Meet Jim Lee  
by Judy Alter

People sometimes ask me how I ended up at TCU Press. I laugh and tell that them I shared an office with the previous director, when I was coordinator of community services in the office of extended education. One day, former press director Keith Gregory looked at me and asked, “Do you want to be editor?” I said, “Yes.” And that was my job interview.

Jim Lee, formally known as James Ward Lee, came to TCU Press in about the same way. A longtime friend, advisor, and colleague, he used to come down from Denton for lunch occasionally. (Now he lives in Fort Worth and loves it!) One day, he sat in my office watching me stare at a pile of unread manuscripts, and he said, “I could help you with those, you know.” That’s how he became our acquisitions editor. He even has an official letter from the provost, appointing him visiting editor “without compensation.”

To me, Jim has the ideal job, even “without compensation.” He means to come in at 8:00 every morning, but somehow he ambles in about 10:30 or 11:00 A.M. Pretty soon, it’s time for lunch, and by mid-afternoon his workday is over. But he has an office, a computer, and work that keeps him in the world of Texas letters to which he has dedicated his life. When I retire, Jim better watch out—I want his job!

Jim’s contributions to the press are invaluable. He brings to us the experience of having taught English at the University of North Texas, as well as having served as chair of the department and director of the Center for Texas Studies. Jim is one of two or three scholars in Texas renowned for special knowledge of Texas literature and its
Meet Jim Lee, continued

authors. Serious about his duties, he still has a effervescent, wry sense of humor that lightens the atmosphere in the office and often has us laughing out loud. He is an astute judge of manuscripts and claims he spends his time “breaking hearts” by rejecting manuscripts. Among the gems he has found for us are Texas in Poetry (edited by Billy Bob Hill and forthcoming in Fall 2002), a collection of short stories by novelist John Irsfeld, Hill Country Back Roads by Laurie Jasinski, and From Texas to the World and Back: The Journeys of Katherine Anne Porter. He brought back Rape, Incest, Battery: Women Writing Out the Pain by Miriam Harris from a meeting of the Texas State Historical Association.

But Literary Fort Worth may be his finest achievement to date. The book was Jim’s idea, and he read tirelessly, choosing passages from novels, soliciting poetry, overseeing the permissions process, and reading proofs again and again. The result is a 414-page book that is a literary smorgasbord, with something in it to appeal to almost any reader’s taste.

And Jim? He’s already moved on to his next project. Now reading poetry, he is proofing the manuscript of Texas in Poetry. And, of course, he has those unsolicited manuscripts to read, literature discussion classes to lead, bridge games to play—and someday he’s going to put that collection of his own short stories together for us.

Farewell to a Friend

With regret, TCU Press announces the resignation of A. T. “Tracy” Row as editor. Tracy came to us in 1989 from the Arizona Historical Society, where he had worked closely with the late renowned historian, C. L. Sonnichsen.

During his tenure with TCU Press, Tracy’s special interest was in the history of the American Southwest and in borderland studies. He was instrumental in developing Forging the Tortilla Curtain by Thomas Torrans, To Die on Your Feet by Ward Albro, Mexico under Fire, edited by Joseph E. Chance, and many other titles. In 1994, he and Judy Alter collaborated on the anthology, Unbridled Spirits: Short Fiction about Women in the Old West. Tracy often represented the press at meetings, including the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association.

A native of New England, Tracy served in Vietnam. He is an avid sailor and enjoys riding his motorcycle.

For the immediate future, he plans to do some freelance work. Friends who wish to write him may send letters to TCU Press, Box 298300, Fort Worth, Texas 76129. All correspondence will be forwarded to Tracy.
Praise for Recent Titles

**Reynolds** by Donley Watt

“Wry details and witty, dead-on dialogue charged with biblical echoes give Watt real class.”

**Kirkus Reviews**

“A funky family from East Texas flirts with a variety of disasters in this latest by Watt, an entertaining yarn. . . .”

**Publishers Weekly**

**Tie-Fast Country** by Robert Flynn

“Prose throughout smelling of tallow and coal oil. Flynn deserves a prize.”

**Kirkus Reviews**

“Mr. Flynn’s renown for creating and depicting cow country people so unerringly dates to 1967, the year of publication of his first novel, *North to Yesterday*, a classic of Texas literature. *Tie-Fast Country*, his sixth novel, is proof, as if any were needed, that this gift is undiminished. Rista is magnificent: The entire book is unforgettable.”

**Dallas Morning News**

**Threading Time: A Cultural History of Threadwork**

by Dolores Bausum

“Dolores Bausum begins with Adam and Eve in *Threading Time*. She weaves nine years of documented research into a fascinating tapestry, and illustrates how fabric making has altered the makers, with respect to their religion, wealth, industry, and literature.”

**Dallas Morning News**

“[A] richly annotated account. . . . Recommended for readers of literature, cultural history, and women’s history and general readers including graduate students, faculty, and researchers.”

**CHOICE**

---

The Mary Couts Burnett Library

Did you know TCU’s library has 900,000 books and bound journals, 38,400 electronic books, and 230 computer databases? Want to take advantage of all these resources? Join the Friends of the TCU Library! For $50 a year, you get access to the library, invitations to a wide variety of programs, and the satisfaction of supporting a truly important part of the university. For more information, call 817-257-7106.
TWENTY PERCENT DISCOUNT!

Use this coupon next time you order TCU Press titles from our distributor, Texas A&M University Press. Just clip and mail with your order to University Publishing, TAMUS 4354, College Station TX 78743-4354.

It’s our way of saying thank you for your continued interest in TCU Press.