo and San Antonio’s four other surviving Franciscan missions with the help of a guidebook produced by SWT history students. The guidebook provides information on the 18th-century missions as sophisticated agricultural systems and distinctive houses of worship, and on the close of the mission era. The guidebook can be purchased for $8 by contacting the SWT History Department at (512) 245-2142, eb04@swt.edu.
Supple Professorship
Continued from page 1 . . .

the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to train scholars and teachers from across the region. The Supples have also aided in the establishment of many resources on the study of the Southwest, including the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern and Mexican Photography, the Hispanic Writers Collection, the Katherine Anne Porter House and Literary Center, the Center for Archaeological Studies, the Texas Rivers Center at Aquarena Springs, the Freeman Ranch, and the Center for Texas Music History.

To honor the Supples’ distinguished accomplishments on behalf of the study of the Southwest, the University has launched a $600,000 campaign to establish The Jerome H. and Catherine E. Supple Professorship for Southwestern Studies. The Professorship will be held by leading scholars in the humanities, whose focus will be to transmit Southwestern heritage through research, teaching, preservation, and public programming. The Supple Professorship will engage in activities and lead programs that highlight the distinctive culture of the Southwest.

The University welcomes your participation in establishing The Jerome H. and Catherine E. Supple Professorship in Southwestern Studies. Contributions designated to the Supple Professorship may be sent to The College of Liberal Arts, FH 313, SWT, 601 University Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666. More information is available by calling Rebecca J. “Becky” Huff, Development Officer, College of Liberal Arts, (512) 245-1893.

Porter House
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er’s death, Porter moved to the house at Kyle with her father and sisters, where they are believed to have lived until about 1902-1904. The house was owned by Porter’s grandmother and was sold upon her grandmother’s death. Porter played in the house and in the surrounding area with her childhood friend, Erna Schlemmer, whose son, Curt Engelhorn, later established the Angel Foundation, named in Schlemmer’s honor. The Angel Foundation provided an endowment supporting the operation of the house and its writer-in-residence. A gift from the Burdine Johnson Foundation made possible the home’s historically-accurate renovation.

The Katherine Anne Porter House is only the second literary landmark to be designated in Texas; the first is the O. Henry Museum in Austin, home of short story writer William Sidney Porter (better known as O. Henry). Other literary landmarks include the homes of famous writers (Tennessee Williams, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, William Faulkner), libraries, museum collections, and literary scenes (such as John’s Grill in San Francisco that was immortalized by Dashiell Hammett, and Willa Cather’s Prairie near Red Cloud, Nebraska).

Hutchison Gives Grosvenor Lecture

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) gave the Fourth Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture in the SWT Department of Geography, soon after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. In her remarks, she acknowledged "the indomitable American spirit," echoing President George W. Bush’s assertion that the U.S. will not rest till terrorist groups of global reach have been found and defeated. Sen. Hutchison discussed her legislation to federalize aviation security and promote the country’s energy self-sufficiency. She applauded the SWT Geography Department as a resource for understanding the geographic, cultural, and economic roots of terrorism. Pictured with Sen. Hutchison are (l-r) Grosvenor Center Director Dr. Richard G. Boehm, National Geographic Society Board Chair Gilbert M. Grosvenor, and SWT President Jerome H. Supple.

Mars Sooner or Later

What do TV satellite dishes, medical imaging, cordless tools, thermal fabrics, and advanced plastics have in common? They’re all products developed from inventions used in the NASA space program. Apollo 16 Astronaut Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke Jr. emphasized the space program’s applications to everyday life when he gave the Fourth James Charles M. Duke Jr. emphasized the space program’s applications to everyday life when he gave the Fourth James Lovell Distinguished Lecture, sponsored by the Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. In his remarks, Gen. Duke said, “The desire to explore will take us to Mars sooner or later. It is our job to teach our children to think of the next step.” Duke is one of only 12 astronauts to have walked on the moon’s surface.

Geography Department Named as the Sun Center of Excellence

A $2 million gift to SWT has established the Department of Geography and the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education as the Sun Center of Excellence. An important goal of this joint initiative is to prepare middle- and high-school teachers in the high-tech concepts of Geographic Information Science. GI Science, a fast-growing career field, uses computers and remote sensing imagery to obtain data and develop maps and analyses for use by people in occupations ranging from real estate and environmental agencies to Hollywood and the FBI. Faculty and graduate students will develop GI Science curricula and support applications for secondary teachers that will be introduced into Central Texas schools in 2002-2003 and into curricula nationwide in 2003-2004.
SWT to Offer Master's Degree in Anthropology

Building from the most popular elective course on campus — "Magic, Ritual, and Religion" — the Department of Anthropology has created an exciting and well-respected undergraduate program in anthropology. Now the department is seeking approval from the SWT Board of Regents to offer a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology. The degree would prepare students to enter a range of professional fields that employ anthropologists, including medical primatology, applied anthropometry, forensic anthropology, foreign affairs, tourism, international business, world health services, and cultural resource management. It would also prepare students for continuing graduate work and teaching careers in anthropology.

The Department of Anthropology enrolls the largest number of undergraduate anthropology majors in the state, many of whom continue in graduate programs at other Texas universities. SWT’s proposed graduate program will provide training in general anthropology and in specific areas of specialization not offered by other universities in the state. For example, the program will draw on the faculty’s strength as specialists in Mesoamerican anthropology, archaeology, iconography, and analysis of prehistoric skeletal remains to offer the state’s only holistic training in Mesoamerican studies. In addition, the program will be the only one in Texas to offer graduate training in forensic anthropology by employing a nationally board-certified specialist.

According to USA Today (Feb. 18, 1999) and U.S. News and World Report (Aug. 10, 1998), corporations increasingly employ anthropologists whose ability to collect and analyze behavioral data contributes to companies’ ability to deliver what international consumers want in a culturally-sensitive manner. In addition, federal and state laws require cultural resource management of sites in jeopardy of destruction. In Texas, the number of projects that require archaeological investigation is increasing as development expands at an unprecedented rate in response to urban growth. Several private cultural resource management companies and university centers, such as the Center for Archaeological Studies at SWT, have emerged to meet the requirements of federal and state mandates. Currently in Texas, there is a shortage of archaeologists to conduct surveys and excavations. Also, Texas’ growing intercultural business partnerships with Mexico and other Latin American countries assure the need for professionals who understand the social, economic, and political relationships between countries.

The Department of Anthropology is seeking support for its Center for Archaeological Studies and for scholarships for anthropology students. If you have an interest in supporting these programs, please call Dr. Britt Bousman, Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, 512/245-8272.

In Memoriam: Dr. Betty Kissler

Dr. Betty Jane Kissler, a 40-year SWT member of the history faculty and mentor to many students and residents of San Marcos, died April 1, 2002, after a long illness. She was 76. Dr. Kissler came to SWT in 1958 and went on to become chair of the Department of History, led numerous faculty organizations and was named a distinguished professor emeritus in 1995.

Dr. Kissler was active on several committees examining the role of women in higher education, leading the Title IX Committee, participating in the SWT Status of Women Committee, and serving as president of the League of Women Voters. She also served 10 years as a San Marcos City Council member.

Dr. Bob Gratz, SWT Vice President of Academic Affairs, remembered Dr. Kissler as a passionate professor who strove to help other teachers of history. She was state president of the Texas Association of College Teachers and the American Association of University Professors, and was chair of the State Commission on Standards for the Teaching Profession. “Dr. Kissler’s professional service was really legendary,” Gratz said.

Dr. Kissler’s family requests that anyone wishing to make a donation in her honor consider supporting the Fitzpatrick/Clayton/Kissler Scholarship in History. Checks should be written to “SWT Development Foundation” and designated to the "Kissler Fund.” Mailing address: SWT Development Services, 601 University Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666.
The College of Liberal Arts
at Southwest Texas State University

SWT Wins NEH Designation as Regional Humanities Center

"Through the Center for the Study of the Southwest, we will collect and examine the forms of art and of thought which have over the centuries shaped this region of the world. . . . My hope is that the Center will ultimately receive international recognition for its understanding, promotion, and celebration of this unique culture we call the Southwest."

— President Jerome H. Supple, 1990

President Supple’s hope was realized recently when The National Endowment for the Humanities selected SWT and the Center for the Study of the Southwest as the site of the new NEH Southwest Regional Humanities Center. In a national competition, SWT was selected over its competitor, Arizona State University, to be one of eight regional centers to serve as cultural hubs, supporting research and public programming on regional topics and documenting and preserving regional history and cultural resources. (Please see map for a complete listing of the NEH Regional Humanities Centers in the U.S.)

The NEH designation acknowledges SWT’s Center for the Study of the Southwest as the premiere institute of its kind, engaging audiences throughout the Southwest in the interdisciplinary exploration of the region’s history, people, cultures, and physical environments. The NEH Southwest Regional Humanities Center will build on the programs of the Center for the Study of the Southwest and on

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NEH Regional Humanities Centers

SWT joins a distinguished group of eight universities designated as NEH Regional Humanities Centers. The other regional centers include Temple University, Philadelphia (Mid-Atlantic region); Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville (South Atlantic region); Tulane University, New Orleans (Deep South region); University of Wisconsin, Madison (Upper Mississippi region); Ohio University, Athens (Central region); University of Nebraska, Lincoln (Great Plains region); and University of California, Davis (Pacific region). Two schools, Brown University and the University of New Hampshire, are still under consideration to represent the New England region.