Where Do Students Study in Fondren?

With the help of student assistants Lydia Chang ’16, Tierra Moore ’15 and Wei Song ’15, the GIS/Data Center undertook a project in 2013 to better understand how various spaces are used within Fondren Library. The project was undertaken in response to feedback from the most recent LibQUAL survey indicating that students were having difficulties locating a place to study. As a result, the staff set out to understand how to provide more desirable study spaces and how to increase awareness of existing study spaces. Student assistant Jacob Schneckloth ’17 has since joined the project.

After floor plans were created highlighting the public study furniture within the library, occupancy data for every table and chair was collected by Fondren students and staff six times throughout the day between 10 and 3 a.m., both midsemester and during finals. The data was then entered into a geographic information system (GIS), which allows qualitative study space characteristics and quantitative occupancy data to be associated with each piece of furniture displayed on the floor plans.

Creating a GIS of the library has opened up a wide range of possibilities for understanding how better to serve the Fondren community. We now can visualize and quantify the relative popularity of various types of study spaces during different days and times. The map of the relative popularity of the study spaces on the first floor shows that the tables near the windows and the computer carrels are very popular, but the armchairs in the central atrium, along with the carrels in between the circulation and reference desks, are rarely used. In addition, most of the four- and six-person tables are generally occupied by only one or two students.

As opportunities arise, the insights from this study will be used to redesign underutilized spaces to better suit student preferences. We also plan to
Chicago is a vibrant city with an interesting history, so I was excited to volunteer to lead two leisurely walking tours for American Library Association (ALA) visitors during late June 2013. The Staff Organization Round Table (SORT) of ALA offers walking tours of selected cities as a fundraiser during annual summer conventions. There were 40 walkers registered for each walk, early Friday and Monday mornings during the convention. All of the buildings on the tour were built after the famous 1871 fire.

The tour focused on the Chicago Loop, with its unique public art and pioneering architecture, the genesis of the modern skyscraper. To start, I made a crude, hand-drawn map with a description of each point of interest. I realized that I needed a more professional map, so I contacted Jean Aroom, the support specialist in Fondren Library’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/Data Center, who gave me a quick tutorial on using GIS. I set up an account to access the ArcGIS platform, found Chicago and mapped the walk beginning at the Palmer House Hotel. You can follow the tour at http://bit.ly/OIjY3.

The corner of State and Madison Streets is the direct center of Chicago from all directions. Ornate cast iron trims the building designed as a department store by Louis Sullivan in 1899. This historically popular destination is now a Target and still quite popular. Right across State Street is the 1890 Reliance Building, a light and airy, gravity-defying 14 stories — direct ancestor of today’s glass-and-steel skyscrapers. Marshall Field’s department store, with its iconic clocks on each corner and Tiffany dome inside, foreshadows details on later buildings. Over on the west side of the Loop stand the 1893 State of Illinois Building and the 1964 Civic Center Plaza. Outdoor art in this area includes Dubuffet’s “Monument With Standing Beast,” Miró’s 39-foot sculpture “Chicago,” and a colorful 70-foot mosaic by Chagall titled “Four Seasons.”

Heading south leads to the Marquette Building and The Rookery, both built before the turn of the century. The 1891 Monadnock Building has six-foot thick walls at its base and was the last skyscraper built using masonry foundation construction. These early office buildings boast a central natural light court, necessary before the days of electric lighting and air-conditioning. On South Dearborn Street, the Fisher, Old Colony and Manhattan Buildings, also built before 1900, have been renovated for use as luxury apartments.

The newest building on the tour was the Harold Washington Library Center. Built in 1991 at the cost of $144 million, the world’s largest municipal library has many features, paying homage to Chicago’s early 20th-century architecture. For example, there are prominent owl...
gargoyles on the roof.

Standing at the corner of South Congress and Michigan Avenues, the Auditorium Building was constructed in 1899 to reflect the cultural maturity of Chicago. This complex has hotel and office space and a splendid 4,300-seat theater.

Michigan Avenue is also known as the Miracle Mile. Features as you go north on this street are the Railway Exchange Building of 1904, which contains the Chicago Architecture Foundation Shop, and the Art Institute of Chicago, built in 1893 as part of the World's Columbian Exposition. The terminal stop on the tour is the Chicago Cultural Center, built as the city's first public library.

Sarah Bentley
Access Services Team Lead

Both beginning and experienced genealogists in Houston are blessed with abundant resources for their research. And Fondren Library can be a rewarding starting point for the study of family history.

Newspapers, especially their obituary sections, are fruitful sources of genealogical information. Fondren has thousands of newspaper titles. Among its significant online collections are America's Historical Newspapers (1690–1980, covering all 50 states), Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (1836–1922), Historical Newspapers (the archives of major papers such as the New York Times and the Washington Post) and African-American Newspapers (19th century). The Texas Digital Newspaper Program presents Texas news sources published from 1829 to the present. Fondren also has the complete archives of both the Houston Post (1881–1995) and the Houston Chronicle (1901–present) on microfilm.

Taken every 10 years since 1790, the U.S. Federal Census can be the source of deep insights into family history. One way to search them is the Heritage Quest database, which encompasses genealogical materials from all 50 states, including more than seven million pages. The American Family Immigration History Center database (also known as Ellis Island Records) allows the user to search the records of 25 million immigrants who landed on Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

A significant recent addition to Fondren's genealogical resources is a large collection of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm, generously donated by the Houston Genealogical Forum. It contains a number of passenger manifests and crew lists from ships arriving in two dozen ports in all regions of the U.S (including Honolulu, Hawaii). There also are several lists of alien arrivals by air. In addition, it has indexes to naturalization petitions for U.S. district courts and more than a thousand reels of compiled service records of U.S. soldiers during the Revolutionary War. For research into the Civil War era, there are 116 rolls enumerating Union veterans and their widows. The opportunity to use this collection is already attracting genealogists from Houston and outside the city.

Because many of Fondren’s microfilm holdings are housed offsite, those wishing to use microfilm titles should check the library catalog and request delivery to the library, if necessary, before visiting.


Anna Shparberg
Librarian for History, German/Slavic and Linguistics
Communication: Let Me Count the Ways

During the fall semester 2012, the Center for Written, Oral and Visual Communication (CWOVC) opened on the second floor mezzanine of Fondren Library. Part of the Program for Writing and Communication, CWOVC supports teaching and learning by providing workshops and offering consultations to students. The center employs about 30 trained undergraduate and graduate students to advise students on their papers and presentations.

The location of the center in Fondren provides convenient opportunities for cooperation between librarians and CWOVC staff. For example, in fall 2013 three librarians oriented new consultants to the research sources available through the library. Additionally, the center participated in the library’s orientation for new international students.

Freshman Writing Intensive Seminars (FWIS), also operated by the Program of Writing and Communication, feature research sessions taught by librarians. In these sessions, librarians demonstrate resources and methods that students can use to find information for their research projects. Librarians have taught FWIS sessions on such topics as The Real Cost of a Coke, Children’s Literature, Word Magic and Bizarre Biblical Stories.

According to Jennifer Shade Wilson, the center’s director, Fondren Library is the perfect location. “When students need a citation or have to find more resources on a subject, they can use the computers and other resources in Fondren.” She looks forward to more cooperation with the library, particularly with the Digital Media Commons, as the center directs more attention to oral and visual communication.

Students are always welcome to study in the CWOVC area, though CWOVC appointments have priority during the center’s hours of operation. Current hours of operation can be found on the CWOVC Web page at http://cwovc.rice.edu/hours.

Jane Segal
Humanities/Social Sciences Librarian
From the Moon to Fondren

“I am delighted that this university is playing a part in putting a man on the moon as part of a great national effort of the United States of America.” John F. Kennedy, Sept. 12, 1962.

Delivered in Rice Stadium, John F. Kennedy’s Moon Speech inspired a nation to “reach for the stars” with the dream of landing on the moon, a dream fulfilled in 1969. Since Kennedy’s speech, Rice University has played a crucial role in space exploration, establishing one of the earliest space science departments and sending many alumni and faculty into space. Visitors to Fondren Library can now enjoy a bit of space themselves in the form of a moon rock housed in the Hobby Information Commons near the east entrance.

Embedded in the Ambassador of Exploration Award — one of NASA’s highest honors — Rice’s moon rock comes from the 1972 Apollo 16 mission and was given posthumously to John F. Kennedy. In 2009, the Kennedy family donated the award to Rice and it went on temporary display in Fondren. In 2012, Fondren and Rice’s Public Affairs office collaborated to return the award to the library for permanent display in a case especially designed by Megatrend Designs and Bay Area Imaging. The exterior of the case showcases Rice’s significant contributions to space exploration, including pictures of 14 faculty and alumni astronauts.

But the moon rock is not the only item in Fondren that has seen outer space. Jim Newman, who earned his master’s and doctorate from Rice in 1982 and 1984, respectively, donated a Rice T-shirt worn aboard Space Shuttle Discovery, flight STS-51 (Sept. 12–22, 1993). Likewise, John D. “Danny” Olivas, who earned his doctorate from Rice in 1996, donated a T-shirt worn aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis, flight STS-117 (June 8–22, 2007). The Woodson Research Center (WRC) houses both of these items and other memorabilia from former astronauts as well as various collections related to NASA and space exploration, including an extensive collection of papers related to F. Curtis Michel’s participation in NASA’s Scientist-Astronaut program from 1965–1969.

The moon rock can be viewed during Fondren’s normal hours. Users interested in learning more about WRC’s space-related collections can send email to woodson@rice.edu or visit their website to search through relevant finding aids at http://library.rice.edu/collections/WRC.

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions
BorrowItNow

In August 2013, the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) launched BorrowItNow, a consortial borrowing system based on the Relais International D2D product. Discovery-to-Delivery (D2D) allows users to search across multiple catalogs to find items held by their library and library partners. The key to D2D is to optimize the user’s ability to discover items of interest and request delivery of the material with minimal or no intervention by library staff. BorrowItNow transmits real-time availability and call numbers to the lending library, all while balancing request loads across the consortium.

Fondren Library is a member of GWLA, a consortium of 33 research libraries located in the central and western United States. In January 2014, Fondren Library signed up to participate in a BorrowItNow three-year pilot program for lending only. On Feb. 6, the program was implemented through the Rice Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system, ILLiad. Fondren ILL staff saw requests magically appear in the “Awaiting Stacks Searching” queue, allowing them to quickly retrieve items from the library stacks. The protocol used saves staff the time otherwise required to look up local call numbers before retrieving materials. BorrowItNow was simple to implement and fits well with other established workflows. Although we are not currently participating in the borrowing side of the program, users at other institutions should find BorrowItNow an enhancement to our lending service. Increasing lending efficiency with this program is allowing ILL staff to spend more time borrowing resources for Rice users.

Rice University is a net lender, lending more than we borrow. Load leveling is designed to make ILL a more equitable process for all libraries and is key in controlling ILL costs for research institutions. The importance of load leveling was demonstrated in February, when BorrowItNow monthly statistics showed that Rice lent double the number of items lent by other GWLA institutions. This inequity was the result of a glitch in BorrowItNow’s load-leveling function on Feb. 6, the day Rice went live. Fondren ILL staff sent out 90 books in two days, when the normal daily average is around eight. The Relais International team quickly fixed the problem and by day three of the pilot our daily numbers were put back in balance with those of other participating libraries.

Assuming the lending pilot continues to be successful, Fondren ILL may add BorrowItNow’s borrowing function, bringing further service improvements to Rice users.

Angela Brown
Access Services Team Lead

Occam’s Reader
Service Eases Lending of E-Books

Beginning in April, Fondren Library began participating in a one-year pilot project to lend electronic books published by Springer through interlibrary loan (ILL). The pilot, Occam’s Reader Project, is a partnership among Texas Tech University, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Greater Western Library Alliance and the publisher Springer. This project is the first significant agreement with a major publisher to share electronic books between academic libraries. Such lending has always been possible under the terms of Springer e-book licenses, but previously there was no workable process for doing so.

Occam’s Reader is a software-based service that works with our existing ILLiad software to allow for seamless requesting, processing and delivering of e-books between libraries. The loaned e-books are in PDF format only and do not allow printing, downloading or copying of pages. The loan period is 14 days for entire e-books and 90 days for individual e-book chapters, beginning from the date that e-mail notification is generated by the lending library. After the loan period ends, the file is automatically deleted from the server, so that users must submit a new ILL request to continue using that e-book. The Occam’s Reader project should allow participating libraries to explore making e-book borrowing and lending a standard part of everyday workflow.

Angela Brown
Access Services Team Lead
Updates on Preserving Fondren’s Resources

Fondren’s Preservation Services Department delved into some new areas this year. In the area of video preservation, the early VHS tapes of the Scientia and President Lecture Series are being transferred to DVD by a commercially contracted vendor. These range in dates from 1993 to 2005 and will be shelved behind the circulation desk. Preservation also is currently undertaking a major project of re-housing up to 1300 VHS tapes in new protective cases. The content on these commercial tapes is not available on DVD, and we are making efforts to preserve them for the future. The re-housing project followed on a major project to update commercial VHS tapes to commercially purchased DVDs where possible, following copyright law.

Scanning was another new focus for preservation staff. The News From Fondren has been a library publication since Spring 1991. The first six volumes of this newsletter, consisting of 19 issues from Spring 1991 to Spring 1997, had not previously been digitized. After testing parameters with the Digital Media Commons, the issues were scanned, checked for quality and ingested into Rice University’s digital repository. Scanning activities will continue with other Rice resources, including a small group of Rice theses and dissertations and recital programs from the Shepherd School of Music.

In what is becoming an annual tradition during the last week of April, Fondren staff join colleagues around the country for the observance of Preservation Week. Libraries and museums provide access to speakers, webinars and other activities focused on preserving our heritage digitally and on paper. This year, Fondren Library offered a poster session on preserving oral video histories and webinars on scrapbooking and preserving family archives.

Andy Damico
Preservation Librarian

repurpose and advertise the most appropriate study spaces to meet particular student needs, based on criteria such as privacy and noise levels, study group size and access to electric outlets. Maps highlighting the locations of all these available study spaces will be posted on the Fondren website for students to reference when looking for a suitable place to work.

Jean Aroom
GIS Support Specialist
Remembering Esther Crawford

Esther Crawford, Head of Fondren’s Kelley Center for Government Information and Microforms for many years, died Jan. 18, 2014, following a long illness.

Coming to Rice in 1996 with a library degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a law degree from the University of Southern California, Crawford began her Fondren career as a government information librarian and, in 1999, became head of what is now the Kelley Center.

Crawford is remembered as a leader and innovator both nationally and locally. She was professionally active in the American Library Association Government Documents Roundtable, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association, the Patent and Trademark Resource Center Association, the Greater Western Library Alliance Technical Report Archive and Image Library Project, and the Houston Area Network of Documents Information. As well as developing and delivering the best possible services for the Rice community, she also was fiercely dedicated to providing government information to all citizens.

Crawford was technologically adept and quickly saw the benefits of applying new technology to existing services, including every effort that would improve digital access to government information. Her colleagues knew her as an asset to any working group. Her staff mourn her as a warm and caring supervisor, enthusiastic and supportive of everyone from permanent employees to library school practicum students to student workers. A large number of Crawford’s staff and student workers were mentored by her, went on to attend library school and developed careers as librarians.

Anyone who met her remembered Crawford’s brilliant smile, her kindness and her ebullience. She will be greatly missed.

Fondren Library held a campuswide service of remembrance for Crawford March 31, 2014.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services

Staff Snapshots

Anna Shparberg
Librarian for History, German/Slavic and Linguistics

Lauren Mueller,
Technical Services
After working five years as a copy cataloger in the Cataloging & Metadata Services Department of Fondren Library, Lauren Mueller was promoted to the position of senior metadata assistant in September 2013. Her new position enables her to perform more advanced and complex cataloging tasks. Mueller, who holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and history from Texas A&M, picked Winston Churchill as her choice of a historic dinner companion.

Jeff Warner,
Woodson Research Center
Woodson Research Center’s former volunteer Jeff Warner was hired as a temporary processing archivist in November 2013. A native of Virginia, Warner received his bachelor’s degree in history from Virginia Tech and went on to earn an M.L.S from the University of Michigan. His job at Woodson involves processing the papers of noted playwright J.P. Miller ’41, a Rice alum. Warner would like to have dinner with Sam Harris, the contemporary philosopher and neuroscientist.
Lisa Spiro, former director of the Digital Media Commons (DMC), has returned to Fondren as Executive Director of Digital Scholarship Services (DSS). In her new position, she has responsibility for the DMC, the Kelley Center for Government Information and Microforms, the GIS/Data Center, Rice’s institutional repository and the scholarly communications liaison.

In the interval between her jobs at Fondren, Lisa served as director of the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE) Labs, a small nonprofit that works with liberal arts colleges to integrate technology with education. I talked with Spiro about her job and her plans for the future.

**Q: How would you describe your new job?**

I view my role as being a facilitator, helping Rice to be creative in the ways that it pursues scholarship, making use of the digital tools and methods to encourage collaboration across and beyond the campus. Another important focus will be to use the Rice institutional repository to raise the visibility of our research.

**Q: What collaborative or cooperative projects have been done here?**

The Our Americas Archive Partnership project and the Travelers in the Middle East archive involved intense cooperation with scholars and others. Now we’re working closely with Alida Metcalf and Farès El-Dahdah on the Imagine Rio project. We’ve partnered with the Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies on implementing a system called Vireo, which allows them to manage electronic theses and dissertations. We’ve also supported the Chao Center in several of their digital projects, including one on oral histories and another on ephemera and Chinese advertisements.

**Q: How do these partnerships come about? Do people come to you or do you reach out to them?**

Since coming back to Rice, I’ve noticed that the level of interest, particularly in the humanities, has really increased. There are more faculty and, to some extent, graduate students who are interested in partnership so I don’t have to look as hard to find them. Partly that’s because the Humanities Research Center has been very active in supporting digital scholarship.

**Q: Do you also work with faculty and students at the classroom level?**

DSS does. For example, the DMC is working with faculty in areas such as the Program in Writing and Communication, English, music, and electrical engineering. The GIS/Data Center also works with a wide range of disciplines.

**Q: What do you see as plans for the future?**

It is important that we address the issue of managing research data and helping researchers to organize, disseminate, preserve and curate their data. Another area of increasing importance is providing open access to Rice research in order to comply with Rice’s requirements and with emerging federal mandates. Also, I’m eager to pursue collaborations with faculty, the Humanities Research Center and graduate students around digital scholarship. And, of course, the DMC, the GIS/Data Center and the Kelley Center will continue the great work they are already doing.

*Jane Segal*
*Humanities/Social Sciences Librarian*
Shapiro Library Staff Award Celebrated

This year’s Shapiro Library Staff Innovation Award was given to Jean Aroom, GIS support specialist, at a celebratory ceremony April 21 in the Kyle Morrow Room of Fondren Library. Aroom’s qualifying idea was to enhance the specialization of student jobs in the GIS/Data Center, using specific job titles, increasing pay for specialized knowledge and deepening students’ engagement as they build skills worthy of inclusion in their résumés. Students are also able to use their skills while working with individual faculty members outside of their library work hours. The Shapiro award was founded in 2002 to honor the memory of Beth Shapiro, former vice provost and university librarian, and is awarded annually. Additional information about the award can be found at: http://bit.ly/1il9mvA, while fuller coverage of this year’s award can be found at http://news.rice.edu/2014/04/25/aroom-receives-fondrens-2014-shapiro-award/.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services

High-Energy Physics and Open Access — An Experiment

Fondren Library is participating in an experimental approach to open access to the key literature in high-energy physics: SCOAP3 (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics).

High-energy particle physics is a field where publishing is highly concentrated — the majority of articles are published in less than 10 journals, distributed by a handful of publishers. Following a discussion spanning more than six years, all but one publisher has agreed to participate. Participating publishers include Elsevier, Institute of Physics, Oxford and Springer.

How does it work?

SCOAP3 evaluated the estimated cost of open-access fees for articles published in participating journals, then assessed the authors’ country of origin. Costs for open access are calculated on a country basis keyed to the origin of contributing authors, with participating libraries in each country paying on a proportional basis.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, articles in participating journals are made available through open access, both through the publishers’ websites and through the SCOAP3 database, where sponsored articles are deposited.

Fondren Library already had subscriptions to all of these titles, and as a SCOAP3 sponsoring library, we continue to pay sponsorship comparable to subscription costs. Our sponsorship fees now support access not only to Rice scholars, but also to researchers worldwide.

One publisher's refusal to participate in this open-access approach demonstrates the complexities of modifying the business model for scholarly publishing. Will the participating publishers remain content with their revenue levels through this consortium? Can we extrapolate to other disciplines any other lessons from this experiment? These questions make SCOAP3 an experiment worth watching.

Kerry Keck
Assistant University Librarian for Research Services
Collecting in the Colleges: Expanding Undergraduate History

Located in the Woodson Research Center, the College Archives preserve the diverse history of undergraduate life at Rice. Woodson began receiving college records in 1969 and consistently received materials until the early 2000s. With the rise of digital materials, the collections began to stagnate. Recently, the archive has undergone a huge expansion, nearly doubling its holdings and filling in some significant gaps.

This resurgence started when I joined Woodson in 2012. As a resident associate at Sid Richardson College, I was able to encourage the college’s historian to donate newly discovered records. Following that successful request, I decided to reach out to all of the colleges in the hopes of rescuing archival material from random closets and filing cabinets. I also built an email archive by subscribing to all of the college listservs. With initiatives already under way to reach out to the college masters, I am hoping that 2014 will see still more expansion of the archives.

These efforts have unearthed some exciting materials. We procured President Lyndon B. Johnson’s speech cards from his dedication of Sid Richardson College in 1972. From Will Rice College, we received a letter explaining how a few bored male students created Beer Bike. Brown College, the second all-female college, contributed a series of scrapbooks filled with its history.

As exciting as all of this growth might be, though, we have still been largely limited to materials that are available to current students and college coordinators. If you have anything to add — government documents, event fliers, photographs/negatives or other college-specific memorabilia — please bring them by Woodson.

But gathering the materials is only part of the archive’s mission. We also have worked hard to make sure the materials get put to use. Through our connections with college historians, we have helped develop slideshows for various events. This spring, we worked with the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality on a third floor exhibit showcasing the contributions of women at Rice. One of the selected photographs came from the Brown College records. We are now ready and waiting to make further uses of the archive to depict the rich student culture of Rice University.

Norie Guthrie
Archivist Librarian, Special Collections
Resident Associate, Sid Richardson College
Welcome to News From Fondren!

This issue is the second in which we have welcomed contributions from the Friends of Fondren Library. The Friends have been supporting Fondren Library since their founding in 1950, and for many years issued a separate publication, The Flyleaf. Digital issues of The Flyleaf can be found in the institutional repository at http://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/62325.

I am happy they now have cast their lot in with us in News From Fondren, and look forward to their future contributions.

Melinda Flannery
Editor, News From Fondren

Ex Libris: Historical Notes on Fondren Bookplates

In our personal libraries, each of us likely has a book that identifies a former — or current — owner. This mark of ownership may be a simple handwritten name in the front, a property stamp, an embossed design or a small pasted-in slip of paper known as a bookplate or “ex libris.” Books in Fondren Library display a similar mix of ownership marks, including an assortment of delightful bookplates. Many of these bookplates have been designed exclusively for the university or library to honor a donor or commemorate a special occasion; a sampling of these bookplates is included here.

Bookplates can be traced back to 15th century Germany, appearing shortly after the first printed books. As with other aspects of early printing, they were a holdover from the production of illuminated manuscripts, which often included a portrait or other means of identifying the owner. These early bookplates were typically heraldic, displaying the coat of arms of the owner, an easily identifiable mark of ownership not only for an individual, but for a family as well. The earliest bookplates were produced from woodcuts or copperplate engravings; a variety of subsequent printing methods have been used, including etchings and lithographs.

While heraldic designs remained popular in later centuries, book owners increasingly desired bookplates to reflect their tastes and lifestyles. Pictorial elements became more prevalent in the 19th century, often incorporating elements connected with the owner: symbols of a profession or avocation or an image that could be associated with the owner's name. By the end of the 19th century, bookplates were a fully developed art form, attracting collectors who appreciated them for their artistic statements as well as for their connection with owners.

In the 21st century, bookplates remain popular with book lovers and collectors, and the Friends of Fondren Library continues this literary tradition with its Honor with Books program, a meaningful way to celebrate a special person while making an important contribution to the library’s collection. For every donation of $50 or more, a personalized bookplate will be affixed to the inside front cover of a newly acquired volume in the library collection. For gifts under $50, contributions will be added to the general Gifts and Memorials fund for purchasing library materials. Honored loved ones will receive a special card and bookmark, while families of those who have been memorialized will receive a thoughtful note. For more information on making a donation, please contact the Friends of Fondren Library at fofl@rice.edu or 713-348-5157.

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions
Friends of Fondren Library Events

Books That Shaped My World

Have you ever wondered what inspires someone to explore a faraway place, develop an idea or seek knowledge in a specific discipline? Often the answer can be found in the books that were read at a given point in someone’s life. So to find out what has inspired Rice’s own, the Friends of Fondren Library developed Books That Shaped My World, a program that invites Rice professors to reveal the books they read as a child, studied as a college student, or enjoyed as a pastime that shaped their lives and their careers. Started in 2011, the program has featured noted Rice professors, including Allen Matusow, John Boles ’65, Robert Curl ’54, Ron Sass, Terry Doody, John Hutchinson and, most recently, Mary McIntire ’75. You may be surprised to learn that the path to great accomplishments for these scholars may have started with the Time-Life Science Series, Nancy Drew or a college course on Ulysses. For videos of past events, go to www.rice.edu/library/friends.

2014 Fondren Research Awards

Using the vast resources of Fondren Library pays great dividends, not just with grades but also with cash prizes. Just ask the winners of the 2014 Fondren Library Research Awards — Alexandra Krawetz ’14, Kimberly Rightor ’16, Rachel Hooper and David Pontoon. Funded by the Friends of Fondren Library, the awards recognize undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and creativity in using library resources for original research and scholarship. The annual contest requires that students submit a research project completed in the past year along with a 1,000-word essay describing how they used library resources for their project. A committee composed of university library committee members and representatives from the Friends of Fondren Library board selects the winners. This is the sixth year of Fondren Library’s program, which was modeled after similar programs at the University of Oregon, the University of California Berkeley and the University of Virginia. This year’s winning entries can be read at http://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/21949.

Rice Authors

More than 60 Rice authors, editors, musicians and artists were recognized and celebrated for their 2013 accomplishments by the Friends of Fondren Library March 26 in Farnsworth Pavilion. This annual program honors Rice faculty, staff, alumni and members of the Friends who published a book, edited a professional journal, composed a major musical work or mounted a one-person art shown within a calendar year. All honorees were individually recognized and had an opportunity to speak briefly about their accomplishments. A panel of four honorees comprised of Sarah Cortez ’72, Professor Arthur Gottschalk, William Martin and Gerald Moorhead ’69 spoke in more detail about their work and answered questions from audience members. A list of published works by this year’s honorees is available at www.rice.edu/library/friends.

Judy Howell
Executive Director,
Friends of Fondren Library
How did it come to pass that the largest medical center in the world is located directly across from Hermann Park and Rice University? Why does the residential neighborhood of Shadyside border Main Street and Rice’s main entrance? And why is the city’s Museum District, anchored by the Museum of Fine Arts, also located nearby?

One answer is that Rice, Hermann Hospital, Hermann Park, Shadyside and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston all sit on land that was once owned by George Hermann. Hermann was a Houston philanthropist who owned land near Main Street in Houston’s South End. He was impressed with the generosity of William Marsh Rice’s original bequest to endow the Rice Institute, so in 1893 he indicated that Rice’s example influenced his own decision to offer his land on South Main for a charity hospital and a municipal park.

When Edgar Odell Lovett inspected proposed sites for Rice Institute in 1907, he favored the location on South Main, where Hermann had offered his land to trustees for a reasonable price. The trustees bought 85 acres from Hermann and started acquiring more tracts to make up a campus of what now comprises 300 acres.

In 1914, Hermann donated 285 acres to the city of Houston for a municipal park and charity hospital. The same year, Hermann negotiated a “free lease” with the Art League of Houston to allow them to construct a building on the triangle of land created where Main Street, Bissonnet and Montrose Boulevard intersect. However, he died before the deal could be finalized.

In February 1916, oilman J. S. Cullinan purchased 37 acres from the Hermann estate north of Rice’s main entrance to develop Shadyside, an elegant residential subdivision. Cullinan helped the Art League acquire all the land in the triangular plot, and William Ward Watkin, a professor of architecture at Rice, with Ralph Adams Cram, consulting architect, designed the first wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, which opened in 1926.

More land was added to Hermann Park, including the 133.5-acre Parker tract that Will C. Hogg, son of the former Texas governor, purchased south of Hermann Hospital and sold to the city on favorable terms, so that in 1924 the park was 545 acres. Hermann Hospital was completed in 1925 in a Mediterranean style in keeping with Rice’s buildings.

In December 1943, a great change came to this part of Main Street. Houston voters ratified a proposal in a referendum by Houston City Council that the city sell the Hogg tract of 133.5 acres in Hermann Park to the M.D. Anderson Foundation for a cancer research hospital and dental school, two of the six new hospitals and two medical schools which were built between 1945 and 1955 in what became today’s Texas Medical Center.

Susan Alexander
Where to Grab a Snack?

Finding a casual meeting place on campus has always been important to university life, as shown by the popularity of the Brochstein Pavilion with Rice students, faculty, and staff. But how were such needs met in the earliest days of the Rice Institute?

When the institute opened, some students lived in residence halls, so they could eat regular meals in the dining hall and study in their rooms or the library. But many students — including all female students — lived off campus and commuted to Rice via streetcar, changing to a trolley at Eagle Street, where the South Main Sears store is now. Once on campus, these “town” students couldn’t easily return home for lunch, and in bad weather the only place they could eat a meal brought from home was a temporary library in the administration building. Rice’s neighbors, the residential subdivision Shadyside to the north and Hermann Park to the east, protected the campus from nearby commercial development, but their proximity also meant the campus had no restaurants or other amenities close by.

The one place to grab a snack between classes was The Owl, a snack bar located across Main Street from the campus, near the trolley stop, which was run by Ernest Shult ’23, an architecture student. This aerial photograph, dated 1921, from the book “The Flying Owls” shows the trolley stop and The Owl as well as Main Street near what is now Lovett College and Entrance 3. The trolley is visible on the right, near today’s MetroRail line on Fannin. The Owl is the small building near the sidewalk on Main Street, surrounded by some cars and surface parking. The photograph’s largest building is Autry House, built in 1921, and no doubt a welcome improvement for student life.

The Rev. Harris Masterson, an Episcopal priest, was so concerned about the lack of student facilities at Rice in 1919 that he located and had moved to this site two surplus wooden mess halls from Camp Logan, located in what is now Memorial Park. The next year, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas asked Rice professor of architecture William Ward Watkin in association with the firm of Cram and Ferguson, designers of the original campus buildings, to design both a master plan for this site and a community house for Rice. Mrs. James L. Autry, whose two children attended the institute, donated $50,000 for the community house as a memorial to her recently deceased husband. What Autry House provided — a canteen, a serving line and kitchen, lounges for men and women, a barber shop, a press shop, offices, a clergy apartment and a small stage, grouped around a common room — shows the wide range of student needs the community house had to address. Autry House continued to be the center of student life at Rice for 28 years and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as well as being a Texas Historic Landmark.

So what became of The Owl? The snack bar must have lost its lease, because in its place is Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, which was designed by Watkin as a collegiate chapel for Rice and dedicated Nov. 28, 1927. A year later, Palmer became a full-fledged parish church. Today, Autry House is part of Palmer and home to the Episcopal diocese’s campus ministry to Rice University.

Susan Alexander
During the centennial celebrations, the university unveiled an eight-foot bronze statue of Edgar Odell Lovett in the Keck Hall Courtyard. While working on the commission, artist Bruce Wolfe created an exact replica of the statue’s bust as a gift for the university. The resolute gaze of Lovett now greets visitors in the bust’s new home, the Woodson Research Center.