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:

Texas Politics Today, 2009-2010
Cynthia Opheim, contributing author
Professor, Political Science

A perennial best-seller on Texas politics, this 14th edition – co-edited by William Earl Maxwell of San Antonio College, author Ernest Crain, and Adolfo Santos of the University of Houston-Downtown – offers a wide range of viewpoints from multiple authors, each a recognized authority on the Lone Star State. Its in-depth, nuanced presentations of such current issues as diversity, immigration, redistricting and the 2008 election give readers a realistic perspective of the Texas political system and decision-making processes. A chapter by Opheim describes the unique history and development of the party system in Texas. For almost 100 years following the Civil War, Texas was dominated by the Democratic Party. The chapter discusses the rise of the Republican Party in Texas, the reasons for this ascendance, and the prospects for two-party competition in the state’s future. (Wadsworth)

Just Food: Where Locavores Get It Wrong and How We Can Truly Eat Responsibly
James McWilliams
Associate Professor, History

We suffer today from food anxiety, bombarded as we are with confusing messages about how to eat a healthful and ethical diet. Should we eat locally? Is organic farming really better for the environment? Can genetically modified food and farm-raised catfish be good for us? And is it possible to be a meat-eater and still be green?

Drawing on hard facts, McWilliams reveals that the greenest food choices are often surprising. For example, transporting fruits and vegetables from thousands of miles away may be more energy efficient than growing them at the farm down the road; genetically modified crops can keep millions of pounds of insecticides off American fields every year; and farm-raised freshwater fish may soon be our most sustainable form of protein. McWilliams also confronts some urgent but inconvenient truths: In order to build a truly sustainable agricultural system, we must start treating beef as a delicacy, to be consumed as rarely as caviar. Despite its good intentions, organic farming is not likely to feed the world and, in certain cases, can be environmentally harmful. (Little, Brown and Co.)

J. Frank Dobie: A Liberated Mind
Steven L. Davis
Assistant Curator, Southwestern Writers Collection

In this lively biography, Davis takes a fresh look at J. Frank Dobie (1888-1964), the famous folklorist and raconteur who dominated Texas letters during the first half of the 20th century. Dobie’s early devotion to the open range gradually transformed into a belief in an open mind, and by the 1940s he was calling for the complete integration of UT-Austin. The epitaph Dobie penned for his own tombstone sums up his life’s journey: “I have come to value liberated minds as the supreme good of life on earth.” Author Larry McMurtry says the book is “a crisp, reliable and thorough biography. . . . Steve Davis gives us a much richer understanding of Dobie than we have had previously. All in all, a fine effort.” (University of Texas Press)

Dedicated to the People of Darfur: Writings on Fear, Risk, and Hope
Tom Grimes, Contributor
Director, MFA Program in Creative Writing

Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners, O. Henry Award recipients and bestselling authors come together to share personal challenges and experiences in this anthology, conceived by editors Luke Reynolds and Jennifer Reynolds as a way to raise funds to end the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. In 50 essays, the writers celebrate the glories gained from taking risks, breaking down barriers and overcoming obstacles. In keeping with the themes of fear, risk and hope, Texas State’s Tom Grimes contributes an essay titled “Prozac Variations,” exploring his period of struggle with paranoia. Other authors – Frank McCourt, Jane Smiley, Robert Pinsky, Nadine Gordimer, Philip Lopate, Kim Edwards – provide often humorous commentary on gun control, social justice, passion and its sacrifices, and adventures such as skydiving, mountain climbing and golfing. Royalties from book sales will benefit the Save Darfur Coalition. (Rutgers University Press)

Global Community: Global Security
Randall Osborne, editor
Professor, Psychology

The essays in this volume, which is co-edited by Paul Kriese of the political science faculty at Indiana University, grew out of two international conferences in 2006 – one at England’s Oxford University and one at Texas State. The conferences were attended by professionals from a variety of careers and disciplines who concluded that global
security cannot be achieved until people around the world realize our commonalities and view ourselves as a global community. Authors discuss topics such as the role of universal social justice in achieving global security, integrating military and civilian agencies in the war on terrorism, what to do about suicide terrorism, human and ecological sustainability, challenges to global security such as religion, race and fear of "other," and promoting an inclusive world view. Vincent Luizzi, chair of Texas State's Department of Philosophy, writes the foreword. (Rodopi)

**Great Lives from History: The 20th Century**
Robert Gorman, editor
Professor, Political Science

Filling 10 volumes and more than 5,200 pages, *Great Lives from History: The 20th Century* features 1,300 in-depth articles on important women and men in all areas of achievement from around the world. The set includes biographies of major world leaders and lesser-known individuals central to the century, who left their imprint on social, political and spiritual institutions. The individuals, many of them living, are identified with one or more of the following regions: Africa, Asia, Australia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, South America and Southeast Asia. Access to Salem History, the press' new online database, is available free to purchasers of the print edition. (Salem Press)

**Eve's Enlightenment: Women's Experience in Spain and Spanish America, 1726-1839**
Catherine Jaffe, editor
Professor, Modern Languages

Eve's portrayal in the Bible as a sinner and a temptress seemed to represent and justify women's inferior position in society for much of history. During the Enlightenment, women challenged these traditional gender roles by joining the public sphere as writers, intellectuals, philanthropists, artists and patrons of the arts. Some sought to reclaim Eve by recasting her as a positive symbol of women's abilities and intellectual curiosity. In *Eve's Enlightenment*, the first interdisciplinary essay collection on the subject published in English, leading scholars in the fields of history, art history, literature and psychology discuss how Enlightenment philosophies compared to women's actual experiences in Spain and Spanish America during the period. In this book co-edited by Elizabeth Franklin Lewis of the Spanish faculty at the University of Mary Washington, contributors discuss how evolving legal, social and medical norms affected Hispanic women and how art and literature portrayed them. They also examine the contributions these women's experiences make to a transatlantic understanding of the Enlightenment. Contributors agree that the women of Spain and Spanish America not only took part in the social and cultural transformations of the time but also exerted their own power and influence to help guide the Spanish-speaking world toward modernity. (LSU Press)

**The Effectiveness of an Elementary Spanish Reading Intervention**
Maria Guadalupe De la Colina
Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

De la Colina's book evaluates the effectiveness of an intensive reading intervention for Hispanic English language learners in first and second grade in Spanish/English bilingual classrooms. She uses a single-case multiple baseline (across subjects) design. This intervention involving three research-supported techniques was conducted 45 minutes a day, three days a week. The study included three treatment groups in four classrooms, a total of 74 students over a period of 12 weeks. Dependent measures included oral reading fluency scores and comprehension scores from post-reading questions collected every two weeks from equivalent probes. The study concluded that implementing intensive reading fluency interventions in bilingual classrooms is feasible and valuable if it is conducted with fidelity, and if students are highly engaged. (VDM Verlag Publishing House, Germany)

**Together, Alone: A Memoir of Marriage and Place**
Susan Wittig Albert
Southwestern Writers Collection Series
Assistant Curator, Southwestern Writers Collection

Together, Alone opens in 1985, as Albert leaves a successful career as a university administrator at Texas State and begins a new life as a freelance writer, wife and homesteader on a patch of rural land northwest of Austin. She vividly describes the work of creating a home at Meadow Knoll, a place in
which she and Bill raised their own food and animals, while working together and separately on writing projects. Once her sense of home and partnership was firmly established, Albert recalls how she had to find its counterbalance – a place where she could be alone and explore those parts of the self that only emerge in solitude. For her, this place was Lebh Shomea, a silent monastic retreat in South Texas. In writing about her time at Lebh Shomea, Albert reveals the deep satisfaction she finds in belonging to a community of people who have chosen to be apart and experience silence and solitude. (University of Texas Press)

Rethinking Rights: Historical, Political and Philosophical Perspectives
Kenneth Grasso, co-editor
Professor, Political Science

As reports of genocide, terrorism and political violence fill today’s newscasts, more attention is being given to issues of human rights. Most Westerners presume incorrectly that non-Western peoples yearn for the rights celebrated by contemporary liberal culture. This book shows that the identification of rights with contemporary liberal democracy is inaccurate, and it questions the assumptions that rights are self-evident in all circumstances and will overcome any conflicts of thought or interest. Rethinking Rights, co-edited by Bruce Frohnen, senior fellow at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal in Mecosta, Mich., and honoring the work of one of the nation’s foremost constitutional scholars, Georgetown University’s George W. Carey – analyzes the origins of public order in America and constitutional government generally. The contributors discuss Carey’s key insights, including his argument that constitutional government cannot survive without general adherence to a “constitutional morality” binding political actors to the limited roles laid out for them in our frame of government. The essays further delineate a series of issues at the heart of American constitutionalism: Why should political actors respect constitutional restrictions on their exercise of power? What role has the drive to increase the power of political majorities played in the development or derailment of the American political tradition? And what effects have debates and developments regarding presidential power, foreign policy and judicial review had on our constitutional system? (ISI Books)

Technology and Values: Essential Readings
Craig Hanks, editor
Professor, Philosophy

This anthology features 46 essays and book excerpts on technology and values written by pre-eminent figures in the field from the early 20th century to the present. In addition to questions on the philosophy, sociology and theory of technology, the authors address moral and political problems associated with technology and issues relating to gender, biotechnology, everyday artifacts, architecture and the environment. A sample of essay titles includes “Domestic Technology: Labour-saving or Enslaving?,” “How Splendid Technologies Can Go Wrong,” “Ethical Issues in Human Stem Cell Research,” “Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?,” “Preventing a Brave New World,” “Urban Ecological Citizenship,” “Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique” and “Why I Am Not Going To Buy a Computer.” (Wiley-Blackwell)

Examining Five Problem Solving Process Skills in Subtraction: Looking at Hispanic Limited English Proficient Students
Roxane Cuellar Allsup
Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

Allsup investigates the performance of 74 Hispanic fourth graders with limited-English proficiency on problem-solving process skills involving routine three-digit subtraction story problems. This study had two purposes – to identify where the students were having difficulties in mathematical problem solving and to find relationships among each of the five problem-solving process skills. Identifying problem areas will help educators adjust instruction to help students learn math. (VDM Verlag)
Communication Principles for a Lifetime
Steven Beebe
Professor, Communication Studies
Susan Beebe
Senior Lecturer, English

Written by experienced and highly regarded authors and teachers, this fourth-edition introductory textbook helps students to see the relationships among the concepts, skills, theories and contexts of effective communication. The two Texas State authors, along with Diana Ivy of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, emphasize five key principles of communication throughout their textbook: awareness of your communication with yourself and others, effective use and interpretation of verbal messages, effective use and interpretation of nonverbal messages, thoughtful listening and response to others, and appropriate adaptation of messages to others. (Allyn & Bacon)

The Legend Returns and Dies Harder
Another Day: Essays on Film Series
Jennifer Forrest, editor
Professor, Modern Languages

After 1907, filmmakers began creating series based on complex narratives of popular fiction. In this essay collection, authors examine film series around the world from a variety of cultural and critical perspectives. From the American genres of silent cinema, Classic Hollywood cinema, and post-Classic or New Hollywood cinema, authors analyze series such as Tarzan, Nancy Drew and Maisie, as well as two of Hollywood’s most recognized series, James Bond and Star Wars. Other sections examine midcentury Germany’s Fridericus, France’s Angélique and Caroline, the postwar Japanese series Godzilla and Tont-San, the popular Better Tomorrow series from Hong Kong, and several Hindi series from postcolonial India. (McFarland)

Juvenile Sex Offenders: What the Public Needs To Know
Donna Vandiver
Associate Professor, Criminal Justice

Despite the fact that media bombard the public with the notion that sex offenders are everywhere – and could be next door – official sources show that official sex offense rates have been steadily declining over the past 10 years. Yet, when a juvenile is accused of a sexually based crime, media attention is swift and relentless. The truth about juvenile sex offenders is often, therefore, misunderstood. In many cases, such offenders are victims themselves. Vandiver and co-author Camille Gibson of Prairie View A&M reveal the truth about juvenile sex offenders and what can be done to help them and to prevent the cycle of abuse that leads to such tragic outcomes. (Praeger Publishers)

Great Events from History: The 20th Century, 1971-2000
Robert Gorman, editor
Professor, Political Science

Gorman has put together the culminating work in Salem Press’ monumental Great Events from History series, spanning human history from ancient times to the present. The six volumes in this final set provide extended coverage of 1,083 major events of the late 20th century, including advances in science and technology; space probes and the exploration of comets and the outer planets; the birth of personal computers and their worldwide effect on work, play and communication; biotechnology advances, including the map of the human genome and the first successfully cloned mammal. Essays also address the era’s geopolitical events, from the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War in 1973 to the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Important social and cultural developments in daily life are covered, as well, including major literary movements, significant developments in the arts and motion pictures, trends in world population and immigration, and landmark social legislation. The set is intended to meet the needs of high school and college undergraduate students, reference librarians, and general readers at all academic levels. (Salem Press)

British Victorian Women’s Periodicals: Beauty, Civilization and Poetry
Kathryn Ledbetter
Professor, English

Seeking to answer questions about taste, style and the significance of poetry in the lives of 19th-century women, Ledbetter explores themes and patterns of poetry publication in women’s periodicals published throughout the Victorian era. She shows how the periodicals’ advice about maintaining or acquiring social respectability through appropriate fashion, good behavior and regulation of the household is seamlessly integrated with poetry that aimed to inspire, teach and cultivate feeling. Ledbetter questions traditional evaluations of 19th-century sentimental poetry, arguing that women’s periodicals formed a site of power rather than mere indoctrination for its women readers. (Macmillan)