

First annual conference

TOHA's first annual conference, held on April 21, 2012, at Baylor University in Waco, brought together both novice and seasoned oral historians to consider some fascinating topics and thought-provoking ideas. In seven sessions, twenty-one people shared the history they had learned from their research projects, as well as insights into making the oral history experience more productive for both interviewees and interviewers.

Afterwards, one participant summarized well the accomplishments of our first conference: *The TOHA First Annual Conference was a grand success! I attended three sessions, and in all of them the presenters had taken the opportunity to showcase their work quite seriously, and they all did an excellent job of describing their work in both practical and theoretical terms. Even more significant, though, was the fact that in every session, new and unexpected connections were made between people whose work or personal experiences provided new avenues for research, new research sources, or previously missing bits of information needed to complete a story. I think this suggests the unique value of a state conference—it brings together people who are working in the same area, both geographically and topically, people who might not be able to travel to an out-of-state conference but who can benefit greatly from meeting colleagues closer to home.*



Cynthia J. Beeman and Frances Rickard, both of Austin, enjoy visiting during a break between sessions.

See more conference photos on page 4.

Other remarks on the conference echoed those outcomes:

- ★ *I really loved the opportunity to hear about other oral history projects, their concepts and challenges. It's inspiring and invigorating to network with others involved in these projects, and I learned something in every presentation.*
- ★ *Great job! Needed and pertinent. Let's make sure we do this every year!*
- ★ *Wonderful conference, great presentation list, very friendly people. I look forward to the next conference.*
- ★ *I very much enjoyed the panel-style presentations. As a presenter, I enjoyed being able to hear my fellow presenters, and I will say that the format did relieve some pressure, as well. I also enjoyed the laid-back feel that many of the presentations had.*
- ★ *Thank you for giving oral historians of Texas and those who specialize in Texas issues an opportunity to interact.*

TOHA also welcomed thirteen new members and three renewals during the conference.

Save the date!

The Second Annual TOHA Conference will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013, in San Marcos. The Texas State University Department of History will host the conference. Plan now to respond to the call for papers when it appears in the fall and begin making plans for joining us for this important event.

TOHA Board of Directors News



TOHA Board of Directors 2011-2013

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Sound Historian, Volume 14, coming soon

Make sure your TOHA membership is current so that you will receive the forthcoming issue of *Sound Historian*. This issue is jam-packed with articles and book reviews that you will not want to miss.

Manuscripts welcomed

To keep the journal going, we need a constant stream of new articles. Now's the time to write up the outcomes of your oral history research and submit your story to the TOHA journal. *Sound Historian* features articles on multidisciplinary topics that apply oral history in any appropriate subject, as well as articles on the practice, theory, or application of oral history. Article submissions are welcomed from students as well as veteran scholars.

Manuscripts should be 15-20 pages, double-spaced throughout, including quotations, footnotes, and works cited. In matters of style, refer to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th Edition. Submit the original manuscript in a Microsoft Word version, either as a print document mailed to the editor at the address below or as an attachment to an e-mail to ken.hendrickson@mwsu.edu. The journal editor and members of the editorial board, all outstanding Texas oral historians, will review your manuscript and perhaps offer suggestions for its improvement. Once the article is accepted for publication, instructions will be provided concerning electronic submission of the revised manuscript.

Send submissions or inquiries to: Dr. Kenneth E. Hendrickson Jr., Editor, Department of History, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2099; e-mail ken.hendrickson@mwsu.edu; phone 940.397.4150

Book reviewers needed

Sound Historian book review editor, Dan K. Utley, needs volunteers to write reviews of new and classic oral history publications. Let Dan know of your interest today at 512.252.0290 or dku@suddenlink.net.

Back issues coming online

Back issues of *Sound Historian* will soon be accessible online through Baylor University's Digital Library Collection. View other items in the library's digital collection so far, including the Baylor University Institute for Oral History's oral history collection, by visiting digitalcollections.baylor.edu.

Membership news

We have received word that our host institution, Baylor University, can no longer process credit card payments for TOHA. We'll work on that issue, but in the meantime, don't let your membership lapse. Cash and checks still work!

New TOHA brochures will be available soon. If you would like one or fifty to share with friends and colleagues, request them from Lois Myers, at lois_myers@baylor.edu or call her at 254.710.6285.

TOHA on Facebook

Thanks to Jon Maxwell, TOHA is now on Facebook! Keep updated by "liking" us at www.facebook.com/TexasOralHistoryAssociation.

2012 TOHA Awards

Mary Faye Barnes Award for Excellence in Community Oral History

The TOHA Community Award Committee, Michelle Mears and Kay Mizell, presented the TOHA board two nominees for the 2012 Community Oral History Award, both of whom were unanimously approved.

Professor **James W. Mills** will receive the award for his documentation of historic Fort Brown (1846–1946) and its surrounding community before, during, and after World War II. His students at the University of Texas–Brownsville interviewed people with firsthand knowledge of the Fort Brown area during the 1930s and 1940s. Twenty-seven of the forty interviews recorded with area residents were transcribed, edited, and bound in the book, *Memories of Fort Brown*, which is available to the public through libraries and at the Brownsville Heritage Complex gift shop. Mills said, “This project serves as a model for community research as an oral history project. Amazingly, all the people interviewed for this assignment were born at Fort Brown as children of soldiers and officers who were stationed there, or grew up as lifelong residents of the surrounding immediate community. These oral history interviews are an important documentation of Fort Brown in its last decades, as well as significant primary sources in regards to Brownsville and the surrounding community.”

“**The Day That Changed the Face of Lubbock,**” a joint project by the City of Lubbock and Lubbock Independent School District TV also earned the 2012 Community History Award. The project commemorated the fortieth anniversary of the 1970 tornado that tore through Lubbock. City staff and LISD faculty supervised high school students in recording a dozen oral history interviews in the LISD TV studio. A short film resulted, telling the story of the tornado, its aftermath, and the rebuilding efforts that followed. Also, the city created a Web site displaying the full video interviews, along with photographs and other information. In nominating the project, Sarah Hensley, chair of the Lubbock County Historical Commission, wrote, “Ultimately the value of the project may be measured not only by its educational function but also by its role in the preservation of local history.” View the results on the Web site at www.lubbocktornado1970.com.

Congratulations to these two exemplary community projects. Nominations for our 2013 award will be accepted through February 1, 2013. Criteria for the award and the required form for nominating a project are available at www.baylor.edu/toha.

Texas History Day Award

TOHA thanks **Susan Burneson** and **Hubert Miller**, who judged once again for the TOHA award recognizing outstanding use of oral history in individual documentaries entered in the state’s history fair contest, held May 4-5, 2012, in Austin. The annual theme was Revolution, Response, and Reform in History. To win the TOHA award, students must interview at least three people and demonstrate use of the interview materials in their documentaries.

It is exciting to see young people creating award-winning historical documentaries based on eyewitness testimony. **TOHA encourages you to consider serving as a judge next year.** Read what Susan Burneson says about the experience: “As judges, we see a number of films, but each one is so unique it holds our attention. While our primary role is to view the films and to consider them for an award, we also have a chance to help put the students at ease and to encourage them from the time we meet them. By the questions we ask after the film, we give them an opportunity to articulate their knowledge and share their excitement about their project. I have seen students come in apprehensively to show their films and leave at least a little more relaxed and confident about their work. I hope that we, as judges, have played some small part in that, in addition to recognizing exemplary work with the awards. As always, Hubert and I were inspired by the films; the students’ knowledge and enthusiasm; and the effective ways in which they incorporated oral history into their work.”

Outstanding projects earned these students the 2012 TOHA History Day Award:

Junior (grades 6-8). First place: Divya Singh, Gentry Junior High School, Baytown, for “Rachel Carson.” Second place: Tanner Haney, Lake Air Intermediate School, Waco, for “Curt Flood: Free Agency in Baseball.” Third place: Jeffrey Tullis, Daggett Montessori School, Fort Worth, for “Stevie Ray Vaughan: Revolution in the Blues.” Honorable mention: Kynsee Gesch, Navasota Junior High School, Navasota, for “Reform in Transportation in the Nineteenth Century.”

Senior (grades 9-12). First place: Monica Li, Communications Arts High School, San Antonio, for “Blank Slates: The Chinese Cultural Revolution and Chinese Youth.”

SOUND BITES is an occasional newsletter of the Texas Oral History Association Board of Directors for the benefit of TOHA members. For questions, submissions, or comments, or to volunteer as a newsletter reporter, please contact Lois E. Myers at lois_myers@baylor.edu or 254.710.6285. To access live links in the newsletter, view Sound Bites online at <http://www.baylor.edu/TOHA/index.php?id=29357>.

TOHA 2012-2013 Calendar of Events

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| SEPTEMBER 4-7 | XVII International Oral History Conference Buenos Aires, Argentina | Learn more at baires2012.org . |
| SEPTEMBER 27 - 29 | East Texas Historical Association Nacogdoches | Details at easttexashistorical.org . |
| OCTOBER 12 – 16 | Oral History Association Cleveland, Ohio | Program and registration available at www.oralhistory.org . |
| FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 2, 2013 | TOHA joint session with Texas State Historical Association, Fort Worth | “Texas Union Voices: Tales of Labor Activism in the Lone Star State” Michael Botson, Houston, Chair Papers presented by: Chris Drake, Houston Community College Veronica Reyna, Houston Community College Larry Willoughby, Austin Community College. |
| APRIL 13, 2013 | TOHA’s Second Annual Conference Texas State University, San Marcos | Watch for a call for papers in the fall and details of the meeting early next year. |

First annual conference gallery

Find more on [Facebook.com/TexasOralHistoryAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TexasOralHistoryAssociation)



Caroll Brincefield, of Caldwell, presented “Un-American Activity on the Texas Gulf Coast”



Rebecca Karimi, from Nova Southeastern University in Florida, presented “Oral History as Means of Moral Repair: Jim Crow Racism in the Mexican American Community of San Antonio”



TOHA President L. Patrick Hughes, of Austin, led the wrap-up session at the end of the day.



Deborah Kilgore, of McKinney, smiles while accepting a prize from Dan Utley after her name was chosen in the book drawing held at the wrap-up session