Hooray! It’s finally here, the “50 Years in the Making” celebration. The THM and Hill College staff has worked very diligently this summer preparing for the 50th celebration. Please look through the newsletter for all the details of this great celebration.

I would like to announce the 48th Hill College Press publication, More Texas Burial Sites of Civil War and Reconstruction Era Notables, is in the final stages of printing. More information about this publication is detailed on the inside of this newsletter.

Two exciting additions and upgrades are happening at the museum this summer. First, the museum theater auditorium has had a complete overhaul. A much needed upgrade is being installed making the theater audio visual equipment state of the art high definition. This is a great improvement to showcase the museum’s videos and give the best HD experience for our faculty to use to engage and enhance their teaching experience for their students. Secondly, the museum has added another section of granite to the Official State Medal of Honor Memorial to Native-Born Texans with the names of five native-born Texans who have recently been awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama from the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Thank you for your continued support of the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College.

Sincerely,
John Versluis
Dean THM

Letter from the Dean

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THM Joins Vietnam War Commemoration

Texas Heritage Museum has joined the Vietnam War Commemoration, a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Program’s purpose is to coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the federal, state and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.

For more information, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com.
New and Upcoming Publications

On the east side of the main entrance to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. there is a pedestal with the engraving “What is Past is Prologue.” These words are from a play of Shakespeare’s but also are consistent with views of many of the founding fathers of the United States, including George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and others. The past is gone: it is “Prologue” or “Introduction” to the present and what occurs in the future. What is known about the Texas Heritage Museum as it pursues the mission of exploring Texas and Texans during wartime and, in the process, contributes in many ways to the cultural and educational environment of Texas and the service area of Hill College.

In 2013, the 47th imprint of Hill College Press was an account of the World War II experiences of a young Fort Worth man who was with the first Allied forces to assault Fascist and Nazi Europe and, as a soldier in the Texas 36th Division, was involved in the capture of high ranking German officers. The 48th imprint of the press, planned for release this year, will be a two-volume addition to a work published in 2002 with biographical sketches and images of grave sites of more than 300 high ranking Civil War military officers (Confederate and Union) who are buried in Texas. Expanding the coverage to the Reconstruction Era after the war and including other prominent persons, including women, the authors, based on extensive research and investigation of sites in all the counties of Texas, are presenting in the 2014 publication 1,060 biographical sketches and images of grave sites of “Notables” to the list. The publication of the work is made possible by a grant of the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas to the Texas Heritage Museum. This work and all those books previously circulated are “Prologue” to the future history of Hill College Press as it continues, uniquely among two-year community colleges in Texas, to publish scholarly works that enhance the mission of the museum and the college.

THM Celebrates 50 Years in the Making

The Texas Heritage Museum is all geared up and ready to “Celebrate 50 Years in the Making” with an exclusive four-day celebration that brings together music, exhibits, lectures and events honoring the Texas Heritage Museum’s 50 years of extraordinary vision in developing its mission “to explore Texas and Texans during wartime and how those experiences affect us today.”

The celebration will kick off Monday, September 22nd as the Hill College Performing Arts Series hosts Dimensions in Blue, the big band jazz ensemble from The United States Air Force Band of the West. Dimensions in Blue features 18 talented musicians from around the country. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Vara Martin Daniel Performing Arts Center and is family-friendly and open to the public, free of charge.

Tuesday, the museum will host a members’ sneak peek, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., which will allow members an opportunity to view our 2014 exhibition galleries, newly updated Medal of Honor Memorial, and exclusive temporary exhibit entitled The Forgotten War, United States Siberia and North Russia Expeditionary Forces 1918-1920 and created by Texas Heritage Museum’s Dean, John Versluis. Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served.

The celebration continues by hosting a special presentation for Hillsboro 7th graders on the Medal of Honor and the native-born Texans who have received it. Students will view the new addition to the Official State Medal of Honor Memorial to Native-Born Texans. Students will also watch the Texas Medal of Honor video entitled Remembering...Texans who received the nation’s Medal of Honor in the Performing Arts Center auditorium.

The celebration will conclude on Thursday with a VIP reception at the museum for those who are participating at the banquet to follow. This will allow those who have not seen the museum an opportunity to do so before the evening banquet. The following banquet will include several honored guests as well as keynote speaker John W. Flores, a Hill College alumnus and author who wrote Marine Sergeant Freddy Gonzalez, Vietnam War Hero.

Wednesday’s and Thursday’s events are a collaboration between the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration and the Fort Graham Chapter Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College to remember the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.


MORE TEXAS BURIAL SITES OF CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION ERA NOTABLES
A BIOGRAPHICAL AND PICTORIAL FIELD GUIDE

it cannot be relived or changed, except in our imaginations or in
our understanding as knowledge
increases about what took place
and as interpretations are made.
Such knowledge is perpetually important in the ongoing decisions
and operations of institutions and
in the cultural environment in which
we live. Engaged in the publication of books for more than 50 years, Hill College Press, conceived by Colonel Harold Simpson and authorized by the Board of Regents in 1964, is an important part of
the Texas Heritage Museum as it
pursues the mission of exploring
Texas and Texans during wartime
and, in the process, contributes
in many ways to the cultural and
educational environment of Texas
and the service area of Hill College.

The museum offers numerous opportunities for citizens, and
especially for students. Area public school children are provided the
opportunity for field trips to the museum to learn about Texas history. Hill College students utilize the rich history resources for their college courses. Citizens from all over the country have opportunities to visit the many special exhibits that are open
daily in the museum.

“I would like to congratulate
the Texas Heritage Museum on
its upcoming 50th celebration. I
encourage you to stop by and
visit the museum and talk with
the friendly and accommodating staff.
Stay tuned and be watching for
great things at Hill College and Texas Heritage Museum!”

Dr. Pamela Boehm

Dr. Boehm is a long-time community member and employee of Hill College with an extensive and diverse background in higher education. She began her college education at Hill College and also studied at McMurry Community College, Sam Houston State University, and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor prior to receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Applied Sciences and then a Master of Education degree from Tarleton State University. Her Doctor of Education degree is from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

In a statement regarding her new appointment, Dr. Boehm expressed that, “Hill College is a dynamic institution with a rich history of providing first-class music and fine arts programs, nationally ranked athletic teams, and innovative and state-of-the-art academic and workforce training programs and services to equip students in being successful in their chosen careers.

“We are especially proud of the Texas Heritage Museum. The museum offers numerous opportunities for citizens, and especially for students. Area public school children are provided the opportunity for field trips to the museum to learn about Texas history. Hill College students utilize the rich history resources for their college courses. Citizens from all over the country have opportunities to visit the many special exhibits that are on display at the museum.

“I would like to congratulate the Texas Heritage Museum on its upcoming 50th celebration. I encourage you to stop by and visit the museum and talk with the friendly and accommodating staff. Stay tuned and be watching for great things at Hill College and Texas Heritage Museum!”

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