

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2011

Symposium: El Camino Real de los Tejas: Past & Present

Date: November 3, 2011

Description: This one-day symposium was tied to the El Camino Real de los Tejas: Past & Present exhibit.

Panel Chair:

Dr. Victor Arizpe, Department of Hispanic Studies, Texas A&M University

Titles and Speakers:

“The Bible in the Making of the Missions of Tejas” Dr. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin

“The Spanish Campaign to Free the Indian Slaves in Northern Mexico and Around the World” Dr. Andres Resendez, Department of History, University of California at Davis

“Don José de Escandón's Exploration and Preliminary Colonization of the Seno Mexicano (1747-49): A Unique Approach in Spanish Expeditionary and Colonization Efforts” Dr. Deb Cunningham, Department of Modern Languages, Ohio University

Discussants:

Dr. Brian Imhoff, Department of Hispanic Studies, Texas A&M University

Dr. Walter L. Buenger, Department of History, Texas A&M University

Dr. Armando Alonzo, Department of History, Texas A&M University

Cosponsors: Department of Hispanic Studies, Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost Office, European Union Center, and Texas A&M Libraries, Texas A&M University

Exhibit: El Camino Real de los Tejas: Past & Present

Dates: November 2, 2011 - November 11, 2011

Description: This free public exhibit commemorated the historic involvement of Spain and Mexico with Texas. El Camino Real de los Tejas was designated as a national Historic Trail in 2004 by the U.S. Congress and is one of 11 historic trails in the country. The exhibition was designed to increase public awareness of a long and important period in the history of Texas — the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries — when Spain and later Mexico were involved with the Lone Star State

Exhibit organizers: Consulate General of Spain, Houston; Texas A&M University; and SPAIN Arts & Culture

Collaborators in the creation of the exhibit: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association; Texas Historical Commission; Spanish Ministry of Culture; Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency; Spanish Ministry of Defense; and Daughters of the American Revolution

Cosponsors: Department of Hispanic Studies, Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost Office, European Union Center, and Texas A&M University Libraries - at Texas A&M University; and Manuel and Carol Gonzalez, owners of Sterling Auto Group in Bryan, Texas

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Student Program: Zooming Out For a Global View – Student Global Issues Conference (Grades 9-12)

Date: May 5, 2011, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Description: Over 300 students who submitted projects on the theme of sustainability attended this conference. Project topics included: Environmental Sustainability (organic food, genetically modified organisms, resource disputes, clean water, sustainable agriculture); Economic Sustainability (economy of smuggling, consumerism, consuming vs. saving, pirates, poverty, fair trade); and Societal Sustainability (disaster aid, globalization, pharmaceutical corporations, territory disputes, genocide, health care, AIDS). Student projects demonstrated a basic understanding of the students' chosen sustainability concept, carried out a local investigation, included research on an issue from a global perspective, and illustrated effects of the issue locally and globally. Projects included a written and media component as well as a poster that was displayed at the conference poster session.

Agenda:

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Debbie Thomas, College of Geosciences, "A Geological Perspective on the Need for Sustainability"

Project presentations at poster session attended by Texas A&M University faculty and students.

Discussions about critical sustainability issues that have both a local and global impact.

Seminar on Career Pathways in the Geosciences by Dr. Sonia Garcia, College of Geosciences.

Student presentations of first place projects.

Tour of the Texas A&M University campus

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; International Outreach; the Academy of Future International Leaders; and College of Geosciences, Texas A&M University

Symposium: The UK-US Relationship in the 21st Century – Energy and Security

Date: April 21, 2011, 12:30 - 5:30 pm

Description: U.S. and UK experts were brought together from academia and government to discuss topics critical to both countries: Nuclear Power, Non-proliferation, Deterrence and Nuclear Strategy; Energy and Central Asia; The Move to a Low Carbon Economy; and The Special Relationship and Trans-Atlantic Security Relations in an Era of Austerity. After The Honourable Paul Lynch, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Houston, set the stage with a lecture on Transatlantic Relationship in the Changing World, the invited speakers spent the afternoon discussing these key topics. In addition to gathering expert opinions on the issues, the program also engaged students from the Bush School of Government and Public Service, and fostered the deepening of scholarly and academic relationships between UK researchers and those at Texas A&M University. The program concluded with a plenary session where findings from the sessions were presented to a packed house of over 70 students and faculty members. The session also included an audience question and answer period chaired by Ambassador (ret.) Ryan Crocker, Dean, The Bush School of

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Government and Public Service. A report from the symposium will be published and distributed both through the UK Embassy and at Texas A&M. The event also sparked meetings between the UK guests and Texas A&M faculty in a variety of colleges and it is expected that scholarly partnerships between the UK visitors and their Texas A&M counterparts will continue to deepen as an outcome of this event.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University; British Consulate-General Houston

Visitor: Annick Suzor-Weiner, Counselor for Science and Technology, French Embassy

Date: February 25, 2011

Description: Annick Suzor-Weiner, Counselor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy, and previously the Vice-President for International Affairs of the University Paris-Sud (Paris 11), met with the YESS 2011 planning committee to receive a debriefing on the symposium and discuss possible future collaborations. In addition, her French delegation met with faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and the Dwight Look College of Engineering. The Office of Science and Technology, has team of 33 faculty members, senior researchers, and staff, and is located in the French Embassy (Washington DC) and at 6 consular offices (Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco). It is dedicated to bilateral French-U.S. collaborations in science and technology.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; French Embassy Office of Science and Technology; Department of Nuclear Engineering, Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, and Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M University; UK Science & Innovation, British Consulate-General Houston

Student Program: Zooming Out For a Global View – Student Global Issues Conference (Grades 6-9)

Date: February 10, 2011

Description: 100 sixth and seventh grade students from Texas schools prepared projects for the Local Action: Global Impact Student Global Issues Conference at Texas A&M University. The objectives of the conference were to engage middle school students in inquiry-based science and social studies and improve their understanding of environmental sustainability issues that impact the world regionally, nationally, and globally. Students from Texas schools created projects focused on environmental sustainability issues including: water, food, transportation, energy, climate, and waste. Projects were reviewed and judged by Texas A&M University pre-service teachers from the College of Education and Human Development. The Conference included: Keynote speech by Dr. William D. Heyman, from the Texas A&M University College of Geosciences' Department of Geography titled Scientists and Fishers: Working Together to Conserve Ocean Resources
Participation in two environmental education activities

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Poster session where students discussed their projects with visiting Texas A&M University faculty and reviewers

Presentation of award winning projects

Tours of research facilities at Texas A&M University

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; International Outreach and the College of Geosciences, Texas A&M University

YESS Energy Symposium: Alternative Energies – A Global Perspective

Dates: January 10, 2011 - January 12, 2011

Description: This three-day symposium aimed at fostering industrial and research collaborations between the United States and Europe in the field of fossil-free energies. The focus of the symposium was to connect young researchers (PhD candidates and Post Docs) and engineers from each side of the Atlantic to develop long-term exchanges. The symposium also aimed at gathering researchers from different domains (solar, wind, geothermal, biofuels, and nuclear) to discuss transversal issues linked with the development of sustainable energy sources. The agenda allowed participants to discuss key issues in their field as well as address some general issues related to energies including technical issues such as the storage of energy or the production of a smart energy grid and societal issues, including the education of a new workforce and the environmental impact of these new energy productions. The public policies, regulations, and funding in the energy sector in the U.S. and in Europe were also discussed. The symposium included group plenary sessions, parallel sessions focusing on specific content areas, poster sessions, and a panel discussion.

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