Famed aviation historian to present ‘05 Jalonick Lecture

Dr. Leary an expert on Civil Air Transport and Air America activity in Southeast Asia

William M. Leary, the E. Merton Coulter Professor of History, Emeritus, at the University of Georgia, will provide the lecture at the 2005 Jalonick Memorial Lecture set for Saturday, Aug. 3 at 4 p.m. in the McDermott Library Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Special Collections, 3rd Floor of the McDermott Library.

The annual Jalonick Lecture is named after George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick. The Distinguished Lecture Series was established to inform and enlighten the public about the history of flight by bringing aviation notables to the Dallas community. The series was endowed in their memory by George Jalonick IV and friends of the Jalonick family.

The title of Leary’s presentation is “Last Flights: Air America and the Collapse of South Vietnam.”

Air America, a company owned by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), had taken a central role in the wars of Southeast Asia since the early 1950s. By 1975, however, as the North Vietnamese launched a major offensive against the Saigon government, the once giant air complex had become a mere shadow of its former self. Reduced to a couple of a dozen helicopters and a handful of fixed wing aircraft, Air America was in its final days of operation: the CIA had decided to disband the company, effective June 1, 1975. As it happened, Air America would have a last hurrah. As the South Vietnamese regime collapsed, the CIA proprietary would become a key component in the frantic evacuation efforts that took place in March and April 1975. In many ways, it would be a fittingly dramatic end for a company whose motto boasted: “Anything, Anytime,

CAT pilots receive Legion of Honor for 1954 missions

On Feb. 24, 2005, the French government awarded the remaining seven Civil Air Transport (CAT) pilots that flew cargo missions over Dien Bien Phu the Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur or Legion of Honor - France’s highest award for service. The long-over-due medals were awarded to Roland N. Duke, William P. Hobbs, Allen L. Pope, Douglas R. Price, Monson W. Shaver, Roy F. Watts, and Robert L. Brongersma (not present at the event) at the home of French Ambassador to the United States Jean-David Levitte in Washington DC.

These Cold War pilots were among the 37 CAT pilots who flew missions over the outpost in northern French Indochina during the spring of 1954. While participating in Operation Squaw II, these courageous pilots flew hundreds of missions over Dien Bien Phu exposed to the most intense anti-aircraft fire since World War II. During each cargo mission, the French Air Force marked C-119 “Flying Boxcars” dropped supplies and ammunition to the beleaguered French Army trapped by the Vietminh. On May 6, 1954, CAT pilots James “Earthquake McGoone” McGovern and Wallace Buford were shot down and killed. The next day the French garrison surrendered.

At the ceremony were family and friends of the pilots. The event received global attention and extensive American and French coverage. The CAT/Air America Archive was represented by Dr. Erik Carlson.
The late George E. Haddaway, founder of UTD’s History of Aviation Collection (HAC), was inducted in the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame during ceremonies held in Galveston on Nov. 13, 2004.

Born in Ft. Worth in 1906, he earned his Private Pilot license in 1928 and graduated from the University of Texas in 1930. He founded Flight magazine in 1934 and served as its editor and publisher for the next 40 years.

Haddaway is pictured at right in a file photograph with the late Texas Instruments Inc. co-founder Cecil Green who also established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, fore-runner of The University of Texas at Dallas. The two are looking at rare aviation material in the HAC.

Throughout his life he was a driving force in promoting all aspects of aeronautics and was a strong advocate for regulations that protected the growth of civil aviation.

Haddaway was a leader in the establishment of the Civil Air Patrol in Texas during World War II and commanded the CAP base in Beaumont, TX. After the war he was Chairman of the Aviation Development Advisory Committee in Washington from 1947-1953. He was also founder and chairman of “Wings of Hope,” a charity that assisted persons suffering from disasters in remote areas of Central and South America, Africa and New Guinea.

Determined to preserve American aviation history, Haddaway started the HAC at the University of Texas. It features one of the finest archival accumulation of related books, photographs, magazines, artifacts and memorabilia available for research in the country. When the collection contained hundreds of three-dimensional items that could not be housed properly at the UTD, Haddaway promoted the establishment of the Frontiers of Flight Museum now in its new Love Field facility.

W. E. Col. Jerry Fink remembered at the HAC

Jerry Fink, former Deputy Legal Counsel for Air America and a great friend, died May 3, 2005. Over the past 20 years, we in the History of Aviation Collection have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with both Jerry and his family. Erik Carlson and I were fortunate enough to visit Jerry in March, and while we were there Jerry agreed to an interview on video tape for our Civil Air Transport/Air America Archive. Possibly Jerry realized that this might be his last opportunity to assure his feelings about his Air America colleagues and their accomplishments were captured for posterity. It was his contention that the free world’s victory in the cold war would not have been possible without the efforts and sacrifices of his Air America colleagues.

Jerry was a great friend of our program and contributed time, funds, and materials to it. His papers are an extremely important resource for anyone seeking a true picture of Air America and its work. He also was instrumental in helping us to obtain “Kirk” Kirkpatrick’s material, one of our larger collections documenting CAT’s work in China and the Far East.

Finally, it was Jerry who asked me if I would be interested in translating Max Springweiler’s memoirs into English so all Max’s American friends could enjoy the story of his fascinating life. The consequences of that suggestion have meant more to me personally than Jerry could have imagined.

Jerry, we miss you.

2005 Jalonick Lecture to feature William Leary

Jerry Fink from Page 1

By Larry D. Sall

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Alaskan Mountain Named for General Doolittle

The United States Board on Geographical Names has approved a request to honor General Jimmy Doolittle by naming a mountain near Cordova, Alaska after him. The decision was made in agreement with the findings and recommendations of the City Council of Cordova, the Doolittle family, the Forest Service, various elected officials and the Alaska Board on Geographical Names.

Mount Jimmy Doolittle rises 7,538 feet and is located in the Chugach National Forest, 33 miles north of Cordova. Other Alaskan mountains have been named after aviators, including Bernt Balchen, Noel Wien, Carl Ben Eielson, Joe Crosson and Bill Mitchell.

The effort to honor Doolittle began in 2000 by Sue Cogswell, executive director of the Prince William Sound Economic Development District. Marc Steinhilber, airline pilot and skier, selected the peak. Army National Guard Gen. David E. Glines provided essential background information.

Two New Volunteers Join HAC weekly service crew

Malcolm Swain and Harry D. Pierce have joined the group of armed forces veterans who volunteer their services weekly at the History of Aviation Collection.

A retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, Swain was an Air Warfare Specialist and Chief Avionics Technician and served many years overseas. Most of his 5,000 flying hours were in Lockheed P-3 aircraft.

The Biloxi, Miss. native, has a BS from State University of New York in Library Studies and AA degrees from City College of Chicago in Business and Electronics. His civilian experience was in semiconductors.

Pierce, a Tennessee native and B-24 pilot during World War II, studied pre-engineering at the University of Tennessee before joining the Army Air Forces in 1943. After graduating from flight training, he was assigned to a combat crew in June 1944. He ferried a B-24 to Italy before the war ended.

After leaving the service in 1945 he graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1951 with a BS in mechanical engineering. Through 1970 he handled production, maintenance and industrial engineering supervision assignments in the aircraft industry. From 1972 until retirement in 1987 he served as a safety and fire protection consultant for an insurance firm.

Air America Reunion set for Reno from June 2-5

The Air America Association will hold its annual reunion in Reno, Nevada on June 2-5, 2005. More than 500 former Air America employees, family, and friends are expected. The Air America reunion includes informal meet and greet gatherings, a general business meeting, and a formal banquet.

Carlson to lecture on WW I

On Wednesday, June 22, 2005, Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D. will give a free public lecture “The Flyn’ Frolic: U.S. Military Aviation, Love Field, and the End of World War I.” The lecture will begin at 2 pm in the McDermott Library Auditorium at UTD. A reception will follow immediately in the Special Collections Department on the 3rd Floor.

Doolittle Raiders Plan Next Reunion at AF Museum

During their 2005 reunion in April at Mystic, CT the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders decided to accept the invitation of the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH as the site of their next reunion in April 2006. There are 17 surviving Raiders of the original 80 who flew their celebrated strike against Japan on April 18, 1942.

An invitation has been extended by the HAC at UTD to the Raiders to hold their reunion in Dallas in 2007. A decision will be made at the 2006 reunion.

First Doolittle Memorial Scholarships Awarded

Two scholarships awarded in memory of General James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle and funded by his Doolittle Tokyo Raiders have been announced by the Communities Foundation of Texas. Ten applications were received, nine of them from women. Both recipients are members of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics and have maintained the highest possible grade point averages thus far in their high school and college careers.

Kathryn E. Goben of Rolla, MO is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. She received her bachelor's degree Summa Cum Laude in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla and has been on the Dean’s List and Honor Roll as an undergraduate for four years. Her interests include planet exploration and space-related technology such as working in microgravity conditions.

Laura L. Jones, of Fort Belvoir, VA is a junior at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, and has been in the Honors Program since 2003. She is seeking an undergraduate degree in Aerospace Engineering. Her experience includes work as an assistant in the Aerospace Systems Simulation Laboratory and hopes for employment as “a researcher, designer or test engineer for either novel aircraft or spacecraft designed to investigate the mysteries of the solar system.”

Malcolm Swain and Harry Pierce
Air-Log

The University of Texas at Dallas
Box 830643
Richardson TX 75083-0643

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