2015 Jalonick Lecture Scheduled July 11
The DFW Struggle for Aviation Supremacy

This year’s Jalonick Lecture will focus on aviation in Dallas and Fort Worth and how the rivalries between these two cities led to the development and construction of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

For years, Dallas and Fort Worth were fierce competitors in just about every arena including business, architecture, and entertainment. Aviation was no exception. As commercial flight grew in prominence in the 1950s, both cities worked to lure businesses in the aviation industry to their respective cities by building bigger and better airports.

Eventually, the Federal Aviation Administration refused to invest more money in separate Dallas and Fort Worth airports. The government threatened to choose a site if both cities could not come to an agreement. Officials decided on a location for a new regional airport. Construction began in 1969. The result was the formation of DFW International Airport.

The beginning of aviation in the Dallas/Fort Worth area up to the present is a fascinating history which parallels the development of aviation. Just as fascinating is how both cities came together to build one of the largest and busiest international airports in the world.

Our featured speaker, Dr. Darwin Payne, who co-authored with Kathy Fitzpatrick, From Prairie to Planes: How Dallas and Fort Worth Overcame Politics and Personalities to Build One of the World’s Biggest and Busiest Airports, tells this story. Where Dr. Payne’s book ends, Mr. Bruce Bleakley, author of two books on local aviation history, Dallas Aviation and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport picks up with an update on where DFW International Airport is today.

The lecture will take place in the Alexander Clark Center on July 11, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Following the lecture, both authors will be available to sign books and the UTD book store will have copies available for sale. There will also be a reception with light refreshments. Check the UTD website for registration information, a campus map and directions.

https://alumni.utdallas.edu/jalonick
HAC Participates in Panel Discussion on Braniff Airway’s Legacy

by Dr. Thomas J. Allen

In May of 2015 the Society of Southwest Archivists held its annual meeting in Arlington, Texas. The conference provides opportunities for archivists to meet, talk about their institutions and their projects, and learn about new trends in the archival field.

Staff of the History of Aviation Collection (HAC) participated in a panel discussion at the conference titled "Archivists and Curators Working with the Braniff Family to Build a Collective Public History." The panel examined how several Texas area archives and museums have been working with former Braniff employees and their family members to document the history and legacy of this important Texas airline.

The panel was moderated by HAC Coordinator for Special Collections Paul Oelkrug, CA, and included Dr. Thomas Allen, a curator with the HAC, who spoke about how the HAC has been working with the Braniff Preservation Group by providing support for tours of historic Braniff buildings, as well as symposia and lectures on Braniff and its impact.

This has allowed the HAC to showcase one of its unique collections and build relationships of support for the Braniff material in its care.

The association planned two tours this year. The first one was to the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson and included a guided tour of the Boneyard, the base where the Air Force stores decommissioned aircraft. The second excursion, which included a reception and dinner, was at the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing in Mesa.

The highlight of the reunion was the donation of the tail boom from an Air America Huey helicopter. The boom was in surprisingly good shape and all of the members present signed the boom. The donor will clear the area where it was signed and will deliver it anywhere free of charge.

This year the Air America Association Reunion was held in Scottsdale, Arizona the first weekend in June. The weather was unusually cool and wet as a result of a tropical disturbance that blew in from the Pacific.

The association provided a lectures program. The first one was to the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson and included a guided tour of the Boneyard, the base where the Air Force stores decommissioned aircraft. The second excursion, which included a reception and dinner, was at the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing in Mesa.

The highlight of the reunion was the donation of the tail boom from an Air America Huey helicopter. The boom was in surprisingly good shape and all of the members present signed the boom. The donor will clear the area where it was signed and will deliver it anywhere free of charge.

The Association voted to provide $1300 in funding to purchase a new scanner and two members each gave $2000 and $500 respectively to be used for special projects related to their collections. We very much appreciate the generosity of the individual members and the association.

The history surrounding both CAT and Air America is extensive. If you’re interested in learning more about each organization, please consult the finding aids and our digital archive. Treasures @ UT Dallas. You can also go to our website (utdallas.edu/library), click on ‘Special Collections’, then click on ‘The History of Aviation Collection’ and then ‘The CAT/Air America Archive.’

Any inquiries regarding donations should be made to Paul Oelkrug, CA, Coordinator for Special Collections.

He can be reached at Oelkrug@utdallas.edu or 972-883-2553.

SUPPORT THE COLLECTION

Planned Giving

Planned gifts give the History of Aviation Collection the opportunity to plan for future growth. These gifts may take the form of a bequest, charitable gift annuity, life insurance, or other beneficiary designations.

The Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes any individual who has made a planned gift commitment to UT Dallas. Your membership allows us to thank and honor you for the gift you have made, and we hope it will inspire generosity in others. Benefits include an annual recognition event, invitations to special events, and information on tax-saving measures for you and your family.

Charitable Gift Annuities

If you are over 55 and want to support the HAC, consider a charitable gift annuity (CGA). With this type of planned gift, you make an investment of at least $10,000 and we send you a payment for life either quarterly or annually for 4.8% of your contribution, depending on your age. A CGA can provide a greater return than many assets in your retirement portfolio. Plus, CGAs give you an immediate tax deduction. To learn more, please visit www.utdallas.plannedgiving.org.