

Texas Institute of Letters

September/October 2008

News of members and others

Our own **Don Graham**, J. Frank Dobie professor of American and English literature at UT-Austin, has been honored—again. Don, a native Texan, was named the eighth recipient of the A.C. Greene Award at the West Texas Book and Musical Festival held in Abilene in late September. The award is for lifetime achievement. Let's see now. Don is a former president of TIL; Dobie was a TIL president; and so was Greene. Previous winners of this prestigious award are our own **John Graves** (former TIL president), **Walt McDonald** (TIL member), **Elmer Kelton** (former TIL councilor), **Liz Carpenter** (TIL member), **Jane Roberts Wood** (TIL member), **Carlton Stowers** (TIL member), and Sandra Brown (the only one of previous honorees who isn't a member).

Speaking of former TIL presidents, an excerpt from **Carolyn Osborn's** memoir *Durations* has been published by *The Antioch Review* in its fall 2008 issue. It concerns the secrecy surrounding her mother's mental illness and the consequences of a family's evasions.

Oliver Stone's movie, "W," all about Bush, used many sources for his research. That includes, he told the *New York Times*, one **Bill Minutaglio**, whose credentials in this regard are rather impeccable. He's the author of *First Son: George W. Bush and the Bush Family*, and *The President's Counselor: The Rise in Power of Alberto Gonzales*. Bill is clinical professor in the journalism department at UT-Austin.

If you haven't already done so, check out **Tom Zigal's** piece on our late member, **James Crumley**, in the October issue of *Texas Monthly*. Entitled "10,000 Barstools Ago," it's a first-person account that begins with Tom's first encounter

with Crumley in San Francisco in 1975. Crumley died Sept. 17, 2008, in Missoula, Montana.

Bill Sloan, "TIL class of 2007," has just about finished his new non-fiction war book, tentatively entitled "Fifty-Eight Days: The Battles That Saved South Korea and Rescued the Marines from Extinction." Simon & Schuster will release it to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the North Korean invasion. The book focuses primarily on the first three months of the war and the fighting at Pusan, Inchon, and Seoul, as well as the Truman-MacArthur brouhaha.

Fran Vick, our past president, is editor of the third in a series of "literary cities" to be published by the TCU Press. It's *Literary Dallas*. In its pages you'll find some familiar names: **Prudence Macintosh**, **Bob Compton**, **Bryan Woolley**, **Kent Biffle**, **Hugh Aynesworth**, **Jim Lehrer**, **Stephen Michaud**, **Darwin Payne**, **Bud Shrake**, **Lawrence Wright**, **Clay Reynolds**, **C.W. Smith**, **Marshall Terry**, and **Jane Roberts Wood**. Fran is mighty busy these days as president of the Texas State Historical Association. Before completing her term recently as TIL president, for a while she was president of both the TSHA and TIL at the same time. Has any other person ever claimed this honor?

Kip Stratton has completed a new book in collaboration with Anissa Zamarron entitled *Until It Sleeps*. It's the story of Anissa's remarkable achievement in overcoming mental illness to win two world titles as a female boxer. University of Texas Press is planning a fall 2009 release. And that's not all for Kip. He's under contract to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for a biography of the late heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson. Tentative title: "The Black White Hope: Floyd Patterson and the American Dream." It will be the first book-length study of Patterson, who

died in 2006, since his autobiography, published in 1962. Kip says one interesting aspect of the Patterson book is that he came to know Gay Talese, who gave him access to handwritten notes he took while writing about Patterson for the *New York Times* and *Esquire* forty-five years ago.

Darwin Payne's biography of African-American attorney Louis A. Bedford Jr., the first black man in Dallas to become a judge and a strategist in the civil rights movement, is due in spring 2009. It's entitled *Quest for Justice: Louis A. Bedford Jr. and the Struggle for Equal Rights in Texas*. Publisher will be SMU Press.

Seven years ago **Marsh Terry** wrote a personal history of Southern Methodist University, where he has spent more than fifty distinguished

years in the English Department. It was entitled "*From High on the Hilltop . . .*", which was an identifying phrase used so frequently by the long-time Southwestern Conference football broadcaster Kern Tips. SMU is now approaching its one-hundredth centennial (founded in 1911, classes started in 1915), and in anticipation of that event Marsh has republished his book with numerous photographs and with fourteen essays about the university. "*From High on the Hilltop . . .*" remains as the title, but it has a new subtitle: *Marshall Terry's History of SMU with Various Essays by His Colleagues*. Publication in both paperback and hardcover is in November by DeGolyer Library, SMU, and Three Forks Press.

TIL awards banquet and annual meeting to be April 17-18

Maybe it's not too early to mark your calendars for our 2009 awards banquet and annual meeting. (Or, perhaps put it on the last page of your 2008 calendar so you can add it to the 2009 calendar when you get one.)

Our president, Bill Davis, has announced that we'll be in Waco on April 17 and 18, and our Friday night reception will be at a most intriguing place—the Dr Pepper Museum. Waco, of course, is where the popular soft drink was first concocted. We'll have the full run of all three floors at the museum. The awards banquet will be held at the newly remodeled Hilton Hotel on Saturday evening. Further information on the weekend will be forthcoming.

Bill has been attempting to raise money from some generous donor to pay for the reception, but thus far without luck. He writes, "If you have options, leads, suggestions, etc., for same, let me know."

Don't forget to check the TIL website at <http://texasinstituteofletters.org/>

Only a few days left for nominating New TIL members

Last call—very last call-- for nominating new TIL members.

The deadline, as announced some time ago, is Nov. 1. TIL's vice president, John Miller Morris, reports that a number of nominations already have made.

Here's how nominations are made:

(Please remember that these are done in confidence. For obvious reasons, the person being nominated must not know of the nomination.) Send:

Statement of nomination; reasons for nomination (list of major works, awards, etc.).

Do not send vitas.

- 1. Ten to fifteen pages of published writing(s) by the one being nominated.**
- 2. A second of the nomination made by another member of TIL (this person need only send a statement seconding the nomination).**

The above should be sent to John Miller Morris, Department of Political Science and Geography, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, TX 78249.

THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1, 2008.

Please use this form for remitting your dues for 2009.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

TIL Dues for 2009 _____ \$50.00

Paisano Fund _____

Fred Whitehead Memorial Endowment Fund _____

Scholarly Book Award Endowment Fund _____

O. Henry Award Endowment Fund _____

Stanley Walker Award Endowment Fund _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to Texas Institute of Letters and send to:

**James Hoggard, Dept. of English, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft, Wichita Falls, TX
76301.**

TIL Officers

William Virgil Davis, Waco
President
William_Davis@baylor.edu

John Miller Morris, Austin
Vice President
jmorris@utsa.edu

Darwin Payne, Dallas
Secretary
dpayne@smu.edu

James Hoggard, Wichita Falls
Treasurer
james.hoggard@mwsu.edu

Betty Wiesepape, Richardson
Recording Secretary
Betwx@aol.com

TIL Councilors

Ty Cashion, Huntsville, first term ends in April 2010
Fritz Lanham, Houston, second term ends in April 2011
Frances Neidhardt, Sherman, first term ends in April 2010
Jim Sanderson, Beaumont, second term ends in April 2009
Jan Seale, McAllen, second term ends in April 2011
W.K. (Kip) Stratton, Round Rock, first term ends in April 2010
Andres Tijerina, Austin, first term ends in April 2010

Note: Please send news about yourself for the next newsletter to dpayne@smu.edu. Also changes of address and corrections for the directory.