Wright Brothers’ Biographer to Give Jalonick Lecture

Dr. Tom D. Crouch, senior curator of aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution, will be the guest speaker at the 2003 Jalonick Memorial Lecture on Saturday, June 28, 2003.

Free and open to the public, the lecture is set for 4 p.m. in the McDermott Library Auditorium (MC 2.410) on the University of Texas at Dallas campus. A reception will follow in the Special Collections Dept. Seating is limited. For information call 972-883-2570.

The Jalonick series was created and funded by the late George and Dorothy Jalonick for the purpose of bringing scholarly aviation lectures to the History of Aviation Collection in the McDermott Library’s Special Collections Dept.

Crouch’s talk is titled “Blaming Wilbur and Orville: The Wright Patent Suits and the Development of American Aviation.” Crouch will be speaking during the 100th Anniversary of the Wright Brothers’ famous flight in 1903. He is the award-winning author of The Bishop’s Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright. In 2002 he was awarded the Smithsonian Distinguished Lecturer Award.

“We are fortunate to bring Dr. Crouch to UTD especially during the 100th anniversary of powered flight,” said Dr. Erik D. Carlson, Head of Special Collections. “He is traveling all over the nation this year for numerous celebrations in recognition of this significant moment in history.”

Dr. Tom D. Crouch
CHAW XI — Aviation History Conference set for October 2003

The Conference of Historic Aviation Writers will convene in Oklahoma City October 17-19, 2003. Paper presentations on aviation history are invited from all interested parties. There is no overall conference theme and topics from all aspects of aerospace history will be considered for several weekend sessions. Please contact Matthew E. Rodina at 340-773-4669 or Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D. at 972-883-2570 or carlson@utdallas.edu for further details.

News from the Frontiers of Flight Museum

Dan Hamilton has assumed the position of Director of the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field. He previously served as Director of Operations for the Dallas 2012 Olympic Bid effort. He earned BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering at Southern Methodist University and an MBA at the University of Texas.

Hamilton’s professional career began in 1971 as a mechanical engineer with a Dallas area defense contractor on radar and missile programs. He later served as CEO of a local engineering consulting and manufacturing firm specializing in factory automation and semi-conductor processing equipment.

The museum, which has been located in the airline terminal building for many years, will open officially at its new location at the south end of Love Field on December 15, 2003. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 13, 2003. Jan Collmer, president of the museum, was master of ceremonies; Dallas Mayor Laura Miller made the traditional first dig with the spade.

The annual Frontiers of Flight Museum awards dinner and gala was held on March 28, 2003. George E. Haddaway Medals were awarded to the Civil Air Patrol with which Haddaway participated during World War II, and to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, chairman of the board of the museum, for her dedicated support of the museum.

2003 Air America Association Reunion

On June 5-8, 2003 the Air America Association will hold its reunion in Jacksonville, Florida. Former Air America employees, family, and friends will gather for meet and greet sessions, a business meeting, and a formal banquet. For more information please contact Larry Fraser at info@airamerica.org.

CAT/Air America Digital Project

The History of Aviation Collection will begin its first digital imaging project this summer. The McDermott Library has purchased the Encompass for Digital Collections software for the Special Collections Department. Encompass is a digital management system that allows patrons to search for material by keywords and to access the images on the worldwide-web. Photographs, slides, and negatives from individual collections in the CAT/Air America Archive will be scanned, cataloged, and integrated into the Encompass system. Then, patrons can purchase the images. Monies collected will go to the CAT/Air America endowment fund.

The University of Texas at Dallas History of Aviation Collection Web Site is www.utdallas.edu/library/special/index.html

Robert E. Lee Collection

The papers of Robert E. Lee have been processed and are ready for researchers. Paul Oelkrug, HAC archivist, processed this small but fascinating addition to the History of Aviation Collection. The Lee Collection consists of material relating to his career in aviation stretching from 1909 to 1945. Lee was born in Midland, Texas in 1886. In 1915, he enrolled at the Wright Flying School. Lee served as a combat pilot in World War I. During World War II, he commanded the Army Air Forces 55th Air Depot in Des Moines, Iowa. After the war, Lee went into the oil business in Texas. In 1973, at the age of 87, Lee died in Coleman, Texas. Please contact Paul Oelkrug for more details.

2003 Raider Reunion Held at Travis AFB, California

Doolittle’s Raiders were welcomed for their 61st reunion by the Doolittle Air & Space Museum April 16-18, 2003. The museum, now located in a former commissary on Travis AFB, Fairfield, California, has been renamed to honor Doolittle, a native Californian, and will be transferred to a new 16-acre site on the base. Groundbreaking for the new state-of-the-art museum took place on June 15, 2001. The Raider reunion provided a kick-start for the $55 million fund-raising project.

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university
HAC Head Gives Aviation Talks

Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D., Head of the History of Aviation Collection, gave a lecture to Dr. Peter Lane’s U.S. aviation history course at the University of North Texas in February. Dr. Carlson’s lecture covered the rise of U.S. commercial aviation from 1925-1941.

In April Dr. Carlson presented the keynote address at the Phi Alpha Theta Banquet for the Department of History at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. The lecture, to the local chapter of the history honorary society, was titled “Ellington Field, 1917-1919.”


After Michael resigned his commission in 1964 the couple returned to the United States. Michael was an early computer systems analyst stationed in Key West, Florida. Gay remembers shore batteries and a close-up visit by President John F. Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

Gay came back to Texas and in 1980, majoring in art administration, completed her degree at UTD in General Studies. But she retained a keen interest in aviation and was chosen to work on the Admiral Rosendahl papers for the History of Aviation Collection. “A grant provided for an archivist to come in from Vanderbilt University and she taught me what to do,” Gay said.

When the grant expired Gay joined UT-Southwestern Medical Center where she worked in records for the women’s healthcare program. Upon retirement in 1995 she came back to UTD Special Collections to work as a volunteer. She has organized several key aviation collections – Tony Page, Fanciulli and Bill Fuller. “I’ve enjoyed working on all of those,” she said. “The photos in the Fanciulli collection were particularly exciting.” Fanciulli was an associate of aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss.

Gay resides in the University Park area of Dallas. She has a daughter and four grandchildren who live in Oklahoma City.

Meet a Volunteer....

Though she has never been a pilot, aviation has had a life-long influence on Gay Orczy-Barstow. During World War II Gay and her childhood friends watched seaplanes land and take off in Corpus Christi Bay. She and her friends took free trips on cropdusting planes that serviced farms. In 1954 she married Michael Felix Orczy-Barstow, a British aviator with the Royal Navy stationed in Corpus Christi. They later moved to

administrative assistant, responsible for organizing work study students, meetings, receptions and luncheons for various History of Aviation Collection functions.

She also organizes donated duplicate book sales and enjoys helping patrons with research. “My biggest pleasure is finding the hidden treasures in the archives,” she said. “This job is really interesting and the department is fun although it gets chaotic at times.”

She experiences poignant moments when assisting relatives of Civil Air Transport and Air America members who lost their lives in the course of duty. “Many times seeing the memorial and items here brings some closure for them,” she said. “That is very rewarding.”

Carole served on the zoning committee for the City of Rowlett this past year. She and husband Lee Thomas, a retired 26-year veteran of Texas Instruments, have four grown children and 11 grandchildren. Carole lists church, the grandchildren, reading and gardening as her main activities away from the Special Collections Dept.

Meet the Staff....

Carole Thomas began work in the Special Collections Dept. in January of 2000 after spending 14 years as a senior executive aide at Texas Instruments/Raytheon. A graduate of UTD, Carole works as the department’s

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