‘For people who love books and music…’
A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends:

It was wonderful to see so many Friends at the Annual Homecoming Brunch! Our next event is the Author Reception on Tuesday, January 14, honoring Rice-affiliated authors whose books were published this year. You are welcome to invite guests to attend with you, as most of our events are open to the public and free of charge.

The Fondren Saturday Night XII committee is hard at work on our annual gala and auction, which we hope will be the most successful to date. The library is greatly in need of additional funds to enhance its budget. It's a great source of pride that in the past, the Friends group has helped purchase special collections, current volumes, computer and listening equipment, and compact discs, as well as other library items.

The gala this year honors the Autry and Kelley families, who have been so generous with their time and resources in supporting the library. Please make plans to attend this popular event on Saturday, April 4. To arrange underwriting, tickets or contribution of auction items, call Betty Charles at 285-5157.

Our collective efforts are extremely important in helping the library to keep pace with rising costs and meet the needs of students and faculty. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elaine Davis
President

RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.
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COVER: The Stude Concert Hall is a principal feature of the music school's new facility. Fondren Library supports the school's students and faculty with the Alice Pratt Brown Library, which contains music collections as well as those of art and architecture.

PHOTO BY TOMMY LAVERNE

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Collections:  
'Ve cannot rest on our laurels'  
Supporting the Shepherd School of Music

Last year, it was easy to spot people who'd just come from the Shepherd School of Music — they were the ones bearing traces of mud.

As rains continued, so did final construction of the new Alice Pratt Brown Hall, which now houses the Shepherd School. The new facility officially opened this fall with a series of highly-praised ceremonies and concerts.

Through it all, music students regularly made the often-muddy trek around construction at the Shepherd School (whose classrooms and studios were opened late in 1989, while the facility was being completed) to head for Fondren Library, where the music collections are housed on the third floor in the Alice Pratt Brown Library.

Both facilities honor Mrs. Brown, long-time civic and cultural leader who died in 1984. She and her husband, George R. Brown — former chairman of Rice’s board of governors — received the university’s gold medal for distinguished service in 1966.

The music library faces a great challenge in keeping up with the school it supports, as the Shepherd School of Music attains an increasing reputation for its high quality.

Although Rice offered a few music classes in its early years, it wasn’t until the mid-1970s that a music program was developed. Samuel Jones, conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic in New York, was asked to come to Rice and develop a major school of music.

“It was a rare opportunity: a first-class university like Rice that had the money and wanted to start a major music school — not necessarily to copy Juilliard or Curtis, but a school of the first rank. Those were really my only marching orders: ‘Make it good!’” said Jones, who headed the program for six years. He currently serves as the school’s director of graduate studies and professor of music, teaching composition and producing original works for ensemble and symphony performances.

'Quantity and depth'

The school continued its growth under the direction of deans Alan Ross and Larry Livingston. In 1986, Rice secured Michael Hammond — former president of the State University of New York College (SUNY) at Purchase — as dean of the school of music. Hammond brought to reality the new facility and has increased the school’s growing international reputation.

“The opening of our new building is at the same time an opening to the Shepherd School’s future as one of the finest music schools in the world,” said Hammond. “Without the building, many of the necessary developments could not have occurred.

“Now we must pursue a whole range of goals that have been on hold: increasing the enrollment from 240 to 300; filling out the faculty ranks with major new appointments; providing scholarships and stipends for brilliant students — especially at the graduate level — students who are both musically and academically very gifted and well-schooled; and not least of all, improving the library collection in both the quantity and depth of its holdings.”

The music library houses books, musical scores, recordings and listening equipment.

Materials support academic courses and individual areas of study
including music history, musicology, advanced theory and analysis. The library also supports performance studies through a collection of musical scores — symphonic and chamber works, as well as scores and parts for individual instruments.

"The major need, as I see it, is to round out the score and monuments collections, together with securing a range of scholarly materials in early music," explained Hammond. "In addition, the compact disc (CD) collection must be expanded considerably."

"There's a dual problem of catching up and filling in the blanks, and also staying abreast of current publications," added Jones. "Also, we need to acquire important new editions of older music. A library can never say 'Now we have all the Beethoven in stock!' because there's always new scholarship, new editions — it's a never-ending process."

'For people who love music and books'

The library has acquired a few significant private materials, including the library of Richard Lert, German opera and symphonic conductor who later moved to the U.S. and, in his later years, served as an adjunct professor of conducting at Rice. Jones was instrumental in securing the Lert materials.

Lert’s collection includes annotated scores — sometimes two, three or four of the same piece. "He'd just fill up a score and start on a new one," said Jones.

Lert, who died in 1980 at the age of 94, was one of the last of the "golden age" of conducting, noted Jones. He played violin under Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler, and served as assistant to legendary conductor Arthur Nikisch. Lert eventually served as

"...(M)usic takes physical vibrations and translates them into spiritual vibrations. It takes the highest intellectual pre-occupations and translates them into the deepest feelings of emotion. It takes imperfect human beings — composers and artists — and through nothing but the sounds they make translates them into bearers of a message which gives us a glimpse of perfection itself."
conductor of the state opera of Berlin.

"His ties with that era of German romantic style are so close and authentic, it represents a research treasure-trove that will become even more important as time goes on," Jones said.

In the 1930s Lert's wife, novelist Vicki Baum, achieved fame with Grand Hotel. They moved with their sons to the U.S., where Baum wrote for movies and Lert started his second career — as conductor of the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of the American Symphony Orchestra League's Institute of Orchestral Studies. In the latter capacity, "he became one of the most outstanding conducting teachers in the country and helped train a whole generation of conductors," said Jones, who studied with Lert and later became his assistant.

Lert worked with many opera students who went on to achieve celebrity. Jones recalled visiting Marilyn Horne backstage in Houston, where she took one look at Lert, ran to him and threw her arms about his neck. Lert enjoyed enormous popularity and respect among his students; even now, former students come to Rice to study his materials.

During the latter part of his career, Lert accepted an appointment at the Shepherd School and traveled here frequently to teach. "He loved to come here and work with students," Jones said. "He loved Houston and saw the possibilities of the school while it was in its infancy. He was absolutely delighted to have his books and scores come here."

Lert's collection includes a large number of video and audio tapes of performances and lectures. Unlike the library's Bartlett Beethoven collection, which has funds for maintenance, the Lert collection has none. It has not yet been fully catalogued, nor have its tapes been transferred to modern media so they can be used.

"Many of these, unfortunately, are half-inch reel-to-reel helical scan videotapes, for which we don't have equipment," explained Jones. "That particular technology is so obsolete — it takes a lot of fine-tuning and electronic tweaking to get them to work on machines other than the ones on which they were recorded. It requires a very professional job. Every year that goes by, we get further and further from that technology. Even $10,000-20,000 would go a long way toward getting a large number of these transferred."

The Lert collection was nearly lost while stored with a moving company in Los Angeles. As Jones recalls, the firm evidently went out of business and most items in storage were discarded. "Lert's son, Wolfgang, tracked it down and discovered — just by the slimmest of coincidences — someone there knew these things shouldn't be tossed. Somehow they were put aside when everything else was tossed away."

Jones praised recent efforts in upgrading holdings of the music library, noting many gaps have been filled in. "Of course, we still have a long way to go."

"Now that we have the new building we cannot rest on our laurels. The kind of world-class stature we hope for our institution has to be continually earned and striven for both in terms of scholarships and in materials for our students to study and perform from."

"It seems to me for people who love music and who love books, there could be no finer way to bring those loves together than to support the music library."

Conductor Richard Lert on…

Brahms Symphony No. 3

“I love that on letter H...when the one theme comes softly down in the high winds, while the first theme is broken in the strings. It has such a marcato! It is usually too piano. It has to have something 'grouchy' about it — real Brahms.”

Brahms First Symphony in C minor

“At letter F...the melodic line is a phrase of two bars down and again another two bars down, then it is a phrase of three bars disappearing from here. Nothing in bar 111 — less and less. It sounds like heaven if you get it. God wrote it with him.”

“You can have the strings measured but usually you don't hear it. When I shout to you about these things, you look for the small technical things and about correctness, but you forget the music! If you measure it out exactly with a metronome then you are dead, believe me!”

“The idea is as Nikisch said: 'The first time the chorale is a prayer, and the last time the chorale is a victory.' At the end, you know, where everything is accomplished, then, it is a victory!”

Strauss Don Juan

“A ritardando is not good at the end...You just get it down every time less, every time less. But if you make big pauses between those last E's, it is not this piece. He just closes his eyes and is dead, quietly.”

3. Ibid., p. 60.

FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

1992 CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 14 RECEPTION HONORING RICE AUTHORS (Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Members of the Friends) of books published in 1991. Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 9 SCHUBERTIAD A musical event in the style of the nineteenth-century featuring performances by students of the Shepherd School of Music. Alice Pratt Brown Concert Hall, Shepherd School of Music, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4 FONDREN SATURDAY NIGHT XII Cocktails and dinner to benefit the Friends of Fondren Endowment Fund. Cohen House, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 16 PREVIEW OF STUDENT ART EXHIBITION sponsored by the Friends and the Arts Committee of the Association of Alumni. Sewall Art Gallery, Rice University, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Date To Be Arranged ANNUAL MEETING. Program by Austin Bay, a member of the Friends of Fondren Library and a Rice graduate.

An informal reception will be held with each program. Charles D. Maynard, Jr., Program Chairman
Donors:  
**Lovetts continue generous legacy**

College becomes a home of sort to its students – surely none more so than to H. Malcolm Lovett, son of Rice University's first president. Long before enrolling, he spent many childhood hours watching the first buildings go up on campus and attending Rice events.

In 1966, Lovett reminisced about those days in remarks at the Golden Anniversary Homecoming Dinner of Rice's first class:  
"While I did not attend classes with you… I did attend your matriculation ceremonies and address and every official and public function of the class during your four years at Rice – except the Junior Prom, the Senior Banquet and the Senior German. Everything you did was the most important event in our household and we all stood up and were counted at all invocations and Benedictions and joined dutifully in the hymns. In fact, as I recall, I sang louder in the Latin songs than some of you first graduates."

Lovett was seven years of age when his mathematician father, Edgar Odell Lovett, was named to head Rice University. At that point, nothing of the university existed except a substantial endowment from its founder, William Marsh Rice. It was the job of Edgar Odell Lovett to direct the building of the physical and academic environment which was to open in 1912 as Rice Institute.

Recently Malcolm Lovett, now 89, talked about the events and people that fostered the enthusiastic support he and his wife, the late Martha Wicks Lovett, have offered to Rice and its library.

"My father married my mother about 1897. He was a bright young man who was made a full professor of mathematics at Princeton in less than two years. In 1900 he decided to take a sabbatical leave. My sister Adelaide was less than a year old when they went to Paris. She didn't know how to speak English – she learned French first – and when they came back, the grandparents thought their granddaughter was ruined: she couldn't even speak English!"

The death of William Marsh Rice marked the birth of Rice Institute – but not until a fraudulent will was exposed. Rice's valet and an attorney had entered into a conspiracy to murder the wealthy man, laying claim to his fortune.

"Mr. Rice's [family] got a telegram from a New York lawyer saying that Mr. Rice had died under unusual circumstances and they were going to cremate him if somebody didn't stop them. They stopped that and found out he had been poisoned…Captain [James] Baker [of the Baker & Botts law firm, where Malcolm Lovett later worked] went to New York.
He had prepared Mr. Rice's will; Albert Patrick, the lawyer, came in and handed it to Capt. Baker and said, "This is the will you prepared for Mr. Rice; I prepared one that he signed more recently..." Capt. Baker came home and told everybody that when he got that will he knew he had Patrick on his way to Sing-Sing [prison], and he did!

Meanwhile, Edgar Odell Lovett - now an astronomy professor at Princeton - was approached about becoming the school's first president and, in fact, quite literally creating it from the ground up.

"He had gone out to visit the observatories in California. They had the finest and highest observatories in those mountains out there. He was planning to go to South Africa for Princeton, and build an observatory on the highest mountain down there, so that side of the world would have something to match those observatories in California, in this hemisphere. Anyway, he'd raised two-thirds of the money, but thank goodness he decided to give that up and come to Texas!"

Young Malcolm Lovett attended Central High School, enrolling as a student in Rice in 1917. After completing his bachelor of arts degree, he moved on to Harvard, receiving a law degree in 1924.

In 1929, he married Martha Wicks, who attended Sarah Lawrence College and Rice Institute. Together, they offered significant support to the growing institution where Malcolm spent so much of his childhood time. Lovett eventually accepted chairmanship of Rice's board of trustees, succeeding George R. Brown.

Martha discontinued work on her college degree at Sarah Lawrence College when she became engaged. After her marriage, she decided to enroll at Rice.

"Martha became a member of the class of 1935. The problem at Rice had always been mathematics. In other words, people flunked mathematics their freshman year. Most people did, anyway. Martha passed Math 100 - or whatever it was called - which she wanted very much to do, despite the fact that she had become pregnant before that exam. When she passed it, she quit going to Rice. Our first child, Eliza, was born the first part of September - but Martha wouldn't have done that, apparently, if she hadn't passed Math 100!"

Although Rice's endowment required the university to have a public library, this wasn't immediately necessary because a community library already had been built for the city. For years, Rice's collections of books and periodicals were located in a part of Lovett Hall.

Finally, as a result of discussions with oil businessman Harry Wiess - a trustee and significant supporter of Rice - a Houston family provided monies which served as the core of a building fund for the new library. The contribution, made by Ella Fondren and her children - Walter Jr., Sue and Catherine - honored Mrs. Fondren's deceased husband, Walter, a former business colleague of Wiess.

Later, Wiess himself bequeathed monies to be administered by the Lovetts, who initiated an endowed fund for the library as well as endowed chairs.

Called The Friends of Fondren Library Endowment Fund, it has continued to increase over the years through an annual fund-raising event. Most recently, this has taken the form of the annual Fondren Saturday Night formal gala and auction. The endowment fund - one of the library's largest - now has a value of nearly $570,000, from which interest monies are used to enhance the library's holdings.

"I'll never forget: my father was always a man who went by rules. Princeton always had a rule that if you don't get back to school on time from your Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter vacations, you're automatically suspended for the balance of the year. Harry Wiess was a freshman in 1907, I guess, and he was late getting back at Christmastime. His train crossed the midwestern states, and ice was everywhere. He walked into my father's class - this was his first class after vacation - as the class was leaving the lecture hall. He apologized to my father and said he'd see him next year. My father didn't turn in any report that day, so Harry wasn't suspended."

Malcolm Lovett and his father, former Rice President Edgar Odell Lovett, at Malcolm's 1921 commencement
Malcolm Lovett served for many years on the board of trustees. During his time as chairman, the "institute" became a "university."

"People in Houston were critical, I guess, of the word "institute." People kept asking, 'Are you agricultural? ' 'Rice' was the word."

The Lovetts contributed volumes of works in several areas, notably drama from the 1700s. Mrs. Lovett and her sister, Helen Wicks Link, also provided a valuable collection of Civil War letters written by Union soldier Charles Roberts (see The Flyleaf, Spring 1991).

In recognition of their contributions, a library study/reading lounge was refurbished and named for the Lovetts. The lounge is on the third floor of Fondren Library.

Now retired, for many years Malcolm Lovett practiced law in Houston, remained active at Rice, and served on the boards of various organizations and businesses. Martha Wicks Lovett was very involved in Rice and community affairs, including the Rice Discussion Group and the Rice Associates. She helped found Texas Children's Hospital and served as president of the Junior League of Houston as part of her many activities. Meanwhile, the Lovetts also traveled extensively and, inspired by the scenery on one of her trips, Mrs. Lovett became well-known for her beautiful garden of roses.

Her recent death brought back many memories for members of the Friends who knew and worked with her, and an outpouring of donations to the library in honor of her memory. (The Fondren Library was one of three organizations named by family members for memorial contributions.)

In his 1966 Homecoming address, Malcolm Lovett expressed his views on this type of continuing bond between the university and its supporters:

"There have been many changes on the Rice campus since your day. The many new, attractive and useful buildings have been made possible principally through the generosity of friends and alumni alike. The faculty has grown and its support is also drawn on an increasing scale, from new endowments also provided by friends and alumni. There is more activity on the campus and I believe more inter-activity between the campus and the community than there was in your day. This is one of the propitious developments as the university grows...You alumni will do well to look in often and join the fun."

"These changes have not and will not change the original and continuing purpose of this institution. The purpose of a university never changes. The stern three fold admonition which we heard so often and with which we were encouraged to set about our daily tasks - Scholarship First, Scholarship Second, and Scholarship Third, still rings loudly, and, if anything, more incessantly, across the courts and through the halls."
Events:

‘Nothing is gained... by hiding the skeletons’

Rice-affiliated authors will be honored Tuesday, January 14 at the annual Author Reception. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion of the Ley Student Center. Below are excerpts from a few of the authors whose works were published in 1991.

In 1865 Perer Gray and Walter Browne Botts returned home to Houston after service in the Confederate Army. What they found was not, by today’s standards, very impressive. The city was then a small island of commerce in a sea of cotton farms....(T)he legal environment of the newly established firm of Gray & Botts reflected the needs of a sparsely settled, little-developed region populated mainly by small farmers.

“This world began to change with the coming of the railroads to Houston. No industry in the nineteenth century had such a pervasive impact on the Texas economy or on its legal system. Law firms that responded to railroads’ legal needs, as Gray & Botts did, moved away from the traditional, nineteenth-century practice of law and edged toward the emerging corporate practice that would become characteristic of large firms in the twentieth century. In this sense, the railroads transformed the practice of Gray & Botts as they transformed the economy of Houston.”

Baker & Botts in the Development of Modern Houston, Joseph A. Pratt (Co-authored with Ken Lipartito)

“Does the 2-7-year-old brain have the cognitive capacity of the adult brain? Can the 2-year-old really be taught to read?...This book consists of a collection of articles that attempt to examine neurological and cognitive maturation from a biosocial science perspective. This perspective suggests that social and physical environments can influence biological development and, in turn, biological development influences behavior. This interactive perspective represents a fundamental change from earlier assumptions that biology is fixed and that only behavior is plastic.”

Brain Maturation and Cognitive Development: Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives, Kathleen R. Gibson (Co-edited with Anne C. Petersen)

“At two hours before midnight, Colón stood on the quarterdeck and stared intently into the darkness. Tonight as never before he felt one with his ship...Every creak of timber, every snap of canvas echoed in his ears.

“His senses hummed like taut stays...The warm wind blew with the sweetness of springtime over his sweating face. He could pick out the very shapes and colors of the stars in the night sky. He heard a whirl of wingbeats as a flock of birds flew over.

“And he smelled land.

“He felt himself on the verge of a great moment, a moment that had been born in a dreamer’s soul, nourished by blind faith, and carried to destiny on an October wind. It was happening so swiftly after all those endless years of struggle. Now, in a blink of time, the mystery would be revealed to him.

“But not yet.”

October Wind, Susan Wiggs
Administration:  
Library planning – taking a broad view

Fondren Library staff and consultants are conducting surveys of library users as they work on the institution’s long-range plans.

As she looks at future needs, University Librarian Beth Shapiro takes a practical and even humorous view of why – and how – people use the library.

“It’s not unusual to run into people sitting on the floor in the Fondren Library rotunda, working on a class project or just talking,” she said. “One thing I like to remember is that a library is not just a place that stores books – it has a much broader role.”

She recalls her own student days at Michigan State University, studying on library sofas with springs popping out of them. “I grew up in a very busy house with rambunctious brothers. When I went to college, I couldn’t study in a place that was too quiet. I went to the library to study – not to an isolated place, but to a high-traffic place. I found that was how I did my best work.”

She empathizes with students who want longer library hours, but says except during final exams, it won’t be feasible to have the facility open into the early morning hours. “In a building that has so many nooks and crannies, it’s not easy to monitor for personal safety,” Shapiro said. She pointed out that security is a major priority of the library, for its users as well as for its materials.

‘There’s a lot to be said for serendipity’

As she looks at future needs for equipment such as computers, the university librarian also empathizes with researchers using them, having done a good deal of this herself. Although well trained in traditional library research methods “– I don’t like to do it that way,” she admitted. “And I suspect a lot of other researchers don’t, either.

“There’s a lot to be said for serendipity. I enjoy using the indexes, abstracts and the online catalog – but I love going to the shelves, leafing through books. I think there are things you never find otherwise that you find this way, by chance.”

Shapiro is looking at the needs of all library users as part of the planning process. Major areas of emphasis include security and signs, as well as studying library space requirements for the next 10 years. The latter includes looking at better ways to use existing space, and perhaps building an addition to the library.

Finding more money for the library is a matter of ongoing emphasis as the library administration seeks to identify sources of possible revenue such as foundations, grants, and individuals with particular interests.

“As always, we’re looking to our supporters for help in identifying possible sources,” Shapiro said. “I think this will be an interesting and productive time for all of us.”
August 1, 1991 – October 31, 1991

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## Building Hours

### Spring – Summer, 1992

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGULAR HOURS</th>
<th>January 6, 1992 – April 28, 1992</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday – Thursday</td>
<td>7:45 AM – 1:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7:45 AM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12:00 N – 1:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<th>MIDTERM RECESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 28 – March 1</td>
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<td>10:00 AM – 6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th>SPRING RECESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday – Friday</td>
<td>April 9 – 10</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>April 11</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>April 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – Tuesday</td>
<td>7:45 AM – 8:00 PM</td>
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<td>Regular hours resume</td>
<td>10:00 AM – 6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<th>FINAL EXAMS SCHEDULE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – Thursday</td>
<td>April 20 – 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>April 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>April 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – Tuesday</td>
<td>April 27 – 28</td>
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<td>7:45 AM – 1:00 AM</td>
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<th>SUMMER HOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday</td>
<td>April 29 – August 23, 1992</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 AM – 6:00 PM</td>
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<td>CLOSED</td>
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(CLOSED MAY 23 – 25, SATURDAY – MONDAY, FOR MEMORIAL DAY)
(CLOSED JULY 3 – 6, FRIDAY – MONDAY, FOR FOURTH OF JULY)

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