Tuskegee Airmen book author to appear March 20

The History of Aviation Collection is bringing noted history professor and oral historian J. Todd Moye to make a presentation about his recent book, *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II*. The presentation, free and open to the public, will be held in McDermott Library Auditorium (MC 2.410) from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20.

His book is a finalist for the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute Award and was released prior to the current Hollywood movie, *Red Tails*. While the movie has received lukewarm reviews, Moye’s book has been praised for its accurate facts and details on the beginning of the integration of the U.S. armed forces. The work is noted as the first book to make use of the 800-plus interviews recorded for the National Park Service’s Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project which Moye directed from 2000 to 2005.

The UTD Bookstore will have copies of *Freedom Flyers* available at the presentation. There will be a book signing.

Moye reports on the challenges and triumphs of America’s University of North Texas Professor
J. Todd Moye

Doolittle Tokyo Raiders to Mark 70th Anniversary

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders will meet at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio April 17-20, 2012 for their annual reunion and observe the 70th year since their epic mission of April 18, 1942.

There are now five surviving members of the original eighty volunteers who flew 16 land-based B-25 Mitchell medium bombers from the deck of the *USS Hornet*, a Navy aircraft carrier, and bombed five major Japanese cities. It was the first mission against the nation that had launched the unprovoked devastating carrier-based attacks on Hawaii the previous December.

The HAC is home to the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Archives. All surviving Raiders are in their 90s. The five who will represent those who have gone are the following:

**Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole**, co-pilot on Crew No. 1 with Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle as the pilot, was born in Dayton, Ohio on Sept. 7, 1915 and was commissioned as a pilot in July 1941. After the Raid, he served with the First Air Commandos until June 1944. For his service, he received three DFCs, two air Medals, a Bronze Star and a Commendation Medal. Later, he was an advisor to the Venezuelan Air Force for three years and retired in 1967. He resides in Comfort, Texas.

**Major Thomas C. Griffin**, navigator on Crew No. 9, was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on July 10, 1917. He graduated from the University of Alabama and entered active service as a 2nd Lt. in the Coast Artillery but was relieved from active duty in 1940 to enlist as a Flying Cadet, was rated as a navigator and re-commissioned in July 1940. After the Raid, he flew bombing missions from North Africa, was shot down in July 1943 and spent the rest of the war as a POW. He was released from his reserve obligation in 1961 and established his own accounting business in Cincinnati, Ohio where he still lives.

**Staff Sergeant David J. Thatcher**, an engineer/gunner on Crew No. 7 was born July 31, 1921 in Bridger, Montana and enlisted in December 1940. He completed airplane and mechanic courses in December 1941. After the Raid, he flew more than 80 missions during three major campaigns in Europe and was discharged in July 1945. In addition to the DFC and five Air Medals, he was awarded the Silver Star for helping his Raid crew members evade the Japanese and, although injured himself, tended to the wounds of his crewmates. After the war, he was employed by the U.S. Postal Service and served until retirement. He lives in Missoula, Montana.

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HAC Advisory Council Adds 2 Members

The History of Aviation Collection (HAC) Advisory Council bi-annual meeting was held in late 2010 in the McDermott Suite of the library. The meeting was called to order by President Jan Collmer followed by the nomination of two new members to the board - Bob Rosbert and Ken Cordier. The council voted to attend the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Reunion in Dayton, Ohio in April 2012. HAC volunteer and curator of the Doolittle Archive, C.V. Glines, will attend as usual as the Raiders official historian and honorary Raider. Reports were presented on the Doolittle Collection and The HAC volunteers. The annual Special Collections report was given by Coordinator for Special Collections Paul Oelkrug. The meeting concluded with a special presentation by UTD graduate and Assistant Professor Walter Voit, PhD, about his research in thermomechanics of shape memory and polymers.

Council to Travel to Dayton for Raiders

During the fall meeting of the HAC Advisory Council meeting the members accepted Joe M. Dealey Jr.’s suggestion that the council attend the next Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Reunion being held at the Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton Ohio. Plans are underway to attend the reunion and several Advisory Council members are planning to participate. C. V. Glines, council member and official historian of the Doolittle Raiders, will be there in an official capacity with the Raiders. They intend to tour the museum and visit several fine restaurants.

Last spring the Council took a trip to San Jose, Calif. to visit council member Dr. James Davilla and see his fantastic collection of documents and artifacts. They also visited the Hiller Museum and many fine restaurants. Two years ago the council members were guests of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia. They were given a tour of the CIA museum, visited the Operations Center and concluded the tour at the A-12 display. While in the DC area they also visited the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy facility, and of course, many fine restaurants.

**Air-Log by E-Mail features cost-savings**

Air-Log readers still have the option to receive the publication as a pdf document via email. This saves printing costs and rising postage fees. Plus, the Air-Log arrives faster and in color as opposed to the black and white printed version. For the electronic version please send your e-mail address to LIBSPCO@utdallas.edu otherwise it will be sent by regular mail.
Special Collections joins in ‘Boots to Books’

Gone West - Lothar “Nick” Maier

Long-time HAC friend and volunteer, Nick Maier passed away Dec. 1, 2011. Nick was born in Buffalo, NY, Aug. 30, 1932 and entered pilot training with aviation cadet class 55-M in January 1954. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 1955 and assigned to B-47s at Smokey Hill Air Force Base, Kansas. His crew was the first to be assigned to B-52 up-grade training in 1956. Nick had a long and interesting career flying B-52s. As an aircraft commander, he flew the B through G models and received a SAC crew of the month award for saving a B-52 in 1967.

While flying B-52s, Nick took part in Arc Light Operations and flew 70 combat missions over Vietnam. He served as 8th Air Force Command Post Senior Controller at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam during Linebacker II in 1972. Nick had 5017 hours as a command pilot with 492 of those hours in combat.

Some of his Command Pilot hours were spent flying the famous Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, both A and B models. Nick was in one of the first flight training classes for the Blackbird.

He retired in 1977 as a major. He received the Bronze Star, three Air Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, and the Cold War Medal.

After leaving the Air Force, Nick spent 16 years in the travel industry and authored a book titled B*U*F*F, a Vietnam War novel about B-52 crew members who took part in the Arc Light bombing missions. B*U*F*F is an acronym affectionately given to the B-52 by its crews. Nick contributed to a series of books titled We Were Crewdogs compiled by Tommy Towery. These books contain stories sent to the author by B-52 crew members.

Nick’s volunteer service to the HAC was important and valuable. Even more valuable was his friendship. Nick always sat in the same place each Tuesday. We at the HAC miss Nick and are reminded of him when we see his vacant place on Tuesdays.

Special Collections joins in ‘Boots to Books’

Special Collections staff took part in the university’s “Boots to Books” program, a Veterans Day Celebration and Education Fair. Current UT Dallas student veterans served as hosts to prospective student veterans. Officials estimate there are from 700 to 1,000 of more than 19,000 students at UT Dallas who are veterans. Paul Oekrug’s staff organized an information table.

New display features Hindenburg disaster

On the evening of May 6, 1937, the luxury airship LZ-129 Hindenburg was about to complete a three-day transatlantic crossing and was was on its final approach to Naval Air Station Lakehurst in New Jersey. The airship caught fire and was destroyed in 37 seconds. The accident had international impact and played a role in ending the age of rigid airships as a means of passenger travel. The HAC display just outside Special Collections on the third floor of Eugene McDermott Library highlights the LZ-129, the Hindenburg disaster, and postal mails sent by airships. Materials used in the display are from the Vice Admiral Charles E. Rosendahl Collection, the Clara Adams Collection, and the Ronald Day Collection. Rosendahl was the base commander of NAS Lakehurst at the time of the disaster and a key figure in the following investigations.

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first African American military pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. Besides military history it is social history. Not only did they battle the Axis powers over Europe but also against Jim Crow racism and segregation on the home front. It has been called the first scholarly study of the Tuskegee experience that includes the support crew as well as the aviators.

Moye was also a consultant on the Lucasfilm documentary about the Tuskegee Airmen, “Double Victory.”

Moye is an associate professor of history at UNT and Director of the Oral History Program, a longstanding research initiative housed in the Willis Library on the campus in Denton. The collection includes World War II history with more than 1,000 interviews of veterans, Texas political history, Texas business history, the history of the New Deal in Texas, and North Texas civil rights history.

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Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite, co-pilot on Crew No. 16 was born March 3, 1920 at Odell, Texas. After three years of college, he enlisted as a Flying Cadet and was commissioned in May 1941. He was one of eight Raiders captured by the Japanese and endured torture, starvation and solitary confinement until released in August 1945. He remained in the Air Force for two more years, went on inactive duty, then was recalled in 1951 for the Korean War. He served overseas and reverted to inactive duty in 1955. He received the DFC, POW Medal and the Purple Heart. He resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Lt. Col. Edward J. Saylor, engineer on Crew No. 15, was born March 15, 1920 at Brusett, Montana. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1939 and completed the mechanics’ course in August 1940. After the Raid, he served in Stateside assignments, was transferred to England and accepted a commission in August 1945. Later, he served at Goose Bay, Labrador and Coltishall, England on an exchange tour with the RAF 1961-1963. He retired in 1967 and lives in Puylallup, Washington. In addition to the DFC, he received the Air Force Commendation Medal.