THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

REFLECTIONS ON THE
HISTORY OF BIOLOGICAL &
OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCES

A Symposium in Honor of
PROFESSOR RONALD RAINGER
Department of History at Texas Tech University

JANUARY 11, 2010
THE ESCONDIDO THEATER
STUDENT UNION BUILDING
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
3:30 – 4:00 pm  
**The Adaptationists’ Two-Front War**  
Dr. Mott Greene, University of Puget Sound  
Advocates of adaptation as the principal agency of evolutionary change find themselves today fighting a two-front battle, with creationists to their right and population geneticists to their left. The issues involved, intentionality and agency in evolution, echo theological struggles back to the early centuries of the Christian era.

4:00 – 4:30 pm  
**What We Talk About When We Talk About History: Deep History, Evolutionary History, and the History of Science**  
Dr. Anita Guerrini, Oregon State University  
This talk will look at Daniel Lord Smail’s notion of “deep history” and Ed Russell’s ideas about evolutionary to sketch out an alternative framework for the history of science.

4:30 – 5:00 pm  
**Closing**  
Dr. Ronald Rainger, Texas Tech University  
Dr. Aliza Wong, Texas Tech University

9:30 – 10:00 am  
**Welcome and Introductions**  
Dr. Aliza Wong, Texas Tech University

Introduction of Speakers  
Dr. Lynne Fallwell, Dr. Barbara Hahn, and Dr. Aliza Wong, Texas Tech University

10:00 – 10:30 am  
**Of Heroes, Villains, and Ordinary Men: Rightsizing Roger Revelle**  
Dr. Naomi Oreskes, University of California, San Diego  
Historians have long struggled with how to present the life and work of important individuals in science. The desire to resist glorification, celebration, and above all hagiography often leads to a certain negativity, a tendency to “reduce” great men down to ordinary size. Roger Revelle, an important subject of Ran Rainger’s work, poses this difficult in acute form. How does one defend Revelle, the legacy, while at the same time “rightsizing” Revelle, the man?

10:30 – 11:00 am  
**Arthur C. Clarke, Inner Space, and Mid-20th Century Oceanography**  
Dr. Helen Rozwadowski, University of Connecticut  
The relationship between space and the oceans is revealed through the science of the 1960s and the ocean-based science fiction and non-fiction of Clarke, whose personal discovery of the sea through skin and scuba diving reflected engagement with oceans as inner space.

11:00 – 11:30 am  
**Break**
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<td>11:30 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>The Incidental Historian of Physics: How the Center for History of Physics Can Help Historians of Earth Science</strong> Dr. Gregory Good, American Institute of Physics</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Eugenics and Applied Demography in France and Its Colonies</strong> Dr. Michael Osborne, Oregon State University</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Water Babies</strong> Dr. Jean Beatty, University of British Columbia</td>
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<td>2:30 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Stem Cell Science Challenging Society: Has It Always Been This Way?</strong> Dr. Jane Maienschein, Arizona State University</td>
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11:30 am – 12:00 pm: **The Incidental Historian of Physics: How the Center for History of Physics Can Help Historians of Earth Science**

Dr. Gregory Good, American Institute of Physics

Historians of geology, oceanography, and meteorology, may not think resources in the history of physics as being relevant to their work. They are. The number of physicists who wandered into the earth sciences during the last century or so astounds, and their leavings provide historians of earth science bountiful opportunities.

12:00 – 12:30 pm: **Rainger and the Importance of Age in the History of American Biology**

Dr. Keith R. Benson, University of British Columbia (emeritus)

Over twenty years ago, Ron Rainger muttered loud enough for at least one person to hear that his work on Henry Fairfield Osborn and fossils had little to do with the development in the expansion of American biology (to merge two titles). In this paper, I will examine briefly Rainger’s influence on the history of American biology, and in slightly more detail, I will describe how his suggestions have led me to a new appreciation of the importance of “aged specimens” (fossils) for American biology.

12:30 – 1:30 pm: **Lunch**

3:00 – 3:30 pm: **Break**
Ron Rainger has been at the history department of Texas Tech University since 1984. He received his Doctorate in the History of Science and Technology from Indiana University in 1982, his Master's degree from the University of Utah, and his undergraduate degree from Willamette University in Oregon. He has received numerous teaching awards while at TTU, including the Hemphill-Well Excellence in Teaching Award, the Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award, and the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award. He has written An Agenda for Antiquity: Henry Fairfield Osborn and Vertebrate Paleontology at the American Museum Of Natural History, 1890-1935, and participated in two edited volumes on the development of American Biology. His contributions to the field of History of Science include writing many research articles, reviewing and referring grants and manuscripts, presenting academic papers, and mentoring graduate students. In 2004-2006 he served as program director for the Science and Technology Studies Program at the National Science Foundation in Virginia. He is currently researching the history of the teaching of evolution in Texas.

Married to Judy Greaves Rainger, a retired French teacher, he is the proud parent of Haywood and Maizie, two dogs that are devoted to him.

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