Library Instruction, FYs 2001-2006: Special Collections & Archives

Special Collections & Archives has a longstanding tradition of providing library instruction to students, faculty, and other researchers in the use of its materials, and has been active in this regard during the entire period of the present SACS review. In most cases, this instruction has been given upon request or in preparation to delivering information to the patrons.

Even this concise tabulation will indicate that the department is in compliance with any reasonable expectations of ensuring users access to regular and timely instruction in the use of its holdings.

1. Classes instructed in access/use of materials:

   As the sole professional in the department, it has been part of Kreneck’s regular duties to host classes in the Special Collections Reading Room to instruct them in an in-depth manner in the access/use of materials. On all occasions this instruction has been upon the request of individual faculty. In all instances, Kreneck has been greatly assisted by LA I Grace Charles and LA I Jan Weaver. Between FY 01 and FY 06, this activity has been conducted with approximately 25 individual classes.

   The above-mentioned classes have included advanced history topics and themes classes, local history classes, Mexican American history classes, the History of the Gilded Age class, graduate research seminars on the Civil War, and especially the history capstone research and writing classes for graduating seniors. They have also included advanced Surveying (GIS) classes, Film classes, speech classes, the English Bibliography and Research class, an Art Gallery and Museum Practices class, and graduate level educational leadership classes. Jan Weaver has been especially active in providing the instruction for the educational leadership classes. All of these classes have drawn directly from resources held by the department.

   Weaver has provided instruction on Ward Island materials to four separate introductory environmental science classes.

   In all cases Charles, and Weaver, as well as Kreneck provided in-depth instruction and materials to members of these undergraduate and graduate classes on repeated return visits for their research papers and other projects.

   Of importance, Special Collections staff members have also consistently instructed in an in-depth fashion numerous individual A&M-Corpus Christi undergraduate and graduate students on research topics that they could explore for their class projects in materials within the department.
2. Specialized Researchers and other groups of students:

Over the period FY 01-FY 06, the department has provided specialized instruction on its materials to a range of noteworthy researchers who required explanation of the resources well beyond simple information delivery. These researchers range from off-campus students who are working on their theses or dissertations, as well as academic and lay scholars working on books, articles, film documentaries, exhibits, and the like too diverse to list. These individuals who required specialized instruction numbered at least one hundred and seventy five (175) people.

Over this period, Grace Charles has given specialized instruction to six distinct groups public school students for history fair projects in materials held by the department, especially the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers. In the process, she has delivered a great deal of information to these students. The topics of these history fair projects have included the American G.I. Forum, Hispanic Civil Rights, the life and contributions of Dr. Hector P. Garcia and Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia, and the Felix Longoria incident. These students have come from the local region including Falfurrias High School, Ingleside High School, Carroll High School, and Alice High School, thus giving these prospective college students a positive introduction to A&M-Corpus Christi through library instruction.

Supplementing this instruction, Kreneck acted as an official mentor to one of these Falfurrias High School students in his participation in that school=s Distinguished Academic Program. From these efforts, the student subsequently won state-level honors with his project on the G.I. Forum.

In March 2003, the staff of Special Collections & Archives hosted thirty students in the class of Dr. Armando Alonzo, professor of history from Texas A&M University, College Station, during its tour of research resources in South Texas. The class was especially interested in the collections dealing with Mexican American civil rights from which its members might draw information in their graduate studies. This visit involved instruction on the Special Collections materials.

In FY 05, Charles and Kreneck hosted forty students from the University of Wisconsin who were on a bus tour of Texas visiting the historic sites of the Hispanic Civil Rights Movement. The students were on campus to see the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Statue and Plaza as well as the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers, and were given in-depth instruction on the collection.

Of particular note, during FY 04, 05, and 06, Kreneck served as instructor in a series of workshops in the project entitled “Teaching American History” sponsored by the Education Service Center Region 2 and held at the University. Focusing on Civil Rights, the workshops were designed for professional development of history and social studies teachers in this area. Every year, the teachers comprised four separate cohorts of approximately ten teachers each. Each cohort received three days of instruction so that
the entire series ran for four weeks each June and three separate specialized instruction
days for one of those cohorts. The segment that Dr. Kreneck dealt with imparted an
appreciation for documents of the civil rights movement, in particular within the
Mexican-American community. These workshops consisted of both lecture and a hands-
on examination of the documents themselves. The documents included items from the Dr.
Hector P. Garcia Papers (the American G.I. Forum) as well as the spectrum of collections
dealing with mutual aid societies, LULAC, educational pioneers, and similar Hispanic
items. Over the three year period, Kreneck taught a total of forty five of these
instructional sessions.

3. Classes taught as Graduate Lecturer in Applied History:

At the request of the history program, in 2002 Kreneck began to teach the
required graduate class entitled Applied History (History 5360) every two years.
Accordingly, he was given the title of Graduate Lecturer in Public History and as such
taught the course three times, including in the Spring Semester 2002 (12 students), Spring
Semester 2004 (15 students), and Fall Semester 2006 (8 students). This course is for the
History Master’s program in the College of Arts & Humanities, although it has included
graduate students from other disciplines and colleges. Each course involved, among
other applied/public history endeavors, the care and use of special collections, archives,
manuscript materials.

As Graduate Lecturer in Public History (2002-2006), Kreneck has taught 4
graduate level Independent Study courses, commenced 2 others in August, 2006, and
taught 2 undergraduate Individual Study courses during the summer, 2006. These
individual classes were in archival practice and other aspects of historical research and
writing dealing with the department’s holdings.

Kreneck also served on several History Master’s candidate committees, all of
which involved instruction in departmental materials. As such he has participated in the
successful completion of one Master’s thesis and one master’s candidate’s final
examination.