

Friends of The Vietnam Center

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JANUARY 1998 • VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

TECH ARCHIVE ADDS CBS TRIAL TRANSCRIPTS TO COLLECTION: PAPERS SUPPLEMENT VIETNAM INSTITUTE

(From Texas Tech University Daily article by Jason Bernstein, October 21, 1997)

The Texas Tech Vietnam Archive received a welcomed addition Monday with the presentation of the complete transcripts of the *Westmoreland vs. CBS* trial.

Larry Berman, professor of political science at the University of California at Davis, presented the papers to the archive.

The papers were previously part of the UC-Davis collection on Vietnam materials.

"I wasn't happy with the use of the materials in Davis," Berman said. "There wasn't a lot of institutional support, and I thought that the materials would be better suited for Texas Tech."

The materials presented to Tech include the complete transcript of the *Westmoreland vs. CBS* trial as well as documents pertaining to the Johnson administration and the United States' involvement in Vietnam.

Berman was a consultant for the New York Times during the *Westmoreland* trial

and received a complete transcript at the conclusion of the trial.

"The materials are of a much broader spectrum than that of just trial transcripts,"



General William C. Westmoreland presents Presidential Unit Citation to the ARVN 8th Airborne, September 1967.

said Jim Ginther, senior archivist at Tech.

The Vietnam Archive consists of materials that go beyond the scope of military history and strategy, Ginther said.

The archive is being used for various political science courses, history courses, as well as English classes focusing on primary source research.

"I hope Doug Pike's addition to Texas Tech coupled with the addition of materials from Davis will lead to others doing the same," Berman said.

The possibility of a new building and a museum dedicated to the Vietnam Conflict really attract people, Berman said.

"Tech is the only program of its kind that is expanding and growing on such a large scale," Ginther said. "Outside of the National Archives, Tech probably has the largest collection of Vietnam materials in the nation."

The ever-expanding archive recently has added materials covering medicine in Vietnam to cultural and economic rebuilding.

"Everyone in the country who does Vietnam work knows about The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech," Berman said.

NEWS FROM THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE

The last six months have been a busy time for The Vietnam Archive. Our research collections continue to grow, with the addition of new collections. At the same time, the addition of new personnel will ensure that The Vietnam Archive will be able to serve researchers even better in the months and years ahead.

GINTHER NAMED SENIOR ARCHIVIST

The Vietnam Center is pleased to announce that Mr. Jim Ginther has been named senior archivist for The Vietnam Archive. Many readers of this newsletter will already have met Jim, as he has worked for the past three years in the archive, initially as a research assistant, and then for eight months as interim archivist, following the departure of Kathryn Fuller. Ginther is a doctoral candidate studying under Vietnam Center director, Jim Reckner. He brings to the position a strong background in military and public history, as well as extensive

practical experience and an in-depth knowledge of the archive's collections. He also will ensure that The Vietnam

Archive at Texas Tech remains an exceedingly user-friendly institution.



NEW ARCHIVIST APPOINTED

The Vietnam Archive staff was augmented in October by the arrival of Dr. Ron Frankum, whose responsibilities will include supervision of collection processing. Ron is a graduate of Syracuse University. His master's thesis and doctoral dissertation both focused on American-Australian relations during the Vietnam War. In addition to topical expertise, Ron also

brings to Texas Tech his collection processing experience as a graduate assistant with the University Archive at

Syracuse. Ron, like Jim Ginther, vows to be "researcher friendly."

In addition to Jim Ginther and Ron Frankum, the Vietnam Archive also employs two history graduate students as research assistants. They are Mr. Bill Miller and Mr. Scott Mraz. If you have reason to contact the archive, you are likely to encounter any of these four staff members.

Vietnam Archive Collection Development

Several collections have been received which add strength and depth to the archive's holdings. The most important arrival since the last newsletter is the balance of the Douglas Pike Collection from the

University of California at Berkeley. This shipment contained about 400 additional boxes of material, including 2000 books, thousands of photographs, slides and other graphics, hundreds of oral histories and an additional 150 linear feet of documentation on Vietnam and Cambodia during the war.

Westmoreland vs. CBS Papers.

Another major addition was a collection donated by Dr. Larry Berman of the University of California at Davis. This collection contains extensive documentation of the libel suit brought by General Westmoreland against CBS in 1984. It also contains research files relating to Berman's research on the Johnson presidency and the war, much of which was photocopied from the LBJ Library. The collection contains about 120 linear feet of documents.

The **John Donnell Papers** provide insight into the initial phases of the American advisory effort in Vietnam. Donnell was instrumental in setting up the USIS office in Hanoi in the early 1950s. He subsequently researched the working of the South Vietnamese government; his papers provide a valuable look into the GVN and the American relationship with the Saigon government during the early years of the American involvement.

The **Larry Flanagan Papers** deal with CORDS operations in Vietnam during the late 60s and early 70s. Flanagan was the economic advisor for II Corps and his materials provide in-depth insight into the day-to-day workings of CORDS and the knowledge base available to advisors for making rural reconstruction decisions in Vietnam.

The **National Vietnam Veterans Coalition Papers** cover post-war developments of interest to Vietnam veterans. This collection has been augmented by an additional twenty boxes of materials, which add to the original holdings and document American Vietnam veterans' activities.

and concerns. The 45 linear feet of material documents a wide range of political, social, and diplomatic topics.

The **Mike Mittelmann Papers** contain about four linear feet of material. About half of the material is related to field medicine and medical conditions in Vietnam. The other half deals with Vietnamese culture during the period. The collection contains manuscript material, medical journals, local publications and memorabilia.

The **Allison Thompson Book Collection** contains over 500 volumes

dealing with the Vietnam era. About half of this collection is comprised of published personal narratives relating to the Vietnam War. The balance is comprised of standard works on the war, diplomatic works dealing with the war in international law, post-war assessments, and reference volumes, including a complete set of the *Foreign Relations of the United States* pertaining to Vietnam during the war.

The **Vietnam Veterans of America "Vietnam Project" Papers** comprise 45 transfile boxes (approximately 82 linear feet) of

documents relating to this project. A detailed assessment of this collection will be published in our next newsletter.

Our Sincere Thanks to All

Donors. The Vietnam Center/Archive staff wish to express their continuing gratitude to those individuals and organizations which have chosen to archive their materials at The Vietnam Archive. We are working industriously to preserve all collections and to develop finding aids which will assist researchers in using these collections.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS PIKE AT TEXAS TECH



The Vietnam Center is pleased and proud to announce that Professor and Mrs. Douglas Pike moved from Berkeley to Lubbock, Texas, during the summer and have established permanent residence here. Professor Pike has been appointed Adjunct Professor of History and Associate Director (Research) for The Vietnam Center. He and Mrs. Pike are

currently working at producing the first Texas Tech-published edition of *Indochina Chronology*, which will be circulated early in the new year, and which will cover events of 1997, since the last edition was published at the University of California at Berkeley. Original subscribers to the *Indochina*

(continued on next page)

FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER MEMBERSHIP

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City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Please make check payable to the Texas Tech Foundation, Inc., Attn: The Vietnam Center. Contributions to The Vietnam Center are tax deductible as allowed by law. For additional information regarding membership or to donate materials to the Vietnam Archive, please call The Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3742 or 742-8663. Mail this form with your check to:

The Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University
Box 41045
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

Categories of Memberships

Please check appropriate box.

Individual

- Individual \$25
- Patron \$100
- Benefactor \$500
- Sustaining Life Member \$5,000
(1,000 per year x5)

Corporate

- Corporate \$100
- Corporate Benefactor \$500
- Sustaining Corporate Sponsor \$5,000
(1,000 per year x5)



Chronology will, of course, receive copies in normal distribution. All dues-paying "Friends of the Vietnam Center" will receive complimentary copies of this important publication and the opportunity to subscribe. Non-paying Friends of the Vietnam Center will receive an initial complimentary copy of *Indochina Chronology* on request.

Currently assisting Professor Pike in his important work are two history doctoral candidates, Mr. Les Cullen, ABD, and Mr. David Morokoff.

Vietnam Center Staff Directory

The recent growth of the Vietnam Center/Archive staff makes it necessary to update our directory:

The Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1045
Fax: (806) 742-8664
E-mail: vietnam.center@ttu.edu

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E-mail: lijag@lib.ttu.edu

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E-mail: Douglas.Pike@ttu.edu

Jim Ginther, Associate Director
(Archives) (806) 742-9020
E-mail: lijag@lib.ttu.edu

Dr. Donald R. Walker, Associate
Director (Finance) (806) 742-3589

Dr. Ron Frankum, Archivist
(806) 742-9010

Mr. Khanh Le
Vietnamese Language Specialist
(806) 742-3742

Mrs. Rosa Garcia, Administrative
Secretary: (806) 742-3742
E-mail: vrosa@ttacs.ttu.edu

Vietnam Archive Hours of Operation

Vietnam Archive office
(for consultation with archivists):
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., M-F

Vietnam Research Room
(for actual research)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., M-W-F
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., T, Th
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Sat.

Additionally, The Vietnam Archive's microform research collections relating to Vietnam are available for all researchers in the university's main library during its extensive operating hours. This arrangement enables visiting researchers to maximize their research opportunities while visiting Texas Tech.

VIETNAM CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

The Vietnam project has been guided, from its inception in 1989, by an advisory board comprised of Vietnam veterans from the community. This board, which meets regularly throughout the year, but more frequently as we approach conferences, conducted elections for officers at its October 1997 meeting. The following officers were elected:

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret). Re-elected as Chairman of the Board

Mr. Phil Price, President (Pictured at right)

Mr. David Shelly, Vice-President

Mrs. Mary Ann Harrison, Secretary

Indicative of the dedication of the local Vietnam veteran community, Phil Price and David Shelly were present at the founding meeting of our project in 1989, and have attended virtually every meeting since. Mary Ann Harrison's late husband, Marshall Gene Harrison, also was at that first meeting and was with us until he passed away. We particularly appreciate that Mary Ann has chosen to continue his work.

The support and contributions of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board, from Admiral Zumwalt right down to the individual members, have been the particular, unique strength of the Vietnam project. Their encouragement and enthusiasm, and their advocacy of our project amongst their friends and acquaintances in the broader community have been absolutely critical to the project's continuing success. Special congratulations to the Board's new officers. And special thanks, too, to all of the members who labor on our behalf and who believe in the importance of our work.



Reckner Hopes to Build on Vietnam Dream: Founder of Noted Tech Center Envisions New Three-Story Facility for Museum, Archives

From Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, September 12, 1997, article by Matthew Henry

More than nine years ago, James Reckner stepped into a void when he decided to create a Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech.

Beginning with almost nothing, Reckner began contacting Vietnam veterans, historians and military officials for help in building war archives and holding conferences at Tech. Now Tech has perhaps the country's largest collection of Vietnam War documents and the most graduate students studying the conflict.

That success has given Reckner the confidence to begin working on another dream: a three-story building for the center.

A world-class museum about the war would inhabit the ground floor, drawing Vietnam veterans from across the country, Reckner said. The second floor would hold the center's enormous archives, attracting researchers and historians. And the third floor would be occupied by classrooms and

conference rooms.

Reckner's crystal ball envisions "all kinds of synergies" from the building. Vietnam veterans visiting the museum could be pulled into classrooms to speak to students or interviewed by historians. Professors could extract maps, pictures and books from the archives to bring the war home to students.

Reckner conceded that the only action on the building so far has been a few conversations. It's not on the university's master plan or list of future building projects.

But within the last year, complimentary articles about Tech's center have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Austin American-Statesman* and *Los Angeles Times*. The *Post's* article was syndicated. That can't hurt, Reckner said.

Retired Vice Adm. Emmett Tidd stopped by in April to visit the center, which is now housed at the new

Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. Tidd regularly attends Tech's Vietnam conferences.

"I can't impress enough the respect military people and historians have for what Reckner's done in such a remarkably short period of time," Tidd said.

"The center's future is very bright. Instead of looking into their own dusty vaults, military historians are beginning to shift their attention to Texas Tech."

Reckner said he can't say how much the building might cost, but he'll probably have to raise money privately. He said he feels more confident about the building's chances since Chancellor John Montford arrived. Montford has strongly supported the effort, Reckner said.

Nothing like the building Reckner envisions exists in the country, he said. That uniqueness will help. "It's one of the few strong academic projects that engages the public's attention."

APPOINTMENT OF VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE SPECIALIST

Qone particular aspect of the Vietnam project is the need for our researchers to master the Vietnamese language, or at least, to be able to tap the information contained in Vietnamese-language documents. In order to assist with this, for the past year, The Vietnam Center has funded a part-time Vietnamese language instructor. In November, that instructor, Mr. Khanh Le, was hired as a full-time member of The Vietnam Center staff.

Mr. Khanh Le's functions include the

following:

- * To assist The Vietnam Center in communications with institutions of higher learning and other entities in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- * To teach Vietnamese language
- * To assist The Vietnam Archive by translating document titles for cataloguing
- * To assist students and researchers with translations of key documents
- * To establish and maintain The

Vietnam Center's connections with the *Viet kieu* community in the United States and elsewhere

Mr Khanh has already proven himself a dedicated and engaging instructor of Vietnamese language who develops intense loyalty in his students. We anticipate that he will make significant contributions to the Vietnam project in the months and years ahead.

VISIT OF THE MOVING VIETNAM WALL

We have been advised that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund have agreed to The Vietnam Center's request to have the Moving Vietnam Wall visit Lubbock during the 3rd Triennial Vietnam Symposium, which is scheduled for April 15-17, 1999. The Wall will be set up on the Texas Tech Campus April 14th. We plan to hold formal opening ceremonies on that evening, after which The Vietnam Center will host the symposium's opening reception. The Wall visit will close formally on Sunday, April 18, 1999.

THE VIETNAM CENTER'S 1998 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: VIETNAM IN ASIA

The Vietnam Center's annual conference for 1998 is entitled *Vietnam in Asia*. The purpose of the conference is to begin a dialogue between scholars who specialize in Vietnamese studies and a broader audience interested in Vietnam. At the same time, the conference seeks to examine Vietnamese history and culture in a regional (Asian) context. As for chronological focus, the conference is principally interested in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. At this stage of planning, we expect the two keynote speakers to be Dr. Keith Weller Taylor (Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University) and Dr. David G. Marr (The Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University). Dr. Taylor will speak on local histories (19th century) and Dr. Marr will discuss the Vietnamese revolution within the

broader framework of Southeast Asia in the post-World War II era.

The Vietnam Center encourages scholars of/participants in the American Vietnam experience to attend this conference to spend two days considering aspects of Vietnamese history and culture, and interacting with scholars from the field of Asian studies. We believe such interaction, which occurs all too infrequently, will be mutually beneficial.

Conference Registration remains at the remarkably low price of \$40.00 per person, which includes conference participation, two lunches and one reception. The fee for the conference banquet is \$25.00. The traditional Texas friendship and hospitality is added without charge. The conference hotel will be the La Quinta Inn, 4115 Brownfield Highway., Lubbock. Conference rate

is \$56.00 per night. For reservations call (800) 531-5900 or (806) 792-0065, and cite confirmation #20082. A block of rooms has been reserved for the conference; in order to ensure accommodation, it is essential that you register by April 1, 1998. Please note: **THERE ARE TWO LA QUINTA INNS IN LUBBOCK. THE CONFERENCE HOTEL IS LOCATED ON BROWNFIELD HIGHWAY.**

This conference will be conducted at Texas Tech University's International Cultural Center (6th & Indiana Avenues), April 17-18, 1998. For all participants arriving by air, Vietnam Center staff will meet you at the airport and convey you to the conference hotel if you will notify us in advance of your scheduled arrival time.

1998 Vietnam Conference: Vietnam in Asia

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Conference Registration: \$40.00 Amount: \$ _____

Conference Banquet: \$25.00 Amount: \$ _____

Check or Money Order enclosed for: Amount: \$ _____

Please make payable to Texas Tech Foundation, Inc. Attn: Vietnam Center

Mail to: Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

TEACHING VIETNAM IN HIGH SCHOOLS: A CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

In order to assist high school teachers wishing to cope with the complex problems of presenting the Vietnam war in their classes, The Vietnam Center is offering a two-day conference/workshop on June 12-13, 1998. Leading the discussions will be specialists in the field from throughout the United States. Also planned are reports on The Vietnam Center's collaboration with the Lubbock Independent School District in the development of a semester-long credit Vietnam course for

presentation by cable television and other innovative high school approaches. We anticipate conference participants will have the opportunity to meet several senior participants in the war, and will spend two days of intense study and consideration of how we might better present the Vietnam War to high school students.

Registration rates are the same as for the *Vietnam in Asia* conference: \$40.00 for conference registration, including lunches and

reception; \$25.00 for conference banquet. All transportation to and from the airport and to and from the hotel will be arranged by The Vietnam Center. The hotel for this conference is the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 505 Avenue Q, Lubbock. Room rate is \$59.00 single/\$64.00 double. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Four Points for conference participants. In order to ensure you have accommodations, it is essential that you register before May 11, 1998.

1998 Conference/Workshop: Teaching Vietnam in High Schools

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Conference Registration: \$40.00 Amount: \$ _____
Conference Banquet: \$25.00 Amount: \$ _____
Check or Money Order enclosed for: Amount: \$ _____

Please make payable to Texas Tech Foundation, Inc. Attn: Vietnam Center
Mail to: Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

ARCHIVISTS' CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2-3, 1998

Planning is continuing for a conference of archivists to be held in The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech. We have had to change the dates for this conference, as the football schedule for Autumn 1998 has now been published, and there is a home game on the weekend originally planned. As home games create critical accommodation shortages in Lubbock, we have chosen to change the conference date. Details of the conference are still being developed; however, the Four Points by Sheraton will be the conference hotel. Further details will be provided in our next newsletter.

1998 Vietnam Archivists' Conference: Preserving the Record

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Conference Registration: \$40.00 Amount: \$ _____
Conference Banquet: \$25.00 Amount: \$ _____
Check or Money Order enclosed for: Amount: \$ _____

Please make payable to Texas Tech Foundation, Inc. Attn: Vietnam Center • Mail to: Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

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Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

Call for papers to the 19th Annual
National Conference on
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October 20-22, 1998
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas
Contact: Dr. Michael E. Sherry
Department of History
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045
Phone: (806) 742-2444
Fax: (806) 742-2445
E-mail: sherry@ttu.edu

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Faces of War



FROM THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE

