



Texas Historical Commission honors TOHA's Host, Baylor Institute for Oral History

Institute Senior Editor Elinor Mazé, Director Stephen Sloan, and Associate Director Lois E. Myers accept the THC 2011 Award for Historic Preservation on April 1 in Austin.

By Terry Goodrich

Baylor University's Institute for Oral History has won the Texas Historical Commission's 2011 Award of Excellence in Preserving History. The institute was nominated by William McWhorter, the commission's coordinator for the military sites and oral history program, who in his nomination cited the "consummate service" of the institute during the past four decades. The institute "has established itself as the benchmark in Texas for providing a voice to previously under-represented segments of this state that document memories representing the diversity and historical significance of Texas history," he wrote.

The institute creates and archives oral histories, preserving a sound recording and typed transcript of interviews with eyewitnesses to Texas history. It also has earned "an impressive reputation for multidisciplinary outreach to both academic scholars and community historians by providing professional training, education tools, and research opportunities," McWhorter wrote. Besides offering workshops in oral history techniques, the institute encourages oral history scholarship through fellowships and graduate assistantships. McWhorter hailed the institute's role in training workshops for the commission's Military Sites Program's "Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II" initiative. Among several archived collections at Baylor are "Building History: The Mart Black History Project" and "Country Churches in Texas," chronicling the survival of rural congregations in the era of urbanization.

Staff members of Baylor's Institute for Oral History are Dr. Stephen Sloan, director; Lois E. Myers, associate director; Elinor Mazé, senior editor; Becky Shulda, administrative associate; and Michelle Holland, editor. McWhorter commended Sloan, Myers, and Mazé, rotating lecturers in the institute's training workshops statewide, for their professionalism as well as their "enthusiasm, grace, and humor."

The THC's Award of Excellence in Preserving History honors an individual, organization, or project that has significantly contributed to the understanding or preservation of Texas history. It recognizes achievements in preservation planning, historic site identification, preservation of significant archival or artifact collections, or research that leads to a greater understanding of state or local history.

TOHA Board of Directors News



TOHA Board of Directors 2009-2011

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MEMBERS

One definition of *membership* is “the relationship between an element of a set or class and the set or class.” TOHA membership is a RELATIONSHIP based on our common interest in making history come alive through the voices of people telling stories of their lives. We enjoy our relationship with you! With more members, we can do more.

Please invite your friends and colleagues to connect with oral history by coming into relationship with TOHA today. We will welcome them to the family!

If you need to renew, now is the perfect time. Members who renew or join by May 18 are eligible to vote in our upcoming board of directors election.

Turn yourself in at www.baylor.edu/toha
or contact Deputy Myers @ 254.710.6285 or lois_myers@baylor.edu.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Since 1993, TOHA’s journal, *Sound Historian*, has showcased a variety of oral history projects being carried out by our members and others. The future of the journal depends upon a steady stream of new articles each year. Don’t let the stream dry up!

You record your interviews to fill in the gaps or bring new perspectives to the study of the past, but what good are your efforts if others don’t know about them? Now is the time to bring your oral history project full circle by writing an article and submitting it to our journal. We look forward to hearing your story!

Get instructions for submitting your story at www.baylor.edu/toha or
contact Deputy Hendrickson @ 940.397.4150 or ken.hendrickson@mwsu.edu.

BOOK REVIEWERS

Through its book reviews, *Sound Historian* keeps us in the know on current trends in the world of oral history and inspires us with new ideas and applications for our projects. The TOHA board is looking for people who are willing to read and write a review of new and classic oral history publications. We know you have opinions about what you read, so here’s an outlet for expressing yourself!

The board of directors is revamping our book review process, and we are creating a list of volunteers for reviewing the books. Let us know of your interest today!

Turn yourself in to Deputy Myers @ 254.710.6285 or lois_myers@baylor.edu.

JAMP Oral History and Archive Project

In this day of concern for the future of education and health care in Texas comes some good news! In 2002, the Texas legislature funded the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) to encourage economically disadvantaged students to pursue medical education by providing partnerships between colleges and universities and the state's medical colleges. And now, the JAMP Oral History and Archive Project, under the direction of Charles T. Morrissey of Baylor College of Medicine, is documenting the beginnings and early years of this program through oral history.



The JAMP Oral History and Archive Project preserves through oral history interviewees the story of the founding and development of the program from the viewpoints of the major participants, including early members of the JAMP Council, along with administrators, legislators, staff, and consultants. The outcome will describe the origins of the program and explain how consensus grew between the nine Texas medical schools and the undergraduate programs of 31 public and 34 private colleges and universities. Project director Charles T. Morrissey is a seasoned oral historian and oral history educator, past president of the Oral History Association, and author of dozens of articles on oral history skills and applications. He has been conducting oral history interviews since 1962, when he interviewed members of the White House staff during the Truman administration. Learn more about JAMP and the participating institutions from the JAMP Web site at <http://www.utsystem.edu/jamp/homepage.htm>.



Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools Oral History Project

The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools is a nonprofit grassroots organization charged with the preservation and restoration of the twelve historic country schools and three teacherages remaining in the public domain in their county. The Friends organization began in 1999 when a rumor circulated that the Fredericksburg Independent School District might sell the properties of the surviving country schools. More than five hundred local citizens organized to prevent their sale and to preserve the school buildings. The first step involved changing state law and then transferring the properties to the local county government. With the creation of the Friends organization, the county government was able to lease the properties to the Friends for a nominal fee. Integral to the preservation effort is the collection of oral histories from the remaining students and teachers with first-hand memories of the schools still standing and of the twenty-eight other rural schools that have not survived.

The project will train and equip community volunteers to collect stories from former students and teachers. The oral histories will be deposited in the Gillespie County Historical Society, and excerpts of the transcripts will be available on the Friends' Web site to help preserve the stories of life and education in rural Texas. The organization hosts open-house school tours and reunions and maintains a Web site on the schools at <http://www.historicschools.org>.

The Friends received the 2011 Community Oral History Grant from Baylor University Institute for Oral History. The Institute provided a training workshop for volunteers and loaned the effort two sets of digital recording equipment. The Institute will transcribe the interviews, which will be co-deposited in Baylor libraries. To learn how your organization can apply for the 2012 grant, visit <http://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/index.php?id=64581>.

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 2011–2012 Calendar of Events

MAY 6 – 7	Texas History Day, Austin, TOHA Award Judging	Learn about the TOHA Award at http://www.baylor.edu/toha/index.php?id=29364 . Volunteer to serve as judge for the TOHA award by e-mailing lois_myers@baylor.edu .
MAY – JUNE	TOHA Board of Directors Election	Make sure your membership is current for 2011 so that you can vote in this important election. Join at http://www.baylor.edu/toha .
JULY 13 & 20	Baylor Online Workshop: Getting Started with Oral History	Learn more and register, beginning in early May, at http://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory .
SEPTEMBER	East Texas Historical Association	Details available later at http://www.easttexashistorical.org/ .
OCTOBER 12 – 16	Oral History Association annual meeting, Denver, Colorado	Plan to attend! http://www.oralhistory.org
MARCH 1 – 3, 2012	Texas State Historical Association annual meeting, Houston	TOHA session: “Visions of Art: Art and History in the Lone Star State.” Details available next January at http://www.tshaonline.org/annual-meeting



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